

Chalmers

Enfolded in the Creator



The Blanket Ceremony

The Story of the legacy of colonialist policies and practices
with respect to Canadian Indigenous experience

The United Church of Canada

10:30 am June 11, 2017

Assists Hearing Devices and Large Print Bulletins, available from Greeters

Song Books *VU Voices United* *MV More Voices*

Ringers Off please, on all electronic devices. Thank you.

Prayers of the People Prayer requests for persons ill (with permission) and for global, national and local concerns may be left at the Prayer Desk at the south back wall of the sanctuary. These will be brought to the Communion Table with the Offering and included in the Prayers.

THE GATHERING

COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

For millennia indigenous people have inhabited this land. We gather on the traditional shared territory of the *Anishinaabek* and *Haudenosonee* Peoples, grateful for their historic stewardship.

stand MV 39

Mother Earth

verse 1 sung by Margaret Moncrieff

All join in singing verses 2-4, with the Procession and Spreading of Blankets

BLANKET PRAYER

- One Spirit of God, like a soft blanket you sustain and comfort your people and all parts of creation.
- All **You enfold our lives in gentle, loving care.**
- One These blankets represent the land of the northern part of Turtle Island - what we know as Canada.
- All **You sustain our lives through the land and all of creation.**
- One Long before the arrival of Europeans, this land, represented by these blankets, was home to millions of diverse peoples in hundreds of nations.
- All **You sustained their lives through the land and all of creation.**
- One Their identities were formed by their relationships to the land.
- All **All needs were met by the land.**
- One Food, Clothing, Shelter, Culture, Spirituality
- All **Were provided by the land.**
- One In response to this gracious gift from Creator
- All **They protected the land, as Creator protected them, enfolded in the safety of Creator's great blanket.**
- One Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge,
- All **Give us imagination with spirits open to the challenge of new information.**
- One Connect our minds to this story
- All **To know this land as holy ground, to understanding our lives and past anew.**
- One Connect our bodies to this history,
- All **To walk gently and compassionately.**
- One Grace us for the unsettling and holy work of reconciliation,
- All **To accept ourselves as we are, to own the past for what it was, to create a future of sacred beauty and respect.**
- All **Teach us now. Amen**

THE BLANKET CEREMONY

TALKING CIRCLE

1 word responses are invited from persons of the congregation



2 Corinthians 5: 18 - 20 and Hebrews 12: 14

Everything old has passed away. Everything has become new. All this is from God, who reconciled us and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. In Christ, God was reconciling the world, not counting their trespasses against them, but entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

We are ambassadors for Christ, God appealing through us. We entreat you to be reconciled to God. Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see God.

PRAYER

GIFTS

stand VU 308 Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

BLESSING



Talents Shared

Greeters: Mike Hartlin, Sara Muma

Liturgical Animation Team: Rosalie Armstrong, Jan Elliott, Katie Henderson, Faye Irving, Susan Irving, Katharine Smithrim

Sound Tech: Simon Kerr, Brigitta Holzschuh shadowing

Counter: Joan Simeon

Today

KAIROS

THE BLANKET CEREMONY

describing the history of Canada's Indigenous People, with guests **Onagottay** (*God Rays, Ojibway*) and **Lynda Gerow**, our facilitator and Chair of the local chapter of the Ontario Native Women's Association. The theme of our worship service is the initiative of Chalmers OutReach with the leadership of Eric Macpherson and Mary-Stewart Ross.

KAIROS is an ecumenical coalition of 11 Christian Churches and Religious Organizations acting in faithful response to the Spirit's call to "Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with our God" Micah 6:8, through justice advocacy, joining with people of faith and goodwill in action for social transformation. **KAIROS** has used *The Blanket Ceremony* educational tool since 1997, continually editing and updating it as new historical understanding of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada has been revealed. The Ceremony invites us to put ourselves in the place of Indigenous persons, past and present.

11:30 am: CHALMERS COMMUNITY PICNIC

Food, Fun, Friendship at City Park, close to King Street.

Bring a lawn chair and some food to share.

Ice-cream and games galore!

This Week

Tuesday June 13

- **Noon: Discussion Group** meets in Church House until June 27.

Wednesday June 14

- **3 pm: Board of Trustees** meeting.

Thursday June 15

- **1:30 pm: Centering Prayer Circle** meets in Church House.

Saturday June 17

- **Noon:** Wedding Service for Darlene Baddeley and Mark Braithwaite in the sanctuary.

Sunday June 18

- **10:30 am:** *The Conversion of Paul - The Damascus Road Experience.*
Acts 9: 1 – 25 The Affirmation of Baptism and Reception of New Members.
- Retirement Celebration following service, in MacCallum Hall (Cake!)

Sunday June 25

- **10:30 am:** **Dr. Donna Forster**, Executive Director of the Kingston Community Counselling Centre (K3C), speaks on their 50th Anniversary, honouring 1967 co-founders from Chalmers: The Rev. Dr. Franklin Bannister, Dr. Gordon Mylks and others of the Kingston community.

Community Pastoral Caring

Please refer persons in hospital or care facility, ill at home, needing contact or a *Thinking of You* card, to the Rev. Nancy Clarke at home 613-384-4698, cell 613-532-4431 <revnancyclarke@gmail.com>, or Rev. Drew Strickland 613-546-3263 (ext. 226), cell 613-876-0118 <drew.strickland@chalmersunitedchurch.com>



Flowers in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of

Marshall Howard

from Helen and family

Engaging A Future Together

Sydenham Street United Church is grateful that our congregations have endorsed the recommendations presented by the Chalmers/SSUC Joint Committee on Shared Ministry. We look forward to getting to know each other better, learning from each other, working together to enrich our congregational life and extending our service to the broader community.

We believe that we can do more together, building on the strong foundation of our shared values and individual histories. While this is a great step forward, much of our future, however, remains uncharted and yet to be discovered. We look forward to developing that vision together.

The Joint Committee has set out the next steps for our collaboration. Our congregations have approved the establishment of a Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC), identifying four members of each congregation, to join together this summer in defining the role of a shared Minister of Word, Sacraments and Pastoral Care, with the expectation that the JNAC will report to our congregations in the early fall.

We have agreed to establish joint Ministry and Personnel, and Worship Committees. We have given assent to the Chalmers/SSUC Joint Committee to continue its work in guiding our congregations through this transition process, and leading consultation on the second ministry position to focus on congregational life and community engagement, currently envisioned as half-time. These committees will report regularly to the Chalmers Coordinating Council of Elders, the SSUC Executive Committee and to our congregations.

In embracing change, our congregations take a bold new step seeking to honour our past while renewing our commitment to Christian faith development and community service. We extend our deepest appreciation for the work our congregations have done together, and our sincerest commitment to sharing an evolving future together.

Lynn Freeman and Jack Soule
Co-chairs of the Sydenham Street United Church congregation,
and on behalf of the congregation.

Why Acknowledge the Traditional Territory?

Acknowledging the territory where we gather and the people who have traditionally called it home for thousands of years is a way to continue to live out the church's Apologies to the First Peoples of North America. The acknowledgement supports our calls to others to pay respect to Indigenous peoples. It is also one way the church can work toward right relations - by repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery that assumed the land was empty when European explorers, traders, and settlers first came.

In order to promote mutual respect, peace, and friendship, the 40th General Council 2009 encouraged the recognition of Traditional Territory of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples at the gatherings of the courts and pastoral charges of The United Church of Canada. A proposal has been brought to the General Council Executive to encourage Parliament to include a similar acknowledgement in its opening address.

Helpful Definitions

Treaties are nation-to-nation agreements outlining promises between both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people that set out responsibilities, agreements, and benefits for both. There are 70 recognized treaties in Canada. However, some First Nations never negotiated treaty so the land remains unceded. These websites can help you find which treaty applies to your church context: search "Maps of Treaty-Making in Canada" (INAC) or "Reference Maps Natural Resources Canada."

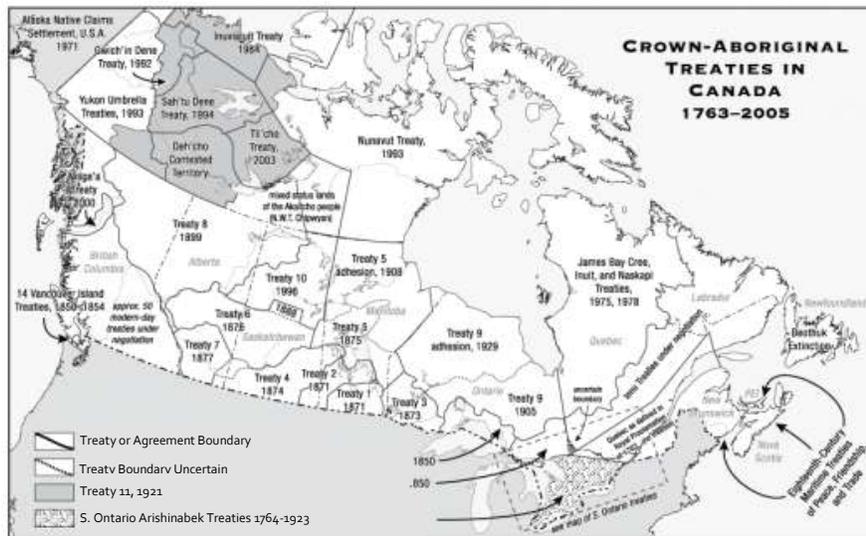
Aboriginal, First Peoples, and Indigenous are all-encompassing terms that include Inuit, First Nations (Indians), and Métis.

Inuit are the Indigenous people of the north (from the Arctic land and waters from the Mackenzie Delta in the west to the Labrador coast in the east, and from the Hudson's Bay coast to the islands of the High Arctic).

First Nations is a term used to describe Aboriginal peoples of Canada who are neither Métis nor Inuit. This term is generally used to replace the term "Indian." "First Nation" can refer to a band, a reserve-based community, or a larger tribal grouping.

Métis are recognized Aboriginal people who have both First Nation and European ancestry.

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Dr. Mark Sirett, Minister of Music, supply to July 2
 David Melhorn-Boe, sabbatical to July 31, Holidays in August
 The Rev. Nancy Clarke, contract ending June 30
 The Rev. Drew Strickland, Retirement July 1, Appointment July 2 – Dec. 31

Chalmers United Church

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Church House Office: Monday to Thursday 9:30 am to 4 pm