



Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

“Nurturing the Spirit”

Lent 2020

Ministry Message

(Rev) Marc Whitehead

*Please join us for worship -
Sundays at 10:30 am*

The season of Lent, perhaps more than any other, invites us to reflect deeply on the use and misuse of power. In the confrontation between Jesus and the powers that be - political, religious, military, economic - it seems that worldly power has the last word. It is only after the resurrection, that those closest to him begin to recognize the real and transformative power of the cross, the power that seems like weakness, but in fact is a reflection of the power of God to heal the world.

In their book *The Last Week*, writers John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg invite us to imagine that two processions entered the occupied city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The first, coming from the northern imperial capital of Caesarea on the Sea, featured the legions and war chariots of Imperial Rome. The sound of horses' hoofs clattering on the cobble stones, and the pounding feet of men carrying shields and spears beneath banners and insignia depicting the eagle of imperial Rome were intended as a show of force and Roman might, and a warning to the pilgrims gathered for the Passover that peace would be kept at all costs.

In contrast, the second procession, coming from the south, and the suburb of Bethany, featured a motley assortment of peasants and beggars, ne'er do wells and lepers waving branches, and shouting out praises to the one who was coming in the name of God.

The crowd in the north turned out to welcome the divine Caesar's representative, the provincial governor Pontius Pilate wearing gilded armour and imperial purple. Those in the south shouted out their welcome to Jesus of Nazareth, The Prince of Peace, an unemployed labourer turned itinerant preacher and healer, riding a donkey with her foal tied behind her.

Borg and Crossan use the idea of these two parallel processions to draw a distinction between the notion of peace maintained through force, and peace achieved through social justice. The violent, and all too common way of the world throughout human history, in contrast to the non-violent, but radical way of Christ.



Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

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Crescent Fort Rouge United Church

Office hours:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday to Friday

It is this way of thinking differently about power and what we mean by peace which also informs Matthew Legge's book, *Are We Done Fighting Yet?* Legge explores the prevalence of violence in our world and our lives, and offers concrete suggestions about achieving inner, relational and global peace as we consider our own contributions to peace-making.

We are challenged to think about these matters in a different way again as part of this year's Artfest. Artists and viewers alike are asked to dig beneath superficial or commonplace understandings, and consider "Peace Re-Imagined."

As part of this year's Lenten journey, we will consider how these various worlds intersect and how the forces which led to Jesus' arrest and execution are still very much present in our fractured world today, but also how Jesus' non-violent approach to peace through justice may be the only way in which the world can be saved and healed.

Through worship, and active engagement with spiritual practices, the performing and visual arts, and one another, we will attempt to find a way in which we might follow the words of the writer of the letter to the Philippians and "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than ourselves, looking not to our own interests, but to the interests of others."

In a world in which self-interest seems to reign supreme, and disregard for the needs and essential humanity of others seems to have become the norm, as we walk together through Lent, "May the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."



From The Pew

Dorian Phillips



As we turn to the season of Lent I think it's time to ponder the good as well as things that we need to work on relating to our world, our community and ourselves.

Our church took the jump to increase the number of rentals so we have more money coming in, yeah! We are welcoming others to share this special space.

Our congregation is looking into installing an elevator/lift and automatic doors. This is an expensive and huge endeavour. On the other hand it allows everyone to feel welcome; not just to Sunday service, but to rentals and other events as well.

People with disabilities will have the freedom of accessing the whole church, just like anyone else. It is the same with automatic doors, again it is equalizing the playing field. Saying welcome to everyone! Your physical limitations are not going to create a barrier in this space, all are welcome here!

"Welcome" to me it's a wonderful natural thing to say and be. Becoming more accessible is just one more way to be welcoming!



Finance Committee Update

Quite often at this time of year the Finance Committee is anxiously awaiting the completion of the Financial Review to see if our accountant has been able to find enough money to turn a negative balance into a positive one. Fortunately, this is not one of those years. Thanks to the generosity of our givers and the gift of a substantial bequest, 2019 was a positive year and the church is presently in a good financial position.

The Finance Committee is in the process of finalizing the 2020 Budget and both the Financial Statements and the new Budget will be presented at the Annual General Meeting - Finance.

While the church presently has a positive financial balance, we are reminded that we are responsible for the stewardship of a beautiful, old building that will require ongoing improvements in order to continue to serve our ministry and also reach out to the wider community. Under the initiative of PATH 2, plans are well underway to improve accessibility with a reconfigured entrance, a lift connecting all three levels of the church and new washrooms on the upper level. It is hoped that grants will cover most of the cost of this ambitious capital project but we will require additional funds to complete all the work that is proposed.

Donations to Mission and Service for 2019 have been strong and we were just a little short of our goal of \$35,000.

Thank you for your continued support.

CFRUC 2020 Church Directory Update



Our Church Directory continues in production. This is a big project, as the goal is to reach all members of our congregation who wish to be included in this historical document. Professional portraits were taken by IPC Photo in November and February. Those families will receive a free 8X10 Photo and Directory. Other families have chosen to submit photos, or to have only their contact information included in the Roster. You are all invited to purchase one or more directories, whether you have participated or not.

Our 2020 CFRUC Church Directory is available for \$16.80. This keepsake is designed to enhance our faith community with pages of archival photos, members' pictures, and contact information for connecting with each other. **Payment is due by March 22nd.** If you wish to place an order, please make your cheque out to CFRUC, and either mail it to the church office, or give it to Anne Gudmundson, Project Coordinator. Anne may be contacted at 204-475-3048 or jblannalisa@gmail.com.

~ Anne Gudmundson

Looking Forward

I am super excited as I write this article today on behalf of PATH 2! Or is that PATH 3? I joined CFRUC in 2009 for two reasons: community and faith in action. Both of these held great appeal to me and as I sit here today my dreams are realized and I am deeply grateful every day. CFRUC! You are loving and supportive and you are on the move.

As you know, the HALO Project held out evidence that we are having an impact on the community and our previous research told us that churches who move into the future successfully must better satisfy the needs of community ‘outside our walls’ so to speak. We explored the feasibility of doing this and now understand that *we can*

do this. It has become clear to us recently that the congregation’s vital use of the church is much less than in the past while communities’ is much more. Hmm.....

So we need to re-balance a few things as we move into the future to mirror how it is today. We want to “right size” our revenue stream so that each party pays in balance with its usage. We want to develop a healthy and responsive system to manage activities. We want our paid staff to have the right workloads and balance. We want our building to be useable and clean, accessible and to continue to be the beautiful place that it is. We want our volunteers to be happily engaged in the activities which they love to do. We envision moving into a period now of collaborative innovation as we craft together the practicalities of how we move through the weeks.

We wonder if you would like to be involved in a big, medium or small way with PATH directly as adjunct members? We would love to see a hospitality committee that defines what that means and how to achieve it. We could have a Narthex design committee, a signage committee, snacks for the children/ daycare committee and whatever else needs to be created. Committees can be short-term, fun, energizing, and creative. Group thinking yields terrific ideas, new friends, greater community, action plans (holding out more concrete activities for those who like that sort of thing) and ultimately service to all those around us....*faith in action*.

If this piques your interest at all, contact me directly or any PATH(2)3 member. (Ian, Linda, Doug, Colin, Sandi, Marc)

~ Sandi Howell



To Prince Edward Island

Alex Colville

Pastoral Care Ministry Group

Caring Meals

CFRUC's Pastoral Care Ministry Group would like to set up a **Caring Meals** programme, to provide a meal, as may be needed, as a way of supporting folks in our congregation who may be experiencing a particularly stressful time, such as personal illness, illness of a child or spouse, or bereavement.

We'd like to create a list of people who are willing to be contacted from time to time to prepare some food. In the past, we had a few people who would make meals & put them in the upstairs freezer, but we found that these items were often forgotten. It is our hope that we can contact people who have volunteered, to make meal(s) on an 'as needed' basis.

If you are keen to help, or would like more information before making a commitment, please leave your name, phone number or email on the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary, and **Dawn Ballantine-Dickson** will be in touch with you.

~ Barb Masterman

Wish List for Emergency Kits



- baked beans
- pasta and sauce
- canned fruit
- dried fruit and nuts
- peanut butter (smaller jars)
- diapers (especially larger sizes)
- sanitary supplies for women (pads and tampons)

Reconciliation and you

I recently announced that I would be walking with the **Mama Bear Clan** and asked if anyone might be able to assist a bit with some warm socks or mittens for the people that the Clan helps in the Point Douglas area.

I have been overwhelmed by the support, both in the amount of clothing, promise of sandwiches and all the extras that have been offered, and in the moral support of my effort to connect on your behalf with folks who are on the "front lines" of working to improve life in the core of the city. The women who started Mama Bear are selfless and dedicated in their challenge to help the most needy. It has been a humbling experience for me to be part of that.

Thank you for supporting the effort. This is where reconciliation begins. If you wish to offer anything, or if you would like to continue the support you have begun, please talk to me any time and I will keep you up to date on the walk.

~ Ian Fillingham

Ministry Group: CFRUC Gardeners

Jane Natrass & Barb Masterman

The CFRUC Gardeners are a ministry group at Crescent Fort Rouge United Church, taking care of the Agnes Saunders Memory Garden as well as the other flower beds along the Wardlaw and Nassau sides of the church.

We are a small group and are always hopeful for more members. If you are a gardener wannabe, or a condo dweller who misses her/his old home garden, or have your own garden and also want to be a part of this ministry, we would be so delighted!

Some members of our group only help with specific jobs, others are keen to help with everything. We so appreciate the help, whatever aspect you would like to participate in, be it just raking or watering.

We start in April or May to clean up the gardens and assess what needs to be done. Then we usually plant annuals in June. The rest of our focus is adding new perennials, deadheading old flowers, and watering. Thanks to Ian Fillingham's endeavours, we are now able to properly water at the Nassau end of the yard, making the job much easier.

If you are interested in volunteering with this group of happy gardeners, we would be pleased to have you join us!

Please talk with Barb Masterman (204-668-4327) or Jane Natrass (204-667-0814).





CFRUC Living Well at 55 Plus

Join us on the second and fourth Thursday mornings each month. Contact our coordinator Sheila Grycki at cfruc55plus@gmail.com or 204-299-9919 for registration, questions and suggestions for topics.

▪ **March 12 10:00am**
Caregiving with Confidence

▪ **March 26 10:00am**
A Graceful Exit
an end-of-life planning overview

Some who come to the sessions attend fairly regularly, and there are often one or two new folks who come along with a friend or who've heard about our sessions through Martin Landy, the Area Coordinator for the South Winnipeg Seniors Resource Council. Sessions always include refreshments and an opportunity to socialize. Past session topics have included: using essential oils for wellness, reducing food waste, supports and services available to seniors, exercises for those with arthritis, and medication safety. We just received very good news that our grant from the federal New Horizons program has been approved for another year, and so we will be able to continue our program.

~ Linda Thorlakson

THE ALLELUIA SINGERS
are celebrating our Tenth Anniversary
with a concert..

"FAITH TO CARRY ON"

Sunday, March 22nd at 2:00 PM

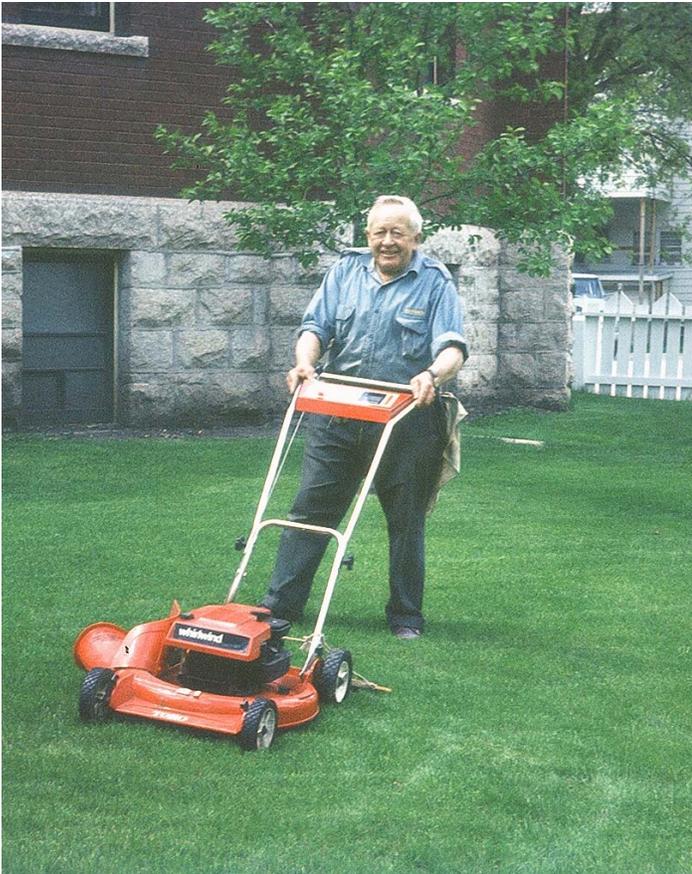
Tickets \$15.00 / Children 12 and under free



Lunch will be served for those
wishing to stay after the church service.

Enjoy cookies and coffee following the concert!

All proceeds to Crescent Fort Rouge United Church



Custodian Bob Muller mowing the side lawn.
May 1974. Photographer: Dora Bonner



Snowy Wardlaw entrance.
March 2018. Photographer: Sherri Van Aert

A reminder of the many talents of our Office Administrators and that Spring is coming.

(Rev) Marc will take most Mondays off and keep regular office hours Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, plus other times by chance or appointment. If you need to contact Marc you can call or text him at 204-461-1767 or email him at marc.cfruc@mymts.net

The **Summer** newsletter submission deadline is **Monday May 25**. It will be ready for distribution by **June 7**

The Newsletter is published four times per year: March, June, September & December

Submission deadlines are ~ two weeks prior to publication.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

MARCH	
1	The First Sunday in Lent / The Temptation of Jesus - finding inner peace Communion
8	Jesus and Nicodemus - making peace with our past › <i>Spare Change</i>
15	Jesus and the Samaritan woman - cross cultural peace
22	the healing of one born blind - peace and power
29	the raising of Lazarus - peace and healing › <i>Birthday Sunday</i>
APRIL	
5	Palm Sunday Peace through violence; peace through justice
10	Good Friday 10:30 am The Passion of Christ featuring the CFRUC choir
12	Easter Sunday Communion › <i>Spare Change</i>
19	Peace re-imagined Joint service with Harrow and Churchill Park as part of Artfest
26	Earth Day › <i>Birthday Sunday</i>
MAY	
3	
10	Family Sunday › <i>Spare Change</i>
17	International day against homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia
24	
31	Pentecost Communion › <i>Birthday Sunday</i>



2020 Art Show - Theme: Peace Re-Imagined

Friday April 17

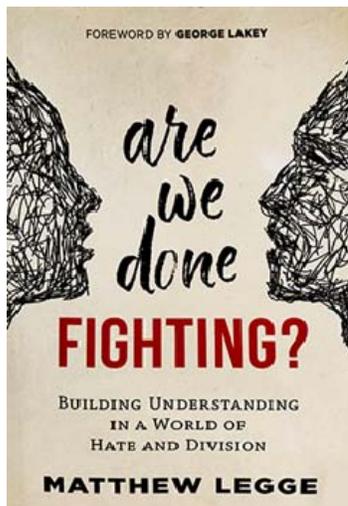
7:00 to 10:00pm Opening Reception
8:00pm Four artists Speaker Panel ~ Peace Re-imagined

Saturday April 18

11:00am to 5:00pm ~ Art Show
1:30 to 3:30pm ~ Art City with Notebook Making for all
1:30 to 3:30pm Art Activity for all ~ Community mural making
1:30 to 3:30pm ~ Live Figure Drawing for all

Sunday April 19

10:30am ~ Worship
Noon to 3:00pm ~ Art Show
noon ~ Community Barbeque
1:00 to 3:00pm ~ The Bluegrass Jammers
1:30 to 3:00pm ~ Graffiti Artist Pink Panda



Read a free chapter online at AreWeDoneFighting.com

Friday April 24

7:00 to 9:00pm

Matthew Legge - Author talk on practical responses to rising hate

FREE ~ ALL WELCOME

Saturday April 25

9:30am to 4:00pm

An interactive workshop with Matthew Legge
To build community and learn about constructive disagreement

\$15.00 ~ Brown bag lunch ~ To register contact: james.ina.penner@gmail.com

Sponsored by Artfest and Quakers - Canadian Friends Service Committee