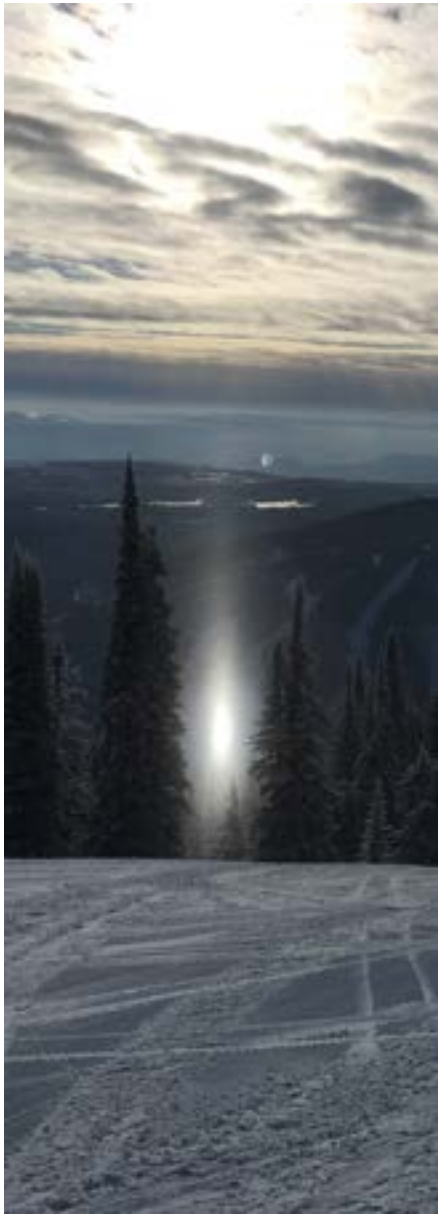




Trinity Topics

FEBRUARY
2023



By faith, not by sight

BY REV. BRIAN COPELAND

Sitting in the midst of an ice storm—the trees coated—with cold weather and more snow for us skiers coming, the hymn which resonates in my mind is “In The Bleak Midwinter” by one of my favorite English poets, Christina Rossetti.

The first line always catches me:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.

By mid-January, in what is usually the coldest week of the year, it feels like we have reached midwinter and perhaps, just perhaps, things might begin to get better. And I usually love February with snow for skiing, ice on the canal for skating, longer evening hours to get out and about before sunset, and temperatures that can be cold but not usually severe.

How are we in the church—the mainline Church—at our midwinter? The pandemic has reduced the number of people at public worship across all denominations. Even the mega churches in the US have laid off staff and reduced the number of Sunday services, often by half. Finances are under strain in every congregation and at the national level of all denominations. Frosty winds are indeed making us moan.

But what I always like about midwinter is the sense that we are over the worst of it. The hours of light begin to increase, Sandra plants her seeds, and once in a while we have a day which tastes, if only for a few hours, like spring or even “summer in the soul,” as another great hymn suggests.

Recoveries take a long time and the pandemic has changed the mainline church, including us, forever in ways that we are still working through without a complete sense of where this will lead us in time. But we are people who live by faith and not by sight.

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

I try and remember that each new morning. What you see is not what God has in mind. What you see is not where God wants us or desires for us. What you see is not going to be the final word.

In the bleak midwinter we trudge on, hand in hand, having faith in the One who Created us and whose grace gives us hope even in days like this. Thanks be to God.

Blessings and thanks,

Brian

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2023, after the service

In Tait Hall and via Zoom

Access the [Annual Report](#)



*We are a
compassionate,
progressive and
affirming
community that
nurtures and
celebrates each
others' spiritual
growth*



Sunday Celebration of Spirit

10:00 a.m.

Join us in the Sanctuary or on [YouTube](#)

Coffee and Conversation

after the service

ONGOING EVENTS	
Every Monday, 2:00 p.m.	You Don't Have to Knit Club
Every Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	Meditation
Every Thursday, 7:00 p.m	Music Night with Kim
Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. February 9 and 23 March 9 and 23 April 13 and 27	Men's Breakfast
SPECIAL EVENTS	
Sunday, February 12	Annual Congregational Meeting
Mondays, 7:00 p.m	Zoom Around the World February 20: New Zealand March 6: Parks of Western Canada
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. February 22 March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Supper and Study: New Testament Women for Progressive Christians
Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday
Friday, April 7	Good Friday
Sunday, April 9	Easter

FROM
THE
SUNDAY
SCHOOL

The Celebrate Wonder curriculum, which is one of the resources available to our Sunday school, includes a lesson of David and Goliath. David uses his faith to overcome a seemingly insurmountable opponent.

All of us who are young at heart can take a moment to think about what helps us defeat hard things in our lives.

God Stones – Journaling

David beat Goliath. He used his faith in God to win. Draw or write on the stones below ways God helps you defeat hard things in your life.



Come for dinner at our place

BY ARLENE SMITH
CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

“Come for dinner at our place. We can talk about women in the Bible.”

“Oh, you’re not so interested in that? That’s okay. Come anyway. We’ll have dinner and talk about other things. The Sens, the price of eggs, your renovations . . . whatever. It doesn’t matter. The important thing is, we’ll be together. Get to know each other a little better.”

“What’s that? You won’t have time to read the book? Never mind that. You can get a lot out of our dinner gatherings even if you don’t manage to get the reading done.”

“Just come. Come for dinner at our place. It’ll be fun.”

SUPPER AND STUDY



*New Testament Women in the Bible
for Progressive Christians*

by Donald Schmidt

Six Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

February 22

March 1

March 8

March 15

March 22

March 29

We gather at 6:00 to share a meal.

Discussion begins at 7:00.

[REGISTER](#)

PORTUGAL



Kathryn met a friend along the path in Peneda-Geres National Park, Portugal.



Kathryn and Bill encouraged people to include places that aren't in the guidebooks in any trip they take.

ZOOM AROUND THE WORLD

MONDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

If you haven't yet joined Zoom Around the World, you have to. You must!

They are fun and informative sessions.

To get the link, contact Sally Cuddy

UPCOMING TRAVEL TALKS

February 20

Biking in New Zealand

Ian MacKay

March 6

Parks of Western Canada

Mike and Sari Velichka

ICELAND



Mark and Sally know what it feels like to stand under a glacier.



Together again!

At the Christmas Bazaar the community gathered to enjoy delicious baking, crafts and knitting, jigsaws, jams and jellies, Cuddly Cards, Harold's Boutique, and delicious luncheons from the Café.

**SALES FROM THE
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
\$7,883**

Thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers and to Helen and Sally for organizing this fun event.



Refugee Sponsorship

BY PAMELA SHEEHAN

Trinity has a long history of refugee sponsorship.

We sponsored a family from Cambodia in the 1980s and a family of eight from Kosovo in the 1990s. We helped Sai and Winnie and their children from Myanmar, and a Syrian family of four. We also helped a mother to bring her son, his wife and six children from Somalia.

With millions of refugees languishing in camps or under intense persecution and risk of death in their communities, we hope that as a congregation we will continue this important work.

Throughout the world, those who identify as 2SLGBTQ1A+ must keep this important part of themselves secret, even from their families. For safety, they often need to move frequently.

A refugee camp may be the least safe place of all.

Ignorance breeds fear and violence. Canada is one of the few countries that recognizes transgender and other members of 2SLGBTQ1A+ as a category for refugee status. The United Church as a whole identifies this group as a priority and an important part of our collective ministry

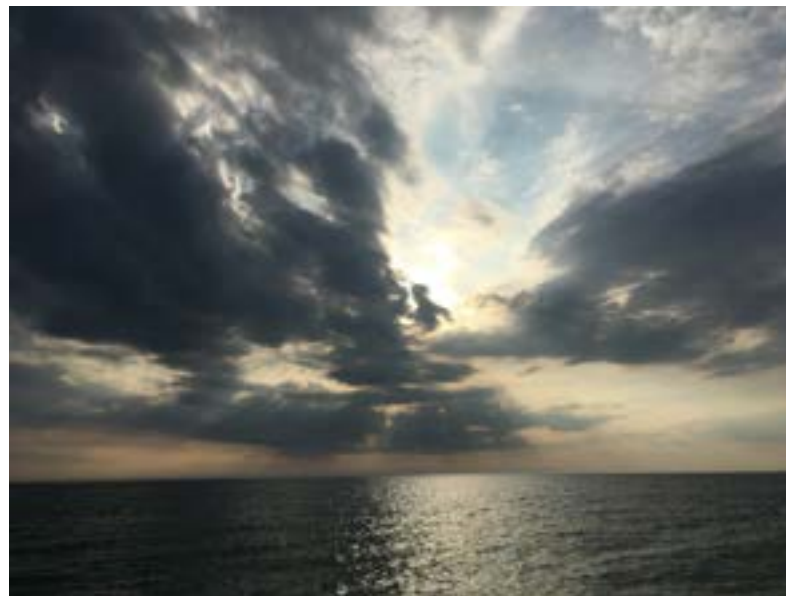
Trinity council has agreed in principal to commit to such a sponsorship if enough volunteers come forward to help in settling an individual or couple to come to safety in Canada. The congregation can commit to supporting this initiative

at our annual meeting in February, as fundraising will be needed.

A refugee committee has been formed. The committee has communicated with the Capital Rainbow Refugee committee, which our church could partner with. This group sent profiles of four individuals in Kenya who are in desperate need. The plight of this community is particularly dire in Africa.

As an affirming congregation, we reach outside our walls into the lives of strangers far away.

In their darkness, fear, and hopelessness, let us be light.



Walk a mile in my shoes

BY PAM SHEEHAN
FOR THE TRINITY JUSTICE COMMITTEE

As a congregation we affirm solidarity with 2SLGBTQIA+ folks. This year, the Trinity Justice Committee has been working on learning more and educating others about the challenges faced by transgender individuals in our community and throughout the world.

We have done this through book reviews and open discussion with those from that community. We hope you will read the books available in Trinity library.

This year's TJC topic goes to the root of what it means to be a Christian, or even just a decent human being. To accept others simply for who they are takes work every day. In today's world of mounting individualism and attacks on those deemed to be "different," it is work that needs to continue.

In a recent sermon, Rev. Gary Paterson, former moderator of the United Church of Canada and current minister at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver, spoke of his struggles with his personal challenges, and the need for an ongoing focus on these issues.

"When I was a teenager, struggling with my sexuality, in the mid-to-late 1960s, coming to realize that I was at least bisexual, probably a gay person, I was told by the government that I was a criminal, by the medical profession, that I was sick, and by the church, that I was a condemned sinner. When I turned 20 in 1969, the Canadian government took the first step in decriminalizing homosexuality. ("The State has no business in the bedrooms of the nation") In 1973, the American Psychiatric Society determined that, in and of itself, homosexuality was not an illness. It was, in fact, social oppression and prejudice that created 'mental health' problems for 2SLGBTQIA+ persons.

In 1988 the United Church, at the 32nd General Council, declared that all people regardless of sexual orientation are welcome as full members of the United Church, and all members are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry. It also affirms that God's intention for all human relationships (both heterosexual and homosexual couples) is that they be faithful, responsible, just, loving, health-giving, healing, and sustaining of community and self.

Over the years, starting with criminal, sick, and sinner, the church has moved from variations of sick and/or disordered. From 'don't ask, don't tell,' to disabled, to tolerated, to accepted, and finally, to affirmation and celebration. It is an ongoing journey with still much to be done."

The expression "walk a mile in my shoes" is needed now more than ever, for we are all God's children.

CALDWELL FAMILY CENTRE

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In 2022 Caldwell:

- served close to 94,500 meals to low-income recipients
- provided 60,000 grocery food boxes and gift cards
- fed 26,000 healthful snacks to children after school
- found clothing for newcomers

They also helped people find housing and assisted with resumes and online job searches. They helped people complete government forms, find mental health support, and much more.

With the end of the special COVID-19 funding, the Caldwell Family Centre is facing cuts to programming and services, just as the need is steadily increasing. Please consider sending a letter to Members of Parliament and City Councillors to advocate for more funding. Our city cannot afford for Caldwell to cut its programmes.



The Men's Breakfast crew enjoy friendship, great discussions, a delicious meal, and they support the Caldwell Family Centre.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

When our group gathers, we feel privileged for the time to connect. It is a time of fellowship, of sharing, and reflecting together. A few good laughs and a good meal added to it.

When COVID takes a backseat, we meet in-person at Summerhay's at 8:00 a.m., on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. When there are COVID concerns, we return to Zoom.

It is truly an extension of the Trinity United Church community and adds to the community-building role that we all need in this time of transition.

One of our commitments is to support the Caldwell Family Centre, both individually and collectively, through regular donations into an Outreach Jar.



We are always happy to welcome other new and former participants. Come and join us. If you have any questions, contact John Comfort or other participants.

DATES

February 9 and 23

March 9 and 23

April 13 and 27

COUNCIL UPDATES

To stay up to date with the activities of Trinity Council, look for printed copies of the minutes in the gallery, or email the office to request a copy.

office@trinityunitedottawa.ca

Click to access the 2022 Annual Report

[ANNUAL REPORT](#)

Trinity Topics

is the newsletter of
Trinity United Church,
1099 Maitland Ave., Ottawa, ON Canada
<http://www.trinityunitedottawa.ca/>

Trinity Topics Team

Jean Meldrum
Courtney Sladden
Arlene Smith
Donald Smith

Deadline for next edition

May 7, 2023



DIAPERS!

Thank you for the donations of diapers. Keep 'em coming!

The Caldwell Family Centre has an ongoing need for diapers and baby wipes. Diapers are now considered a “luxury item.”

Size 4\5 are the most needed.

If necessary, Harold Sheehan can pick up and deliver your donation.

