

# TUC

## CHRISTMAS 2020

### Can't Lockdown Hope

If you are anything like me this was not the Advent and Christmastide, you had hoped for. I'm not surprised things have gone the way they have, yet I'd hoped for a different outcome after Thanksgiving. I'd hoped we could continue to have small social gatherings, worship together in-person, enjoy some live music. I was really looking forward to seeing people and reconnecting with people I only see during Advent and Christmastide. I (we) was looking forward to our son and his fiancée coming home for Christmas. I hear people talking about personal and religious freedoms; questioning the need for a revised lockdown; and saying things like 'Christmas will be cancelled'. Fear is increasing. Anxiety is increasing. Isolation is increasing. The days are growing shorter and people's fuses are doing the same. This is not the Advent I'd hoped for.

Everything I've said is true. This is not an Advent nor will it be a Christmastide like any other we've experienced. If I'm honest it's tempting to give into this sentiment and focus on what will be different...what will be 'lost', yet here's the thing: you can't lockdown hope!

There is still beauty and awe and wonder – even amidst COVID. The reality is: Church online – not cancelled. Quiet time with God and evening prayer – not cancelled. Praying for the sick – not cancelled. Checking on a friend – not cancelled. Helping others – not cancelled. Being the church – now more than ever! – not cancelled. One of the undergirding realities of all these statements is that you can't lockdown hope.

That's not just true during COVID-time, it's true of the historic human experiences too. In the midst of slavery, you couldn't lockdown hope. In the midst of suffrage, you couldn't lockdown hope. In the midst of deportation and concentration camps, you couldn't lockdown hope. In the midst of bars being bombed and humanity being denied, you can't lockdown hope. In the midst of marching because black, indigenous, and people of colour lives matter – you can't lockdown hope. And this shouldn't surprise us, because that's the Christian story too. No matter what happened to Jesus, the disciples, or the early church – you couldn't lockdown hope.



And it's true today for each of us too: you can't lockdown Emmanuel! Even the cross couldn't lockdown the hope enfleshed in Jesus. The new song that the Spirit was singing in a strange land then and continues to sing in a strange land now, even during pandemic-tide, can't be locked down.

You can't lockdown peace, love, joy, or hope. You can't lockdown the dream of followers of Jesus for a different world where everyone is accepted, included, and affirmed. You can't lockdown the persistent slow curve of the universe towards justice.

This Advent and Christmastide, amidst the case count reporting and the temptation to focus on what's been lost, remember God is still doing great things for us. Some of what has been 'lost' needed to be, that no virus can prevent us from being a people who dream with the Spirit, and that no matter how deep the shadows may become...you can't ever lockdown hope.

"When the Holy One brought back the captive ones of Zion,  
We were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter  
And our tongue with joyful shouting;  
Then they said among the nations,  
"The Creator has done great things for them."  
The Great Builder has done great things for us;  
We are glad." (Psalm 126 1-3)

Friends, may you each experience the love, peace, joy, and hope that is pointed toward in the Advent of Emmanuel. May you feel the Spirit moving in and through you when you can be in-person and online. May the wonder of this time encourage you to focus what really is essential. And together may we dream a hopeful dream that will shape the community we are in the process of becoming. You can't lockdown hope. You can't lockdown Trinity United. Rev. Bob



## Official Board

Hello Everyone

What a year it's been, wow! I have no words...well, maybe a few. Ten months ago is when most of us first heard the word Covid-19 and we began wrapping our heads around this Corona Virus. We could not have imagined where we would be a short time later. What a roller coaster ride it has been, and 'it 'ain't over yet'. When the announcement came from the Provincial Government back in

March, we had to completely shut down, however the position we found ourselves in by then, meant we did not skip a beat, we were able to deliver a complete online experience, for service, then for fellowship, we kept adding, and are still adding things. These were all things we were able to reinvent, to be done safely and still have an impact, and allow us to continue to be community. We had meetings online, we had visits online, heck we even figured out how to do a dinner...or two...Wow!! I say it again, it is phenomenal how quickly and most importantly, how effectively, we transitioned.

It has not been lost on me who has been steering the ship and most importantly saw where the ship needed to be. Not that this person had a crystal ball or any insight as to what 2020 would bring, or look like, but rather saw the need to move us, as a group, to a) have an online presence, b) saw the far reaching value of being tech savvy. He saw the need long before it became a way of life for all of us.

If you haven't figured it out, I am referring to Rev. Bob. When I reflect to 5 years ago, we had no internet presence, most of us could not have imagined what an online service looked like nor did it seem to be a pressing issue. Along came Rev. Bob, full of ideas, and projects. It was his foresight, and eagerness, and simple hard work that allowed us to morph into a congregation that is able to keep it's people safe, informed and most importantly, still active in our community. Things like Soup Kitchen, Shoe Boxes, church dinners, fellowship, just to mention a few. Heck, we are so far ahead of the curve, that we have user groups seeking us out. Why? Because we are in a position of strength with both protocol, support, and of course space. There are many more ways people are able to interact with us as an organization. I cannot imagine how a church can survive without this connectivity during this challenging time.

We want to say a great big THANK YOU to Rev. Bob for knowing what we needed to be and do, long before we knew it. We know that so much of what you do is behind the scenes and gets done without accolades and without fail. We are grateful, and humbled.

In closing, I want to say, even though I miss everyone, particularly the face to face conversations, I know that we are not alone. As we face the second wave with this pandemic, I know that God is with us, and if he leads us to it, he will lead us through it, and it is our faith that will see us through. Stay Safe and take care of each other.

Gabriele Slater  
Board Chair

## Dial Up Worship

We've got a new way to stay connected and share in worship together and all you need is a phone! Each week, by Monday at noon, the full worship service from the day before will be available by phone. All you have to do is dial 250-563-9615. Listen on your phone or hit 'speaker' so you can lay your phone down. It's a local number. No worries about long distance charges. In your Advent package is a card so you can always have the number handy.





## Being a Worship Assistant in Covid-19 times

*Movement around the sanctuary and the options available are dependent upon the current rules and recommendations in place*

It was so easy a year ago, you got the call, you said yes, you came to church at 9:30, lit some candles, visited with a few, entered down the aisle together with the choir and worship leader, delivered your service parts, at the end moved to the back door, shook hands, said hi, then went for coffee and a chat.

Yes it is a bit different now, and one of the things that has changed is that there are many ways to participate as a Worship Assistant, all depending upon your own personal comfort level.

Option 1) you agree, you arrive at the back door at 9:30, you mask, enter the building and check in with Rev. Bob then ensure everything all the pieces are ready at the front, have a brief visit with a couple of people. At 10:00 enter masked from the back with the Worship Leader, go up and take your seat, remove your mask, and in turn deliver your parts. At the end of the service, re-mask, exit through the back, then come into sanctuary area if desired.

Option 2) you agree, you arrive at the back door at 9:45, you mask, enter the building and check in with Rev. Bob in the office. At 10:00 enter the sanctuary from the back (masked) with the Worship Leader, go up and take your seat, remove your mask, and in turn deliver your parts. At the end of the service, re-mask, exit through the back, and exit the building.

Option 3) Arrange with Rev Bob to pre-record your session in the sanctuary during the week, then watch the service from home. Or alternatively, record your own session at home (with a smart phone) and send it to Rev. Bob for inclusion in the service.

These are trying times, and with that, delivering strong ministry is more important than ever, so we need your help. Being a Worship Assistant can be an important part of your own Christian journey, and also an important personal part of your giving. So as you can see, the many options you have to choose from allow you to participate in whatever manner is most comfortable to you.

To get more information or to put your name on the list, please contact either of Katherine Tuck – 1-709-764-7964 email - [katherineljt@gmail.com](mailto:katherineljt@gmail.com) or Marion Bartlett – 250-964-4696

## IMPORTANT – Registering your seat for service attendance

In place only when the current rules and regulations allow for in person services  
Knowing ahead who is coming and the size of the group is extremely helpful to the people who are volunteering in the sign in process. This allows them to ensure the sanctuary is set up to accommodate you even before you arrive. Numbers are growing, showing slow but steady growth. Honing the various aspects of sign in before numbers rise to full capacity helps us work out kinks in the process before we have a lineup out the door. It helps the volunteers to have the processes down pat, thus getting people in quickly and safely regardless of the number in line.

As well, it is MOST IMPORTANT that we do not exceed the numbers set out by the Health Minister. Signing up ahead for a seat is an important tool in ensuring we are operating within the rules and guidelines, and that we do not inadvertently exceed those numbers and end up with a hefty fine (and the possible embarrassment of negative press).

**So please, please, please** – go online to register up to 8:00 Sunday morning, or phone in to the office before noon on Thursday to book your seats. If you have difficulty signing in, but know you will be there, you can book a permanent spot, and the office will automatically enter you in each week.

Sign up through [www.trinitypg.ca](http://www.trinitypg.ca) (we're using a service called Eventbrite)

Or copy the following into your browser

[https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/worship-trinityucpg-tickets-119543639243?utm\\_campaign=post](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/worship-trinityucpg-tickets-119543639243?utm_campaign=post)

[\\_publish&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_content=shortLinkNewEmail](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/worship-trinityucpg-tickets-119543639243?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail)

simple and easy

sign up – sign in – attend



# CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY SERVICES

Dependent on current rules and regulations.

Christmas services – limited to 50 people max so book early, book now, book soon to reserve your seat.

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Kids, Carols and Chaos - it will be about 30 minutes long – will not be streamed  
Family Groups are invited to reserve a quilt. There will be songs, some fun contained games and/or projects, treats and just a regular fun time for children and parents as well. And yest – there will be chairs for those that want/need them

7:00 pm – Families, friends and everyone – about 45 minutes long – will be streamed

Regular Christmas service –

10:00 pm – Communion service – 45 minutes long – will be streamed.

Christmas Day

11:00 am – Regular Service – about 45 minutes long – will be streamed

December 27, 2020 - Carols and scripture – about 45 minutes long

The absolute maximum for all services is 50 persons. There is no possibility of any flexibility. In past years, services on Christmas Eve have seen combined services housing upwards of 300+ As such it is strongly advised that you book in advance.

## Advent candle lighting

Will be virtual this year

Each year we have family groups take turns lighting the advent candles. In the past, a different group has walked down the aisle on each Advent Sunday, lit candles, and then moved to their seats.

This year we do not want that kind of movement through the sanctuary during service. We still want to have the Advent lighting, but instead of live on the Sunday, Rev. Bob will be pre-recording the lighting ceremony, and that recording will be included in one of the Advent Sundays.

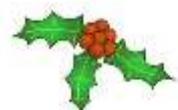
So you will see a slightly different look, but the meaning and sentiment behind the candle lighting will be unchanged



## Anniversary Service – January 3, 2021

**In past** years we have shared coffee and cake in hall to commemorate our union of churches. This year that will not be possible in person so if you are joining from home we are asking that each of you have something that works for cake, maybe a cupcake, a cookie or the whole cake if you like, add a candle, and we will all join in together in blowing out the candle and enjoying our individual chosen snack. As a congregation we are showing that in spite of Covid-19 keeping us physically distanced, as a group we are still joined in our hearts, our Christianity and our church. Distanced, but not divided.

Should circumstances allow for in-house services, there will be cupcakes and candles provided to those attending the service.



# Greetings from your Fellowship Team

I am excited to report that we have begun meeting again for the first time since COVID became a reality. We met on November 3, 2020 as a combined live/Zoom meeting. This is how we will continue to meet for the foreseeable future. It was wonderful to get together as a group!

During the Advent season, we are trying two fundraisers:

**Basket Auction:** This is taking the place of our traditional fall Silent Auction. We are compiling 5 baskets for auction:

- Christmas/Decorations basket
- Wine & Cheese basket
- Home spa experience basket
- Family Game Night basket
- New Baby gift basket



In addition, there will be at least one Soup Kitchen Shoebox which can be purchased and contributed to the Outreach project.

The baskets will be posted on the Trinity United Facebook page on the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>, one per day. You will be able to bid on the baskets by posting your bid under the comments for the post. Bids will be closed 24 hours after each posting.

How can you participate? Of course, you can participate by bidding on the baskets as they go live. You can also drop off donations for the baskets at the office. If you have a large basket to donate that you think would be appropriate, we are happy to accept this donation as well. All donations must be received at the Church by November 22<sup>nd</sup> so COVID quarantine procedures can be adhered to.

**Cookie sale by donation:** This will look different this year. We are planning to have 100 dozen cookies for this. You will be able to pre-order cookies on line or by contacting the office. Payment in advance is appreciated, but we will be able to accept payment on the day of the event. There are no set prices here, please donate whatever amount you feel called to do. Pick-up will be in the Narthex between 2 and 4 PM on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>, COVID protocols and social distancing will be observed.

Please contact Debbie Leyen if you would like to contribute to the baking. Please let her know how many cookies you are able to provide. Cookies for the sale can be dropped off at the hall at 10:00 AM on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have a team assembling cookies by the dozen using COVID 19 protocols as directed by the Board.

Our next Team meeting is set for Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Youth Room or by Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact Judy Wilson.

Wishing you all blessings and joy in this Advent season.

Judy Wilson  
Secretary  
Fellowship Team



It's our annual Christmas Cookie Sale! What's different you might ask? On the one hand, not much – same great price, same great selection, same great taste, same support of our ministry. What has changed is the day of the sale, how you'll get and pay for your cookies. The date is **Saturday December 12** between 2-4pm. You can reserve your cookies online with the link on our webpage (that guarantees you get them). Cost for each dozen cookies is by donation. Cookies will only

be sold in multiples of 12. When you come to get them on the Saturday, you'll have your mask on, come in the back door, sign in, sanitize your hands, make your donation (cash, cheque, debit, credit), enter fellowship hall to receive your dozens of cookies, and leave via the fire exit with the ramp. Easy. Safe. Yummy. Now the only question is how many dozens of cookies you need! (let's face it Christmas cookies are a need, not a want)

## Ministry and Personnel



It is the time of year when we rush through life to prepare for the Advent and Christmas season in the hopes to find that perfect present and create the flawless holiday experience. When we hear the true story of the first Christmas, we are reminded that the real meaning of Christmas had humble beginnings. The gift of Jesus, passed down to us through the years, reminds us that in darkness there is light. This message is never more important than this year, as many individuals within our families and communities will be experiencing darkness this holiday season as a result of COVID-19. This season that perfect present for many of these individuals will be the humble ones (personal gestures of support, phone calls, or visits in a safe manner), while for others it may be the necessities of life such as food and housing.

It is with this in mind that the M & P Committee recognizes the humble talents of our paid staff and the light they bring to our lives and community, taking us out of any darkness we may be feeling this year. Thus we acknowledge the talents of Rev. Bob, Erica Skowron, Vic Steblin, Diane Kjorven, Rebecca Fillier, Trish Appleton, Tom Hynd, and Susie Wilson, all of whom make our lives brighter.

The M & P Committee would also like to take this opportunity to inform the congregation that Angela Alba has resigned her role of accompanist. We would like to thank Angela for sharing her talents with our church family for the past 10 years. We will miss her elegant use of the piano and wish her all the best in her endeavours. We would also like to thank Vic Steblin for continuing to provide his talents and helping fill the role that was former held by Angela.

Finally, as the Chair of the M & P Committee I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for the talents of my fellow committee members. Each of you is a gift in your own way and our church family is better because of the ways you use your talents.

Best wishes this holiday season from the M & P Committee. Look for that perfect present in you (your talent) to share this holiday and be a light for someone.

Kindest Regards, Keith Taite (Chair)  
Marilyn Blair  
Vicki Brown  
Shannon Carson  
Don Homan  
Les Waldie



## Wonderhosts - A Christmas Memory

The update for Wonderhosts is that we now help with seating of those who chose to attend church.... sharing warm welcomes with our smiling eyes and kind words.

I am Wondering about your special memories of Christmases past, and Wondering if you will enjoy the memory I decided to share here.

Time: late 1960s Place: small town Manitoba, just north of border with USA

My brother and I are home from university in Winnipeg a few days before the 25th. Mom says to Wayne "Go over to Unit 4 at the Melita Motel and invite the young couple there to come for Christmas Dinner. He is a new teacher but also a Draft Dodger so they cannot go home. I see her walking past, to go downtown or the laundromat, and she is obviously pregnant. So, Wayne did as he was told, and they accepted the invite.

By mid afternoon on the 25th the gifts are opened, the wrappings cleaned up and the expanded dining room table is set. The house is full of turkey smells. I answer the ring of the front doorbell. There stands a young man with long hair and his very pregnant wife. He says "Hello. I am Joe and this is my wife Mary".

May Christmas 2020 bring each of you some unexpected surprises and memorable blessings.

Beth Quesnel, Team Leader



## Mission and Service

Christmas Greetings from the Trinity Mission and Service Team. We are honoured to share some words from a letter written to Trinity United by the Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Grace and Peace to you, in Jesus' name. I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for the support you have given both Trinity United and The United Church of Canada, with your work and your financial resources, especially during this chaotic time of the pandemic. I know the folks of Trinity have been trying a variety of ways to continue living out the ministry to which we have been called. So much of what you are doing is an example to us, across the church. Part of that example has been your generous support of the Mission and Service Fund. As I am sure you know, the Mission and Service Fund touches peoples' lives in tangible ways right here in Canada and helps with ministries that our Global partners are doing around the world. Bob tells me that even during this chaotic time, Trinity is not only on track with its support of the Mission and Service Fund but actually ahead of expectations! Thank you so very much, for your generosity and your stewardship as God's people in The United Church of Canada.

The Mission and Service Team at Trinity United also extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the congregation. And, as Christmas approaches, we would like to highlight a United Church project called Gifts With Vision, which is an additional way to support the work of Mission and Service partners. Giving Gifts With Vision is an opportunity to show that you care, not just for the people you know, but for those who need help now more than ever. Please visit [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca), look through their online catalogue and either order online or call 1-844-715-7969. Your Gift with Vision could help bring hope and healing to someone's life. Thank you and may God's Blessings surround you with Peace and Joy this Christmas.

From the M&S Team

Betty Belado, Wendy Hudyma, Beth Quesnel, Melita Higgins, Megan Homan

## Outreach Committee

One thing the ongoing pandemic has made us realize is how much we rely on each other for physical contact, mental and emotional support, a sense of purpose and belonging, and protecting the more vulnerable members of society. Each of us, no matter how strong we think we are, needs others. And on the flip side, looking out for others feeds our own souls. It is a win-win situation! That is why Outreach can be such a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Like most people, these past few months have created extra challenges for the members of Outreach; loneliness, anxiety and fear about one's own health and risk of contracting Covid 19, and fluctuating feelings of uncertainty, apathy, despair, and depression. But, every month, with God's support and guidance, the Outreach committee and Trinity congregation have been steadfast in their resolve to look after our neighbours through financial donations, preparing and serving food, providing warm clothes or blankets, and sharing a smile or joke with guests at St. Vincent's and others in the community. So, this Christmas, I would like to extend an extra thank you for all of your help through difficult circumstances, and may you be blessed with hope, peace, love and joy for the upcoming year.

P.S. Don't forget to have your Shoeboxes in to the office by Sunday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>! You may include hats, socks, gloves, scarves, toiletries (no mouthwash, cologne, hand sanitizers please), cards/games, pen/pencil, a sweet treat, coffee gift cards, face masks, or any other ideas you may have. Donations of money or items towards a shoe box would also be gratefully accepted. Once again, we are asking the Choir to make up boxes for women (please label F for female), and the remainder of the congregation will be for men (M for male).

Merry Christmas!  
Vickie Brown



**“STREAMING WITH HEART ♥” BY JUDY THOMAS:** Covering both Netflix and Amazon Prime. Shows you can sleep after, with minimal violence.

Hamish Macbeth on Amazon; This series is our latest favourite and stars the younger Robert Carlyle as a police constable in a small Scottish village. Each episode has a small mystery elegantly, if non-conventionally, solved; a bit of romance and loads of laughs. Compassionate and about the importance and quirkiness of community support.

Billy Elliot on Netflix; Charming movie about a gay boy in working class Wales who becomes a ballet star. As much about his father’s struggle to accept his son that didn’t meet the father’s tough guy expectations and how the father’s thinking changed.



Wadjda on Netflix: This movie is about a girl in Muslim Saudi Arabia who challenges gender roles. The story is how she raises money to buy a bicycle and learn to ride it in a world where girls don’t ride bikes. The 10-year old’s story has the backdrop of her mother’s struggles to win her father and the gender inequality her mother faces. This touching story is the first feature length film by a woman Saudi director (Haifaa al-Mansour). Reminds you of basic freedoms we take for granted.



Hunt for the Wilder People on Netflix; We really liked this quirky anti-establishment movie about two misfits fleeing the law through the wilds of New Zealand. Its really a story of how 2 unlike people bond and learn to rely on each other. Lots of laughs.

Glow Up on Netflix; While the premise of voting someone off every episode is inherently flawed, we are finding the world of makeup artistry intriguing. The make up creations are amazing. Some of the participants appear to be Queer / LGBTQ+ etc. And along with the recommended Queer Eye, are helping me to normalize various gender identities.

The Aeronauts on Amazon: This movie starring easy-on-the-eyes Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones tells of a balloon adventure to further weather making science. Fun, exciting movie about courage, perseverance and based on a true story. Great visuals.



## Finance Committee

I continue to be amazed about the generosity of time and talent that Trinity gives. Through these challenging and uncertain times, not only has the congregation continued to give financially but the volunteers and staff have been seeking creative ways to stay connected and serve the community. The Finance Committee has been meeting regularly to help support these efforts so you can continue to make a difference. Although our expenses have remained relatively unchanged, your financial generosity has allowed us to meet our monthly obligations. With December almost upon us, we are hoping that the year ends positively, and all indications are that if we continue on this path, it will.

We are beginning to develop next year’s budget, which will recognize and plan for the challenges we will face. Not only with the continuing challenges in the community and world but also with the future capital maintenance of having two aging buildings can bring. Once the draft budget is complete, we will ask the congregation for input and approval at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Doug Hofstede  
Treasurer

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## Affirming Ministries

The following excerpt is taken from Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in The United Church of Canada and Wider Society. It appears on Affirm United's website under the section "What Are Affirming Ministries:"

"Affirming Ministries are congregations, presbyteries, Conferences, educational institutions, and other ministries within the United Church that publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Although Affirming Ministries make an explicit statement about issues of sexuality and gender, their commitment to justice is far broader. They continually grow and change as they seek to live more fully into God's way of welcome, love, and justice for all creation."

In 2019, The Board of Trinity United Church designated becoming an Affirming Ministry as a goal for our congregation. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we gather and work as a community, the call for us to live out Jesus Christ's justice and the transformative love of God in our church, our city, and beyond, has not stopped. An Affirming Ministries Task Group has been established to lead TUC through the Affirming process and will be offering a series of guided conversations with topics such as the Affirming process, community partnerships, theology, and the LBGQTQ2SIA+ community (and what that acronym means!) Called "InQUEERies," each conversation will be an opportunity for church and community members to share stories, listen and discuss new information, and explore what it means to be a church that makes sure everyone is Wanted, Included, and Affirmed. Trinity's website will also have a new section for Affirming Ministry, which will include the schedule of InQUEERies, resources from the UCC and elsewhere, and links to more information. New material will be added to that section as we move through our conversations together. More information about Affirm United and the Open Hearts resource can be found at <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>



Any questions or comments can be directed to [affirm@trintypg.ca](mailto:affirm@trintypg.ca), or you can speak to one of the Task Group members: Dr. Kendra Mitchell-Foster, Rev. Dr. Bob Fillier, Rebecca Fillier, and Katherine Tuck.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Tuck, Organiser  
TUC Affirming Ministries Task Group

## Blue Christmas

New this year as part of our Advent time is a Blue Christmas Service. It'll be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December – the longest night of the year – at 7pm online (all the usual spots) with a chance to get together on zoom for conversation afterwards. People from United Churches across the Northern Ministry Cluster will be providing leadership. Join us for a worship experience that creates the space to acknowledge our grief, especially during COVID, reflect on what it means to walk daily with grief, and embrace the light of God that glows in each of us. It's from the shadows of grief and towards the light of grace. If you know someone who might benefit from this kind of experience, please feel free to invite and share. To fully participate you will need an ornament that you can write on to place on your tree (a simple template is available on the website) and a candle (any kind will work). As you hang your ornament on your tree, please take a picture and send it to the main office: [office@trintypg.ca](mailto:office@trintypg.ca) and if you can please drop off an ornament with your family name on it so we can add them to the tree in the sanctuary.



# Then and Now

## The Gothic Revival

Trelle A. Morrow

A hundred years ago the Gothic Revival tenet was still alive in architectural circles for church design. In November, 1922, a new Knox Presbyterian Church, with basement, vestry, balcony, bell tower, entrance lobby, and office was opened at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Brunswick Street in downtown Prince George. The site was chosen to serve as a focal point due to population shifts into the City of Prince George from the earlier communities of South Fort George and Central Fort George.

### Heritage Values:

The heritage value of this building rests as the only remaining Gothic Revival design in the city. There were earlier examples of Gothic Revival design for churches, but these have long disappeared. Heritage value also exists with the building being only one of two known structures remaining which were designed by British Architect Henry Wilson, who had established an office in South Fort George in 1913. His practice in Prince George continued into the 1930s.

The configuration of the building floor plan also has heritage value in its tower/nave relationship, which originated with Protestant churches dating back to Early English Village Churches in the Middle Ages. The design became prominent in the 1800s in North America through the medium of wood frame construction. Entrance to the church is through the tower, which is considered to be a transitional zone between the secular world and the sacred atmosphere of the nave.

The 1922 Knox Church served as a focal point for worship services up to 1957, when a new Knox United was constructed at the west end of the original building. The older premises now has a multi-use function. Numerous community services are active on a regular basis, which includes a downtown child-care operation.

### Characteristics:

+ Salient features of the church design include a crenellated bell tower and Gothic Revival window pattern. Gaps, or "crenels" are traditional in defensive structures, but today the crenels are decorative only, perhaps rendering a symbol of sacred defense.

+ The pointed arch incorporated into the window design is likely the most readily recognized Gothic Revival motif in Canada, stretching from the early 19th century into the 20th century. Revival motifs are strictly decorative, possibly yielding a sense of built-in quality.

+ The heritage value of the structure is demonstrated by the fact that the form of the building has not been compromised in any way since the construction date, although modest interior changes have been made throughout. The building now exhibits new entrance doors into the tower.

+ Trees from a 1933 landscape upgrade still exist on the perimeter of the site, although time has taken its toll in some locations. The value of evergreen trees in the city core is appreciated by not only parishioners and building users, but by the community.



Ivor B. Guest Photo 1923



Morrow Photo 2016

Morrow Photo  
2019



2019  
Morrow Photo

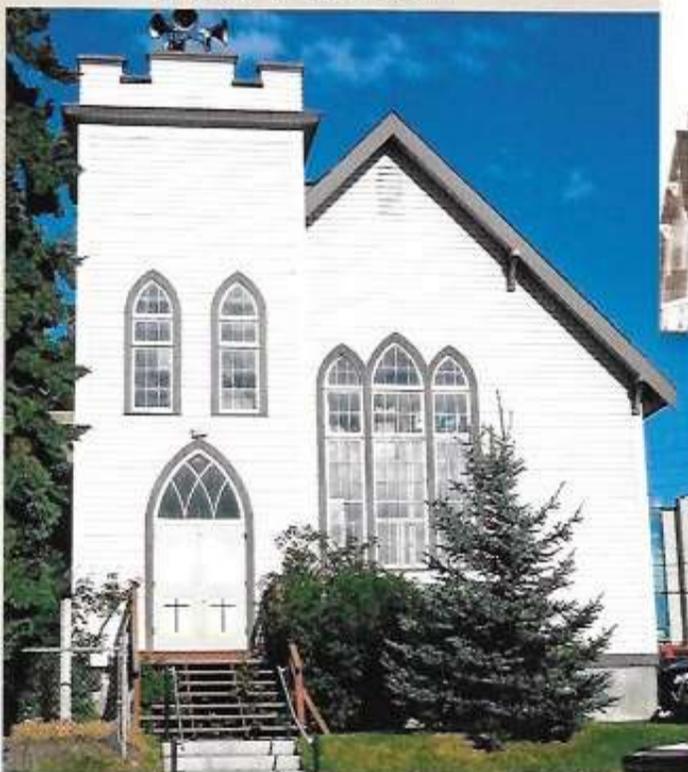
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## The Gothic Revival

### *Then and Now*



**Knox Presbyterian Church in 1923 and today. Salient features of the church design include a crenellated bell tower and Gothic Revival window pattern. Gaps, or "crenels" are traditional in defensive structures, but today the crenels are decorative only, perhaps rendering a symbol of sacred defense.**  
Lev B. Guest photo, 1923; Morrow photo, 2019

A hundred years ago the Gothic Revival tenet was still alive in architectural circles for church design. In November, 1922, a new Knox Presbyterian Church, with basement, vestry, balcony, bell tower, entrance lobby, and office was opened at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Brunswick Street in downtown Prince George. The site was chosen to serve as a focal point due to population shifts into the City of Prince George from the earlier communities of South Fort George and Central Fort George.

The heritage value of this building rests as the only remaining Gothic Revival design in the city. It is also one of two known structures remaining which were designed by British Architect Henry Wilson, who had established an office in South Fort George in 1913. His practice in Prince George continued into the 1930s.

The configuration of the building floor plan also has heritage value in its tower/nave relationship, which originated with Protestant churches dating back to Early English Village

Churches in the Middle Ages. The design became prominent in the 1800s in North America through the medium of wood frame construction. Entrance to the church is through the tower, which is considered to be a transitional zone between the secular world and the sacred atmosphere of the nave.

The building has not been compromised in any way since the construction date, although modest interior changes have been made throughout. The building now exhibits new entrance doors into the tower. Trees from a 1933 landscape upgrade still exist on the perimeter of the site, although time has taken its toll in some locations. The value of evergreen trees in the city core is appreciated by not only parishioners and building users, but by the community.

The 1922 Knox Church served as a focal point for worship services up to 1957, when a new Knox United was constructed at the west end of the original building. The older premises now has a multi-use function. Numerous community services are active on a regular basis, which includes a downtown child-care operation.

Trelle A. Morrow

#### Learn More

Runnells, F.E. *The History of Knox United Church.*  
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## HISTORY IN CONTEXT

### Do you have an old photograph with a story to tell?

Contribute the photograph to *British Columbia History* magazine's back page feature. We would like to encourage you help bring a photograph of the past to the present. Anyone can contribute a photograph! Please send your photograph of the past in the present to: [bcheditor@bchistory.ca](mailto:bcheditor@bchistory.ca) and include information on who or what is in the photograph and why it is important to you or your community. It could appear here on the back page.