



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre



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Cause for Celebration!

A place like Sandy-Saulteaux, where healing happens, is something to celebrate!

Our Keeper of Learning, Rev. Bruce Kakakaway reflects on what the four colours and the four directions of the medicine wheel teach us: "Life is a journey. Every part of our journey has to be celebrated, our birth, our teen years, our school years and everything else, and then our death."

Our April Learning Circle Elder adds "When we look at people's customs and traditions around the world, everybody celebrates, whether it's certain seasons, or periods of time in a person's life."

"When somebody makes an achievement that we want to recognize, the importance of that is the comradery, bringing people together as a circle of friends or family. That's where people get motivated to finish things. People see, if others can do it, I can do it."

Our journeys aren't always easy. "When you know there's a reward, whether it's public or even just personal, it's important to have times when we recognize the progress we have made."

Bruce reflects on the roots of our traditions of celebratory gatherings. "It started a long time ago when we had to separate, when we couldn't take the babies and the older people with us when we left to harvest food, hunt and stuff. When our communities were reunited, we were happy. You can imagine people saying, "Thank God you're ok, you're still here, I just love you!" That's where our celebrations come from. It's about reconnecting with people. It's spiritual."

Our Elder explains that emotions can be understood as e-motion, or energy in motion. These celebrations that bring big emotions energize us. "In hockey when you score a goal, you celebrate, even if you haven't won the game yet but it's going towards your ultimate goal. You celebrate those highlights in your life because it gives you the momentum to keep going."

Unlike entertainment that can sometimes distract us from our goals to live spiritually, we want to celebrate in ways that help us see what is really going on and connect to what really matters. May we all have times to pause and notice what and who we have to be grateful for, recognizing our growth and encouraging each other on our journeys.

When you give to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, you are supporting such celebration. In this place, people are encouraged on their healing journeys and take steps that are cause for celebration. People come to reconnect with themselves, with their families, with their culture, with Mother Earth and with the Great Spirit who holds us all in the mystery of life. Thank you for being part of this circle!



We invite you to join us on June 10th, whether in person or in spirit, when we'll come together under this tent to recognize the graduates of our ministry training and our honoured elders. Help us celebrate!

Always for the Good of Our People by Wayne Monague

My journey into Sandy-Saulteaux has been a long life journey.

My family has always been fully involved in many aspects of spirituality, both within the United Church on my reserve, Christian Island, as well as in the traditional way of our people. As a young child, I always knew what was happening first Sunday morning. It was always service. My reserve was physically separated in the beginning; there was a Catholic side and a United side. My father was from the Catholic side and my mother was from the United side. Growing up I was exposed to both and was taught via my family to respect both, even though it was not meant that way in generations before me.

As this was happening, I was also, unknowingly, given traditional teachings from both sets of grandparents. The more I experienced life, the older I got, the more I stayed in tune with both churches and was further exposed to our traditional teachings.

I independently choose to learn the 3 Fires Medewin Lodge teachings, which I am currently still referred to as an initiate. I

spent some time in my younger years feeling that both my younger teachings of the church were in fact different then the now, new traditional ways I was being taught. Again, as I matured more and became more open to my own spirit, the more I was able to see how every teaching from all aspects I have been exposed to are one in the same. Different structures and ceremonies, however from a distance the messages from scripture are the same as the teachings I received in ceremony.

I have been receiving these my whole life, since birth and in fact we all have this ability which is outlined in every form of spirit practise I have experienced. In maintaining my spiritual self, I was able to recognize that I never received the “calling”. It has always been with me, and in fact is with everyone and has also always been.

Being a part of the Indigenous based class of Sandy-Saulteaux has allowed me to work farther within the church to help others see things that we all have in that good spiritual way. Always for the good of our people.



Wayne (far left) with his fellow students, elder Melody McKellar (4th from left) and Keeper of Learning Bruce Kakakaway (5th from left) at the January Learning Circles. Your gifts meet students where they are at in their journeys, build bridges across divides and work for the good of our people.



Farewell to Rob Smith



Rob Smith is retiring as Keeper of the Centre, after seven years of supporting our staff, board, students and visitors here in this role. Rob's deep commitment to Indigenous justice came through in the thoughtful way he managed the financial life of the Centre and pursued funding for

Indigenous ministry training and cross-cultural education. His lifetime of involvement in the wider United Church made him a knowledgeable guide in navigating church structures. We will miss his sly sense of humour and quiet leadership. We wish him and his family well in his retirement!

We welcome Rebecca Watson as our new Keeper of the Centre and look forward to introducing you in our next newsletter.



Ziisbaakwad-giizis (Maple Sugar Moon)

SSSC staff Victor Robinson collects sap from trees at the Centre for boiling down into maple syrup. Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island have used maple sap since long before the arrival of settlers. It is a special time of year when the sap begins to flow, bringing sweetness and sustenance at the end of winter, when the people need it most.

Welcome spring!

Let's Celebrate!

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023
Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

2:00 pm Graduation & Honoured Elders Ceremony
RSVP to connect@sandysaulteaux.ca / 204-268-3913

5:30 pm Jamboree & Open Mic
Live music. Bring Your Talent. All Welcome.

Donor Connections: Pembina Parish United Church



Pembina Parish participants model giving and receiving in an interactive storytelling event on Good Friday.

We are two United Church congregations, located in the heart of the Pembina Valley region of Southern Manitoba. Our two congregations: Zion-Calvin in Darlingford and St Paul's in Morden. For many years, we came to Sandy-Saulteaux for our annual women's retreat.

"So many things inspire us to give to the Centre," explains Rev. Carrie Martens. "Taking seriously the historic wrongs perpetrated against Indigenous communities, and responding to the Calls to the Church is part of it. We also take seriously our connection to the land. As we learn to love the land and care for the land, there is so much we can learn from Indigenous siblings".

Will you join Pembina Parish in giving generously to the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre? Mail in the form on the last page of this newsletter or visit sandysaulteaux.ca/donate to make an easy online gift.

Thank you to everyone who's made a gift to Sandy-Saulteaux since our last newsletter!

Your generosity celebrates Indigenous leadership, encourages people on their healing journeys and move us all along a path to reconnection and reconciliation.

Jill Allan	Diane Dwarka	Grace EunKyung Lee	Marilyn Petrie	Jim & Anne Ticknor
Marita Athaide	Carol Dyck	Marilyn Legge and Michael Bourgeois Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation	Pinawa Christian Fellowship	J William Tjaden
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Dennis & Amy Butcher	William Gordon	Norah McMurtry	Shining Waters Presbyterial U.C.W.	Winnipeg Beach United Church
Lisa Byer-de Wever	Grace United Church, Weyburn SK	Stephen McMurtry	Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions	Don Winstone
Paul & Ethel Campbell	Sandra Hayes-Gardiner	Reg McQuaid	Rob & Deb Smith	Robert & Keiko Witmer
Carberry United Church	Debbie Hubbard	Myra McWilliams	Susan Sorensen	Amanda Wolfe
Carnduff U.C.W.	Amir Hussain	Lynette Miller	St. Andrew's U.C.W., Markham ON	Emily Wooster
Debbie Cielen	Joan Jarvis & Irene Greenwood	Richard Miller	St. Andrew's U.C.W., Sioux Lookout ON	David Young
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Alf Dumont	John & Heather Lea	Pembina Parish United Church		
Sandra Dunning				

Tell Us Your Story!

We want to know how the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre has impacted your life or the life of someone you care about. Email: erica.sandysaulteaux.ca

Along with these individuals and organizations, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is supported by our major funder, The United Church of Canada, through Mission and Service.



Return Undeliverable
Canadian Address to:

**Sandy - Saulteaux Spiritual
Centre**

Box 210
Beausejour, MB
R0E 0C0

Yes, I support the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre!

With a gift of: \$35 \$75 \$150 \$300 Other _____

I would like to make my gift monthly! Please contact me to set this up.

My gift is in honour of _____
(we will acknowledge this gift with the honouree or family if you provide contact information.)

This is an unrestricted gift to the Centre or I wish to designate this gift to:

- Return of the Buffalo - fostering family well being
- Legacy Fund - an endowment to provide long-term support

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

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I enclose a cheque made out to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.
I will donate by: Visa Mastercard

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

- I am considering including Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will. Please contact me.
- I offer prayers for the ministry.



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To donate online visit www.sandysaulteaux.ca/donate

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