

LUCs News ~ January 2023



Lennoxville United Church

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January 1st – New Years Day – **no** service

January 8th – Epiphany – Rev. Ron Coughlin

January 15th – Second after Epiphany – Scott Patton

January 22th – Third after Epiphany – Jamie Crooks

January 29th – Fourth after Epiphany – Bruce Gilbert

More worship services: Rev. Angelika Piché and Samuel V. Dansokho will lead the services at Manoir St-Francis at 10: 30 am and at Grace Village at 1:30pm on 26th January, 2023

A gentle reminder: Please let Anna know if you have any changes of mailing or email addresses 😊

More coming events: JAN.21: Battle of the Churches Curling Bonspiel. Contact Nancy Baldwin if you are interested.

JAN.27: Student suppers return to Lennoxville United Church. Nancy Baldwin is the contact person.

Deadline for LUCs News: Please note that the deadline for any news or reports for LUCs News is the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Ministry and Personnel Committee



The Ministry and Personnel Committee, otherwise referred to as the “M&P Committee,” is a mandatory committee of the governing body of the congregation or pastoral charge. The members of the M&P Committee of Lennoxville United Church are: Claudia Demers, Kristan McKercher, Pierre Demers, Dave McCormack and Carolyn Gilchrist. This committee was under the mindful leadership of Dale Smith for over 20 years, who left his mark on the important decisions that the committee faced over that period with its members, who continue to serve today. Carolyn joined the committee in 2020 and accepted the designation of chairperson at that time.

The Policies, Procedures and Practices of the M&P are carefully outlined in the United Church of Canada Manual. The Role and Responsibilities of the M&P Committee is comprised of three distinct components: the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. It is understood that the M&P is inherently involved in the hiring process of employees and in exit interviews when an employee retires or resigns.

Confidentiality is vital to the work of the M&P Committee, keeping in mind that this committee is held accountable to the governing body (Council), thus the importance of building relationships of trust with staff and members of the community of faith. For the sake of transparency, the M&P Committee handles concerns and complaints as they arise, and strive to do so in a fitting manner and within a reasonable amount of time.

The M&P Committee is obliged to respond and treat all concerns and complaints that are in writing and signed; concerns and complaints that are anonymous will not be considered by the Committee. Such situations can be sent to any member of the M&P Committee but will be examined and treated by all its members.

The M&P Committee meets monthly to ensure that its role and responsibilities are fulfilled according to the policy statements set forth to guide this committee. The Committee sets up annual reviews with each staff member and maintains up-to-date records of all recommendations and decisions that will ensure that workplace conditions are both healthy and safe.

We hope that this summary is both helpful and informative to those who may not be familiar with the structure and role of the Ministry and Personnel Committee of Lennoxville United Church.

Carolyn Gilchrist for the Ministry and Personnel Committee

Chinese New Year is coming!



The Chinese New Year is on January 22nd this year, although it is usually celebrated on New Year's Eve. This year will be the year of the rabbit, so anyone who was born in 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, or 2023 after Chinese New Year (usually at the end of January or the beginning of February), their Zodiac sign is the rabbit. Traditionally speaking, for the people whose Zodiac sign is the same animal as the year, they wear something red all year, such as a red belt, or underwear, as a blessing for the entire year.

In China, the Chinese New Year lasts the entire week before New Year's Eve until the lantern festival, which is the 15th day after New Year's Day. In order to throw out the bad luck from the past and embrace the good luck for the next year, every family cleans their home one week ahead of time as thoroughly as possible. We also prepare food for the family reunion, and decorate our home to build some New Year spirit.

As for the big New Year's Eve meal, most of the dishes we prepare have a special meaning, like chicken means good fortune, fish means surplus every year, etc. As for my family, since we lived by the sea, besides chicken and fish, my parents would buy all kinds of seafood and we would cook them ourselves. And of course, we made dumplings (shaped like ancient Chinese money, meaning good fortune) on New Year's Eve. Actually, there is a disagreement between northern and southern China about what is the most traditional food on New Year's Eve, because the northern Chinese believe it is dumplings, while the southern Chinese prefer sweet dumplings (sticky rice balls filled with sweet stuffing), which means reunion.



As for decorations, we have red couplets around the door, and also red window grids with the Zodiac patterns or words of blessing. There are red lanterns hanging everywhere on the street. Most of families will also buy or receive the word “福” (pronounced *fú*) on a red paper and stick it on the outside of their front door. This word means blessing for everything: good health, good fortune, good luck, you name it! Having this word on the door is the most traditional decoration. Some Chinese families may not hang red couplets, but they usually at least hang the “福” word. Some families



put the word upside down, which also works, because in Chinese, “upside down” is pronounced the same as “arrive,” so if we put this word upside down, it means “blessing arrives.” In rural areas, people prefer to buy handwritten red couplets and “福” words from morning markets; in cities, different companies or institutions distribute them for free. After all, nobody would throw “blessings” away, so even though it is a blessing with a small advertisement, we are still happy to keep it.

On New Year's Eve, all family members go back to their parents' or grandparents' home to celebrate together. We have the biggest meal of the year, watch the New Year's Gala on TV while making dumplings (or sweet dumplings) together, and wait until 12 a.m. Then we wish everyone we know a Happy New Year, either face-to-face or online. And after that, throughout the New Year, especially during the first 7 days (since it is a holiday), we visit all of our elderly relatives or call them to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Even if we don't live in the same city or country, we still call them and offer our best wishes. And at the lantern festival, the southern Chinese in particular send up lighted lanterns to the sky or on the river, to send wishes to the coming year.