

# *Friday News from South West*

February 24, 2023



## [Walking Through Lent](#)

Walking through the woods is a spiritual experience for me. It is a place where darkness and light interact with each other, and the trees stand witness to the sacredness of creation; of life and death and resurrection – over and over again.

Today is Ash Wednesday and I would love to be out in the woods, but other commitments call today.

So, I sit in my office, watching the birds at the feeder, and wonder what it would be like to walk with the risen Jesus through Lent? I say “risen” because Jesus is eternally present, eternally dying and eternally risen.

Do you recall, after the first resurrection, the early disciples did not recognize that it was Jesus who walked beside them on the road to Emmaus? And other disciples did not recognize Jesus as he cooked fish for them beside the shore? They were looking right at him, but their eyes did not register the person with them as Jesus.

As we walk through Lent this year, let us do so intentionally - open to the process of recognizing Jesus with us.

It may take a few kilometers into the journey before we are able to open our hearts to Jesus’ presence, to open our ears to his voice. But, when we are finally able to match our footsteps to his, we might find we are open to an even deeper experience of the Season of Lent.

Today, unable to walk in the sacred spaces of creation, I pray:

Jesus, walk beside us, walk us through Lent this year.  
Let us feel your presence and hear your voice.  
Open our hearts, let light seep into those places where we have not permitted light to enter.  
Open the eyes of our hearts to see your face in those with whom we work and walk.  
Come into those broken places within us.  
In relationships with others, in the world around us, remain with us.  
Remind us yet again, instill within us once more  
The quiet confidence of hope and joy  
Eternally ours in the Resurrection promised at the end of the journey.

In peace

Pastor Beryl DLM

*Empty Altars - Shared from the musings of Diana Butler Bass at "The Cottage"*

**"Lent, the most somber season of the Christian year, begins with a reminder that everything is dust** — and ends with the stripping of the altars. Some forty days from now, on Holy Thursday, after the liturgy re-enacts the Last Supper, sanctuaries will be darkened as priests and altar guilds remove every image, icon, and sacred element from the church and cover whatever remains in black. That liturgy is a kind of ritual iconoclasm — taking everything away that might distract us from confronting ultimate questions and the unnerving moment of being present with God and God alone."



"During the weeks of Lent, Christians walk with increasing spiritual intensity toward *the* Empty Altar of Good Friday."

"Ash Wednesday invites us to accept this truth of human existence — we are dust, what we build is dust, and sometimes you have to clean out the attic."

"Yet there's a concurrent truth in all this: *dust matters because it is the very stuff of creation.*"

"The question for us: What will we make of the dust we've been given? "

Welcome to Lent. Dust and iconoclasm. Endings and beginnings. Everything falls — or is felled — to dust. And from dust, the world is remade.

***As a subscriber to "The Cottage", the above is shared with permission.  
Pastor Beryl.***

## [A Plan for the Future](#)

We at SouthWest have been struggling with the 11:30 service. Done with the best intentions, it has left the SouthWest community somewhat divided with some members attending the 10:00 am Summerlea service due to the later time slot.

After careful deliberation, we believe that Sunday worship, in conjunction with the Summerlea congregation, would be beneficial to both SouthWest and Summerlea on several levels: our congregation will be reunited once again in worship and our church family relationship will be re-established with the opportunity to grow within the larger congregation.

It is our hope to officially join Summerlea United in 10:00 am worship as of March 5, 2023. This will enable both congregations to travel through the Lenten and Easter seasons as one.

Rev. Christine Gladu will rightfully continue her ministry as she sees fit. Extra resources will be available when and if needed in the person of Beryl Barraclough.

SouthWest United will continue Pastor Beryl Barraclough's contract for another year but focus will be re-directed to stronger pastoral care. With Covid and then with our move to Summerlea, many of those who received pastoral care in the past have fallen through the cracks. The Pastoral Care team will take a greater role in visiting those confined to their own homes, those in senior residences and those who are hospitalized. Visits, including Holy Communion will be offered to anyone who is unable to attend worship. Also, if required, our Pastoral Care team will be available to support any of Summerlea's needs, if required.

Our office administrator and music director will remain on payroll at least until the end of June 2023.

SouthWest United will remain as a pastoral charge until at least the end of the 2024 calendar year.

An updated ministry plan will be prepared and submitted for September 2023.

Dennis Brown,  
Acting Chair of Council

## Verdun Girls

Look at this portrait of a group of Canadian Girls in Training taken in front of Verdun United Church. They look as if they are about to skip out of the frame laughing and chattering but believe it or not this picture dates from the 1930s.



Here's a little background on the CGIT, from the [Canadian Encyclopedia](#): Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) was established in 1915 by the [YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSN](#) and the major Protestant denominations to promote the Christian education of girls aged 12 to 17. Based on the small group whose members planned activities under the leadership of adult women, the program reflected the influence on Canadian [PROTESTANTISM](#) of progressive education, historical criticism of the Bible, the [SOCIAL GOSPEL](#), and Canadian [NATIONALISM](#). CGIT provided leadership training for many young women. In 1933 there were 40 000 members in 1100 communities.

Membership declined after WWII, but the organization continued to flourish in numerous congregations. After 1947 the movement was under the direction of the Dept of Christian Education, [CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES](#). In 1976 the organization became an independent ecumenical body and is now supported by Canadian Baptist Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the [UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA](#). The program continues to place a strong emphasis on participation of the girls and leaders in planning programs and in congregational activities. CGIT provides experience in leadership development skills that are important for today's society. Membership in 1999 was approximately 2000.

## *Zoom Lenten Bible Study*

You are invited to a scheduled Zoom Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Christine-Marie Gladu,

**Thursday mornings beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am.**

Please find links below to the materials that will be discussed.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86964005097?pwd=Sm9aVlFqMFIFaVhuMEVoQINiTTBnQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6400 5097

Passcode: 830264

Click the 3 links below to save or print PDF documents of materials for the bible study:

[Matisse 1](#)

[Matisse 2](#)

[Matisse 3](#)

## **Announcements**

If you read Dennis Brown's words above, you will realize that as of now, 11:30 services at Summerlea are over.

Sunday February 26 is a Joint service with Summerlea at 10AM.

Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>: SouthWest congregation reunited at 10am Summerlea service with Rev. Christine-Marie Gladu. 2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent.

SouthWest Annual Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> after the (10:00) service.

EASTER falls on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> this year.

If you would like to receive the Summerlea bulletin by email every second week, contact their office at 514-634-2651, or email [summerlea\\_united@hotmail.com](mailto:summerlea_united@hotmail.com).

**Please note: the new SouthWest office phone number is 514 538-0624**

### *Our Prayer List*

Bridget McCarthy

Phyllis Luther

Shirley Mitchell

Patrick O'Leary

Natalie Lalonde

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

Gilles Gauthier

Helen Cameron

May Cook

Donna Cobb

Keith Wood

Violet L'Esperance

Roberta Roberts

Sylvia Vallee-Girouard

Summerlea is hosting a **World Day of Prayer** service on **Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am.**

It will be followed by a soup lunch. All are welcome.

Please **call the office to confirm your presence** so they can plan the luncheon.



If you would like your name added to the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.



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