

# Whitehorse United Church Weekly Newsletter



March 18, 2026



*... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

## **Announcement**

**Please read Lenten thoughts from Frances on Page 5**

## **NEW Email address**

You may notice this newsletter is coming from a new address – that's us! We're in the process of transitioning to it, so please add it to your contacts so you don't miss any updates. Our old email will still work for a little while, but we'll be phasing it out soon.



Whitehorse United Church

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867-667-2989

Frances Kitson, Minister

867-393-5010

[Minister.wuc@northwestel.net](mailto:Minister.wuc@northwestel.net)

Visit our website at:

[www.whitehorseunitedchurch.ca](http://www.whitehorseunitedchurch.ca)

Church Office is open:

Monday-Friday, by appointment

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## **Minister's Schedule**

Rev. Frances' regular schedule is  
Wednesdays to Sundays

Income tax receipts for donations to the church for the period March-December 2025 have now all been distributed by hand or by mail (this week). The amount on this receipt, together with the amount on the receipt you were issued last March for any givings in January and February 2025, should total your donations in all categories for 2025. If after review of the combined total you believe there to be a discrepancy, please send an email to the church office at [office@whitehorseunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@whitehorseunitedchurch.ca) and mark it "to the attention of the Treasurer" and I will review your file. Thanks everyone for your generosity in 2025.  
Jan Mann, Treasurer

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **Easter Cards signing TODAY**

Pastoral care committee would like to invite you all for signing cards on TODAY @1pm in Upper room. We are also looking for extra Easter cards if you have any to donate.



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### **Climate Change Café: March 28, 1:30-3**

We know climate change is happening, but how do we cope with our own feelings – and continue to live with



## Upcoming: Embodying the Story

March 21/26  
@9AM PST

See <https://www.nbscanada.org/workshop-embodiment-the-story> for details, Funding to attend may be available from WUC's [Wahl Fund](#). Non-affiliated photos in this newsletter are licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)-Creative Commons



Do you have a spare bedroom or guest suite, and is it available in early July? The first ever Whitehorse Worship Arts Festival is happening July 2-5, and people are coming from Vancouver, Halifax, Florida, and Iqaluit! If you have space you are comfortable sharing, Ben Johnston-Urey would love to hear from you. NO hosting duties

hope? Join us for a facilitated small group conversation. Sign up required. Ten participants maximum.

## The Book of Lamentations study: ends March 28

Our Lenten Bible study this year will be on the Book of Lamentations: a short book in the Old Testament that explores desolation, grief, and feeling abandoned by God. All are welcome. No biblical knowledge required. Join us at 11am at the church.

## Spring Cleaning Day

Save the date - Saturday, April 25, 2026 starting at 9:30 AM.

Help spruce up the interior of the church after a snowy and cold winter.

Proposed cleaning activities include – Wiping the pews with Murphy oil soap, Wiping the long tables in Lewis Hall with Magic Eraser, Cleaning interior Sanctuary windows, Wiping handrails with Murphy oil soap.



Cleaning supplies will be provided.

Come enjoy the camaraderie as we brighten the church up.

Outdoor cleanup will be completed at an indefinite time after it warms up, and the snow disappears.



Come to the Festival of Faith North! April 17-19, 2026, Trinity United Church (downtown) in Prince George. You're invited to gather with church members, volunteers and ministers for a weekend of learning, connection, and celebration! Together,

we'll explore the theme "Stronger Together: Cooperative

required – just a bed, a bathroom, and access to coffee! Email Ben at [Johnstonureymusic@gmail.com](mailto:Johnstonureymusic@gmail.com)

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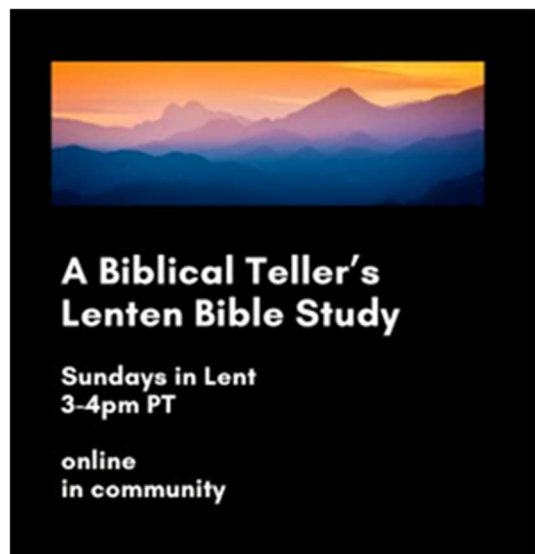
### Upcoming Communion in WUC:

April 5 (Easter)

May 3

June 14

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### Biblical Teller's Lenten Bible Study

Lent Sundays: Feb 22 – Mar 29 at 4pm MST

<https://www.nbscanada.org/lenten-bible-study>

This Lenten practice will be led by three of your favourite biblical teller/teachers: Bev Brazier, Linnea Good and Jan Bihl

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**Camp Spirit is Back!** – Please see the attached info sheet.

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Ministry" with keynote sessions, workshops, worship and more. Come be encouraged, share ideas, and leave renewed for the ministry we share! Also includes two pre-events: **Indigenous Church leaders' gathering** April 17<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 6:30 pm, and **Toward 2035: Northern Cluster Strategy Conversation** to help shape a sustainable ministry in the Northern BC ( Friday April 17, 1–6:30pm). The whole festival is free, registration required, bursaries available for travel/accommodation. More info and registration here:

<https://leadershiftuccan.org/festivaloffaithnorth>

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### Help Lead One of Our Biggest Community Fundraisers!

We're seeking a volunteer Talent Auction Coordinator to organize and oversee bi-annual event – one of our major fundraisers!

This event is usually an evening of auctioned talents, silent auction table items and desserts and coffee/tea. In the past, it has been mostly supported by our church community, but would be nice to open to a wider community. Details for consideration are:

- 6-8 weeks of prep time
- Ideally held towards the end of May (as many items may be warm weather dependent/inspired)
- Actual event on a week night
- Coordinate advertising
- Pulling a team of volunteers together (many of whom are already available)
- Coordinate item entries and work with technical support

If you are organized, enjoy event planning and want to make a meaningful impact, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact Linda Talbot ([lindatalbo@gmail.com](mailto:lindatalbo@gmail.com) /336-0069) for more details.

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## Hiring for Braeburn Camp 2026!

The application process for this summer's Camp Director and Assistant Camp Director opened March 16, and will close March 30. Information can be found on the Braeburn Camp website; questions can be directed to Frances or to Janet Clarke.



## Help Organize Our Community Trunk Sale!

We're looking for a Volunteer coordinator to lead our upcoming Trunk Sale (garage sale fundraiser), held on a Saturday in May or June. How this work as a fundraiser for Whitehorse United Church? We use the parking lot, items are sold out of trunks of cars/trucks (tables are provided), whatever is not sold goes home and the proceeds are for the work of Church. The volunteer coordinator will do:



- Choose and confirm the Saturday date (May or June)
- Advertise and organize vendors, oversee the vendors on the day of the event
- Day-of volunteers available to help

\*This could be an excellent event to involve our Youth!\*  
If you are organized and enjoy bringing community events together, we'd love to have you involved!

For more information, contact Linda Talbot  
([lindatalbo@gmail.com](mailto:lindatalbo@gmail.com) / 336-0069)

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## Braeburn WUC Week 2026

Mark your calendar for this year's WUC Braeburn week: **Aug 3 – 9, 2026**. Come for the week, come for a night ,come for a day. Sunday service August 9 at Braeburn!

For more information contact Brook Hill @ [brook.hill@me.com](mailto:brook.hill@me.com) or Call 867 633 6313



## Lenten thoughts from Frances:

We are on a journey this Lent: a journey through grief. We began on February 22 with Psalm 13; a psalm of lament in which the psalmist cries out to God,

*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?*

*How long will you hide your face from me?*

From there we moved to an outpouring of collective grief in Lamentations 5, the final chapter of the very short and very powerful Book of Lamentations. Its final lines are some of the most devastating in all our scriptures:

*Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored;*

*renew our days as of old—*

*unless you have utterly rejected us*

*and are angry with us beyond measure.*

One of the many gifts of our Old Testament is its ability to put language to depths of emotion and experience that feel unspeakable. The psalms, the books of Job and Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, the prophets: all these give us language for grief, terror, and rage in a way that our contemporary culture can't. They also give us language for joy, the proclamation of God's justice, gratitude, and beauty at heights that match the depth of suffering.

One of the perennial questions of Christianity is why we need the Old Testament when the stories of Jesus are all in the New Testament. This is one of the many reasons: it gives us language that the New Testament doesn't – and probably doesn't bother to attempt because the Old Testament does it so well. When we are in places of grief or pain, it helps to speak these words of our faith, knowing that we are not the first to suffer – but also that others have suffered and healed. It is a promise that we will also find healing.

Grief and pain, whether individual or collective, are never meant to last forever. Our scripture gives them language because naming them is the only way through. All of us will know suffering in our lives, and there are no shortcuts through it except to name it, face it, and keep going. And the promise of our scriptures, the promise of our story as an Easter people, the promise of the Old Testament in its stories of creation, psalms of thanksgiving, and central Exodus story of a liberating God who promises to be our God as we will be God's people; the promise is this: we are not forgotten. We will not be left alone in the dark. We are not abandoned, even though Lamentations howls that fear aloud. Suffering does end, the light does return, healing does come, and new life abounds.

This Sunday we will read Psalm 5, which gives voice to that promise. We have named sorrow and suffering aloud together; join us as we proclaim the promises of God and give voice to joy.



Camp Spirit will be in Whitehorse again for our fourth year from **August 10-14<sup>th</sup>**, 2026. This is a United Church children's day camp with experienced leaders from BC. At Camp Spirit we value listening to & experiencing Sacred Stories, enjoying times of Creativity & Science, moving to Music, Sharing Meals together, and fostering Community, Friendships & Leadership.



### Camp Spirit Registration Opens Monday, March 2nd, 2026!

It might feel early to start dreaming about summer—especially while we're still scraping ice off our windshields—but the season of sunshine and community will be here before we know it. As plans begin to take shape, we'd love Camp Spirit 2026 to be one of the joyful things you pencil into your calendar.

This summer, Camp Spirit is delighted to partner with 22 Communities of Faith across the Pacific Mountain Region. Many of these sites have hosted Camp Spirit for years, building beautiful relationships with their surrounding communities. We're also excited to welcome 5

brand-new sites and celebrate 5 sites returning after hosting for the first time in 2025.

Do you know a child or teen who would thrive in a community that practices radical hospitality, playful and hope-filled faith exploration, child-centred activities, singing, creativity, shared meals, and moments of real belonging? If so, we'd be grateful if you shared this invitation with them.

To find the Camp Spirit location closest to you—and to register Campers or Level Up Youth—please visit our [Camp Spirit website](https://www.campspirit.ca) for full dates and details.

For info: Phone: +1-236-607-0353 / 1-800-934-0434

Feel free to contact Frances or Diane Emond if you have ideas or questions or would like to be involved.

Please help us spread the word about the camp.

Diane: 867-335-7009 [emond.diane@gmail.com](mailto:emond.diane@gmail.com)

