



Salisbury United Church

*“Connecting hearts, minds and lives
in community with God”*

*"And Jesus was
driven by the Holy
Spirit into the
wilderness for
forty days ..."*

Mark 1:14

March 4, 2021 ENEWS

WORRY WART

by Marilyn Pagán-Banks

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. – Psalm 121:1-2 (NRSV)*

I am what you would call a “worry wart.” I worry. A lot.

So, instead of giving up chocolate for Lent (which is hard for a chocoholic like me), I decided to give up worrying.

But not worrying is hard!

I mean, come on, there is so much to worry about every single day. Families facing pandemic and poverty, veterans living on the streets, loved ones gunned down, community members struggling with mental illness, addiction and trauma ruining lives and wiping out dreams. The list is endless.

Even as I write this devotion, my phone won't stop buzzing with frantic texts from my daughter fighting with a customer that is giving her the run around for work they haven't paid her for, while she is desperately trying to make plans to travel to be with her dying father.

How can I not worry? I care too much not to!

If I stop worrying will people start to think I don't care? Should I be worried about this? Agh! It is so easy to spiral out of control.

Maybe this is why the psalmist starts with a moment of perspective outside of herself. Not expecting answers from the hills but finding clarity in asking the question out loud. The bold beauty of the hills reminding her of God's power and presence around her and within her.

Prayer

Gracious God, I turn to you this Lenten season seeking to be delivered from the lie that caused me to believe that if I don't worry it means I don't care. You are the source of my peace.

I trust you and I rejoice in knowing that you are with me even when life is hard. Amen.

Source: United Church of Christ Daily Devotional for Feb. 27, 2021, https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/worry-wart/?inf_contact_key=7dff869f1d23e06971474511ea24d929b7af0999dac2af6212784c39e05d2aef



MARCH 7, SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This Sunday join us for the Sacrament of Communion, served during online worship. Please prepare drink and your chosen form of bread for you to use at home during the service.

MARCH 14, INFANT BAPTISM

Join us on Sunday, March 14 as we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Stephanie and Alex Waddell will be presenting their son, James Andrew, born June 26, 2020, for baptism. We take joy in this significant moment in their lives. A special shout out to Daniel, James' older brother, in recognition of his previous baptism on October 29, 2017.



MARCH 14, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour forward on March 14th!!!

MARCH BOTTLE DRIVE

Our next bottle drive will be on:
March 26 from 9am to 1pm
and March 27, from 9am to 4pm
Keep saving your returnables and save the dates!!!



UPCOMING DATES:

- Meeting Dates:
Board Meeting is scheduled for Mar. 17 at 7pm.
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ONLINE MEDITATION CIRCLE

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am for morning meditation led by Rev. Britt Aerhart. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will gather online, with the links posted on our website.



WE'RE ONLINE

Find us online for the latest news, worship links and donation information at www.salisburyunited.ca.



CHURCH STAFF & VISITORS ENTRANCE

Just a reminder that **all Salisbury UC staff and visitors should be using the Sanctuary entrance (north door)**. While Covid-19 is a factor, the south entrance is reserved for the daycare staff and families only. The Sanctuary entrance doors will be locked so please phone the office when you arrive, and someone will open the door for you.

Also, as of Dec. 1, Alberta Health has enforced a new health order that mask wearing in all church areas is mandatory at this time.



Thank you for your support of Salisbury United Church and congratulations for helping your church to meet ongoing ministry obligations.

Click Here

TO DONATE ON-LINE WITH CANADA HELPS



We are now set up to accept Interac ETransfers. If you are familiar with Etransfers, just use our email address salisburyuc@telus.net to send your donation. As our church is set up for automatic deposits no password will be needed.

NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS



NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website! Go to www.northernspiritr.ca for more information. The Regional Council has been posting updates to the web site: <https://northernspiritr.ca/covid-19coronavirusnews/>. Please visit the web page frequently as information and changes to information are shared. The General Council web page for COVID-19 matters and resources is also helpful and is updated frequently: <https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19>. And, please don't forget to keep checking the federal and provincial or territorial government websites: [Health Canada](#) [Alberta](#)



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is next Friday, March 5. Every year for decades, United Church congregations have gathered with their ecumenical neighbours to pray together. Several communities are ensuring the tradition doesn't stop -- they've moved online. The 2021 worship service was written by women of Vanuatu, symbolized in this image of a mother and child. Vanuatu is an archipelago in the South Pacific prone to earthquakes, cyclones, volcanoes and rising sea levels. You can also access a pre-recorded World Day of Prayer Service from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada: <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer/how-to-participate/>



PIE DAY

Below is a link to a YouTube video from Moderator Richard Bott inviting everyone to join him in celebrating Pie Day 2021!!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAROP3o1K3yC5f8I8vxR2vdFGThTO6LUTfPD-HBiO7dT1_v2ZrIObOuhmcUE&v=dX-w46NSfH0&feature=youtu.be

GANDIER LECTURE-REV. MICHAEL BLAIR:

Becoming the Beloved Community: A Call to Transformative Discipleship



"As the church seeks to address both the current reality of Anti-black racism and its historic complicity with practices of exclusion, how might it understand its response as part of its commitment to being disciples."

Friday, March 5, 2021, 7–8:30 p.m. EST, Free, Online
(Zoom link will be emailed to registrants the morning of March 5)

The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, General Council for The United Church of Canada (UCC), will be delivering the 2021 Gandier Lecture at Emmanuel College. Named after the College's first Principal, this lectureship reflects the College's partnership with The United Church of Canada from its founding until the present day, as well as our intent to bridge conversations between the College and the wider UCC context. In this spirit, this year's lecture will be presented by Emmanuel College's Centre for Religion and Its Contexts with the support of The United Church of Canada's United in Learning.

Full details, including Rev. Michael Blair's bio, are available at <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses/>

A REFLECTION FROM REV MARIE-CLUADE

Published On: February 22, 2021

This blog post is part of our series for [Black History Month](#) 2021.

I grew up in a family of eight: four boys and four girls. I am the second among the siblings and the eldest daughter. My father has always encouraged the education of his children, boys and girls, giving them an equal chance. To encourage me in my education, he kept telling me I was a whole person and that nothing and no one had the power to stop me in my momentum. Any occasion was propitious for my

parents to expose me to different challenges. Dad would call me to let me listen to a female voice on the radio and tell me I could also accomplish great things such as becoming a female journalist.

Baptized by my grandfather, who was a Baptist pastor, my parents did not hesitate to send me to a boarding school run by Catholic nuns to acquire a “good” education. At the Catholic school, I was required to be baptized a second time. It did not shock my parents who encouraged me because, for them, God had no preference for one religion over another.

It is with those values that I found myself in Canada with my four-year-old daughter to continue my education in social work. I was working as a social worker when I was called to serve God. After that, the challenges came one after the other.



Credit: Courtesy of Marie-Claude Manga

I remember the challenges and situations that I faced in my ministry as a Black woman and French-speaking pastor in an Anglophone majority and rural context that I have never known previously. I remember the day I introduced myself to the board of a church. The first question was, “What are you doing here?” As I was answering with my limited English, one of the board members looked at me with disdain and said loudly, without restraint, “I do not know what we have done to God to deserve this!”

I remember the evening when I went to the bedside of a parishioner. Lying on his bed, the man was following the World Vision show. I entered the room and said hello. As an answer, he raised the volume to draw my attention to the screen. After several minutes, he said, “What are you doing here? Do you visit me because of my money?”

I said, “No, I’m not interested in your money. I am here as your pastor. Actually, I have been appointed as the pastor of the church you belong to.” He looked at me and laughed. His wife was shocked and embarrassed, but I stopped her from intervening. In the evening, she called me to apologize. I took time to listen as I wanted to reassure her.

The Sunday that followed, I visited this brother and I realized that his health was deteriorating. I continued to visit every two days. For nearly three weeks, I prayed and sang with his wife while the husband was watching television. He wanted nothing from me but I kept going to visit. One Sunday, I brought communion to the nursing home and I offered it to him. Then he asked me to sing a specific hymn before sharing communion. As you can imagine, I felt blessed.

The following visit, I found him alone and hungry. His wife, who usually fed him, was late. The staff had resigned since he treated them unkindly. He was trying to eat but could not. Standing near the bed, I watched a few minutes while he smeared his face with food. I approached the bed and I stretched out my hand without saying a word. He put the fork in my hand without being asked and mostly without resistance. It was a highlight for both of us through our eyes, our hearts, and our hands. I started to wipe his face and I fed him slowly. While I fed him, I remembered the biblical passage in which Christ tells us, “I was sick and you visited me...” How could I remain indifferent to this helpless man when God gave me the opportunity to consolidate our relationship and take care of his beloved son?

I remember the day of the funeral of this brother in Christ. At the cemetery, as I proclaimed praise before the funeral, I bent to make the sign of the cross on the casket just as an order was given by someone to lower the coffin. I got back up in time to avoid falling down on the coffin. Outraged, the widow asked the lowering of the coffin to be stopped so that I could continue the service. Two weeks later, she invited me to her home for coffee and asked, “How do you do it?”

Regardless whom we are within Christ’s Church, we are called to minister to his body by following his pathways with the presence of the Holy Spirit as promised. As Christ’s disciples, forgiveness is not an alternative, rather an obligation, a way of living. If we are wondering how we can forgive those who hurt us, let us always keep in mind the words from the Lord’s Prayer, taught to us by Christ himself: “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.” Of course, I don’t forget, but I forgive.

By doing so, we will be the light carriers to enlighten the world about the love that we enjoy from God, regardless of our gender identity, race, age, sexuality, class, ability, language, and so on. That’s why I refused to abandon my call. I refused to pay attention to all the wickedness and the misunderstandings I was facing. Up until today, I can’t explain why I did not stumble and flee. Nevertheless, I am certain that the assurance within me when I was acting as a servant of God to the people of God, came from the Holy Spirit. All my provision is placed on this table of which David speaks in Psalm 23:5. On that table I find love, forgiveness offered and received, benevolence, reconciliation, understanding and so on. Unconsciously, I helped myself from this table whenever I needed it.

—*The Rev. Marie-Claude Manga works as a social worker and minister. She is on the executive board of La Table des ministères en français and sits on the executive of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council. This is an excerpt from her presentation on the 80th anniversary of Lydia Gruchy’s ordination, and of the life and work of ordained women within the United Church.*

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION NEWS



TANYA TALAGA - ALL OUR RELATIONS: FINDING THE PATH FORWARD



Tanya is an award-winning journalist and author, and the first Ojibway woman to deliver the CBC Massey Lectures. Tanya Talaga is an acclaimed storyteller. Stemming from her award-winning book *Seven Fallen Feathers*, the story of seven Indigenous high school students who mysteriously died in Thunder Bay, Tanya Talaga creates an intimate experience for her audiences. She imparts audiences with in-depth knowledge on Indigenous culture and history, while leaving them empowered through a hopeful message that we can learn from our past and set forward on a new path for our nation based on inclusivity and equity.

Tickets for this virtual event are \$5. Select the following link to register.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/tanya-talaga-all-our-relations-finding-the-path-forward-tickets-94043409369>

This event will be hosted online, and a link to access the presentation will be sent to ticket holders closer to the date. All proceeds from the event will support Edmonton Public Library’s priority projects.



RESTRICTIONS FOR STRATHCONA COUNTY

Strathcona County continues to align its COVID-19 response with the Government of Alberta.

For up-to-date information on the Strathcona County guidelines go to:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/news/covid19/>

For up-to-date information on the Government of Alberta health guidelines go to:

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

Please be kind to each other. Remember to stay two metres apart, wear a mask and wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.

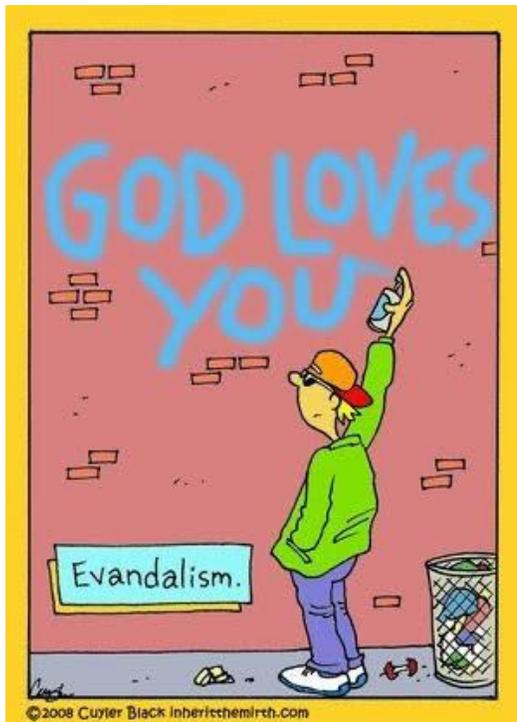
If you have COVID-19 symptoms or require testing, please visit albertahealthservices.ca/testing, or phone Alberta Health Services at 811 to book.



SUPPORT

If you are struggling, or have financial, housing or parenting concerns, call 780-464-4044 for assistance in connecting you to support.

TODAY'S FUNNIES



RECOGNITION OF LAND



We worship with respect on land where people have lived, prayed and held ceremonies since long before Canada was a nation. This is Treaty Six Territory, and we affirm the traditional relationship of the Cree, Blackfoot, D ne, Assiniboine, Nakota and later the M tis people with this land, along with our ongoing treaty relationship with each other.

Following are the email addresses that are from Salisbury United Church:

salisburyuc@telus.net – from Roxanne, our Church Office Administrator

salisburyminister@telus.net – Rev. Britt’s church email

revvedtoo@gmail.com – Rev. Britt’s personal email



Contact Us:

2 Mission Street, Sherwood Park, T8A 0V3

Church Office: 780-467-7310

Church Office Hours: Noon to 5pm

Mondays - Thursdays

Minister: Rev. Britt AERHART

Children’s Church Coordinator: Lynne Wilson

Music Coordinator: Lucienne Holzman

Church Office Administrator: Roxanne Prytula