

## Jan's Journal



It seems amazing that we have reached the last Sunday in April! Although we have daffodils and narcissus blooming, and the magnolia is on the verge of blooming, it doesn't feel as though we have had much spring weather! I have optimistically filled the hummingbird feeder and hung it out ready for their arrival. I keep a journal of spring sightings for the hummingbirds and Baltimore orioles. Over the past 20 years, the hummingbirds have arrived at our feeder between April 15<sup>th</sup> and the first of May. The orioles are usually a week or two later.

Thank you to the members of the Flower Committee who decorated the church for Easter Sunday!

Thank you also to everyone who prepared and contributed to the refreshments following Easter Sunday worship. We all enjoyed the fellowship and the Easter treats!

I would like to remind you of the series which will be offered on ChurchX during the month of May. Titled "Love, Faith, and Bold Action: Global Voices for 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion in the Church and Beyond," this series will be available on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. (May 6<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>, and May 27<sup>th</sup>). As members of an Affirming Community of Faith, I would recommend that we all participate! The topics are as follows:

May 6<sup>th</sup>: Reimagining Exclusion to Embrace: Lessons from Japan's Ecumenical Movement. Presenters are: Reverend Kaori Oshima and Reverend Reine Ueno

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Building Inclusive Faith Spaces: Lessons from Latin America Ecumenical Movement. Presenters: Monica Trevino Alvarez from Mexico and Jhon Botia from Colombia.

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Welcoming With Open Arms: LGBTQIA+ and Refugee Sponsorship. Presenters: Reverend Jim Tenford from Regina, Saskatchewan, Donald Workman from Calgary, Alberta, and Reverend Jenni Leslie from Eastern Ontario.

May 27<sup>th</sup>: TBA

If you are interested, but have never used ChurchX before, I can guide you through the process of creating an account for yourself, as can others in the congregation who have used the platform.

Would you like to be part of an Ad Hoc Committee being formed to plan celebratory activities for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada? If so, please speak to one of the people who have already volunteered: myself, Grace Boogers, Karn Maerz, or Carolyn Wilson.

I was rather alarmed by an article printed in the Business Section of the Globe and Mail on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The article titled "Tax recommendations for the federal budget could harm

charities” is written by Tim Cestnick. The author writes that, on December 13, 2024, “the Standing Committee on Finance tabled in the House of Commons its 462 recommendations for the next federal budget.” Recommendation 430 reads:” Amend the Income Tax Act to provide a definition of a charity which would remove the privileged status of ‘advancement of religion’ as a charitable purpose.” If the recommendation is adopted, it would mean that places of worship such as churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and other charities could lose their charitable status and be unable to issue donation receipts to supporters.” The author goes on to explain the history of this recommendation and some of its implications. He warns that, if the charitable status of a church were to be revoked, “ Section 188 of our tax law imposes a “revocation tax” which would require the church to transfer all of its assets to a registered charity or municipality within one year. Failing that, the church would face a 100 percent tax on the value of its assets. That is, the church would effectively be required to hand the value of its land, building, and cash to the federal government.” According to the author, the NDP and Conservative members of the Standing Committee on Finance do not support Recommendation 430.

You can access the article on the Globe and Mail website, if you do not subscribe to the newspaper.

Please give this some thought before you vote on Monday. I also strongly recommend that we personally send our expressions of concern about Recommendation 430 to Burlington MP Karina Gould.

**Please plan to stay following worship for the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held this Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, in the sanctuary.**

You can reach me at: [revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Pastor Jan