



Whew, 2020 has been a year! Since March, we have bumped up against a lot of change, loss, fear and more than our fair share of uncertainty. You'd think that after all the struggle and stress of the past seven months, the spirit of gratitude that comes with Thanksgiving would be more subdued this October, but as I am making my way around Harvey and our wider community, I am encountering generosity and gratitude everywhere I go. It's good to know that despite all the complexities of life, simple things still bring comfort, joy and gratefulness - like a fire burning in the woodstove on a chilly autumn evening and a warm sweater knit with love worn on a cool, sunny fall day. There are so many things around us that call us toward thankfulness and remind us of how blessed we are to live in this place. The beauty and wonder of trees refusing to go darkly into the long winter's night without a burst of colour beforehand remind us that we live in God's wondrous world. While things like home-made soup, long phone calls with family and friends, walks in the woods with a furry companion, family outings to the apple orchard and carefully prepared meals keep us connected and remind us that we are not alone. And of course, something I am particularly thankful for, the ongoing life and work that we share together as St Andrew's United Church reminds us that we are part of something bigger. A mission and ministry that calls us to love and serve God, one another and those around us.

What are you thankful for this year? Carry it with you in your heart as we gather for our Thanksgiving worship service **Sunday, October 11th at 10:30 am** (on Facebook Live or in-person). Together, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion and the people, places and things that bring us joy and move us to feel gratitude.

Thanksgiving allows us time, intentional time, for reflecting on the people and things that bring us joy and give life meaning. Gratitude can help us to gain perspective. Gratitude, especially in a world that feels a bit off-kilter, goes a long way in changing how we see and experience our lives and the lives of others. Gratitude, I suppose, can seem kind of too simple, too easy, too mundane even, especially in the midst of 2020, but it is absolutely a radical revolutionary thing. A perspective-changing thing. Even a life-changing thing.

Wishing you all the best this Thanksgiving and always!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Christine

*PS: Here's one more thing to celebrate this October. Want to get one of the 'good' seats at the back of the sanctuary, but don't want to wait until the last minute to arrive on Sunday morning? Not to worry! We've heard your concerns and we're changing how we enter our sanctuary. **Starting on October 18th, we'll be using the CE Centre door as our main entrance.** So, spread the word! October 18th come early, come to the CE Centre door, sign in and a seat at the back may be waiting for you!*

