

Welcome Home!

Summer 2019 officially lasts until September 23, but Labour Day, fall fairs, and a new school year all signal a new season. Many of us enjoyed summer holidays, at home or away. For some, it was precious family time, whether enjoying young family members making memories or treasuring every minute with a loved one whose time is winding down.

Through it all, we are grateful for our church family, which includes friends at West Plains United Church, with whom EPUC folks worshipped during August. How quickly fall approaches, inviting us to come home to East Plains United Church!

We celebrate this new season in the church year as the Season of Creation. Thanks to Rev. Harold Wells for a comprehensive introduction on September 1. I look forward to incorporating Creation wisdom from Celtic consciousness in the rest of September worship.

We are also at the midpoint of a two year transitional ministry, with much to discern in this calendar year. One thing we are doing to facilitate that is a pilot Ministry and Personnel process, introduced at a recent Interim Ministry retreat. You can read about it in Brenda McMaster's M&P report in this newsletter. I am very enthusiastic about the process, because it involves ministry leaders from all the congregational ministries (each wearing multiple hats) to discern with the minister (and eventually other staff) how the prioritization of their work can best support the congregational priorities for mission and ministry in a given year. An opportunity to include others in an evaluation feedback loop happens part-way through the year. Finally, there is a strategy for resourcing the staff person to better carry out their work. This process to align the work of staff with congregational goals will be valuable in future pastoral relationships. I welcome practicing the process with my transitional work this year, both for benchmarks for my interim ministry work and so M&P and other church leaders can become comfortable with it. Eventually, it could also be used with other staff as well.

I am grateful for the past year of building trust together as we mutually carried out ongoing ministries of the EPUC faith community and laid foundations for future possibilities. We can expect renovation construction for the new non-profit Childcare Centre to commence this fall. The East Plains Childcare Centre Corporation expects to be in operation by spring, serving the community of Aldershot for generations to come.

Be encouraged by the rest of the good news in this newsletter and stay tuned for new developments as they unfold. I am joyfully looking forward to this next year with you!

Rev. Barb