

MOUNT ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

2023 Easter Letter

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb 21 - 5pm

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

Feb 22 - 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 26 - 10:30am

First Sunday of Lent

(Kids Korner Program)

Tuesdays beginning

Feb 28th - 1:30pm

Book Study

"Building God's Beloved

Communitiy"

March 19 - 10:30am

Annual General Meeting

April 2 - 10:30am

Palm Sunday

April 7 - 7:00pm

Good Friday Service

April 9 - 10:30am

Easter Day Service

(Kids Korner Program)

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

To: Mount Royal Community of Faith,

Beloved of God, as I sit to write this years Lenten/Easter letter I find myself thinking about our last three years together. Our ministry together has been an experience none of us could have imagined but has also been filled with God's Grace and Spirit leading us along the way. So often, when we think of Lent, we think of a day-by-day journey following Christ in the wilderness. At times, our years spent together in COVID may have felt the same way, which is why this year, as we begin in this holy season, our focus changes to the abundance of Grace and Love in which we find ourselves.

Various practices surrounding Lent have evolved over the years. Originally, this was a time of engaging in spiritual practices that leave the old self behind, giving things up and seeking forgiveness to prepare oneself for the overwhelming transformational Grace we find at the empty tomb. It was a practice of stepping away from a scarcity mentality and into a fuller and more expansive life of faith. This year, as we encounter the scriptures, as we listen again to the stories and life of Jesus, you are invited to do so while being your authentic self. You are invited to walk away from the self the world thinks you should be, or the self you shame or guilt yourself into being, and to claim in joy the authentic you, the person God created you in love to be. As we journey in this time, it is my prayer that each of us come to know the lavish love of God welling up within us until it pours out into the world around us.

Lent is our time to live fully, to encounter the abundance of God's Grace and to be loved for who we are in the fullness of life. I look forward to this journey with you. May the Peace of Christ accompany you on this Lenten Road, all the way from Ash Wednesday and into the joy Easter Sunday.

Your sibling in Christ,

Rev. Scott Stuart



CHAIR OF COUNCIL'S MESSAGE

Here we are in the season of Lent. It's always an important time in the life of a Christian Church. We often hear that we pause along the journey to Easter, that we stop and reflect as we travel. We try not to rush through those 40 days but they fly along.

As we often do, we have a book study planned for this Lenten season. Based on the book "Building God's Beloved Community", it sounds like a great way to learn or remind ourselves what the United Church stands for in today's world. Even if you can't join the study group, you might enjoy the read. If you didn't order the book, there will likely be a chance to borrow a copy or two.

We are excited to try something new at Mount Royal – a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. It will be a simple serving style and pretty basic menu with those same great pancakes Mt Royal is known for making. Check the calendar and announcement screens for all the details.

As well, the annual meeting is scheduled for March 19th with a storm date of the 26th. Please be sure to read your Annual Report prior to the meeting and pay particular attention to the recommendations of the Visioning Committee. That very dedicated and caring group from our Community of Faith spent many hours discussing the future of Mount Royal. If you care deeply about your church, please plan to attend the discussion on Annual Meeting day.

On behalf of Council, I wish you a meaningful Lent and Easter blessings.

Susan

Susan Fowler
Council Chair

SPECIAL ENVELOPE

Your ongoing financial support is greatly appreciated.

We enclose a **special envelope** and encourage you to give generously towards the operations of our Community of Faith.

2022 TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts have been printed and will be mailed out by Feb. 13th.

On behalf of Rev. Stuart and the Council of Mount Royal United Church,
thank you for your financial support to this Community of Faith.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please join us on **Sunday, March 19th at 10:30am** for our Annual General Meeting.
The storm date is Sunday, March 26th at 10:30am.

In March, the 2022 Annual Report will be available online at www.mountroyaluc.ca or pick up a paper copy from the church. Please remember to bring your copy to the meeting.