



Hello Everyone,

For this week, two separate services will be posted. One for Sunday as well as a one for Remembrance Day. The church office will also be closed on Wednesday November 11th in Commemoration of Remembrance day.

Arlea has made over 900 masks and her fingers are most certainly sore! She would like everyone that has purchased one to know that they contain four layers of fabric and although they contain no filters, one of the fabric layers is unwoven. If anyone is interested in purchasing one or more please contact Arlea (403 504- 0609) as she is still producing them for various holiday markets.

Some further news from the United Church of Canada Website:

The United Church aspires to become an anti-racist church, creating a new position to help that happen.



Risking Faith Daring Hope

After decades of nipping around the edges of the issues of systemic racism, the Commissioners of the 43rd General Council voted to declare the denomination to [become an anti-racist church](#) (see GCE 22 below) on Saturday, October 24, 2020. "This doesn't mean we have achieved this goal," explains the Moderator, the Right Rev. Richard Bott, "but we are taking a stand and saying we are publicly committed to eliminating systemic racism from our practices and policies."

The United Church acknowledged racism as a sin in 1960, after the destruction of the Africville neighbourhood in Halifax, NS, and has addressed it in a variety of ways since, but the final two hours of the [2018 General Council](#) brought the issue of racism in the church into sharper focus. With the previous Moderator, the Very Rev. Jordan Cantwell, still in the chair, racialized clergy and lay members lined up, one after the other, to share their painful stories of the blatant racism they had experienced at the hands of committees, educational institutions, and in congregational settings. "I stood, there, on the eve of my installation as Moderator, horrified, humbled but also certain that the time has come in this church to face our own sin head on," recalls the Rev. Bott, who is now part of the General Council Executive's (a functional subset of the General Council) working group on anti-

racism. "Our work is just beginning. There are several initiatives in the church, and our responsibility is to oversee their work and keep moving the church to a place where the stories we heard two years ago become things of the past. This country is a nation made up of people of many cultures, many stories. The church needs to reflect and live that reality," he adds.

The annual meeting, drawing in more than 200 General Council Commissioners (delegates), is an innovation made possible by the expansion of electronic video meeting platforms. At the 2018 meeting, Commissioners agreed to meet annually to conduct routine business, such as approving financial statements and auditors. It also provides an opportunity to address any pressing issues that cannot wait for the next in-person General Council and its cohort of new Commissioners.

Along with the declaration of becoming an anti-racist church, the General Council directed the General Secretary to develop a strategy to engage the full church in this process. This work will fall to the [new General Secretary, the Rev. Michael Blair](#), who was covenanted into this new role at this meeting.

One of the last actions of outgoing General Secretary Nora Sanders was to create a new Anti-Racism and Equity Officer position in the General Council Office. After an extensive search process, we are pleased to announce that the successful candidate is Adele Halliday, who has already been deeply engaged in related work within the Church in Mission Unit and has worked with the United Church since 2004.

Minutes for Mission November 8th, 2020:

A Mish-Kid of China

Betty Gale

The United Church of Canada has a rich history of saints who have gone before us but whose influence is still being felt. For many in the west end of Toronto, it was one strong, kind woman who showed those who encountered her just what amazing things Mission & Service can do. Betty Gale (née Thompson) was one of these saints. Betty grew up in China as one of several "mish-kids" born to missionary parents in North China. She returned in the 1930s, after nursing training in Canada, at the urging of Dr. Robert McClure, and it was there that she met and married Dr. Godfrey Gale. They had their first child, Margie, just before the Japanese invaded China in 1941, which led first to house arrest and then three years of interment in POW camps around North China. Betty kept a journal of her family's time during the war, detailing the poor treatment and horrible conditions of the buildings they lived in. But even during the worst times, Betty was always able to find something funny or hopeful to share. The Second World War took its toll on the missionaries. Years later, Betty and Godfrey gave a painful account of the illness and death of Eric Liddell, a Scottish missionary and athlete in the 1924 Olympics, another mish-

kid who had returned to China to work within his family's mission. His story became famous in the 1981 movie Chariots of Fire. The missionaries' passion for making a difference in the lives of people in other parts of the world, as well as at home, has inspired many to follow in their footsteps. Betty and Godfrey's story and passion live on in those they have influenced. Thanks to Mission & Service, they are part of a great cloud of witnesses that The United Church of Canada of today is built on. We will remember them! If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Thank-you everyone and stay cozy this weekend!