



Horizons

Newsletter of Eastside United Church



eastside

Advent 2020

OPEN MINDS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN DOORS.

Advent Reflection

by Russell Mitchell-Walker

The Craft/Study group just finished their book study of Grateful, the Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks by Diana Butler Bass. It has been very helpful and many have been very appreciative of this practice during this pandemic time. Near the end of the book, she shares this Buddhist prayer:

Let us rise up and be thankful,
For if we didn't learn a lot
today,
At least we learned a little,
And if we didn't learn a little,
At least we didn't get sick,
And if we got sick,
At least we didn't die;
So let us be thankful.
(page 185)

She shared this in the context of struggling to be grateful during 2016 after the election of Donald Trump, and this was one of the daily practices that began to make sense. She learned not to focus on what was lacking, saying that Gratitude "is the capacity to stare doubt, loss, chaos,

and despair right in the eye and say, "I am still here"...Being alive is radical gratitude"

I am sure many of us are struggling with gratitude these days. These are difficult and challenging times. Yet we do have much to be grateful for. I continually hear how much folk appreciate our community and the love, support, and insight they experience from one another and what we offer. We are doing better financially than most church communities through this time. We have our faith and one another to help us through these uncertain times. As we move into the Advent season, we have the anticipation of the message of radical love breaking into our lives. Advent is a time of preparing and waiting. We prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ and wait for his arrival. The stories are powerful messages of hope in a world of oppression and despair. It is a powerful message for our present time. In the midst of challenge and despair, God breaks in with a message of hope, peace, joy and love. God breaks into the lives

of the poor shepherds, who were outcasts in their communities. God breaks into the lives of foreigners from other faiths, through the wise magi, coming to pay homage to the Christ Child. God breaks into the lives of poor peasants through Mary and Joseph, chosen to bear the Son of God. God breaks into our lives, as ones experiencing the isolation, anxiety, and challenge of living through a pandemic, bringing us hope not only through story, but the embodiment of love and support we experience through one another. So even in the midst of challenging, worrisome times, we can be grateful! Thanks be God.

May you draw on God's message of hope, peace, joy and love this Advent season, and have a blessed Christmas.

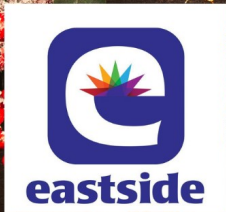
Eastside United

Come and join us for...

- Carols
- Community dinner
- The Christmas Story
- Digital Talent Show

Hope Up Close

December 10th, 2020 at 6 pm online.
Register for free at bit.ly/HopeupClose
For more information, contact
eastsideunited@sasktel.net



Stewardship Campaign

by the Gratitude Team

The Gratitude Team is working with you all to solve our 2021 Budget Puzzle. As you can see, it is progressing nicely with some pieces left to complete the puzzle. Each piece represents \$1500 we have added from response sheets and PAR amounts.

We are hoping for more responses to our appeal. If you are not comfortable with committing to a monthly amount over the 12 months of 2021, perhaps you are able to give the church a gift for Christmas or the New Year, which we would count toward the 2021 budget.

We are most grateful for all your many gifts of time, talent and treasure. Your contributions are what keeps our ministry alive and well, following the

example of Jesus to care for others and share what we have.

We also wish to remind you as we are not together in person to give into an offering plate that if you have not had a chance to send in your offering to the church, now is a good time to do so.

Remember donations received before December 31 get receipted for the 2020 tax year.

Our total to date is \$108,630 out of our goal of \$160,000!

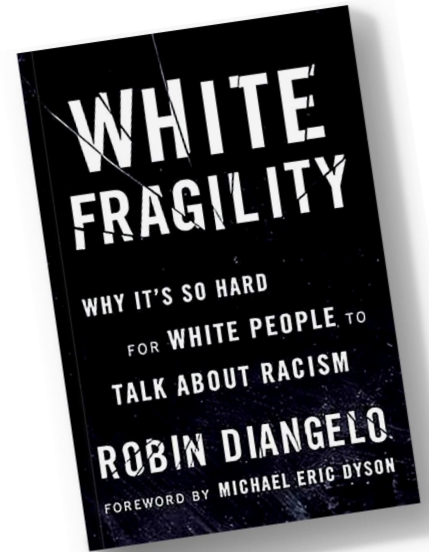


“White Fragility” during Craft/Study in January

We will be reading “*White Fragility*” by Robin DiAngelo during Craft/Study group in January. Books are available for pick up in the blue bin outside of the office doors. Books are 20\$. If you would like to participate in Craft/Study and have not ordered a book yet, please let the office know ASAP so Harvey can order the books soon.

Craft/Study will continue to meet online until further notice. We meet on Thursdays at 1:30 pm on Zoom, which is linked here. We will begin on January 14th.

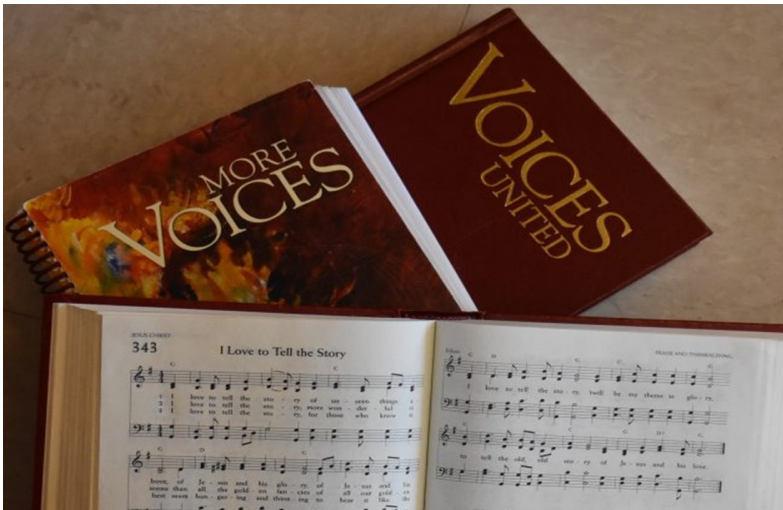
DiAngelo describes white fragility to be a defensive response by a white person when their whiteness is highlighted or mentioned, or their racial worldview is challenged, whether this response is conscious or otherwise. She gives examples including a white man accusing someone of “playing the race card” or a white woman crying to avoid conflict. DiAngelo proposes that white people are used to viewing themselves as “raceless” or the “default” race, and as such are insulated from feelings of racial discomfort.^{[4][14]} She describes racism as systematic rather than overt and conscious, arguing that racial segregation has shaped the United States.



IFC Volunteers Needed

- Lunch making
- Delivery drivers/ assistance
- Grillers for Saturday breakfasts

Let Russell know if you can help!



If you would like a hymn book at home to follow along with the music during online service, you may borrow one. Let Harvey in the office know if you would like to borrow one, and he will have them ready for pick up.



Join us for our Blue Christmas Service

Online via Zoom
www.eastsideunited.ca
 Email eastsideunited@sasktel.net for
 more details

**Candlelight & Communion
Service**
 Christmas Eve @ 9 pm on Zoom

All are welcome
 Join us online and be
 prepared with
 candles and the
 elements of
 communion!

www.eastsideunited.ca

**LSC Meditation
Group**

Monday evenings
 online over Zoom

Join us to quiet your
 mind and body during
 this busy time of year.

All are welcome !

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