



Orchard Park United Methodist Church
WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

Alwin Jayaveera Maben

"Forgive me for my assumption—I may be wrong—but I read, I feel, and I understand your silence as being as oppressive as that of the oppressors. What I have always heard from my well-meaning friends is sympathizing words, when what I needed was empathizing action. They were for equality when what was needed is equity."

I believe that many White Canadians might live in denial that racism exists in the church and in Canadian society. Among other experiences of racism, what I wish to address here is the silence of those I consider well-meaning White Canadian friends. I'm sure that their silence over injustices done to Indigenous and racialized person/s is more often in defense of their own privilege, if not for their own survival within their community. It might also be due to their acceptance and understanding of silence as a human virtue or a sign of maturity. While I understand and accept that silence can be a true virtue, it can't be so in the face of injustice. It is when we start listening and understanding the pains of others, especially that of Indigenous and racialized person/s, however small that might be.

I do not have to apologize for speaking my truth and in asking my well-meaning White, privileged Canadian friends for their understanding, to take the time to listen to what Indigenous and racialized people are saying, rather than judging or being silent at injustices done to them, to empathize with and promote equity for all marginalized, racialized, and oppressed sisters and brothers. The love of Christ binds the human race, and invites us to practice not just what we consider ideal, but what the context demands. To be able to colour outside the lines as Jesus did. (cont'd.)

To care for the least and the lost. To remember when we consider silence as a virtue, that it can also be a sin. So, let's not be the followers of Christ who just watch in silence and do nothing, lest our churches and societies be destroyed by those who practice and promote racism openly or silently. Let's be the ones to hear what the spirit is saying to the Church through the experiences of Indigenous and racialized peoples.



October 31 Worship Participants

Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. Tanya Spencer

Music Director: Meiko Reigelman

Liturgist: Linda Carroll

A/V Operator: Margot Ip

Childcare: Sue Stachewicz

Upcoming Events

October 31 @ 10 AM:

Adult Sunday School

November 1, 9:30 AM-1 PM:

Sewing Circle

November 3 @ 12 PM: **Bible Study**

November 6 @ 10 AM: **UMW**

November 7, 6:30-8 PM:

Youth Group

October Birthdays

Meiko Reigelman (11/1)

Viva Mae Hames (11/12)

Grace Guard (11/16)

Brandon Donovan (11/23)

Alex Kaforey (11/28)

Mike Waters (11/29)

Deanna Laurie (11/30)

Vivian Slocum (11/30)

Thank you to this month's St. Pauly's Clothing Shed volunteers!

George Slocum (10/31)

Linda Carroll (11/7)

George Slocum (11/14)

Dan Liggett (11/21)

Mike Waters (11/28)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Our Trunk or Treat event was a great success! We were visited by about 200 community members. The bake sale raised \$207 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Thank you to all who helped make this event possible.



Prayer Requests

- *Bill Russell* - health
- *Phyllis Cooper* - health
- Rebecca's sister, *Alicia* - health
- friend of Candy, *Mary Agnes* - health
- *Magdeline Hayman* - recovering from a fracture
- *Marie Gorman* - recovering from a fall
- Donna Kroh's friend *Linda* - recurrence of cancer
- Candy and Joe's neighbor, *Roger* - health
- *Lurly Hunsberger*

Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

Orchard Park United Methodist Church

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