

# CENTRAL OKANAGAN UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 2023

*What's On?*

**SUMMER  
GATHERINGS  
KIDS CAMP  
LOOKING AHEAD  
TO FALL &  
BEYOND!**

**PRAYER  
GATHER  
FAITH  
JOY**

Send in your photos  
and news for the  
upcoming editions of  
our Newsletter.



# Central Okanagan United Church



JULY 2023



## CONGRATULATIONS FRANCES!

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship together on Sundays at  
10am - 721 Bernard Ave, Kelowna  
Zoom and Facebook Live options  
available.

Next Board Meeting: July 26th 7pm

### CONTACT ADMIN

Tanya / Bernard Office / E-Letter Submission  
250 762-3311 [tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)

Saibun / Fitzpatrick Office  
250-765-5141 [saibunh@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:saibunh@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)

Delaine / Newsletter Submissions  
[delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)



 (250)762- 3311

 MAIL TO: PO BOX 24042, RPO TOWN CENTRE, KELOWNA BC, V1Y 9H2

 [CENTRALOKANAGANUNITEDCHURCH.COM](http://CENTRALOKANAGANUNITEDCHURCH.COM)

# Church News

What's Happening this month.



## JULY AT A GLANCE

**PMRC CONFERENCE REPORT  
AVAILABLE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE**

- After Worship Meetings 9, 16, 23, 30th - \*See Below\*
- Cheryl on Holiday through July
- Registration open now for VBA summer camp in August



## Covid19 & Illness:

Please stay home if you feel unwell, or have been exposed recently. There are masks available in church if you need one. Please wash your hands frequently and use sanitizer when eating or drinking and practice social distance.

Let's work to keep each other safe!



## SUBMISSIONS

Please have your news, articles and photos in by July 21st to [delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com) to be included in the August Newsletter

Please submit weekly E-Letter news to Tanya [tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)

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# After Worship Coffee Time Conversation

## July 9, 16, 23 & 30th

After worship each Sunday in July, grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation with others about our four areas of ministry: Community Ministry, Worship and Music, Pastoral Care, and Intergenerational Ministry. Come to one, more, or all four!

At our meeting on June 18th the congregation received a draft Ministry Plan. This was developed through the compilation efforts of the Ministry Planning Team, building on the efforts of many contributors. The Team felt the plan needed a look from the perspective of each of our four core areas of ministry. Further fine tuning would involve further input from Reframe on opportunities in West Kelowna. The final document will be presented first to the congregation and then to the Pacific Mountain Region for approval and will also point to the kind of resources we will need to carry it out. Building(s) will be part of that plan.

We will have four meetings after church in July. Each will focus on a specific area of ministry and will be available to attend via our regular worship Zoom link. The meetings are meant to comment on and expand the draft Ministry Plan.

We will consider whether or not the draft plan captured the ministry:

- as it is
- as we dream it could be
- in the resources it needs
- in its potential partnerships

Meeting dates and subjects are as follows:

July 9 – Worship and Music

July 16 – Pastoral Care

July 23 – Community

July 30 – Intergenerational Ministry



# Stewardship

—

The Stewardship Team asks you to financially support the Central Okanagan United Church through one of the methods outlined below.

With God's help and the generosity of your contributions of financial resources, time, talent and energy we will fulfill our church's mission.

Need more information? Contact any member of the Stewardship Team: Terry Welsh, Beryl Itani, Judy Valks and Sharon Pendleton.



Scan QR Code  
to Donate

or Read on for  
How to Give



## Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)



Specify the amount of monthly donation to be deducted from your chequing account. Contact Jodine Ducs at [jodine.ducs@gmail.com](mailto:jodine.ducs@gmail.com) to join PAR or make changes to your current PAR contributions.

## Cheques & E-Transfers

Please make out cheques to Central Okanagan United Church, and place in one of the offering offertory boxes in the sanctuary, drop off at 721 Bernard, or mail to:

Central Okanagan  
United Church  
PO Box 24042  
RPO Town Centre  
Kelowna, BC  
V1Y 9H2



E-transfer your donation to [finance@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:finance@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)

## Donation of Shares

Contact Jodine Ducs for information to receive the appropriate form.



## Bequests or Memorial Gifts

Include Central Okanagan United Church in your will or make a gift in memory of an individual.

**Thank you for your generous and continued support!**



—  
From your  
Stewardship  
Team:  
—

*Planned  
Giving*

Thank you to the many people who have already responded to our spring appeal. It is not too late to submit your commitment, either to the office or in one of the offering boxes in the sanctuary.

There are many ways to financially support the ministry and work of COUC - pre-authorized remittances (PAR), cash contributions, and gifts of shares. Planned giving is another way to support COUC ministry. Have you considered naming COUC as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or including our church in your will? Contact envelope secretary, Jodine Ducs, at [jodine.ducs@gmail.com](mailto:jodine.ducs@gmail.com) for more information about PAR, gifts of shares or planned giving options.



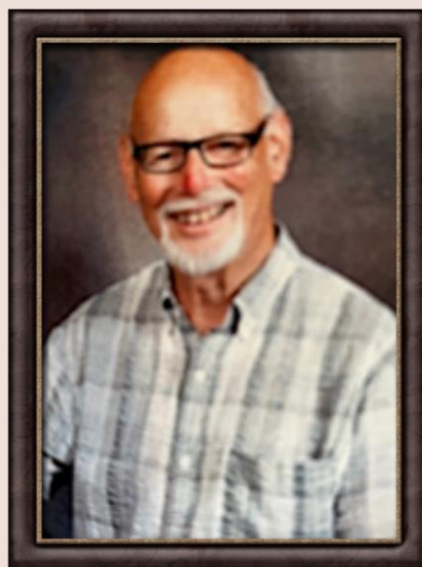
# Planned Giving

During the past year COUC received planned giving gifts from two congregants - as beneficiary of their insurance policies. For several decades, these two individuals also gave their time, energy and commitment to the many projects of First United.

## John Powell

Long-time congregant of First United, choir member, participant in operas and theatre performances at Kelowna Community Theatre, manager of book sales at First United (proceeds to Inn from the Cold). Long-time congregants of First United may remember John leading the Christmas Day service for many years.

John died September, 2021.



## Lois Newton

Lois began attending First United Church in the 1940s and was an active member for over half a century. She was one of the original members of the UCW Bankhead unit.

Lois died at age 95 in November 2021. Her funeral was held at COUC with Cheryl Perry officiating.



## Water Collecting Over Summer

Summer is a time when our church community looks a bit different. People are away on holidays and travelling. People have guests and visitors and so don't make it to church every Sunday. Attendance on Sundays may be lower. And we may have guests and newcomers too! In looking ahead to the Fall and regathering once the summer is over and school has resumed, we had the idea of a little project to keep us connected. We invite you to take a bottle (or any container will do) to collect water while you are on holidays—from a lake, stream, hot springs, even the West Edmonton Mall pool (Noah Chiasson's idea)! Bring these back in September for a special intergenerational service on September 10th.

# *Water containers*

*Please fill a container with water from  
your summer holidays*

*(from a lake, fountain, ocean, etc..)*

*and bring it to  
church on Sept 10th.*





Tuesday Outreach continues to grow in numbers as more people join us for a meal and to get some groceries. Demand varies each week and often gets heavier near each month end. On one Tuesday last month we handed out 63 bags of groceries and served about 70 meals, another new record for us.

While it is rewarding to see how this Outreach is filling a need and how greatly appreciated it is by the various members of the community (the homeless, those in transitional housing, or those who have a place to live but not enough money to afford groceries), it is at the same time often a very humbling experience for the volunteers.

It is on a Tuesday morning when you realize just how blessed you are to have everything you need to live a comfortable life: a safe home, a comfortable bed, healthy and delicious food, clean clothing, and family and friends surrounding you.

Our guests on a Tuesday morning may have some of those things but not all of them, or they may have none of what we take for granted. Their lives are so very different than ours and it is hard to imagine what they experience. One young man was thanking me a couple of weeks ago for his lunch and commented that it was the first meal he had eaten in almost a week.

As you count your many blessings and think of those in our community who are less fortunate, know that all donations to Outreach are greatly appreciated. As grocery prices continue to rise, what we really need are donations of the non-perishable foods noted below. If you can help in any way, your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

We have changed our processes slightly to keep costs down and to ensure everyone gets something and we do not run out before the last folks arrive. We now give out 8 items instead of 10, with 2 of their choices come from the meat/protein options while the other 6 choices come from the rest of our options.

Meat/Protein: canned tuna, chicken, ham, pork & beans, chili, Chef Boyardee; and peanut butter

Other Items: canned soup, vegetables, fruit; boxes of cereal; individual-serving oatmeal packets; pasta and pasta sauces; Mac & Cheese; Mr. Noodle; Premium Saltine Crackers; individual fruit cups; granola bars; coffee and brown and white sugar (we split the larger containers into smaller lots for distribution); and toilet paper

Pop and juice boxes for lunches would also be appreciated, and sandwiches and cookies are always welcome.

Thank you for your generosity.

**New Volunteers are always welcome!**  
**Anyone wishing to get involved please call Jayne Brooks at**  
**250-762-9606 or email [k.jaynebrooks@gmail.com](mailto:k.jaynebrooks@gmail.com)**



Submitted by Keith Simmonds



Dear Friends,  
“The Peace of Christ Be With You All”

Several of our New Testament professors told us Paul always started his letters that way because, in his day, it was far more common (and socially acceptable) to begin by calling on the “Peace of Rome” or the “Peace of the Emperor” in opening statements. Paul, we were told, was actually being quite subversive in his opening blessings. Initially I interpreted that as Paul’s bravery in the face of power, explaining why the forces of the Empire imprisoned him and others who also espoused the ascendance of God and Jesus over Rome. Now I think I may have been too narrow in my focus.

I think Paul truly saw a God-informed, Christ-assured, Spirit-led, Way of life and living that was entirely contrary to the established norms of his time. People, faced with the social issues of their day might have groaned heavily beneath loads imposed upon them by the power and might of the Emperor’s Peace, saying things like “Well, it’s always been this way” or “What’s to be done about it? Can’t change Rome...” Paul was, in his way saying “Really? Have you heard the good news? There is, totally, another Way!”

That’s how I like to think about Tuesdays in the Church Hall. Another Way. A Way that offers welcome, service, food and a momentary citizenship of grace to friends and companions who have been forgotten by the Empire we live in. Rome, in our time, has taken their measure, found them valueless except as excuses for expenditures in policing, social service worker funding and by-law enforcement staffing and cast them to the side of whatever nook or cranny that might be temporarily acceptable.

For a few moments, between nine and noon on Tuesday mornings, people marginalized and traumatized by Empire can find themselves beloved, can find themselves sharing a meal served by loving hands, can find themselves gifted with food offered by loving hearts, can find themselves afforded space and time and some degree of dignity.

These days many more people are falling off the edges of Empire. Numbers of guests have increased from around 20 to (last Tuesday) at least 70, with 63 bags of groceries given out. So far, thanks to the generosity of folk like you, we’ve had enough food for the meal and enough groceries for the bags. We’re determined to keep on trying to meet the needs as best we can, although limiting some of what’s available as we stretch to meet them. Your gifts are so appreciated as you join in with Paul and announce the Peace of Christ. Another Way continues to subvert the Empire’s way of devaluing life and those who live it.

Central Okanagan United Church  
721 Bernard Ave  
Kelowna BC, V1VY 6P6  
(250) 762-3311



June 14, 2023

Board of Regional District of Central Okanagan  
1450 KLO Road  
Kelowna BC V1W 3Z4

Dear Board Members,

Re: Dog Pound Impound Fee Policy

I am writing with respect to this policy and the effect it has on people living without housing in our community. Anecdotal conversations with staff at the pound indicate that a number of people living without housing have had to bail their dogs out of the pound under the terms of the policy's ever escalating impound fee system.

In one specific case our church has twice supported the release of a person's dog, helping cover the majority of a \$185.00 bill (\$65.00 the first time and \$100.00 of \$120.00 the second). We cannot sustain this as it comes out of our rapidly growing food support budget (our numbers have tripled in recent weeks and are not slowing down).

Should the fees continue without some sort of compassion policy we will be faced with a system that impounds the pets of people already on their last emotional legs, many of whom are simply economically unable to sustain housing in our rental market. We will, of course, care for, house, feed and adopt out their pets to people more able to keep them fenced in or housed, while continuing to watch helplessly as the people they were family to live at the side of the road and gradually dwindle out of existence. Dwindling even more rapidly as we take what little they have in order to release their companions back to them.

I believe we, through you, can come up with a compassionate policy that allows by-law enforcement staff more latitude when dealing with the pets of people living without housing. I know there will always be some folk (housed or not) who are not fit guardians for pets and believe our staff are capable of discerning those situations. There are others, however, who are living without housing through no fault of their own. Neither they nor their pets should have to undergo separation and deprivation because of the circumstances forced upon them by the current state of the housing market in our area.

Please do what you can to help people living in poverty reconnect with their source of love and the heart of their affection. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Simmonds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "S".

Keith Simmonds  
Community Minister

W: [centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](http://centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)  
T: (250) 762-3311  
E: [admin@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:admin@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)



# Who We Are



July/2023



## Property

*Submitted By: Tom Cole*

To begin with, my life in Kelowna began in 2005, in an attempt at improved health, and to sate wanderlust. St. Paul's United Church being a stone's throw from where my wife, Shirley and I live, was an easy first choice for Sunday worship. Although I attended worship services, I wasn't an enthusiastic volunteer. Honestly, private tutoring took president over volunteering. Yes, I served in the kitchen sometimes, was one of the usher/greeter team, became a Board member of St. Paul's Foundation. However, in 2016 there was a dramatic change in St. Paul's congregational life. I then became more engaged and volunteered to serve on the newly elected Board of Trustees.

At the time of Amalgamation in 2021, I had been Chair of St. Paul's Board of Trustees for five years during which I represented the congregation in negotiating rental of space agreements at two different Churches, drafting a Statement of Investments Policy; interviewing and selecting the current Investment Management Company; serving on the Ministry Profile and Search Committee in hiring Reverend Ivy Thomas. One might say I kinda transitioned into my current role as Chair of the Property Maintenance Team. Albeit, not necessarily by intent, mind you!

Doubts and concerns aside, in many ways I am happy I volunteered for the position. One reason is, that I had the good fortune to become a part of like-minded volunteers who have shown their dedication to carry out a primary duty of care, that is, to ensure a safe healthy environment for all who visit, volunteer, work, and assemble at the respective Sites.

**"I feel blessed to be a member of such an experienced, knowledgeable, collaborative, and cooperative Team."**

Our Team's focus has primarily been on 721 Bernard Avenue building, not by design, but out of necessity. All due respect to the venerable building, it has posed some challenging critical moments, and at great cost. The Team has had to contend with, mid-winter snow, ice, and water damages, two fires, a section of the Sanctuary ceiling collapse and associated risk of contamination, furnace outages and new install, roof damage and repair, rodent infestation (no locusts, yet), faulty outdated Fire Alarm and Security systems; faulty outdated telephone system, faulty plumbing infrastructure, and most recently the parking lot sinkhole.



It might be said our Team provided the lubricant that kept the building operable (pardon the metaphor); and continues to do so.

As you can imagine, it takes a total Team effort, diligence, resilience, attention to detail; and most importantly, a deep sense of responsibility and commitment to carry out our duty of care; often under trying circumstances.

I feel blessed to be a member of such an experienced, knowledgeable, collaborative, and cooperative Team: Ted Basisty, Ross Hyatt, Drew Irvine, Ernie Park, Murray White, and Saibun Hasibuan (Properties Administrator). Just so you know, collectively, the Property Maintenance Team represents at least 175 years of volunteer service to the United Church. Needless to say, Duty of care is the Team's *raison d'être*.

Has it been frustrating? Yes.  
Has it been challenging? Yes.  
Has it been rewarding, and worthwhile? Yes!

I believe we are evolving into a "United" Church, and all that this implies. As well, I strongly believe time is of the essence, and the time is now!

Together Everyone Achieves More!



# MEMORIES FROM JUNE!







GATHER TOGETHER

# Men's Breakfast

\*Gay, non binary, gender non conforming, two spirit, trans men and any other rainbow identifying individuals - YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!\*

Hold space and time! More information to follow in August if response indicates an interest. The general idea would be to gather for breakfast (on a Saturday morning?) once a month. Perhaps start out with breakfast, followed by a presentation or a speaker, share conversation afterwards and then...who knows? Please let Keith Simmonds know if you're interested/have ideas.

REGISTER ONLINE: <https://centralokanaganunitedchurch.com>



# VBA SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP DUNLOP!

**\$75 PER  
CHILD  
\*MAX \$150  
PER FAMILY**

## TASTE & SEE

Exploring stories about meals and food in the Bible

Join us at Camp Dunlop

(A Scout camp on Lakeshore Road nestled in the Lebanon Creek valley where the valley meets Lake Okanagan)

- Hike and enjoy nature • Sing and play games
  - Make food together • Hear stories from the Bible
  - Fun theme days like Twin Day & Beach Day (supervised by a lifeguard)
  - Make cool crafts • Meet new friends • Have fun!
- A fabulous morning ends with lunch each day in the Charlie Colk Lodge.

**21-25  
AUG**

**AGES  
5-11**

**Brochure available now!**

**Register Online:**

**[centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](https://centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)**





**Strengthening Voices. Inspiring Possibility.**  
**WHERE VOICES COME TO LIFE**

Welcome to *SongShine*, vocal music and creative drama-based classes designed for those who have communication issues due to Parkinson's, stroke, other neurological challenges, or aging. Our goal is to help you communicate more easily and clearly. *SongShine* harnesses the power of brain, breath, and emotion to reclaim voices. It creates community, camaraderie, and confidence

**...AND IT'S FUN!**

Meet: Mondays at 1pm, at Bernard Church, in Room 14

Hosted by Choir Director Sylvia Clerke

**Friday Night  
WOMEN'S  
GROUP**

The Friday Night Women's group meets on the last Friday of the month for social connection. Every month features a different activity and is organized by the attendees. Please email [tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com) if you would like more information on the group or to be added to the mailing list where you will receive all the details on that month's activity.



CENTRAL OKANAGAN UNITED CHURCH IS  
PROUDLY A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF BELONGING  
FOR EVERY PERSON, WHERE DIVERSE FAMILY  
STRUCTURE, GENDERS, CULTURES, FAITHS AND  
SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS ARE  
CELEBRATED AND TREASURED!



# **ZOOM CAFE**

**CONVERSATION AND ONLINE SOCIAL TIME  
ALL WELCOME!**

**Friday Morning  
Weekly  
10am**

**ZOOM LINK WILL BE IN YOUR FRIDAY E-LETTERS**





## S H A R I N G   C I R C L E

Richard Wagamese writes about the grace that comes to participants in sharing circles, where we bring what we need and receive what is there for us. **Keith is wondering about offering an opportunity for a circle based in that form of communal sacred presence, before worship services on Sundays.** Beginning in September he hopes to host circles that offer opportunities for spiritual nourishment grown out of the sharing circles he encountered as a diaconal student at the Centre for Christian Studies. There will be singing, praying, a reading, communal reflection time, more prayer and more singing. He wonders if 8:00 on Sunday mornings would suit people? Feedback welcome!

**All Players Welcome!**  
**Have fun, have a game, meet friends!**

# SCRABBLE GROUP

**721 Bernard Ave. | TUESDAYS 1:30PM | ALL WELCOME**

**\*WEEKLY AT OUR BERNARD SITE\***

Central Okanagan United Church

# Wonderlust

**NOTE: Wonderlust will be on a break until September**

Are you a “wonderer”? Do you lust for deeper knowledge and understanding? Each week we will respectfully explore a different topic, using personal experience, intellectual knowledge, and scriptural and spiritual reflections to delve deeply, seeking always to expand our personal understanding while maintaining a respect for differences.

Have you been wanting to join in our Wonderlust conversations but don't do evening gatherings? Then you'll be happy to hear that we are making an adjustment to our time slots.

**Meetings: \*We are on break until September\***

**On Zoom on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month 7pm – 8:30pm**

**& In Person on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month 1pm-2:30pm**

**Hosted By: Rev. Ivy Thomas.**

**RSVP TO TANYA : [Tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com](mailto:Tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com)**

**If you have a question or thought you wish to explore,  
please include that in your registration  
or bring it with you to the gathering**

**At the end of each gathering we will randomly choose one of the submitted questions for our next discussion.**



**Keep up to date, watch worship videos and more.  
Find us online! Like and Follow us on Facebook &  
Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!**

Website

<https://centralokanaganunitedchurch.com>

**Facebook Page SUNDAY LIVESTREAM SHOWN HERE**

<https://www.facebook.com/Centralokanaganunitedchurchkelownabc>

Facebook Group (Our Private Church Group)

(A Private Group for members & friends of COUC to share church news or discussion)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/319967703235745>

YouTube Channel (Worship videos posted weekly):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJRqGV1Zra36gbm1jSlks1w>



Central Okanagan  
United Church



WELCOME!  
KELOWNA - BC





**Thank You**   
*For*  
*Reading!*

