



Innisfail United Church

Christians: Committed, Caring, Community

Spring 2017 Newsletter



Dear Innisfail United Church Family,

I am genuinely overwhelmed with deep gratitude as I write this letter to you. The years have flown by, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving this congregation. It's been over 16 years! I have nothing but love in my heart for all of you. My experience here has been one that I will keep with me forever.

I'll be leaving in June to enter retirement. Bruce and I have made plans to travel, camp, spend time with family and I hope I finally have time to finish some of my sewing projects I've started over the years. It's scary thinking my formal career is over, but I think I'm ready and I'm trusting in God.

The earliest document preserved in the New Testament is 1 Thessalonians, a letter written by Paul in 51 C.E. to the church at Thessalonica. It is our first impression of what the newly born Christian faith and practice might have been like, decades before the gospels were written. In this letter, Paul writes to a beloved community, saying: *How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?* (1 Thessalonians 3:9) Paul wondered whether he would ever see the people of Thessalonica again, and he cared deeply about their faith.

Saying goodbye is never easy. My last service of worship will be at 10:30 am June 18. There we will gather together, as Christians have done since before Paul wrote his letter to the Thessalonians. For almost 2000 years, faithful people have been parting from one another with words of Christ's peace, and we will do the same. We will take the time to say good-byes and to release each other from our covenant in ministry. You will always have a place in my heart, but after I leave here, I will not be able to baptize or officiate at funerals or weddings for members of this church; that is the practice in our faith tradition.

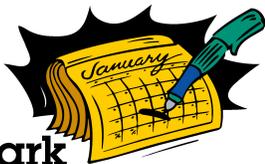
This family of faith will always hold a place in my heart. We have shared in both personal trials and celebrations in the past several years. You have shown a deep kindness to me and to my family.

Paul writes, *And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love **for one another and for all**, just as we abound in love for you.* (1 Thessalonians 3:12) Like Paul, I wonder how things will develop for the people I no longer serve. I have hopes for your future together. I pray that God will be with you in all that you do and that you will share your abounding love with the hungry and hurting in this community and in the world. I pray that you will be spiritually nourished by your work on Christ's behalf.

Your next chapter will unfold without me, as mine will without you. Whatever comes next, know that you do not face it alone, for the God who made you and the Christ who redeemed you and the Holy Spirit who comforts you will always be with you. As God has blessed you, may you be a blessing to others.

Shalom
Margaret





**Mark
Your Calendar!**

Happy Retirement!

The Community is
Invited to Tea
In Celebration of
Margaret Lange's Retirement
In the C.E. Hall
Saturday, June 3, 2017
At 2:00 pm



All are welcome to join us
Sunday June 18, 2017
10:30 am
for Margaret's Farewell Service

Join us after the service for a
barbecue and retirement party.

Celebration of Ministry Service

Sunday, May 28, 2017

10:00 am

Pomeroy Inn at Olds College

Margaret began her Ministry with this service and will be finishing it at this service.



Innisfail United Church is relocating to Wimborne Community Centre

for worship on Sun. June 11, 2017



Saturday June 10 – 5:00 pm
Wiener roast & campfire fun!
Camping available after noon
on Saturday

Sunday, June 11

Pancake Breakfast - 9:00 – 10:30 am
Worship Service - 11:00 am

Everyone Welcome!

You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there. ~ George Burns

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time. ~J. Lubbock

WHAT IS HAPPENING AFTER JUNE 18, 2017?

Like in “Good News Bad News”.one of Rev. Margaret’s books that she has read on a Sunday:

- ◆ The “good” news is we will have a minister - one for July, August and September.
- ◆ The “bad” news is that the process we voted on as a Congregation for a period of Interim Ministry has had some roadblocks.
- ◆ The “good” news is that we have some congregational members who would be willing to sit on a Transition Team.
- ◆ The “bad” news is that this process has not started yet.
- ◆ The “good” news is that at the end of the process we will have a full time minister!

Though this is a “good” news, “bad” news story it is also filled with excited anticipation of what lies ahead for Innisfail United Church – Christians: Caring, Committed, Community!

In caring,

Nyna

Nyna Marr, IUC Board Chair

What is the Interim Ministry Process

The Congregation voted on November 20, 2016 to have Interim Ministry to help us through our mourning period. Steps that must be taken are:

1. Board and Presbytery set preliminary goals.
2. Presbytery confirms the decision to have a period of Interim Ministry, indicating. the preliminary goals of the Interim Ministry period and the suggested length of time for the Interim Ministry.
3. In consultation with presbytery, the official board selects members for the Transition Team and presents the team to the Congregation.
4. Presbytery identifies its representatives for the Transition Team.
5. The Presbytery Representative calls the initial meeting of the Transition Team. They begin their work. First steps are identifying the skills needed by an Interim Minister and then seeking a minister to fill the appointment
6. The congregation must have an active role in the Transition Process.

In caring,

Nyna

Nyna Marr, IUC Board Chair



Warm weather means growing grass! Do you enjoy spending time doing yard work? We need volunteers to help with the grass cutting. We have a ride-on mower to make the job easier.

Grass is cut between Wednesday and Friday so that it looks great for the Saturday weddings and Sunday services. You pick the week you'd like to mow the lawns, drop into the church, and sign up on the sheet in the foyer or call the office at 403-227-3881.

Your Input is Needed

Harvest Supper

Your Church Board discussed the continuation of the Harvest Supper slated for Oct. 24/17. We decided that we would ask the Church Members what their feelings are about this project.

If we continue with the supper then we need to have a co-ordinator(s) and folks to sit on the planning committee.

We are well aware of the many volunteer hours given on the day of the Supper. However we need to recognize the tremendous amount of planning and organizing that has takes place leading up to the Supper.

Note: In 2016 we cleared \$5750.64
2015 we cleared \$7521.97
2014 we cleared \$6511.86

Do you feel that the time and energy put into the Harvest Supper has merit for us and for the community?

Are there other ways we can use the time and energy to raise money for our budget?

- Perhaps use our new kitchen and put on a couple of suppers in the C.E. Hall.
- Perhaps host a musical event.
- Perhaps 100 folks each donate \$50.00 to replace the supper.

What are your thoughts? Please indicate below your ideas and how you will supper Harvest Supper or other projects. Return this page to the church or email innucc@innisfailuc.org

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
