



Old Barns and Hilden
United Churches

Thanksgiving 2022

"How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land"
Psalm 137:4

There are times in everyone's life and times and places in history when it feels like God is not there. The Jewish people felt that way a bit when they were carried off into exile to Babylon. But then they discovered their God had travelled with them and their faith deepened.

This may be a great time in life for you and it will be easy to say thank you to God this Thanksgiving; for the perennial harvest, for harmonious relationships, for good health. Terrific!

For others, sickness and loss made have taken their toll and the world's suffering make it more difficult to feel thankful and joyful. This is when it is helpful to have a deep faith; a hope that goes deeper than optimism for the near future; a faith that believes in a force of love and goodness at the heart of creation that brings healing and "balm to Giliad", and that ultimately brings new life, even out of death.

Even at Thanksgiving we are an Easter people. While God is not the author of pain and suffering, not the only power at work in the world, God is persistent and persuasive and constantly at work making "lemonade out of lemons"; giving us a hope that sooner or later God's will "will be done on earth as it is in heaven", as we pray.

At the end of September, the United Church is marking Orange Shirt Day and the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. An ongoing theme through October will be: "ALL MY RELATIONS". This is an indigenous idea that is much deeper and wider than many non-indigenous folks think. "All my relations" not only recognizes the Great Spirit in all people and animals, but in everything. All things are ultimately ONE and need reconciliation. Reconciliation has a particular meaning for us as treaty people, but ultimately will mean that we come to see the sacred interconnectedness of all things.

We want to invite you to join Hilden and Old Barns United congregations in person or with our on-line services this fall and help us to celebrate and give thanks to God, either for what is going well or for what we know will be in God's time.

The Reverend Phillip Kennedy

Here are some special dates and events to keep in mind:

Sunday, October 2nd – World Wide Communion
9:30 a.m. in Old Barns; 11 a.m. in Hilden

Sunday, October 9th – Thanksgiving
With a dramatic monologue by The Reverend Valerie Kennedy
9:30 a.m. in Hilden; 11 a.m. in Old Barns

Thursday, October 13th – Bible Study
Begins in Old Barns and alternates with Hilden each week.
The first meeting will decide the focus of study.

Friday, October 14th – Pie/Cake Auction and Benefit Concert for Blair Family
6:30 p.m. Auction starts
7:00 p.m. Concert Begins (Music by Highway 236)

Sunday, October 16th – World Food Day

*The United Church of Canada's "A New Creed" states
that we are called to
"Celebrate God's Presence".
Come join us as try to do just that this October and beyond.*

"We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope."

