

## Words From A Messy Desk

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

To my Noranda Uniting family,

I have to start with some sad news. Those of you who were at church will have heard this on Sunday, but I know many of you couldn't make it. Neil Boxall had a fall last week and was taken into hospital. On Sunday morning, he passed away peacefully in his sleep. I would ask that you hold Gloria and their family in your prayers as they work their way through this time of grief. The funeral will be at the church on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July at 10am. As a way of showing our love, we will be providing a morning tea after the service in the hall. If you're able to help with this, please contact Elizabeth M.

On Sunday, we were also able to hand out the new congregation directory. Unfortunately, we only had half the run done before our photocopier packed it in but we should have it fixed and going again before this Sunday, so I'm looking forward to being able to give you a new copy if you're here. However, as often happens in these productions, there are already a couple of errors. Somehow, we failed to include Denise Zan's email address which is poingyn@gmail.com. We also managed to leave out Maureen and Marcus Inu whose address is 4/26 Horsley way, Noranda 6062. Please make these alterations to your directory when you get it.

As the first Sunday of the month, this Sunday will be a communion service. It will be interesting having this sacred thanksgiving meal in the midst of some somewhat horrible stories from Genesis. Last Sunday, we looked at the story of Hagar and Ishmael being sent away to die. This Sunday, we've got the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. The readings are Genesis 22: 1-18 and Romans 6: 12-23. In the midst of these stories, it's important to seek out God's grace and hope.

In other news, we've got Julie Ridden coming to speak with us on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Julie is the Presbytery Children, Families, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. She's coming to help us be a bit creative about possibilities for ministry with children and families here at Noranda UC. Anyone who is interested and feels passionate about wanting us to connect better with our young families, please come along.

We've also got Susan Sydney-Smith starting with us in a few weeks. Susan is a formation student on her path toward ordained ministry and is coming to us as a student to learn a bit more about her call and what it means for her to be a UC minister. She'll be with us mostly on Tuesdays and Sundays until the end of the year. I know you'll make her feel welcome when she gets here.

We had our monthly Church Council meeting last night and one of the things that we talked about was the ongoing generosity of our congregation. We have seen an increase in our offerings and we have also had a few people donate money or equipment to help us cover for what we lost in the break-in a few months ago. Personally, I want to make a note of gratitude

and let you know that it is appreciated. This is a generous congregation in so many ways and it does my heart good to see.

Finally, I want to mention our Breakfast Church service happening on 30<sup>th</sup> July. The service will start at 9am instead of 9:30 and will be in the hall. Food and drink will be served before and during the service. It's a less formal, more social style of worshipping together which makes it a great opportunity to invite other people to come along. If you're willing to help out by contributing something toward the meal: juice, bread, jam, bacon, eggs, yoghurt, muesli, cereals, and so on, then I'd love to hear from you. More importantly, I'd love for you to invite someone along.

Well, I think that's all from me. I pray that God will be with you and known to you over the coming week.

With love and hope,

Your minister,  
your brother in Christ,  
Ivan

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