



The RIVERSIDE newsletter



Jen Prince
Pastoral Care Minister
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“Supporting justice and outreach work and sustaining the church – these are the same work.” I am paraphrasing, but this is the gist of a comment that was made during the most recent council meeting. It reminded me how fortunate I am to serve with Riverside. In a financial climate where the prudent thing to do seems to be to worry about ourselves, we recognize as disciples of the risen Christ that the work of planning for our sustainability and supporting God’s justice and compassion in the community are equal.

Caring for our worship space and ensuring that worship which empowers, awakens, accompanies and strengthens continues by making good stewardship decisions is important, even when what that looks like is just figuring out how we are going to balance the budget, pay the hydro bill and repair the floor in the kitchen.

It is through the seemingly ordinary things; paying bills, washing floors, turning up the soil in the flower beds and checking on the compost; brushing our teeth or tying our shoes; that God creates in and through us the



spectacular. As we are fed by God’s Spirit, we are fully alive, ready to become apostles in addition to being disciples. We look outside of our front doors for neighbours and creation siblings that need God’s touch, and we respond knowing that this is why we pay the hydro bill. We understand that nothing is really ordinary.

The Easter event that defines our faith allowed the early church to emerge fearlessly from 11 disciples who had abandoned and denied Jesus just a short time before. Every year, it calls us to leave behind our outgrown shells of fear, and live into the reality that the good is what lasts, wins, prevails, persists. We worship as a community to bask in the presence of God’s good together, and to prepare for the service ahead.

As we go about the business of the church, to begin at its center and radiate the Gospel message from there; as this unfolds alongside Easter, the reawakening of the earth in a new season, and so many events that call us to live into God’s dream in the present and future, may we be renewed in our understanding of ourselves as Easter people. Wishing you blessings and joy,
Jen Prince ~



Marilyn Arthur
 Director of Children and Youth Ministries-
 Recognized Designated Lay Minister
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In the last few weeks the children and I have been discussing two very important 'compassion' scriptures. The first one came from Micah 6:8;

"This is the compassionate life God wants for us: that we would do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly, together with God."

And the other from Matthew 25:

"This is your home, because I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in. When I was naked, you were there with clothes for me; when I was sick, you took care of me; when I was in prison, you came to sit with me—you remembered me."

As we come to a close next week with our curriculum "Compassion-Learning to Love like God," I was happy to see these two scriptures were included for the children to discuss together.

During our Zoom gatherings we had meaningful discussions. Here are some of the questions we shared together. How would you answer these questions? What reflections come to mind after reading these?

- *What God most wants from us, God's children, is to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." This is a truly compassionate life. I wonder what this kind of life looks like. How do you imagine this kind of life looks in our world today?*
- *Imagine God is asking you to do one thing this week that would bring more compassion to those around you. What ideas do you have?*
- *It's easiest to serve people we like, but much more difficult to serve people we struggle to love. Who are some people you find hard to love? What can you imagine doing to serve them? How might that be challenging?*
- *Where and how could you serve Christ this week through helping those in need?*

My friends, we are in excellent hands. Our children understand what it means to walk humbly with our God. They understand that through the examples from Jesus it is our invitation to continue Jesus's work helping, serving and sharing kindness to those we meet.

It is proving to be difficult to put our compassion into action within our community with the pandemic restrictions but we have discussed many ways in which we can do this regardless of our restrictions. Our children understand that helping our families, our neighbours and our community is important. They are doing this by sharing in household chores, saying thank you more often, being kinder to siblings, sending cards and art work to those who could use an inspirational message, and helping to make meals for sick and elderly loved ones.

I give good thanks for our young people for their examples of compassion and sharing their lights with those they meet.

May we continue to shine our lights; the characteristics that make us who we are, and shine them brightly for others so in turn they will feel comfortable to do the same.

Sending love and a hug,

Marilyn Arthur

Minister to Children and Youth-Recognized
 Designated Lay Minister





Poetic Reflections...and some springtime yard work!

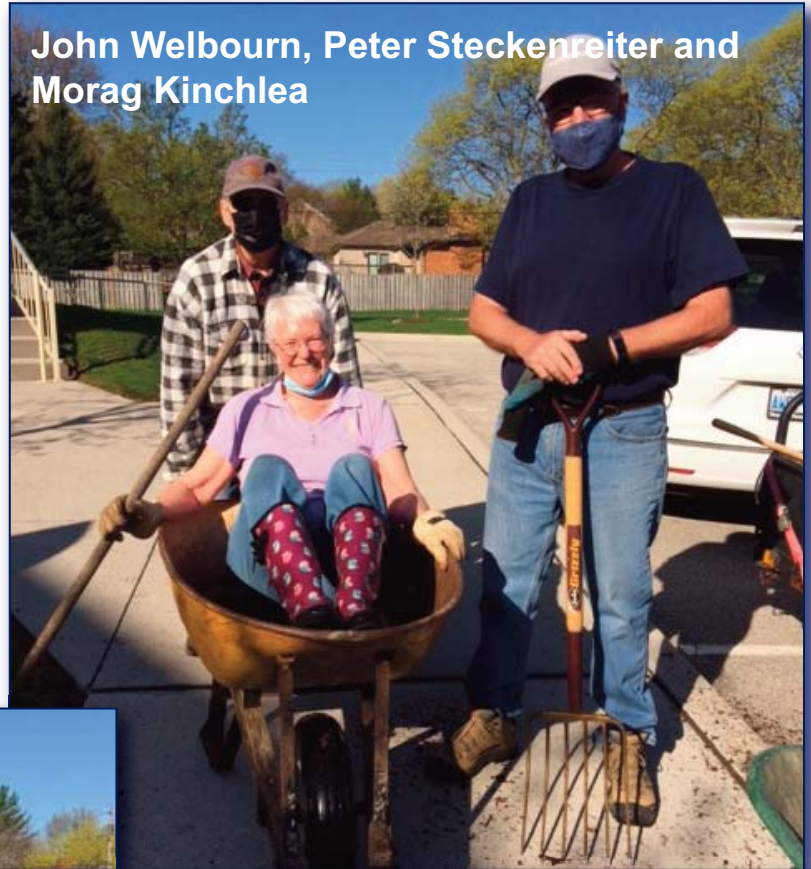
By Jennifer Wenn

Three Haiku for Warbler Woods

Undulating path
Through vernal awakening
Trillium cordon

Still unseen souls watch
Nebulous feeling explode
There! Deer flash away

Winged concerto
Rides woodpecker percussion
Silencing footfalls



John Welbourn, Peter Steckenreiter and Morag Kinchlea



Peter Steckenreiter
(modeling a lovely rake and work boots!)



John Welbourn, Peter Steckenreiter,
Heather Truemner and Morag Kinchlea



Riverside Council & Office Announcements

GIFT OF HOPE to Indwell Embassy Commons from Riverside United Church - *This is EXCITING!*

Riverside United Church is partnering with Indwell London (<https://indwell.ca/projects/744-dundas/>) to furnish 3 apartments at the Embassy Commons. Our goal is to raise \$7,500 between May 2 and July 4, 2021 to help furnish apartments that will give tenants a fresh start and an opportunity to build a stable home from which they can experience health, wellness and belonging. A gift of \$2,500 will provide basic furnishings and a kitchen kit for one apartment.

Below is a list of the estimated costs to furnish one apartment. Outreach M6:8 invites you to make a monetary donation to offer the comforts and permanency of a place to call home. You can make this tax-deductible donation via, Givepoint, your church envelope or an e-transfer by indicating Indwell on your donation.

- **Glassware** \$10
- **Cutlery** \$20
- **Utensils** \$30
- **Dishes** \$50
- **Pots & Pans** \$65
- **Kitchen Chair** \$100
- **Microwave** \$125
- **Kitchen Table** \$175
- **Comfy Chair** \$200
- **Bed** \$275
- **Loveseat** \$300
- **Stove** \$500
- **Refrigerator** \$650

Outreach M6:8 thanks you for doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with your God.



Jan Shamrock
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Our Church Family:

In Hospital: Please keep the following people in your prayers: Sandra Sinker, University Hospital, Edna Brown and Jack Robb, Parkwood Hospital. If you are aware of anyone in the hospital, please call the church office at 519-472-6071 x221.

Announcing: Ava Elizabeth MacDonald, daughter of Grant MacDonald and his wife Lauren Hylands, born on April 15th. Another granddaughter to spoil for Sharanne MacDonald!

Thank You: I would like to thank the many Riversiders who sent cards for my 90th birthday. The cards and calls were even more important due to Covid. Love to all, Eula Chessman.

Favorite Hymn: Although our musical exercise wrapped up last month, we did receive one last submission. This one comes with a special message of hope that we thought might serve us well in the weeks and months to come as we anxiously await the gradual opening of places of faith. It comes from Dorothy Chisholm...

“You Are a Part of the Family”

Of this hymn Dorothy says, “This hymn means a lot to me because the words are about being close to everyone...”

She hopes that when we begin to meet again in person this would be a perfect hymn to sing. Thanks Dorothy!

