

Welcome and Announcements February 6:

Welcome to the adventure that is the worship of God with McClure United Church.

Today we are coming to you - via live stream using our new Rural Connect equipment. So I am excited to welcome those of you who are joining worship as we share it this morning. There is a lovely little, socially distant and fully vaccinated worship team here this morning. Laura and I, along with Elin Sletmoen and Tamara Ferguson our musicians - as well as several tech people are in our worship space - eager to share in worship with you and praying that all the tech works. We know we share this time with a loving and forgiving community and so if something goes south just hang in there we will do our best to fix it. If you lose us all together the service is being recorded and you will be able to access it later in the day. The worship email, Facebook and our website are places to look for links.

For those watching the recorded worship I pray that what is offered here feeds your soul and strengthens you for the week ahead.

As part of our ongoing adventure as a Church we continue to be excited about the Rural Connect ministry. We will welcome Rural Church partners for worship soon and I can only imagine the new energy and richness that we will share in relationship as we work together. Carlyle United Church is our first partner church, and a few other rural churches are still discerning. It truly is an exciting opportunity for us all.

To facilitate this new ministry, we are still looking for folks willing to help with operating the Rural Connect equipment and if you think you would like to lend a hand it would be lovely to hear from you. Laura tells me that it is not complicated, and I trust her. I think learning the tech might be a nice way to give back or honour your rural roots. I know for a fact that some of you still have prairie dirt under your fingernails.

Well friends it is already February and that means it's time to plant a heart for refugees. Throughout the month of February, the Outreach Committee is inviting you to support refugees by making a donation and for every \$20.00 donated, a heart will be planted outside in the snow. The good word is that we will be welcoming a family from Eritrea soon, so we need to get ready.

Now while we're planting hearts in the snow... how about building a snowperson too? United Churches across Canada are participating in a snow and ice art project. We are going to do our part in bringing joy and love to our neighbourhood by making a chain of snow people on the boulevard running along Taylor street. The hope is to make it look like they are all holding hands. So you are invited... on your own, with a friend or your family to come on by and make a snowperson anytime during the month of February. I noticed today that there are some lovely ice hearts in the snow so people have already been busy creating some pretty amazing snow and ice art.

Now one final announcement:

Laura and I want to invite folks to start thinking about the season of Lent. Lent has always been a deeply thoughtful time for our church. This Lent Laura and I will be leading a Lenten Book study together beginning on Wednesday, March 9th. The book for this study is called Lesser Evils and is available both in paperback and in a digital format. If you would like to order the hard copy, you need to let the office know NO LATER THAN February 9th. The cost is \$15.95. You can order the digital copy at the United Church book store for \$7.95 and Laura has sent the link, to the digital book, in the email and she will also post it on the Facebook page for you. We don't know at this point if that gathering will be online or in person... or a combination of the two... but we will let you know as soon as we have more information.

These are all the announcements.

So now our little worship team invites you to:

Relax your shoulders, take a breath and open your heart as we worship together...