



SouthWinds



MAY 2022

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United Church*

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Patrick's Words of Wisdom!

"I beg your pardon
I never promised you a rose garden
Along with the sunshine
There's gotta be a little rain sometime"¹

Okay, I understand that there needs to be a 'little rain' sometimes, but this was just getting out of hand this spring, well I hope that this allows for creation to flourish with all this moisture.

How many of you recognized this song from those few lyrics? The theme of this Southwinds is "How Does Your Garden Grow" and I have been thinking about this idea of what we grow.

We know at the church here that we grow a beautiful garden in the summer but we actually made some important decisions about what we would grow. We decided that we would begin to transition to some more natural plants such as prairie grass, which I have found to be a beautiful addition to the garden. We have also now begun to cultivate plants that offer food to butterflies as there has been some concern about the lack of food for these beautiful creatures in God's creation. So we have made some decisions about what we grow and how we might better our environment in making these changes. What are you growing this year?

The answer to this question could be an explanation of what you plan to grow in the gardens around your home this summer. Are you a flower person? Or are you a veggie person? Some of us love the look and scent of flowers as they can add such beauty to the world. Others of us love our vegetable gardens and the bounty that we receive in food, not just for ourselves but also for our families and friends. I personally believe that they are amazing endeavours, the flower garden and the vegetable garden

and I think that the practice of working, tending, and nurturing the soil to bring forth new life is an amazing talent that so many in this community undertake. But there was more to this question.

What are you growing this year in your life? As we enter this time of spring and the bursting forth of new growth and life in nature, what might you grow in your own life? Spring can be a time for us, both individually and as a community, to look at our lives, our communities, and to see what we might be called to grow in our lives. Maybe we are called to grow more connection to the community around us. Maybe we are called to grow more compassion for the most marginalized in our world. Maybe we are called to nurture and grow our own gifts so that we might be able to bring to the work of our church and community. Whatever it is that you are being called to grow, I invite you to nurture it, to tend to it, and embrace it, and to allow it to flourish in your soul.

Happy growing season to us all.

Peace and blessings,



Rev. Patrick Woodbeck
Minister
Windsor Park United Church



¹(I Never Promised You) A Rose Garden by Lynn Anderson, Album: Rose Garden, 1970

The Post Office

Margo Baldwin

We don't know who replied, but there is a beautiful soul working in the dead letter department who understands Love...

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month.

The day after she passed away, my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey.

She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to Heaven, God would recognize her.

I told her that I thought that we could, so she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog?

Abbey died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much.

I'm happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls.

I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog.

I really miss her.

Love

Meredith



We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey, and Meredith addressed it to God/Heaven.

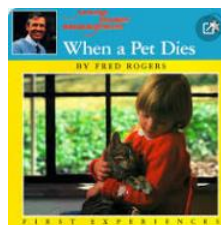
We put our return address on it.

Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way

to Heaven. That afternoon, she dropped it into the letter box at the post office.

A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand.



Meredith opened it. Inside, was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies'.

Taped to the inside front cover, was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope.

On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey and Meredith with this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart.

Abbey loved being your dog.

Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I'm sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me.

What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you.

I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much.

By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.

Love,

God



Staying in Touch!

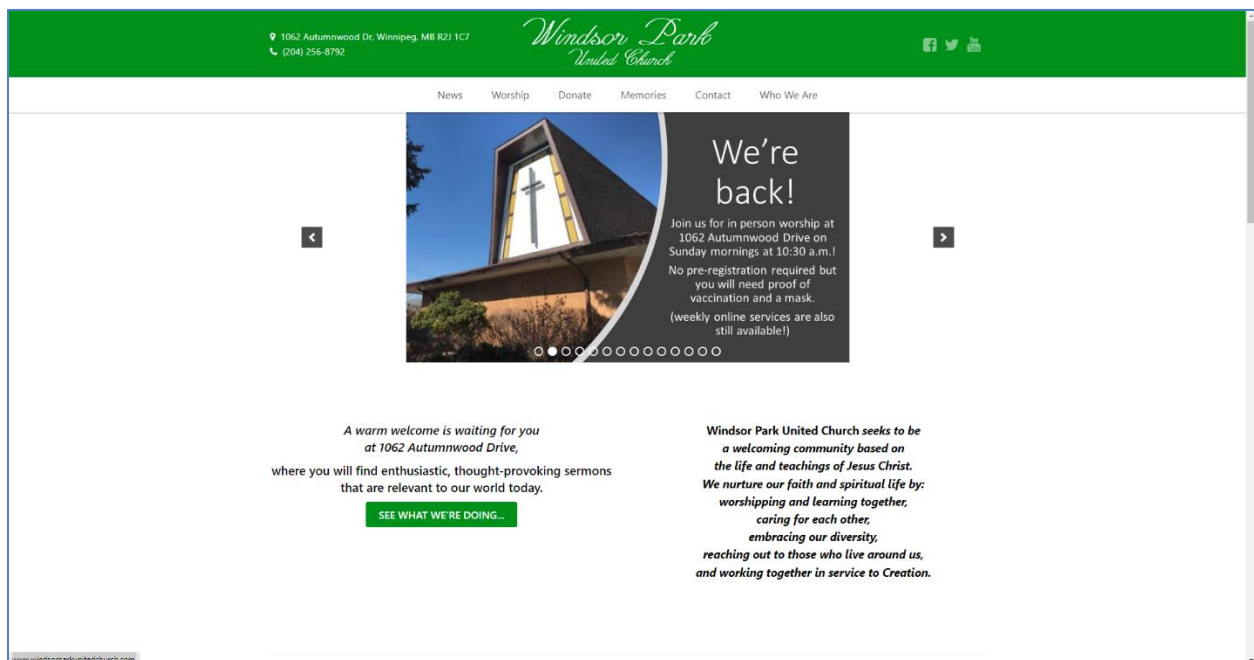
Laura Steidl

Health events, weather events, other unexpected events - how do we stay connected and know if the church is open or not?



There are multiple ways to stay connected and get church information quickly:

	<p>Make sure you are signed up to receive our congregational emails! Call the church office at 204-256-8792 if you need to sign up or update your email address. Congregational emails are the quickest way to contact all members in a timely manner</p>
	<p>If you think you have already signed up but have <u>not</u> received regular congregational emails from us over the past 2 years, there may be a problem that we need to look into. First, check your Spam folder to make sure WPUC emails aren't being sent there. We have also found that some email servers have not been delivering our emails at all, so please let us know if you haven't been receiving emails from the church office! If there is a problem sending to your email, we will try an alternate way to send emails to those affected.</p>
	<p>If you have been getting emails from the church office, you will have seen information sent out through our E-blast. This weekly email will give you general information, but, as it is usually sent out early in the week, may be subject to change if a situation arises during the week that affects the weekly service.</p>
	<p>Check the church website! Going to www.windsorparkunitedchurch.com will take you to our homepage, which is updated regularly and will have the latest service information posted.</p>



Empty Tank

Margo Baldwin



The whole world paused this morning. Do you know why? Because an 8-year old's tank was empty.

The boys had already started their school day at their desks, and I was preparing to leave for work when I noticed my littlest standing in the bathroom wiping his face.

I paused at the door and asked if he was okay. He looked up with tears silently dripping and shook his head. When I questioned if something happened, again he shook his head.

So, I sat on the side of the tub and pulled him in my lap. I told him sometimes our heart tanks feel empty and need to be refilled.

He cried into my chest, and I held tight.

I asked if he could feel my love filling him up?

A nod, and tears stopped...

I waited a minute...

'Has it reached your toes yet?'

He shook his head no...

'Okay man. We will take as long as you need. Work doesn't matter right now. School isn't important either. This right here, is the most important thing today, okay? Filling you back to the top. Is that good?'

nods

One more minute...

'Is your heart full of mamas love now?'

'Yeah...'

looks in his eyes 'I see it shining in there, you're full to the top, and you're smiling!'

You may not be 8 - you may be 28, 38, 48 or whatever- but ALL of us run on empty just like he did. His week was so busy and so full, and his little soul was just dry!

We all must pause and take a moment to refill with the good things. prayer, sunshine, laughter, friends, hugs. Refill your empty, or you'll find those emotions (tears, anger, snappy words) overflowing with no reason why.

Take a moment. Refill. It's the most important part of your day



Just for Fun

For those of you that like colouring, print this page and have fun!



Garden Tour

Editor's Note

John Lwiwski

A big thank you to this edition's contributors.

Have a safe and wonderful summer !

See you in the fall.

*Watch for the
Fall edition of
Southwinds.
Available late
summer.*

Calling all Gardeners!

This summer we will be having our third annual WPUC Virtual Garden Tour!

- There will be a call for photos in mid-July
- The photos can be of your own garden or pots, as well as gardens you may have visited this summer
- Watch for more details coming in July
- For some inspiration and to see the videos from the 2020 and 2021 Garden Tours, click on the WPUC YouTube link near the bottom of the page on our website to get to our Youtube channel. Then click playlists, WPUC Garden Tours, and then play all. Enjoy!

WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER

