



# The Mustard Seed

Volume 22 Issue 2

March 2016

*"We dare to live the Way of Jesus, embodying the Love of God"*

The last week of Lent is known as **Holy Week**. It is when Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life and is the most important time in the Christian year. There are many church services and processions.

**Palm Sunday** marks the start of Holy Week. It reminds Christians of the journey Jesus made into Jerusalem, on a donkey, to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover (Pesach). Jesus chose a donkey to show that he had come in peace. Many people welcomed Jesus by shouting, waving palm branches and throwing branches down in the path of the donkey. They hoped that Jesus was the Saviour who the Bible had promised. Palm Sunday is both a happy and sad day. Christians are happy because they are singing praises to Jesus but also sad because they know Jesus died less than a week after his arrival in Jerusalem.



On the night before his death Jesus had a final meal with his friends. Before this festival meal for Passover, Jesus surprised his friends by washing the feet of every person, a task that was normally done by a servant. He wanted to show his followers that they should love one another in humble ways. Later in the meal, which is known to Christians as 'The Last Supper', Jesus passed round bread and wine. He said the bread was his body broken for them and the wine was his blood shed for them. He was telling them that he was going to die and that when they share bread and wine they should remember him. Christians share bread and wine at their church services all year round, but it is even more special on **Maundy Thursday**. Jesus also told his friends that they should love one another. It was later on this night that Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.



On **Good Friday** Christians remember the day that Jesus was killed on the cross. He was nailed to a wooden cross by Roman soldiers. This is the reason why the cross is an important sign for Christians today. Good Friday is a sad day and churches never have flowers or decorations on this day. The church is left dark and there is just a simple cross on the altar. It is known as Good Friday for some because Christians believe that Jesus gave up his life for the good of everyone.



In this Holy Week and Easter season may we be aware of God's promise of new life revealed in the risen Christ. In these coming weeks and months, as we remember the experiences of Jesus' disciples and the early Christian communities of faith, may we ask ourselves what signs of the living Christ do we see in our own lives.

May our lives be blessed and may we remember that Christ lives and breathes and works through us. Wherever we are, whatever we do in Christ's name, we will always be connected to each other in love, in faith and in hope.

*Easter Blessings*



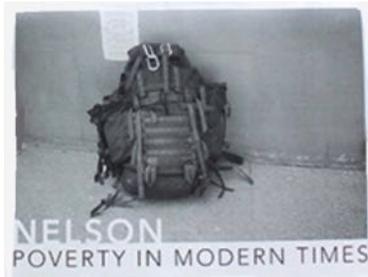
Nelson United Church – Guatemala Alliance  
for Community Wellbeing, affectionately  
known as Guatemala Bienestar  
("Bienestar" is Spanish for "well-being").

Visit us on Favebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NelsonBienestar/>  
and on the NUC website: <http://nelsonunitedchurch.ca/guatemala-bienestar/>



### *Poverty in Modern Times Calendar Project*

The calendar project officially wound down in early February, and with all our accounts now settled, I am very pleased to report a net income of \$3,311. As this was our inaugural year, I think we at Nelson United Church can be very pleased with this outcome. The funds go directly to the poor and homeless, likely as a food subsidy.



We learned a great deal our first year. First and foremost, we learned it's not ideal or desirable for the project to be carried by one person alone. So, we'll be looking for other people who have an interest in social justice, especially poverty and homelessness, to join the calendar project team. The responsibilities are

not too heavy, but the project does go on in duration for some months. It would be most wonderful if someone with experience in sales and marketing could assist with increasing the visibility of the project in the Nelson community.

The project was truly a community effort, from the engagement and participation of Vogue Photographic, to the multiple downtown shops and businesses that agreed to sell the calendar. Most important was the support the project received from Nelson United Church itself, and from many members who braved the cold to sell the calendars at Oso Negro early in December. Many thanks to all. I hope you'll join the team. If you're interested, please contact Rona Park.

Submitted by,  
Morgan Gould

### The Mustard Seed is the newsletter of Nelson United Church

Submissions are welcome and can be sent to the Editor by email or dropped of at the Church Office.  
e-mail submissions  
to the Editor:  
[nucwebminister@icloud.com](mailto:nucwebminister@icloud.com)

Our newsletter is published periodically throughout the year.



Check out the Church website:  
[nelsonunitedchurch.ca](http://nelsonunitedchurch.ca)



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Easter is the only  
time of the year  
when it's perfectly  
safe to put all your  
eggs in one basket.  
~ Author Unknown

## Upcoming Worship Services and Events

(See other articles for more information.)

### Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:00 pm - 6<sup>th</sup> Lenten  
Spiritual Practice: Chant &  
Song - Church Hall

### Maundy Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm - Maundy  
Thursday Worship Service  
- St. Saviour's Anglican Church

### Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm - Ecumenical Good Friday Worship  
Service - by Ascension Lutheran Church held  
at St. Saviour's  
Anglican Church

### Easter Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

7:30 am - Ecumenical Easter Early Worship  
Service - by Ascension Lutheran Church held  
at Rosemont School  
8:30 am - Pot-luck Breakfast - Church Hall  
9:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt - Church Hall  
10:00 am - Easter Worship Service with  
Holy Communion - Sanctuary

### Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 am - Worship Service - Sanctuary



Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> -  
Kootenay Presbytery Spring Meetings -  
Robertson Memorial United Church, Nakusp

### Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am - Worship Service: Carol Prochaska  
presides - Sanctuary

### Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am - Worship Service - Nelson Jubilee  
Manor  
2:00 pm - Worship Service - Mountain Lake  
Seniors Community

### Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am - Worship Service: Leslie Windsor  
presides - Sanctuary

### Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am - Worship Service - Sanctuary

### Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

10:00 am - Worship Service - Sanctuary

### Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am - Spring Coffee Party

### Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am - Worship Service - Sanctuary

### Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

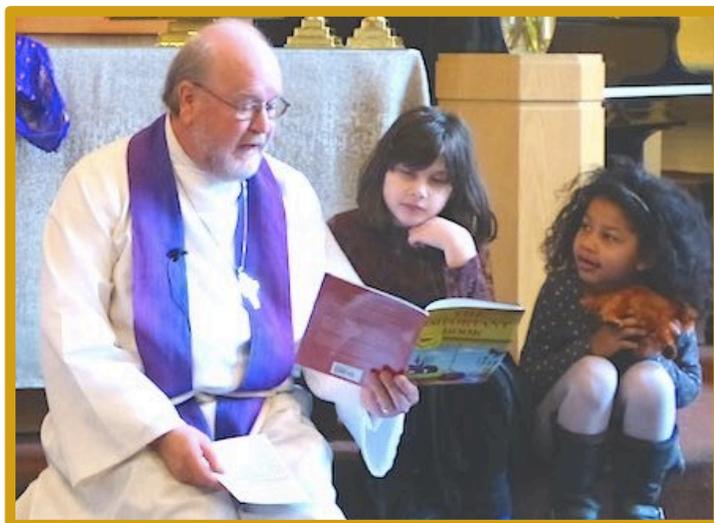
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Manor  
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Seniors Community



*Christ the Lord is risen today  
Sons of men and angels say  
Raise your joys and triumphs high  
Sing ye heavens, and earth reply.*



Charles Wesley,  
"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"





Many poems and prayers from the medieval Church depicted Lent as a time of descent. For forty days one descends into the realities of earthly living, heightened during the Three Great Days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday—before emerging into the new dawn of Easter morning. It was a spiritual journey that marked the contrast between Lent (and short days) and the Easter spring of new life.

These ancient poems depict what used to be an ancient spiritual tradition in which people would embody the spiritual journey through physical disciplines like fasting, meditation, prayerful walking, or using a labyrinth. The idea was that by encountering more fully the depths of our humanity we would embrace more fully the heights of Easter glory. We experience death in life but with Christ comes the indomitable spring.

In this post-modern world in which we live, it is harder to live symbolically in Lent. Easter advertisements (not quite like Christmas) are already on TV for chocolate and Easter trinkets available at various stores. In a society where every day is very similar, it is much harder to engage in the fullness of a church season... except the high, holy days. The culture around us does like the big festivals like Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Cultural assumptions aside, this coming week, which we call Holy Week, is the culmination of our Lenten preparations. And after the Great Three Days, there is the release of Easter and the dawn of great celebration.

I've always liked this rhythm at the end of Lent. There is something quite powerful about observing Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday in some way; it heightens the sense of Easter. I think, too, that it is quite literally good for our souls.

Every religion in some way tries to mark different seasons of the religious year. There are times of preparation before the festivals. It would seem that disciplines of fasting and meditation before times of celebration are good for us. There is a sense in which this is a depiction of real life—we experience sorrows and challenges and we experience celebrations and feasts.

Going through periods of fasting and preparation help us experience the feast more fully. But in a mystical sense, this kind of preparation invites us to emphasize—in the Christian Church—the presence of Christ in our lives. Christ lives in us and each year we experience the depths of despair as Jesus enters Jerusalem and goes through The Passion there. We mystically participate in the life of Christ. And then on that fateful Sunday morning, we mystically participate in Christ's resurrection. This kind of movement spiritually was what the medieval mystics and church leaders were encouraging.

The whole idea is that the promise of resurrection and new life needs to be planted each year deeply into our lives. Easter Day isn't just one more day on the calendar. It has the deep meaning that God is the God of life—all life! God is the God who doesn't allow death to have the last word. God is the God of hope and new beginnings. We are not defined by the small deaths we experience every day; we are defined by the glorious love of God that we experience in Christ's resurrection.

So, this week—Holy Week—you are invited to enter the events of this week; mark them in whatever ways are meaningful to you. Prepare for the Festival of Easter and plant the seeds of hope, compassion, love and new life deeply in your lives.

Many blessings to all!  
David

## Board Report

This year there were a number of new people stepping onto the church board – the body responsible for discerning the mission of the congregation, creating a strategy for living it out, setting policy and providing oversight of congregational life. It has been a busy year of rich learning and challenge! In addition to (more-than) monthly meetings, the board took two day-long retreats. The retreat in April helped facilitate the transition between the old board and the new. In August, we gathered to delve into the four mission goals embraced by the last board. Out of that meeting we chose three immediate goals: the development of a communication strategy, the reconfiguration of the sanctuary to make it a more flexible and inviting space and the re-direction of the vision statement of NUC so that groups, teams and individuals within the church feel that they own the goals and have the permission to strategize about how they might creatively live out one or more of them. A fourth board goal of creating a plan for the Long Term Stability of the congregation was added in October.

A number of conversations and initiatives this year have come together to suggest a clear next step for the board. In May, Morgan and Jane Harding introduced the concept of Legacy giving as a way of supporting the ongoing financial viability of the church into future. In October a small group gathered to brainstorm ideas about the sanctuary space. Then in the late fall we were blessed with an extraordinary donation of \$100,000 and a Donation Steering Committee was brought together by the Nominations team to consider the use of these funds. Finally, the presbytery-sponsored Re-Reformation Day on All Hallows Eve, encouraged us to think creatively how we might continue to carry the love and message of Jesus Christ into the world around us, even as we face a future of declining church membership. Considering these developments and in light of our goals, the board has decided to launch a three-part stewardship campaign, "Building for the Future." The committee that will head up this campaign will consider programming and the use of physical space, including the sanctuary. As well, we intend to have "cottage gatherings" in order to consult with the congregation about our mission

goals and to discuss immediate programs and giving, legacy giving and volunteerism.

Ongoing work of the board includes the development of a "Safe Church Policy" and "Safe Church Team" which aims to ensure that the worth, safety and dignity of all members of the community is respected, by providing guidelines and a process for engaging individuals whose behaviour is disrespectful, disruptive or dangerous. As well, we are seeking further clarification about the consensus decision making process that we use as a congregation and have invited Beryl Clayton to address the board in the spring. We continue to work on the development of an overall communications strategy for the church. In terms of personnel, the board, on the recommendation of the M&P committee decided to change Custodial services from a contract to an employee position effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The Ministry of Family and



Youth continues as a contract position until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at which time the board will review the terms of employment. Finally, in light of a commitment to climate justice and environmental stewardship, the board made the decision to purchase two solar panels from the Solar Garden.

Catherine Rose, co-chair

## **INSPIRED ABOUT YOUTH MINISTRY**

By Robin Murray

From March 4-6, BC Conference hosted an exciting new Children and Youth Leadership Conference at St. Andrews-Wesley United Church in Vancouver, aptly named “Inspire”. I was delighted to be one of about 150 people that came from across Canada to participate, representing six denominations. The conference offered a variety of workshops and inspirational speakers from a variety of youth ministry backgrounds, some of whom came up from the United States to share their wisdom with us.

Participants were only able to choose four workshops out of a wonderful variety of offerings, so I chose ones in youth ministry, faith formation, family ministries and facilitating change. I learned a great deal and picked up a backpack full of resource materials. Perhaps the most important thing that took away from the conference was a reminder about the crucial importance of relationships in our ministry together as a congregation. The more connected our children, youth and families are to many different members of the congregation, the better we can help one another to see God's work in our lives and to listen to the Holy Spirit's call.

There were many ideas that came up at the conference where I was happy to be able to say that our congregation was already doing them and doing them well. Our worship services intentionally includes a variety of our senses – sight, sound, touch, taste and smell as we put our whole selves into God's praise and communion with one another.

Our Sunday School program allows children a balance of participating in the life of the whole community and meeting them where they are, allowing for experiences of meaningful worship appropriate to different ages. The adults in this congregation also consistently model the kind of service to God, caring for one another and striving for justice, required of those following the way of Jesus and embodying God's love.

We have room to kick it up a notch, though.

Our youth, in particular, could use stronger connections to the adults in our congregation – not as teachers or other authorities, but as fellow travellers on the journey, who they can rely on when the going gets tough. Our Friday night Youth Group, ideally, should have a variety of adult volunteers (not parents) joining us on a semi-regular basis. Another area I plan to work on, is how to offer our families better support in carrying out their baptismal promise to raise their children in the Christian Way, especially in this time of busy schedules, changing family make up, and society's indifference to faith. Also, if we are to have any kind of Young Adult program, we, as a congregation, will need to be willing to dedicate more staff resources towards making that happen.

I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to participate in such a rich learning environment with so many dedicated people, passionate about Children, Youth and Family Ministries. I look forward to sharing the things I learned and the fun ideas I collected with all of you as we journey on together in ministry.

the  
**NaramataCentre**  
society

### **Summer Registration is Opening March 20**

You have been asking and now we can answer: registration for accommodation and programs at Naramata Centre will be open March 20, 2016. We are welcoming back past participants and new folks from May 28 to October 15, 2016. Registration for accommodation and programs will be managed separately, and both will be accessible through our website.

Information about accommodation and rates for camping, East Court, Orchard Court and Cottage Court have been posted on our website: [www.naramatacentresociety.org](http://www.naramatacentresociety.org)

## YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Adult Volunteers are needed to take turns assisting with the Friday night Youth Group meetings, about once a month. Must be willing to listen to and take seriously the concerns of teenagers, take part in low-energy games with enthusiasm (such as board games), cheer on the youth during their high-energy, often noisy and chaotic games, and maybe run the popcorn maker occasionally. No activity planning or running around required. However, a vulnerable sector background check and short training session are required. If you have questions or feel called to be a part of our Youth Group ministry, please let Robin or Lois know.

250-352-2822, [youth@nelsonunitedchurch.ca](mailto:youth@nelsonunitedchurch.ca)



### SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Intergenerational Family Camp: July 11-16  
Co-ed Novice (ages 7 - 9): July 18-21  
Jr Boys (ages 10 - 13): July 25-30  
Co-ed Teen (ages 14 - 17): August 1-6  
Jr Girls (ages 10 - 13): August 8-13

In order to once again provide a camping ministry at Koolaree this summer, we need to accomplish a fair bit of work this spring. The first major **work party is set for April 23, 2016** and we are hoping for a good turnout of helpers willing to put in a hard day's effort. For safety reasons, quite a number of hazard trees will have to be felled around the camp and this job and the resulting clean up will be the focus of the first work party. Sweeping, dusting, grass cutting etc. can be left to a later date. For more information, please go to <http://campkoolaree.ca/camp-work-party-april-23-20/>



Photo credit: Linn Murray

**Camp Koolaree is kicking off its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations with a lobby exhibit at Touchstones Nelson Museum of Art and History** on Vernon Street in Nelson. The exhibit is on display until April 2, with a reception on Thursday, March 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission to the museum's lobby and gift store are free, so anyone can stop by to learn more about this historic camp or take a trip down memory lane to their own camping days.

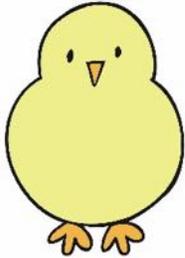
There will be an **85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House on Saturday, July 9**

For more information on our summer or to donate to the campership fund, visit [www.campkoolaree.ca](http://www.campkoolaree.ca)

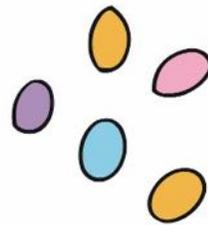
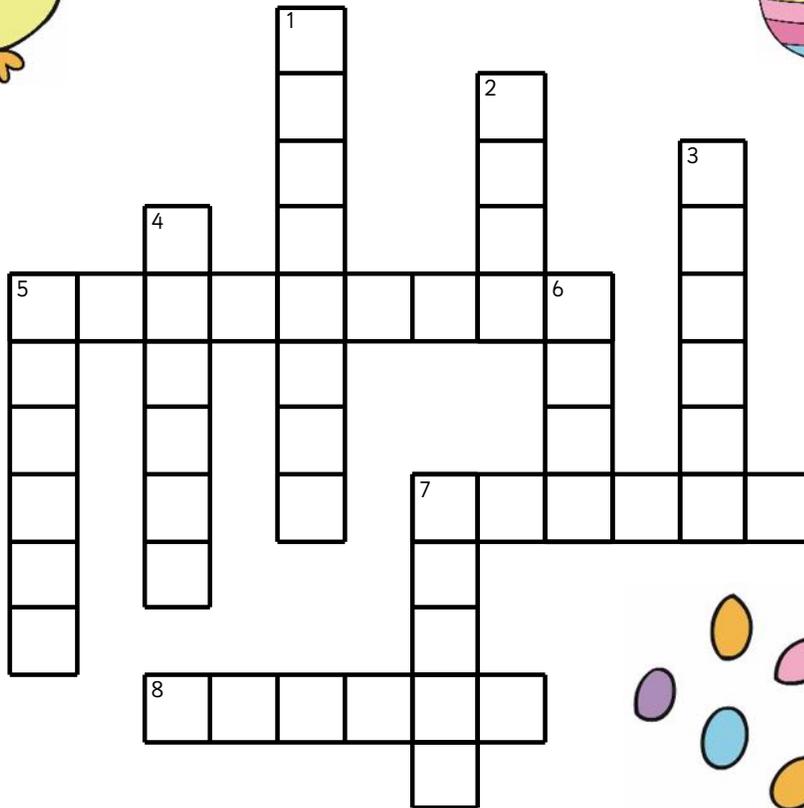
*"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act."*

~ Mahatma Gandhi

# Kids' Page



## Easter Crossword



### Across

5. Easter eggs are often made out of this treat!
7. Collect your eggs in this.
8. The season in which Easter is celebrated.

### Down

1. Cheerful, yellow spring flower.
2. You may go on an Easter egg ...
3. Show off your Easter bonnet at one!
4. You may wear one in the Easter parade.
5. These hatch out of real eggs.
6. We give chocolate ones at Easter.
7. Who will visit you this year?

