

# HASTINGS-ROSENEATH PASTORAL CHARGE

## "LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCHES"

Minister: Rev. Jamie York

April 5, 2020

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TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Hastings, Ontario

Worship: 9:15a.m.-10:15a.m.

Organist & Choir Director: Marcus Elia

Chairperson: Ruth Geddes

ROSENEATH UNITED CHURCH

Roseneath, Ontario

Worship: 11:00a.m.-12:00 noon

Organist & Choir Director:

Chairperson:

Visit our web site ~ <http://harpcharge.com>



### "CARING AND SHARING"

*Our prayers are with those who are shut-in and sick, unable to join us in worship this morning.*

### "SPECIAL REPAIR PROJECT"

*Trinity Hastings has some extensive repairs needed to the back of the church in the eaves. As much as we love pigeons, they can't keep sneaking in the eaves where the wood has rotted away.*

*The work will be done in the spring. It will cost approximately \$2,000 for a man-lift and material to repair.*

*The church council are launching a special appeal to help cover the cost.*

*You can bring some coins and add to our special cans, or make a donation marked as "Special" Repair Project in your offering envelope. With many thanks!*

### "MINUTE FOR MISSIONS"

#### **Protecting a Child's Rights ~ March 22**

Emmanuel Dennis Ngongo was 13 years old when he came across the Kenya Alliance for

Advancement of Children's Rights (KAACR) through his school's Child's Rights Club. KAACR is a long-standing Mission & Service global partner. When his parents were transferred to another district and he had to change schools, Emmanuel wrote to KAACR to get help in launching a new club.

Kenya has dire statistics on violence against children. Rape, abuse, and child labour occur widely in both rural and urban areas. For many young people, the situation is made worse by their inability to speak out at school or within their communities.

KAACR, a network organization established nearly two decades ago, serves as a platform for like-minded youth to engage in communications and advocacy on ending violence against children in Kenya. Using channels such as WhatsApp and social media, KAACR has reached at least 200 young men and women, many of whom have amazing stories to tell about their transformation. They share ideas and propel change at regional, national, and international levels. Their primary mandate is to champion children's rights everywhere; they believe every child should be protected.

Emmanuel was so inspired by his experiences with KAACR that he launched the Child's Rights Defenders Movement with other peers in 1999, which was hosted by KAACR. He later worked for KAACR as an advocate protecting girls from female genital mutilation and early marriage, and in general youth development work, where he coordinated Youth Employment Summit sessions in Kenya and throughout Africa.

## White Privilege ~ March 29

Our gifts for Mission & Service work to create opportunities to understand what it means to be an intercultural church. Here is a story about one of those opportunities.

*Beth Baskin, Program Coordinator, Social Analysis and Congregational Engagement, in the Church in Mission Unit of The United Church of Canada, reflects on White Privilege:*

As someone who supported a delegation to the Global White Privilege Conference in May 2018 and supports the White Privilege Working Group, I spend a lot of time thinking about it.

White Privilege is the norm that allows me to go through my day without really having to think about what I do or say. The systems work pretty well for me. This is a problem.

The problem is that I (and lots of others) can go through life ignoring racism and the resulting oppression and exclusion. I will be a poorer person for the lack of diversity and understanding in my life and faith, but really, unless I go out of my way to be in relationships with those whom the systems exclude, I can live in my White bubble. This choice will give me occasional pangs of sadness for the oppressed but have no real consequences for my day-to-day living.

It is my job and the job of the White Privilege Working Group, among others, to ask the questions that lead us to understand others' cultures and experiences. We must find real, tangible ways to change our church to honour and incorporate ways of being, knowing, and deciding that are not the dominant church norm.

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## Planting a Path to Reconciliation ~ April 5 Palm Sunday

Twenty-eight years ago when it was founded, Faith United Church in Kingston, Ontario, bought land near Highway 15 with the vision of creating a church building. Meeting in a local high school, they eventually decided to put their energy into being a caring community rather than into a building. Then, during the last year, Faith United began a time of discernment around the land. The members of the congregation felt inspired to walk a path of peace and offer the land as a place of healing.

The church and the Indigenous peoples of Kingston are currently in conversation as they collaborate on how to create a space where all can find healing. Talking over tea and shared meals, they are exchanging ideas on how to come together in friendship. Currently they are considering creating a garden for reflection and reconciliation that contains Indigenous sacred medicine plants.

Thanks to a grant from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund, supported by your gifts for Mission & Service, the Indigenous peoples of Kingston and Faith United Church members are able to move forward.

“We open our eyes now,” the Elders and congregation members shared in a report on the initiative. “We aren’t blinded by hopefulness and naïveté: we know our vision for this piece of land is grand in size and workload. We also know that when we walk together in a good way, when we root the process in ceremony and healing, we are acknowledging we aren’t walking this path alone. Together we can. Together we will. One step along the path of peace.”

May it be so!

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.