

Parkdale United Church

building connections living faith acting for justice

April 14, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Parkdale United Church,

In these beautiful days of Spring, we delight in fresh green shoots rising in gardens, trees budding, and warm sunshine lifting our spirits. We keep encouraging each other in these challenging and uncertain times to be patient, kind, and good to self and neighbours. Here is a lovely Easter, Earth Day Prayer.

O God, who cracks open the seed, the soil and the grave and brings forth new life, we praise you for your wondrous touch. You, the One who stretches the daylight, warms the air, melts the shadows and cold within us, we praise you for your healing touch. You, the One who sets birds singing and hearts laughing, we praise you for your renewing touch. This day we bring everything to you, in us, in our lives, and in our world that is still wrapped in winter coldness. Work your wonder in us. Let patience and strength take root. Let hope bud where none seems possible. Let passion and a courage for what is right flower in us. May life rise out of empty hearts and broken places. Work your Easter wonder in us. Amen.

We have a number of congregational updates to bring to your attention.

- Our Ministry Search Committee has completed our Community of Faith Profile, and were delighted by the quality congregational participation in the Zoom meetings and surveys. The team is now developing a Ministry Job Description prior to posting the position with the United Church of Canada. This comprehensive work is essential and will be highly beneficial as Parkdale United seeks a new minister. Thank you, Beth Balshaw, Barb Giles, Eleanor Kenny, Catherine Lebel, Bob Robson and Heidi Schroter for your leadership, time, and work.
- Spring Tea Party's April 20th, April 27th & May 4th, Tuesday mornings from 11 – 11:50am. Watch for the weekly Tea Party poster.
- Murray continues to be available for phone visits. If you would like to have a conversation with him, please contact Kate at the church office and appointments will be confirmed. As the weather warms and the church garden comes to life, Murray is planning to have some afternoon in-person Garden Visits. (Watch for some upcoming dates. Registration will be required and Provincial health protocols will be followed.)
- Save the date for Parkdale United Church's first Online Silent Auction. We will be accepting items from May 31 – June 4, to take pictures and catalogue items. The actual auction will be live online from June 8 -18, 2021 through Maxsold.com. Please see attached poster.
- Murray's last worship service here at Parkdale United Church will be Sunday, May 23, 2021.
- An Ideas Team will meet 3 or 4 times this summer to map out the September - June events, programs and calendar. Interested in helping, talk with Sheila Campbell (403)288-3038.

These are strange days for all of us. Endings and beginnings are a natural part of our daily living. In these complicated days, some of the things we do naturally in being in relationship with one another have been restricted. Those factors have shifted how we practice being a community of faith. As we embrace this new season in our faith living, might we continue to find ways to live with hope, act with love, and be our best selves each step of the way.

Blessings and peace,
Sheila Campbell, Council Chair
and Rev. Dr. Murray Laverty, Minister