



WILMOT UNITED CHURCH
Stewardship Beyond the Church
October 7, 2018 – Thanksgiving Sunday

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory: Long before those of us who are settlers, and those of us who are descendants of settlers, came to this land, there were people here. Many nations of people lived – and live – on the land we call Canada, given responsibility by the Creator to be stewards of this land and all that lives on it. We know these people as First Nations. **Today, as we remember what it means to live thankfully**, let us give thanks for the First Nations of this land - and let us remember that we worship God on the historic territory of the Wolastowqiyik. As Christ's people, let us be people of Love, of Truth, and of Reconciliation.

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation. At the points marked * - those who are able are invited to stand.

Presider: Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin

THE GATHERING

Prelude: Communion (Vierne)

Welcome to the Church

We Light the Christ Candle:

A keeper of the Law walked up to Jesus and asked him,

“Teacher, what is the greatest commandment?”

Jesus replied,

“Love God with all that you are.”

As the man turned away to think about what he had heard. Jesus said,

“Wait! There is second one just like the first:

Love your neighbour in the same way you are to love yourself.”

(Lighting the candle)

This Great Commandment shines on,

and shines through, all things:

the writings of the Law, the words of the prophets,

every moment of our lives!

In every moment, Christ's light shines! Alleluia!

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Preparation: (Unison)

Sue Short

Eternal God, open our minds to hear your word, our hearts to love your word, and our lives to be obedient to your word, through the power of your Spirit and the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31:3b-6 and Luke 10: 25-37

Congregational Response:

One: This is the witness of God's people.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: A Thanksgiving Prayer

(Martin)

Sermon: Renewal of Faith – The Importance of Compassion

Rev. R-H Gaskin

Time for Silent Reflection

*** Hymn:** As We Gather At This Table

VU #457

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Announcements

Invitation to Offering Our Gifts:

As Wilmot United Church, we are part of the community of Fredericton. We live into God's vision for us and for our community by the ministry we do – as individuals and smaller groups, and as the congregation as a whole. We also live into God's vision of healing and hope for the world right here in Fredericton with the gifts we bring to the table today. Our time, our abilities, and our financial resources are all a vital part of the ministry and mission Wilmot United Church and has be given.

Offertory Music

Presentation of Our Offering The Bread and Wine are brought forward

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today the church celebrates both Thanksgiving and Worldwide Communion Sundays. All are welcome to the Lord's table. Please follow the ushers' instructions on how to come forward. Take a piece of bread and then dip it into the juice and eat it prayerfully before returning to your seat. Gluten-free bread and water are also available. If you wish to remain in your seat, you will be served. Please see insert.

*** Closing Hymn:** Love Divine All Loves Excelling VU #333

* Blessing and Sending Out:

Go into the world with a daring and a living love.
Everywhere you go, serve Christ
By serving those in need.
Feed those who are hungry and thirsty.
Shelter those who are naked.
Visit those who are sick or locked away.
And know this:
Not only do you serve; you are served as well.
The peace of Christ holds you.
The love of the Creator transforms you.
And the Holy Spirit carries you – now and forever.

*** Choral Amen** VU #967

Postlude: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (Johnson)

If you wish, you are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our Worship Service



Today's bulletins are in loving memory of **Jonathan Michael Young**, grandson of Gordon and Carol Young and Florence Potts.

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary this morning in memory of loved ones:

In loving memory of:

***Phyllis & Cyrus Gaskin
Carl, Bertha and David Rawn***

Placed by:

Rose-Hannah Gaskin & Margaret Murray
The Family

WELCOME to our service of worship and thank you for being with us this morning. If you are new to our church, we have a 'Welcome to Wilmot' kit for you. Please ask one of the ushers, for the blue folder. We're glad you're here! You are invited to **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall immediately following this morning's service of worship. Thank you to ***members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry*** for hosting this time of fellowship and refreshments.

SOUP LUNCHEON: You are invited to a Soup Luncheon next Sunday, Oct. 14th.

BENEVOLENT OFFERING: On the first Sunday of every month we collect a special Benevolent Offering. This is used to provide food vouchers for those in need on Wednesday afternoons.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Oct. 17 – Oct. 30th while Marlene is on vacation. Please call the church hall (452-0219) before bringing items for the Rummage Sale, Auction, etc. to be sure someone is in the building to let you in. Randy will be here Tues., Wed & Thurs. 8:30 a.m – 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, SPANISH CLASSES BEGIN AT WILMOT: The Wilmot Cuba Twinning Committee offers free Spanish practice for beginners and advanced speakers. The first session is scheduled for Monday evening September 15, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. These sessions are for anyone in the surrounding community. So invite your friends and neighbours. The content of the sessions is designed to fit the plans of the participants. If the proposed time is not convenient for you and others, please let us know, and we will try arrange an alternative time. For more information please contact Meca or Norman Laverty at 455-3349. (If not home, try 416-538-4087.)

WILMOT SENIORS: Why don't you join us on Tuesday, October 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the parlour for a fun afternoon of Bingo! As usual, there will be great prizes and a delicious refreshment time which will be provided this month by Group 2. All seniors and retirees are warmly welcome!



UCW RUMMAGE SALE: Mark your calendars for Friday Oct 26th (3-6 pm) and Saturday Oct 27th (9-12 noon) for Wilmot's fall Rummage sale. This initiative is always warmly received by the Fredericton community and is also a wonderful time for fellowship and fundraising for us at Wilmot. If you have items to donate, please leave them on the gym stage anytime up to Oct 26th. If you are available to help with setup and/or work at the sale, please contact Linda Gough at 459-3706.

THIS YEAR'S CONGREGATIONAL SWIM; Our Congregational Swim this year is in loving memory of the late **VIRGINIA MacDONALD**. Virginia was a great supporter of the ministry of the children and youth. In each congregation where her husband, Ian, was called to minister, Virginia would begin her work – from Arnprior, ON to Kentville, NS and many points in between. Each place would find Virginia putting money in a jar to be used for a 'fun time' for the children / youth. The money that was left over each year, would simply remain in the jar (or a plastic bag) for another fun time at some point. When Virginia passed away, little bags of money were found tucked away here and there (even with \$1 & \$2 bills). Ian has graciously donated it to the Youth Fund to be used to support some 'Fun times'. So join us on **Saturday, Nov 3** from **5:15-6:15** at the Fredericton Indoor Pool at the Nashwaaksis Middle School. This 'fun time' is for all ages! Life guards come with the rental. Hope to see you there!

WENDY TOPOLSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: The Wendy Topolski Memorial Scholarship is awarded to one recipient per year. Applicants must at present, or in the last two years, be involved in a United Church committee, group or activity and be currently attending an accredited university or community college in Canada. Deadline for applications is Oct 26th. Please contact the Church Office for more information.

HELEN A. YOUNG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: The Helen A. Young Memorial Scholarship is awarded to at least one recipient per year. Applicants must be from a family connected with Wilmot United Church and be currently attending a post-secondary institution. Deadline for applications is Oct 26th. Please contact the Church Office for more information.

OCT. 20: Fredericton's Grandmother Helping Grandmothers annual benefit dance with JukeBox Live will be held October 26, from 8:30 p.m. to midnight at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Tickets \$30.00 available at Westminster Books, Jean Coutu Pharmacy, Devon Plaza or call 472 1767.

YOU ARE INVITED: Learn contemplative practices for letting go and deepening in to your Inner Stillness, Peace, Compassion, Intelligence, Joy, Spirit, Nature, God, Love, Consciousness... at heart, all spiritual practice comes down to this. Join us on Sunday evenings to learn simple contemplative methods to clear the mental and physical clutter and reconnect with your Inner Stillness. Be nourished and supported in a community of practice. Return to your life with renewed energy, clarity and purpose. All bodies & levels of yoga & meditation experience welcome. Remember - it's not about what you can do, but how to BE! 73 York Street, Fredericton NB. Kathryn Downton is a member of Wilmot United and a Senior Teacher in the Viniyoga Tradition. She has been offering classes, workshops, teacher trainings, yoga therapy and private counselling in Fredericton since 2000. For more information please contact, LifesongFredericton@gmail.com or 455-2444

PHONE IT FORWARD: CNIB has recently launched a new initiative focused on putting smartphones into the hands of Canadians who are blind and partially sighted to help them enhance their independence, so if you or someone you know has a smartphone at home that is no longer being used, why not pass it along? For more information on the program or to donate your phone, please call 1-833-554-5020 between Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. or visit www.phoneitforward.ca. You can also contact DEREK NESS with questions. Those who donate smartphones to this program will be eligible for a tax receipt for their donation.

Thank You to Our Ministers

Our gifts for Mission & Service support ministers in their training, continuing education, and pastoral relations and provide resources to engage in ministry.

The United Church's 2006 statement of faith, A Song of Faith, notes that "to embody God's love in the world, the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers." I invite you to wonder for a moment: What are the ways that a minister has helped this community of faith embody God's love in the world? Today, we offer gratitude for the many ways that our ministers help to embody God's love in the world through their leadership and ministry.

Thank you for the creative ways you proclaim God's message of love in worship. Thank you for the sacred moments you facilitate in the celebration of baptism and communion. Thank you for the ways you invite people of all ages to grow and deepen in faith. Thank you for the encouragement to participate in God's mission in the community and the world. Thank you for the loving care and prayers that you offer in times of joy and sorrow. Thank you for the vitality, faithfulness, and passion of your leadership. Our gifts to Mission & Service support our ministers, and we give thanks.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, you are encouraged to make giving to Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbours is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

Oct. 7 - 14

Today: **WORLDWIDE COMMUNION and THANKSGIVING**

- 9:15 a.m. **ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** – Board Room
11:00 a.m. **WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**
12:00 p.m. **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

Tuesday, Oct. 9:

- 12:00 p.m. **WORSHIP COMMITTEE-** Parlour
7:00 p.m. **FAITH FORMATION TEAM** – Parlour
7:00 p.m. **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE** – Board Room
7:00 p.m. **MARTIAL ARTS** – Gym

Wednesday, Oct. 10:

- 9:30 a.m. **QUILTERS** – Parlour
10:00 a.m. **TOY LIBRARY**
1:00 p.m. **WEDNESDAY @ WILMOT** – Gym
10:30 a.m. **WORSHIP at Thomas Hall, Shannex**
7:00 p.m. **NA GROUP** – Fireside Room

Thursday, Oct. 11:

- 9:00 a.m. **QUILTERS** – Parlour
1:00 p.m. **WRITERS GROUP**– Parlour
6:30 p.m. **HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE**
7:00 p.m. **MARTIAL ARTS** – Gym
7:30 p.m. **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Saturday, Oct. 13:

- 10:00 a.m. **TOY LIBRARY**
6:00 p.m. **DROP-IN CENTRE**

Sunday, Oct. 14:

- 9:15 a.m. **ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** – Board Room
11:00 a.m. **WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**
12:00 p.m. **SOUP LUNCHEON**

October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

Although many ministers love what they do, and often feel they could do nothing other than answer God's call to ministry, being a minister can be challenging. Clergy often work long hours, taking time away from their own spiritual and personal needs. The church is undergoing many changes and challenges and often ministers are expected to be a calming presence in the midst of uncertainty.

Wilmot is blessed to have Rev. Rose-Hannah and Rev. Ellen... they definitely love what they do and care deeply about their ministry,

So ... Rose-Hannah & Ellen, we pause during this month to say Thank you – you are appreciated. You do make a difference.

To the Congregation- If you don't know why they became ministers or wonder what they love about it, that would make for good conversation at coffee hour!

On behalf of Wilmot, M&P hosted an Appreciation Dinner, Thurs Oct 4 for ALL Our STAFF!

Each staff member provides a valuable contribution to the well-being and ministry at Wilmot.

STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE: Stewardship is often defined as "Everything I do after I say Yes to God". Please help us recognize and celebrate our Stewardship both within Wilmot and beyond our walls by telling us how you share your time, talents and treasures on the "Stewardship Scribble Boards" in the gym. Also, take time to look at how other Wilmoters are living out their faith.

In memory of Oscar Romero (1917–1980)

A Future Not Our Own

It helps now and then to step back and take a long view.
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of
saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession
brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives include everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one
day will grow. We water the seeds already planted
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of
liberation in realizing this.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's
grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the
difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not
messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.