

APRIL 2018

McDougall

MCDUGALL ... A DOWNTOWN PEOPLE PLACE

LIFE



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to fill hungry hearts with the life of the Spirit through the unconditional love of God.

CONTACT US

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McDougall United Church is on [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#). Check us out and become a "Friend."

**FREE PARKING ON
SUNDAY MORNING FOR
CHURCH GUESTS**

MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christina Bellsmith
Minister

Dolores Bell, Programs/
Events and Promotion

Elsie Hoover
Pianist / Organist

Shauna Konelsky
Office Administrator

Kimberley McMann
Music Director

Peter Tinning
Building Superintendent



RESURRECTION

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)

Easter is all about resurrection. In our hemisphere, it coincides with springtime.

All around us we see the annual miracle of resurrection take place. For me, the earliest sign of spring is the pussy willow. In February, I make it a point of going to the farmer's market and purchasing a bunch that comes directly from the farm.

They are so soft and beautiful! I have a vase filled with them in my living room.

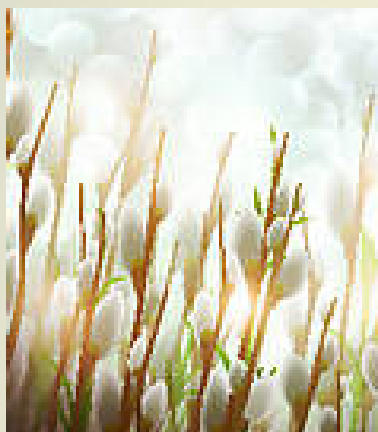
What would life be without the hope of resurrection? How unbearable would winter be if there was no hope of spring? When we watch the leaves shrivel and die in the fall, how would we feel if we didn't know they would bud again one day?

So it is when we lose our loved ones to death. It seems many of us have experienced that over the past year. How deep would be our grief if we did not have the hope of seeing them again?

Jesus is all about resurrection. He foretold of his own death but then added, 'I will rise again!' Matthew 26:32 records, 'But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.' This was incredulous to the disciples. They could not believe it. For a while they did not believe it even after it happened. But they became believers. The gospels record that Jesus rose from the dead and convinced his disciples of that fact with 'many infallible proofs' Acts 3:1.

After that things were never the same. They went everywhere and communicated the good news that Jesus was alive. They gave people hope that death is not the end. Death is not a period but a comma. There is more to come! The world has never been the same since.

There are two kinds of resurrection. The Bible talks about the resurrection of our bodies in the same way that Jesus was resurrected. In fact, his resurrection is offered as proof that one day it will happen to all of those who believe. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that if we try to be Christians without this hope we are of all people 'most miserable.' He wrote, 'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable' 1 Corinthians 15:19 NKJV. Resurrection is our hope when we lose our loved ones. It is our hope when we face our own hour of death.



Yet there is another kind of resurrection. For many, it has already happened! It is the resurrection to new life in Christ. That is why Paul wrote, 'And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.' When we were spiritually dead and cut off from God because of our sin, Christ made us alive. We have been given the life of the Spirit. Our spirits have been made alive. Life has taken on a whole new meaning as a result.

This resurrection is available to all who ask. It is not based on merit but on God's free gift. This Easter, dare to hope! If you have not already done so, take this gift of life for your own.

Receive the new life offered by God through the Spirit.
All one has to do is ask.

In this resurrection season, my prayer for you and yours is that the renewal of springtime and the new life that God offers will seep deeply into your souls, and that everything you are and everything you do will be touched by the energizing life of the Spirit. Happy Easter!

Rev. Christina Bellsmith

APRIL 2018

OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS



Date: Friday, March 30, 2018
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Immigration Hall, 100 St. & 105 Ave. (next to the George Spady Centre)
About: The walk will follow paved streets and lanes in the Inner city and is for all ages and levels of ability. It takes about two hours and is 1.5 km.

This is an annual ecumenical prayer walk and offers participants a time to notice how the gospel values of Jesus are important to Individuals and social life today.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Date: Friday, March 30, 2018
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: McDougall United Church
 10025 – 101 Street

Music: McDougall Church Section Leaders
About: The central focus of the service is the story of the crucifixion. We gather at the cross to experience the pain, sorrow and brokenness in the context of the larger story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

HOLY SATURDAY INTERLUDE

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2018
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: McDougall Sanctuary
Guest Musician: Bill Damur, Classical Guitar
A Contemporary Reflection: Gary Simpson
About: This is an between time. It comes between Good Friday and Easter morning and is a time to reflect on the events of the sacred story and how death is transformed into life, and darkness gives way to light. The music is meditative, the reflection contemporary. Our time together in a quiet space offers a place for reflection and our own journey toward Easter morning.



SUNRISE SERVICE AND BREAKFAST

Date: Sunday, April 1, 2018
Time: 7 a.m.
Location: We meet at the church and walk across the street overlooking the river valley. (Please use south entrance)
Worship Leader: Rev. Edith Harnden
 We welcome the dawn as the sun rises over the river valley. As a community we celebrate the resurrection in the morning light and hear again the Easter story. We conclude with breakfast at the church.

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Date: Sunday, April 1, 2018
Time: 10:30 a.m.
 We gather to celebrate and hear once again the



Easter story. This is a traditional service, including the joyful music of Easter with the McDougall choir, organ, and piano. The service will include Baptism, Reception of New Members, and Communion.

The observances that began with Palm Sunday and conclude with Easter Sunday are the central worship events of the Christian year.

MCDUGALL WELCOMES THE CONCERT AND FESTIVAL COMMUNITY



Sunday, April 29–
 Chorale Saint-Jean Concert, 2:30 p.m. and Guest choirs
Sunday, April 15 –
 Kiwanis Music Festival Gala, 2:30 p.m.

MCDUGALL CONCERT ASSOCIATION MUSIC WEDNESDAYS AT NOON



Their season has ended, but not without much appreciation and accolades from the wider community who enjoy the music.

Thank you for these wonderful noontime concerts which add richness to life downtown – and to McDougall!

HAVEN (LGBTQ)



Date: Sunday, April 15th, 2018
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: McDougall Church, lower hall (Please use south entrance 10086 Macdonald Dr.)
About: Haven is a group of LGBTQ people of all ages who create a contemporary evangelical style of Christian worship largely for this community, although all are welcome. Their purpose is to provide a safe place where LGBTQ and straight Christians can worship God.

CHOIR NOTES ...



It was music to our ears to learn of the safe arrival of **Gemma Louise McMann** in the wee hours of the morning of Friday, March 2 weighing 6 pounds 15 ounces.

Happy mom and dad are Kimberley and Sean McMann and big brother James. We were especially glad to meet Gemma last Sunday when she was brought to McDougall to say “hello” to the choir and congregation. A little sweetheart for sure!

We also welcome our pianist/organist **Elsie Hoover** to the helm as Choir Director while Kimberley is on leave until June 30, 2018. How fortunate we are to have this talented musician stepping up to the plate so capably! Thank you, Elsie!

BISSELL SANDWICH-MAKING

We regret that effective immediately, the Bissell Centre has suspended the intake of all food made in external kitchens. Health inspectors have made this necessary. This means **we will no longer be making sandwiches each month, or lunch for the Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) once a year.** However, **money received in support of these projects will be sent directly to the Bissell Centre to sponsor and support their lunch bag project, which replaces the sandwich-making.**

We will keep you informed of further news or ways we can help.
Please keep your financial support coming!
THANK YOU.

AND FINALLY ...

NOT EVERYTHING IN LIFE HAS TO MAKE SENSE.

OTHER EVENTS

COSMIC ADVENTURES

Children and Youth programs

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP - Weekly Sunday, 9 a.m. Resumes in May

BIBLICAL QUEERIES - First Sunday of the month, 7 p.m., Norwood Room

PAINTING FOR PLEASURE - Weekly Thursday, 10 a.m., Norwood Room

PRAYER GROUP - Weekly Thursday, 2 p.m., McDougall Lounge

CHOIR PRACTICE - Weekly Thursday, 6 p.m., Norwood Room

HAVEN (LGBTQ) - Third Sunday of the month, 7 p.m., Banquet Hall

AFFIRM (LGBTQ) - Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 p.m. *State & Main* (101 street and Jasper Ave)

MEN'S POTLUCK SUPPER GROUP - Third Tuesday of the month, at Gerald Watts' home

BOOK GROUP - Third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.,

PASTORAL CARE - On-going and meets as required

PRAISE REVOLUTION - Last Saturday every Month 7 p.m.

ABOUT TOWN ...

Laughter and Humour: Wellness for the Health of It

Date: Friday, April 6
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Sherwood Park United Church, 20 Fir Street, Sherwood Park
Presenter: Dr. Billy Streat, University of Alberta Professor

Healing Pathway Workshop: Phase 1, Introduction

Date: April 20-21, 2018
Location: Grace United Church, 6215 – 104 Av.
To register: call 780-467-6636 or 780-908-9288
About: A program to help people develop the gifts and skills of energy-based healing within the Christian tradition.

Beyond Speakers Series: The Intersection of Religion and Public Life: Oil and Water

Date: Wednesday, April 11
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Southminster-United church, 10740 – 19 Ave.
Admission: free
Guest Speaker: Ian Wilson, Director, Chester Ronning Centre, Augustana University

The Tradition of African-American Spirituals Chronos Vocal Ensemble

Date: Sunday, April 15, 2018
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, 10035 – 103 St.
Tickets: Tix on the Square

Requiem for the Living Chorale Saint-Jean and the Choirs of Augustana Campus

Date: Sunday, April 8, 2018
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: McDougall United Church, 10025 – 101 St.
Tickets: Tix on the Square, \$30/\$20