

Trinity Connected

Symphony

Written by Willam Ellery Channing

Submitted by Rev. Ian Mackay

To live in content with small means;
To seek elegance rather than luxury,
and refinement rather than fashion;
To be worthy, not respectable,
and wealthy, not rich;
To study hard, think quietly, talk gently,
act frankly;
To listen to stars and birds,
to babes and sages, with open heart;
To bear all cheerfully, do all bravely,
await occasion, hurry never;
In a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and
unconscious, grow up through the common:
This is to be my symphony.

You will be like a *tree*,
firmly planted by streams of water.
You will yield your fruit in season;
your leaves will not wither; and
whatever you do
will prosper.
Psalm 1:3

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Festival of Pentecost - May 19

Submitted by Rev. Ian Mackay

What is Pentecost?

In ancient Jewish tradition the festival of Pentecost was held and celebrated on the 50th day after Passover. It was an agricultural festival, marking the harvesting of barley at the end of the season. It also marked the start of the sowing and growing season of wheat. Nowadays, this Jewish festive holiday is called Shavuot. Shavuot reminds the people of Judaism of the enlightenment God gave to Moses with the giving and the sacred keeping of the decalogue, the Ten Commandments.



In Christian tradition, Pentecost is held and celebrated on the 50th day after Easter. It marks the time when the promise and presence of Holy Spirit came powerfully upon the followers of Jesus, equipping them to be apostles (leaders), not disciples (followers) of Jesus. Pentecost was the beginning of the church's life and work in the world. It is the church's birthday. Simply put, Pentecost is a festival and season of the church year which affirms the goodness, value and power of life as it comes to each and all of us by way of Godly spirit, equipping us to be present-day members of the living body of Christ. On May 19, we sing "Happy Birthday to the Church" and thank God for its ongoing life and work being done with Godly Spirit all around the world.

A Mother's Day Message: Powerful Evidence Unrefuted

Submitted by Rev. Ian Mackay

It is reported, when a notorious skeptic, Robert Ingersoll, was in his heyday, two college students went to hear him lecture.

As they walked down the street after the lecture was over, one said to the other, "Well, I guess he knocked the props out from under Christianity, didn't he?" The other said, "No, I don't think he did. Ingersoll did not explain my mother's life, and until he can explain my mother's life I will stand by my mother's God."





Wishing **everyone** who celebrates a birthday in March, April, May, June, July and August a very happy birthday!

**Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you.
May God's richest blessings fall upon you!**

Vera Brown	April 4
Bull Cuthill	April 28
Wanda Asselstine	April 29
Ian Mackay	May 1
Joan Steele	May 13
Clara Clow	May 17
Carl Pritchard	June 11
Alice Kennedy	June 16
Frank Goodfellow	July 11
Ardith Wolsey	August 14

Story Behind the Song:

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Written by Lindsay Terry

Submitted by Jane Mackay

"That looks like a sober man, I think I'll hire him to cut wood for me." That was said of a man on the streets of Rice Lake, Canada, as he walked along carrying a wood saw and a sawhorse. The response from a man nearby was, "That's Joseph Scriven. He wouldn't cut wood for you because you can afford to hire him. He only cuts wood for those who don't have money enough to pay." That seemed to be the philosophy and attitude of Scriven, a devoted member of the Plymouth Brethren Church. He had a sincere desire to help those who were truly destitute. Joseph was born on Sept. 10, 1819, in Ireland. His parents had financial means enough to



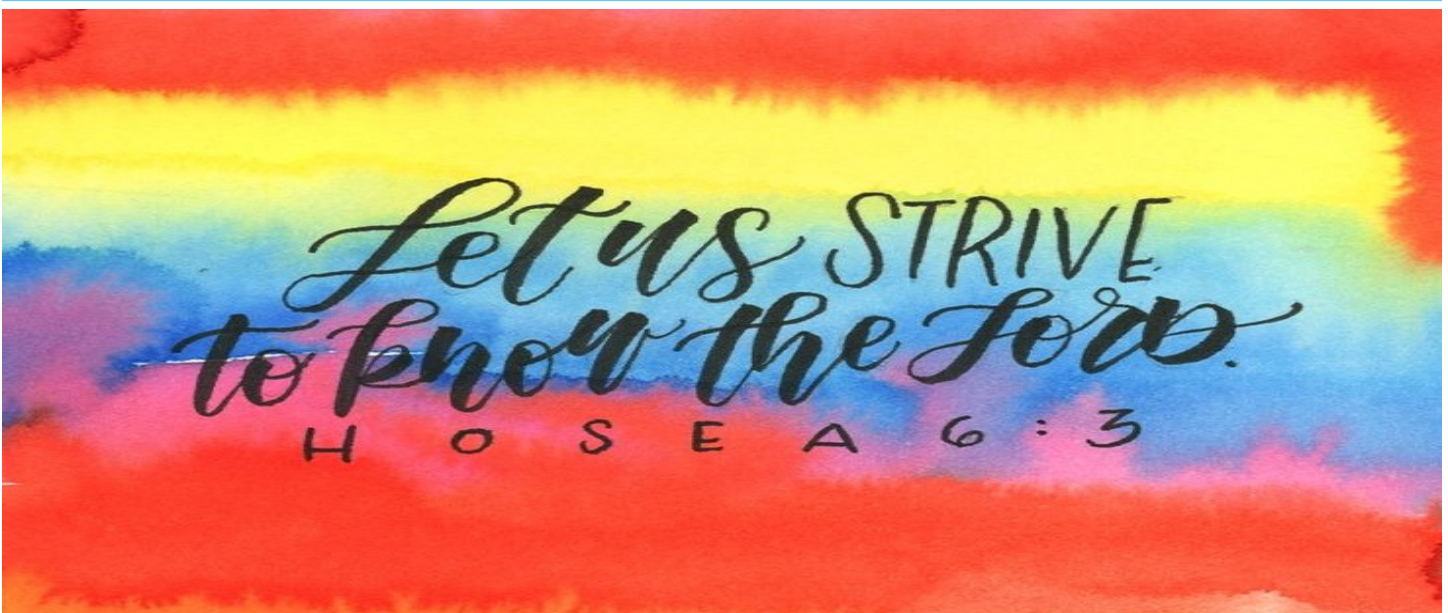
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Aiming for Excellence

A Burmese Proverb

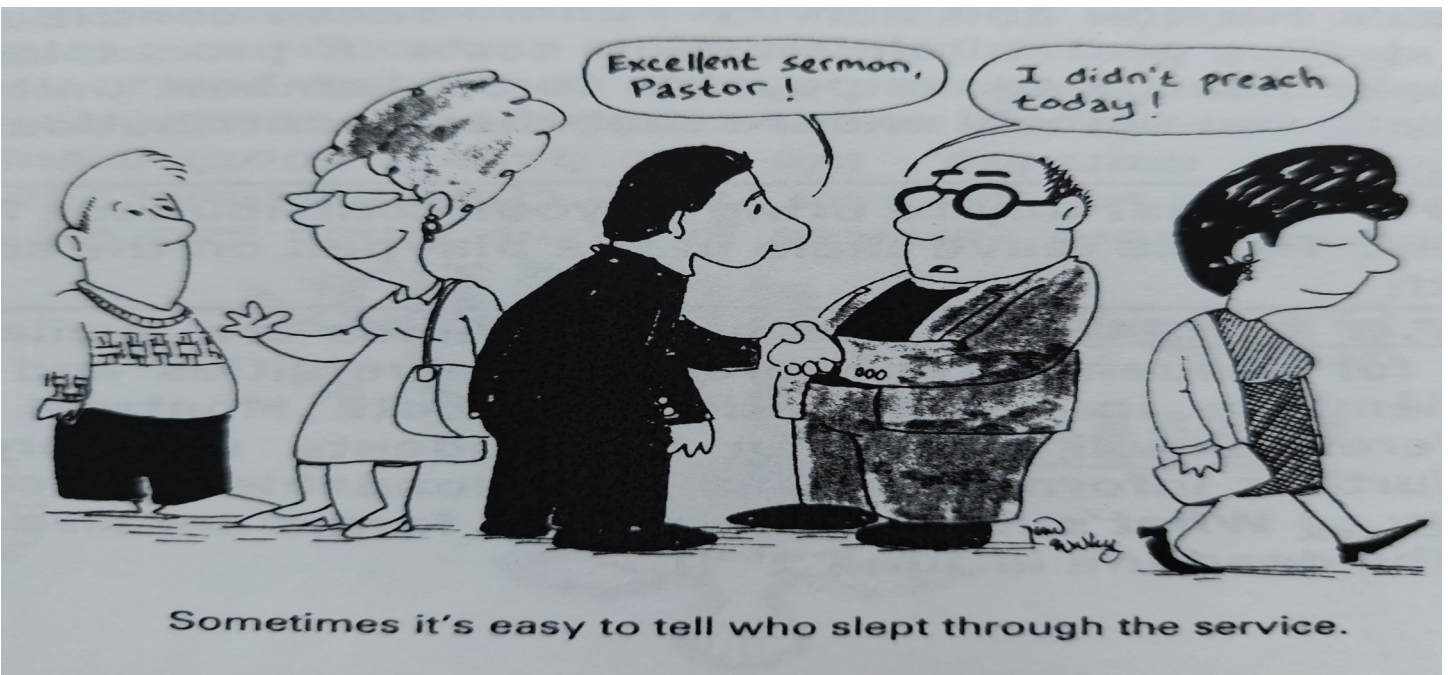
Submitted by Rev. Ian Mackay

He who aims at excellence will be above mediocrity; he who aims at mediocrity will fall far short of it.



Sermon Comic

Submitted by Rev. Ian Mackay



Sometimes it's easy to tell who slept through the service.

A Spring Blessing

Written by Joyce Rupp

Submitted by Sheila Anthony

“Blessed are you, Spring, bright season of life
awakening.
You gladden our hearts with opening buds and
returning leaves
As you put on your robes of splendour.



Blessed are you, Spring. In you is life no death can destroy.
As you exchange places with winter you harbour no unforgiving spirit
For broken tree limbs and frozen buds.
Blessed are you, Spring. You open the closed buds of our despair
As you journey with us to the flowering places.

Blessed are you, Spring. You invite us to sing songs
To the frozen regions within and to bless the lessons of winter
As we become your partner in a new dance.

Blessed are you, Spring. Like Jesus, standing before the tomb of Lazarus,
You call us, “ Remove winter’s stone, come out,
There is life here you have not yet tasted.”

Blessed are you, Spring, free gift of the earth.
Without cost, we gaze upon your glory.
You are a gospel of good news for the poor and rich alike.

Blessed are you, Spring, your renewing rain
showers and cathartic storms
Nurture the potential that sleeps in Earth’s heart
And in our earthen hearts.

Blessed are you, Spring, season of resurrection, sacrament of promise.

A Pentecost Story

Submitted by Rev. Ian Mackay

A few weeks ago, a group of seniors (about 15) were together in one room waiting for the meeting to begin. We were all strangers to each other but gathered together for the same reason. It was time to go through the requirements for drivers' license renewals. A gentleman, directly in front of me, raised his hand requesting clarification. He spoke with a heavy Italian/English accent. I could understand his concern as he settled down looking somewhat confused. Eventually, the time came to do the vision test. While awaiting our names to be called, we were invited to spend time visiting with those who happened to be around us. Right on queue, the man sitting in front of me turned around. He said, his Anglo/Italian accent leading the way, "Oh, I've never done this before I'm sorry, but sometimes I get confused." Speaking in a voice loud enough for everyone to hear, he went on to say, "I'm sorry for asking questions, but this business is new to me." I told him not to worry, that it was new to me too, and that we can work through it together. With a sense of relief, he thanked me. I asked him about himself, if he had come to Canada from Italy. This quickly led into all kinds of interesting conversation, including who I was and what I did. I informed him that I was a church minister, retired but still quite active serving a United church outside Kingston, in the town of Verona. "A minister!" he said in a voice even louder than before. The whole world needs more people to believe in God. :I believe in God, God's love for us. People don't read the Bible any more. People don't know about Moses and the Ten Commandments. If they did, they wouldn't be living with all the problems we have now. It bothers me. I am happy to know you are a minister, like a priest, helping others."



By now I was aware that our conversation was the focus of everyone's attention. It was obvious as his charming Italian/English voice kept booming. I chose to redirect the course of conversation a little bit by asking his name. "Oh," he said, "my name is Giovanni and I live here in Kingston." We talked about Kingston. We talked about Italy and his home town, about 80 km. east of Rome, not far from the Adriatic. In the meantime, more names, one by one, were being called for the vision test. "I hope she hasn't called my name yet," Giovanni said, "I haven't been paying much attention to it!" "No, not yet," I said, "we are still on her waiting list." "That's good," he replied, "I guess this test is important, but my visit with you is

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Story Behind the Song: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

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afford a wonderful educational opportunity for their son. He was enrolled in Trinity College in Dublin where he graduated with a bachelor's degree.

In this young man, Ireland had the prospect of a great citizen with high ideals and notable aspirations. He fell in love with a young lady who was eager to spend her life with him. However, on the day before their wedding she fell from her horse, while crossing a bridge over the River Bann and was drowned in the water below. Joseph stood helplessly watching from the other side.

In an effort to overcome his sorrow, he began to wander. By age 25 his travels had taken him to an area near Port Hope, Canada. He became highly regarded by the people of that area. He tutored some of the local children in their school work. It was there he met a wonderful young lady, Elisa Roche, and again fell in love. They had exciting plans to be married. However, tragedy reared its ugly head once again and she died of pneumonia before they could wed.

As indicated earlier in this story, he laboured in Port Hope among the impoverished widows and sick people. He often served for no wages and even shared his clothes with those less fortunate than himself.

On an occasion when Joseph became ill, a friend who was visiting with him discovered a poem near his bed and asked who had written it. Scriven said, "The Lord and I did it between us." He thought the poem would, perhaps, bring some spiritual comfort to his Mom, who still lived in Ireland. Scriven had not intended that anyone else should see it.

On Aug. 10, 1886, Scriven's body was pulled from a body of water near Bewdly, Ontario. Two monuments have been erected in his honour. Each has the first stanza of his song engraved on it.

Charles Converse, an attorney and composer, wrote the musical setting used today.

Camp Quin-Mo-Lac

Submitted by Darlene Nicol

Over the years there have been water issues and damage in the basement of the dining hall at Camp Quin-Mo-Lac. Some action was taken to remedy the situation and avoid further damage, however, everything had to be removed (walls, flooring, furniture, etc.) leaving the space empty and virtually unusable for the last 2 years.



As you know, this large space under the dining hall is a very important programming area for the camp - it provides shelter from the rain, relief from the hot sun, washrooms, office space for the assistant directors, and the much used and loved costume cupboard! Fortunately, we were able to save all the costumes! Counsellors regularly take their campers there when its raining to play games and do other indoor activities and when its really hot to catch a break from the heat in the basements natural coolness. Groups in the off-season often use this space for displays and workshops.

This year, with support from the UCW, we would like to put this important space back together again, hopefully in time for the summer camping season.

A water-resistant PVC material called Trusscore is going to go up on the walls. It is expensive but it is a permanent, long-term solution for damp conditions that exist in most basements. In addition, commercial dehumidifiers will be installed, an office for the assistant directors, an "order" counter for the costume cupboard, along with upgrades to the washrooms and showers. If you feel you would like to donate to the cost of the repairs, please put "Dining Hall Renovation" on the memo line of your cheque.

A crew is hard at work to replace the existing materials and it looks like the camp dining hall will be open for the summer campers and this year's Quin-Mo-Lac weekend!

Some have been asking about plans for a new camp director. There is an interim director in place for this summer and the search for a new permanent director will come.

Trinity Anniversary Service

Our annual anniversary service will be held *on Sunday June 9th* with fellowship to follow the service

We hope you can plan to attend!

Trinity Sharing Cupboard

Submitted by Sheila Anthony

About a year and a half ago, we opened the Sharing Cupboard for the first time. Since then, the Cupboard has been emptied and filled countless times as the community became aware of this outreach. The generosity of our congregation each week in keeping the Cupboard stocked, has been amazing. We simply could not continue this service without your support- a heartfelt Thank you!!



The current crisis in our society surrounding food security unfortunately continues. There are still many families within our community who struggle from week to week to put food on the table. If you are aware of a family that could use our help, please let myself or any member of Session know. Although we open the Cupboard every other Wednesday, we know that sometimes it is difficult for someone to make that decision to come in. We will deliver, if needed!

In June, we will once again be preparing "Christmas In June" hampers, mostly aimed at families with children to give them a bit of a boost at the beginning of Summer holidays. Again, if you can help in the preparation or delivery of the hampers, we are most grateful. Details will come out in church around mid-May.

We are indeed, living our faith!

Remit 1: “Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization : as Part of the United Church of Canada

Submitted by John McDougall

Earlier in the year, our Session and Stewards voted, on behalf of the congregation, for the establishment of this organization.

As of this month, all 16 Regional Councils, the National Indigenous Council and 80% of the 1575 Pastoral Charges in the United Church of Canada also voted for the establishment of this new organization within the United Church of Canada.

The National Indigenous Council responded with this statement:

We, the National Indigenous Council, are a diverse group of Indigenous Peoples, rooted in distinct innate values and wisdom: We:

Carry a common vision and dream

Respect for everyone’s story

Care for one another

Uphold community

Build positive relationships

We thank our Ancestors and All Our Relations who have brought us to this moment. We are all spirit first.

The work of Right Relations continues.

We commit to moving forward together in a good way.

**If you know of someone who could benefit from a card being sent to them, please call Diane Revill
613-384-4415 or 613-328-7491**



Church Finances

Submitted by Don Coleman



Our Local Expenses income for this year up to April 21 is \$22,561.99. Our expenses for the same period is \$23,668.36 leaving a shortfall of \$1,126.37. One particular concern is that our givings of \$17,831.50 for this period have declined over \$2,000,00 from the same period in 2023. Some of this decline can be attributed to having lost members through death or by moving away. Our Mission and Service givings to date are \$1,783.75. This represents about 18% of our target of \$10,000 for 2024. Our ability to operate and carry out God's mission is dependent on the commitment and kindness of all our members, adherents and friends. We thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

Are You on PAR?

Submitted by Don Coleman



No, we are not talking about your golf game. PAR stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance. This is an automatic givings program administered by the United Church of Canada where a specified amount is transferred from the donor's account to the Trinity bank account every month. Many find this method a convenient way to support our church instead of putting cash or cheque in an envelope every Sunday. It also provides our church with a steady income every month. When you enroll, you specify the amount you wish to donate and how you wish it to be allocated (Local or Mission & Service). This amount will be transferred from your bank account to Trinity's on the 20th of every month. If you wish to enroll in PAR contact our treasurer Don Coleman for to obtain the sign-up forms.

A Pentecost Story

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much more interesting." Before long another name was called, "Giovanni." "That's you, it's your turn." With that, Giovanni took a deep breath. With an anxious sigh, he took his place in front of the vision screen, asked a few more questions of concern, and did the test. He passed! We could tell how happy he was. His big, grinning smile said it all. He stood up, opened his arms, wishing us all well. Without hesitation the whole room burst into a round of applause. As he walked to the exit, I stood up. For a moment or two we hugged each other. I congratulated him, and whispered the simple words "God bless you." And he said to me as he was leaving, "This is a wonderful day. I am filled with much happiness." This is a simple life-affirming story, a story of Pentecost.

A Spring Blessing

(Continued from page 5)

Like Jesus you rise up out of the darkness,
Leaving around you a wake of new life.

Blessed are you, Spring, miracle child of the four seasons.
With your wand of many colours
You work your magic in the corners of our darkness.

Blessed are you, Spring, season of hope and renewal.
Wordless poem about all within us that can never die.

