

# HASTINGS-ROSENEATH PASTORAL CHARGE

## "LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCHES"

Minister: Rev. Jamie York ~Summer Announcement Sheet ~ August 18 – September 1, 2019  
(Office) 905-352-2000, Email [hastingsroseneathpc@hotmail.com](mailto:hastingsroseneathpc@hotmail.com)  
(Home)705-243-2734, Email:[piperrev@gmail.com](mailto:piperrev@gmail.com)

### TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Hastings, Ontario

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

Organist & Choir Director: Marcus Elia

Chairperson: Ruth Geddes

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

### ROSENEATH UNITED CHURCH

Roseneath, Ontario

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

Organist & Choir Director:

Chairperson:

### "CARING AND SHARING"

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

### "MINUTE FOR MISSIONS"

#### August 18 Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa

It seems more important than ever for the Christian church to foster intentional ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. The Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) is a pan-African Christian organization that was started in 1959 to build good relations between Christians and Muslims. It brings together communities of faith, in spite of their differences, to work together for justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Countries in Africa are advised to stay secular, says the Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei, Programme Director of PROCMURA. "There is so much fighting happening these days, and religion has been the most divisive factor here, aside from economic factors." While this is not unique to Africa, it is evident there that education is a key tool in fostering good relations for Africans. PROCMURA has partnered with St. Paul's University in Nairobi, Kenya, to create a Master of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations program. Mutei has a strong conviction that religious education such as this will lead to a deeper understanding of each other's beliefs. He says, "education should be the foundation of what is happening around the country of Kenya and the continent of Africa."

A visitor listening to the students in this program was moved by their enthusiasm for engaging in work they hoped would help others understand Christian-Muslim relations. Canadians have much to learn from this organization. We give thanks for the United Church's partnership with PROCMURA through Mission & Service.

#### August 25 Reconnecting Families with Community

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of healing and reconciliation. Here is a story of how the church's Healing Fund is uplifting a healthy, unified Gitxsan Nation.

Gitxsan Nation is a First Nations community in British Columbia that has challenges stemming from the impact of Indian residential schools. One is the loss of traditional parenting, usually transferred from grandparents and parents to children. This loss has contributed to the community's social issues, such as unhealthy relationships, social isolation, substance use, and crime.

In spite of these challenges, the Gitxsan Nation envisions health and wellness growing stronger among its people. The Healing Continues project is a holistic program designed to teach families traditional parenting skills, provide cultural psycho-education (grief, stress reduction, etc.), and help them participate in ceremonies on the land. Elders conduct home visits to support the families, model traditional parenting, and provide mentorship. Community

services are also contributing to the project by training their workers to offer experiential, land-based healing.

In using the Gitxsan healing model, based on the community's knowledge and practices, Gitxsan Nation is reconnecting families with their community to reduce isolation and stress, and help them learn healthy behaviours and traditional parenting.

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**September 1  
Pilgrimage to Colombia  
Strengthens Church**

During a pilgrimage to Colombia for justice and peace organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in February 2018, Christians witnessed the need for peace and justice in the midst of the troubled peace process.

For more than 60 years, civil war has afflicted Colombia. Since colonial times, the key issue has been land ownership. About 80 percent of land in Colombia is in the hands of just 14 percent of the population. In the past decade, governments and guerrilla fighters have worked toward resolution of the long-standing conflict.

The WCC pilgrimage to Colombia included opportunities to speak with former fighters, people displaced by war, senior politicians, and those whose social identity—Indigenous, Afro-Colombian, LGBTQ Two-Spirit—make them especially vulnerable. The visits amplified the call for peace from Colombian churches, which all too often are drowned out by voices opposed to land reform, or those who make a profit from war.

The WCC is a Mission & Service partner. As a member of the WCC, The United Church of Canada is a part of the council's focus on supporting justice and peace efforts through pilgrimage. These are not just physical pilgrimages. How could all of us participate in a spiritual or advocacy journey toward peace in places like the Korean peninsula, Myanmar, the Middle East, and Congo?

Through the WCC Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace, all United Church people are invited to pray, study, reflect theologically and biblically, have courageous conversations, take action, offer a pledge of commitment, and hold public liturgies for peace. Be part of the pilgrimage—learn more at [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca).

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