



Horizons

Newsletter of Eastside United Church



Summer 2020

OPEN MINDS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN DOORS.

Minister's Reflection for June 2020

While this was written before the pandemic, it speaks also to our present time. As we move through this time and consider what church and community may be like post-pandemic, it is a helpful reminder that we cannot control the outcomes we seek. We need to be open to the Spirit, guided by prayer in community, as we discern the next steps in our ministry together. While we may be in this present situation and reality or variations of it, for the long haul, we look toward times and opportunities where we can gather in smaller groups face to face. We may need to be creative and innovative with regard to this. What is possible? What is reasonable? What is best for our community and particularly the vulnerable? How can we carry out our mission and ministry in this context? These are all questions to consider as we look forward. We can celebrate the ways we have carried out our mission of loving our neighbour, through the responses to identified needs in donations to Alex Pelletier's lunch for homeless initiative, meals for Victoria Campus school, and lunch-making for Indigenous Christian Fellowship. Thank you to all who have been part of these important responses!

As we consider our ministry and mission for the fall, I am offering a program in September, called **Leading Out of the**

Crisis. This resource is offered by the Missional Commons which have offered a number of webinars in April and May that I have participated in about Where are We Now, and What do we Want to Take With Us, reflecting on our experience of ministry during the Pandemic and our learnings in our community. They have created this resource to help congregations discern how to move out of this pandemic time, into the mission and ministry we are being called to. I invite you to consider joining me in this program of discerning and direction for our future.

As we continue to live into this time, I continue to encourage you to check in with one another and your neighbours. We have been witnessing a much broader awakening to the need for racial justice and I encourage you to educate yourselves on the issues and impact of white supremacy, white privilege, and racial injustice. You will have an opportunity to participate in a racial justice workshop offered to all of the Living Spirit Centre facilitated by Nancy Yee of St. Philip and Brian Mitchell-Walker of Eastside.

We have been fortunate to live where we are, and while things are looking better, we are not out of the woods

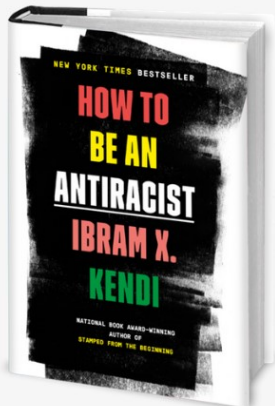
yet. Please continue to practice the protocols we know work: regular handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing masks in public. While this has been a challenging time, there has also been much hope in the way that people have been reaching out to and caring for one another. This is one of the things that is "the best in our tradition". We may not know what is coming or have control over the outcomes, but we know God is with us and an active part of how we may emerge from these challenging times. May it be so.

...the most elemental need for the church is passionate prayer whereby we put "ourselves in the rightful posture that we cannot control the outcomes we seek". I finished reading the book with exhilaration for what lies ahead for the church. Now is a time for recovery of the newness of what is old and best in our tradition. ... In the new parish there will be no business as usual, but a glad return to the grit and energy of the apostles.

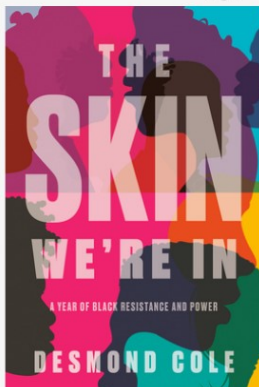
-Walter Brueggeman in the Forward of [Everywhere You Look](#) a new book by Tim Soerens

If you want to join us this year, vote on your choices here: <https://bit.ly/ESbookchoice>

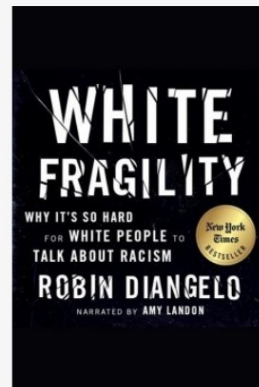
Craft/Study Group



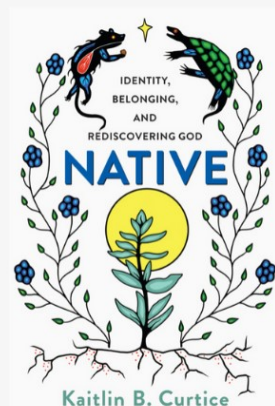
How to be an Anti-Racist



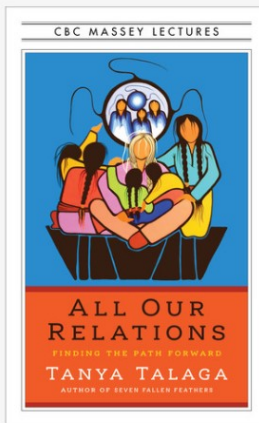
The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power



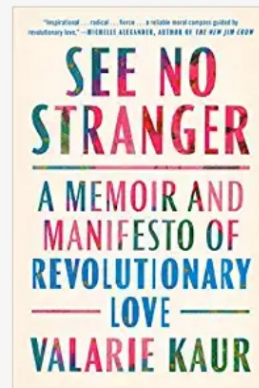
White Fragility



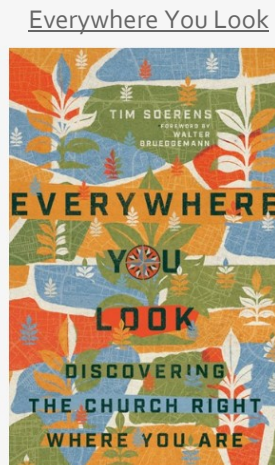
Native, Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God



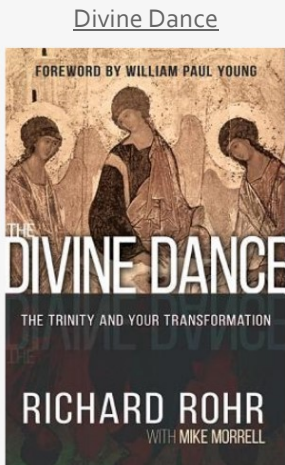
All Our Relations



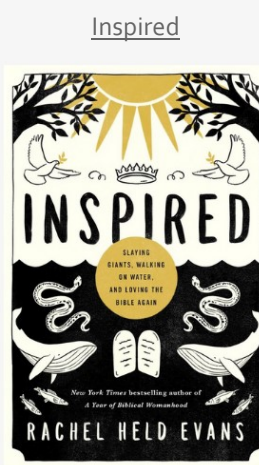
See No Stranger



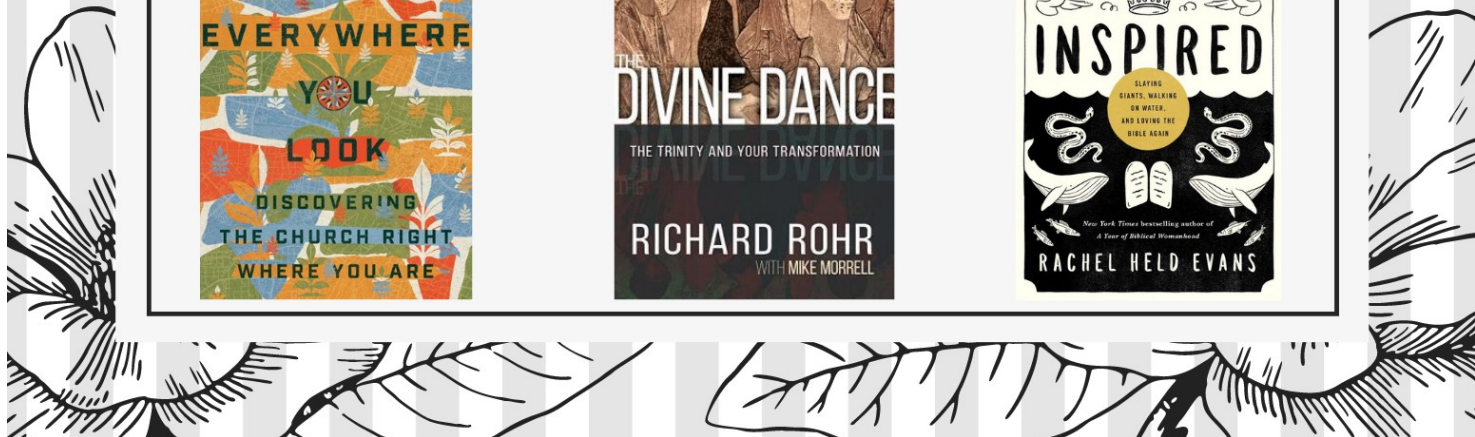
Everywhere You Look



Divine Dance



Inspired



Upcoming Fall Programming

Multi-generational Connections

An opportunity to connect generations in an 'old school' way. Interested adults and children will be paired to send letters by snail mail to one another, providing a connection during this time. Get to know more in our church community, and build relationships across generations. If you are interested in sharing in this opportunity to connect with someone from a different generation, indicate [here](#).

House Church

As it may be a while until we worship in person again, would you be interested in gathering with 10-15 others for a worship experience in an Eastside home in your neighbourhood? This could be

1. A separate simple, self led worship service and reflection on scripture outside of Sunday morning.
2. Gathering to experience online worship together in a group on Sunday morning, and possibly sharing a meal together (if we are allowed).

If you are interested in participating or hosting, please go [here](#) and indicate also whether you would like option 1 or 2.

Film & Faith

Film and Faith will continue online over the summer! Watch Facebook and the weekly emails for details.

Next dates: July 24, August 28, September 25.

courageous FAITH

Join us for Courageous Faith!

Those who participated in the Courageous Faith Series really enjoyed it and want to do more. Another 6 week series will start on October 6, at 7pm. Hear and discuss reflections from these speakers:

How to Lay the Groundwork for a Courageous Faith

October 6: Cameron Trimble

October 13: Rev Stephen Lewis, Rev Matthew Wesley Willias, Rev Dr. Dori Baker.

How to Build Courageous Faith Communities

October 20: Tyrell McTyler

October 27: Casper Ter Kuile

How to Build Courageous Schools of Love

November 3: Diana Butler Bass

November 10: Eric Elnes





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Thinking About Black Lives

Matter - Harvey Gibson

Over the past weeks, we have seen a massive surge in protesting against racial inequality and against police brutality. While it may not seem like Regina, or even the rest of Canada, has been touched by this movement as much as the United States, the fight for racial justice is just as important.

Canada has the veneer of “politeness” that often allows us (those of us who are white, mostly) to say things like, “Well, it’s not as bad here. At least we’re not in the US!”

This is not true. Racialized minorities in Canada experience racism and violence just as often, and just as traumatically. We cannot pretend that the bloody legacy of colonialism happened in the distant past and that we have entered a post-racial era.

It is more important than ever to

examine our relationships with race, with whiteness, and our relationships with the land and the people we live on this land with.

Thinking about the demonstrations in the US and larger Canadian cities: does any of it make you uncomfortable? Are you uncomfortable with property being destroyed? We’re raised since birth to be respectful of each others’ belongings, so that engrained Canadian politeness can make us uncomfortable with broken windows, fallen statues, and graffiti? Why is that? It’s time to reflect on those feelings.

We live in a society that values property over human life. Peaceful protests have failed—no one in positions of power have been listening to peaceful protest, because it is easy to ignore.

Graffiti can be cleaned up, statues can be righted (if we truly want to return statues of genocidal conquerors like Christopher Columbus to their places?), and businesses have insurance for a reason. Broken glass can be replaced.

What are the things that cannot be replaced? George Floyd. His baby daughter cannot file a claim to get reimbursed for her father’s life. Rodney Levi, killed by police in New Brunswick, cannot be replaced. Breonna Taylor cannot be replaced. Atatianna Jefferson cannot be replaced. Aura Roser cannot be replaced. Stephon Clark cannot be replaced. Botham Jean. Philando Castille. Akai Gurley. Gabriella Navarez.

According to the statistics gathered by killedbypolice.net, there were only 27 days last year where police did not kill someone.

27 days out of 365. Now, imagine if we added the statistics from Canada on top of that.

It is our responsibility to leave the world a better place than it was when we came into it. It’s time to put in the work.

But where to start, as white people? Begin by listening to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of colour). They



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are experts on their own experiences and what their communities need. Read works by BIPOC authors, consume art by BIPOC artists. Donate to bail funds and mutual aid networks if possible.

Also, start having those hard conversations with the other white people in your life who may be ignorant, or uninformed, or those who actually willfully racist.

BIPOC are exhausted, let us take on some of that emotional labour ourselves .

Most importantly, be patient and be open-minded if you receive criticism or new information. We are all going to make mistakes on our journey as allies in the fight against racism and inequality.

We are all in this world, this society, together. Let us make it the best version that it can possibly be! ■

SUMMERTIME Worship!

We are moving to **10:30 am worship** for the months of July and August. Russell is currently on medical leave and will be away on vacation. On July 12th, 19th, and 26th, service will be offered by streaming another service using our usual Zoom login information. On August 2nd and 9th, you are encouraged to check out other online worship options. You can see an interactive map of United Churches online [HERE](#), see a list of online services by province [HERE](#), or you can join St. James United Church via Facebook [HERE](#). From August 16th to the 30th, service will be offered with Wesley United using our usual Zoom login information. Harvey will provide additional links to worship on the Saturday emails, so there will be lots of options!



As places re-open it will be important to wear masks as we are out in public, especially indoors. If you would like a mask, please email the office or Russell indicating how many masks you need, and we will connect you with someone making masks. Elastic is needed if you have any! Thanks to Clare Banks, Wanda Barr, Gladys Olekson, Nancy Cranfield, Jean MacKay who are willing to make masks. More sewers are welcome!

There are masks that have been made already available for pick up outside of the office doors in the blue bin. Please take them as you need. No payment for a mask is necessary, but a donation to the church has been suggested in lieu of payment.