

## Life and Work – July 25, 2021

**We would like to acknowledge the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:**

\*in loving memory of Eric Patey from Betty, Jeff & Karen

**Our parking lot here at St. James** will have a lot of activity on Tuesday, July 27, and Wednesday July 28. We have the production crew from a local filming company that will be filming the new show "Son of a Critch" featuring Mark Critch.

Our parking lot will be overrun with trailers and crew, and we kindly ask you to refrain from visiting the church office during these days as these trailers are large and there will be crew coming and going from our parking lot all day. We have a very limited number of parking spots available for those days.

The office will be open, but unable to accept visitors during these days. If you have any concerns, you can call the church office at 722-1881 and Tracy will be able to help you with whatever you need.

**Bridges to Hope** - "It has been another hard year for students, and we are determined to send them back to school with everything they need to thrive.

Normally, most of our school supplies are donated, but this year due to the pandemic and Health and Safety protocols, we decided it would be safer to purchase all our supplies. While this is quite the financial endeavor, we are confident that with the help of our Corporate Sponsors and your generosity – we can achieve this goal.

Students will be given a top-quality school bag packed with all the top brand products and headphones to ensure they start the year off right – with the dignity of not being seen as a 'poor' student by their classmates.

Please offer your support and help us spread some relief and joy in our community — both to the students and their parents. Donate at [www.bridgestohope.ca](http://www.bridgestohope.ca)"

**Tea To Your Table** - This summer the **Cathedral Tea Room** team is offering a takeout tea to enjoy at home, or on the go.

Cost: Small Box serves up to 2: \$15

Large Box serves up to 4: \$25

Packages include everything you need: scones, tea biscuits, breads, squares, jam, butter, knives, and napkins.

Order deadline is July 28 and pick-up date is July 31.

Place your order TODAY by calling 709-726-5677 or email our office at [office@ourcathedral.ca](mailto:office@ourcathedral.ca).

**Farewell to our Associate Music Director, Branden Olsen**

This is his last Sunday with us here at St. James United, as he will be returning to his home province of New Brunswick where he will begin his chosen career in music. Branden came

to St. James United 2 years ago as a Master Music student at MUN in Voice Performance. He graduated from MUN with a master's degree in Voice, October 2020 and also received his Masters Degree in Conducting from MUN in May 2021. He joined our music program an Associate Music Director with primary responsibility for the direction of our senior choir. He very quickly endeared himself to anyone he met and has provided valuable service to our Music Program, not mention an incredible voice that has many in the congregation in awe.

The senior choir has flourished under his direction and have noted that they have learned so much about singing from him. Branden and Amy, our Music Director, have become an awesome team and we have been very blessed to be the recipients of their collaboration and creative energy. There is no doubt he will be missed, and we wish him much success in all future endeavors.



THANK YOU Branden for sharing your friendship and exceptional talent with us here at St. James United. We can only hope you leave with many pleasant memories and the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference here.

**Cowan Heights United - The GO Project 2021:** Calling all Youth who are ready to meet new people and have a fun (and safe) in-person experience at Cowan Heights United Church this summer! The GO Project is excited to be presenting a two-week long day program, Monday to Friday from August 9-13 and 16-20. Our programming starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs until 4:30 p.m. each day. The youth will also be helping to lead in worship at Cowan Heights United Church on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

This year, we will be exploring the theme of Pride in our lives through worship, reflection, community outreach, discernment, games, activities, and so much more! Open to all youth between Grades 7-11. We hope to see you there! To register visit: <https://forms.gle/g1G1C8J2BKgjYfqD9>

The cost of registration is \$300 and includes a healthy lunch and two snacks each day. Bursary options are available. Contact [office@cowanheightsunited.ca](mailto:office@cowanheightsunited.ca) or visit <https://theproject.ca/about-the-go-project/> to find out more!

### **United Church of Canada – Moderator's Statement on Residential School Burial Sites**

To Residential School Survivors, Families, and Communities:  
I want to acknowledge the pain that you, as survivors of residential schools, families, and communities, are experiencing. We understand that the pain endured at these schools went far beyond their walls and grounds into community and through generations.

The United Church of Canada operated 15 residential schools: Alberni, Ahousaht, Coqualeetza, Kitimaat (Elizabeth Long Memorial Home), and Port Simpson (Crosby Boys' and Girls' Home) in BC; Edmonton, McDougall Orphanage/Morley, and Red Deer in Alberta; Cote (formerly Crowstand), File Hills, and Round Lake in Saskatchewan; Brandon, Norway House, and Portage la Prairie in Manitoba; and Mount Elgin in Ontario.

We are aware of cemeteries on some of these sites, and we know that there are also unmarked and likely undocumented graves of children.

We acknowledge that our role in the residential school system and colonization is an abuse of power through our Christian faith. We hope that our ongoing work for reconciliation, which has been guided by United Church residential school survivors, more truly reflects what our faith calls us to be and do. We are committed to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, especially those directed to us as perpetrators. These include those related to burial sites and missing children.

In the spirit of truth telling and transparency, we want to share the work that we have done, in consultation with community, on identifying and restoring graveyards. The United Church in southwestern Manitoba has actively supported ongoing work on the identification and preservation of gravesites related to the residential school in Brandon; this includes the 104 graves identified off-site in 2018. In Saskatchewan, we supported the community of Okanese in preserving its graveyard and honoring the children buried there. The United Church of Canada has also been a partner in the preservation of the Regina Industrial School cemetery. (Regina was operated by the Presbyterian church, but the United Church shares responsibility.) United Churches in Red Deer, Alberta, worked to preserve the residential school cemetery in cooperation with the communities whose children were sent to Red Deer. There has also been research into possible graves at the Edmonton Residential School. This work is just a beginning, and we understand that it must continue. Steps are required to properly locate, identify, and honor these children, and for the truth that Indigenous people have always known to finally be heard. Any work we do to help search grounds of and surrounding United Church residential schools must be done with respect for, the consent of, and with the guidance of Indigenous leadership, communities, survivors, and families.

We know that we are not the experts in this work. We will continue to share all the documents and knowledge we have. If anyone in community wishes to share information and expertise with us, we will gratefully accept it and be committed to transparency.

We are committed to meeting with leadership to hear how they wish to proceed, and whether they would like our assistance at any stage. This includes financial assistance for what community leadership deems appropriate.

The United Church of Canada is committed to reconciliation and to transparency in our efforts to support Indigenous leadership, communities, survivors, and families in bringing these children the honor we denied them in life.

With respect,

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott  
Moderator

