

*From the desk of The Reverend Andrea Brennan, Pastor
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www.christchurchfernie.ca

www.knoxunitedferniebc.ca

*The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. (Matthew 2.10, NRSV)*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

This has been a year of change...of firsts...of endings...of beginnings.

This has been a year of tremendous emotion – some of it very good and some of it not so good. Yet here we are! Three months into Shared Ministry and so far, all marbles are intact! We came together for a fabulous celebration on Sunday the 29th of September. We worshipped through song, scripture, homily, symbols and communion. And, of course, the food. Mother Nature did not fully cooperate, yet the day was delightful. I continue to smile when I think of the fellowship we shared as a Parish.



As I watch the fog lift and the mountains appear again I continue to be in awe of this beautiful corner of creation. I like to look at the sky, to check out the clouds, to see things change before my very eyes.

I've been reflecting a lot on stepping out in faith. Certainly there has been fear and apprehension during the 107 days we've been in shared ministry (who's counting?). Moreso, there has been great joy as we explore just what this shared, and mutual ministry means.

For some it may not appear that much different – other than a change in service times. For others it seems completely different as there's a different person at the lectern for worship each Sunday. For me, there's the excitement of learning about the United Church and grafting it with my Anglican experiences and journeys.

I've been reflecting on the shepherds lately. They were solitary beings, looking after sheep, day in and day out. They were apart from the crowds, choosing to be alone, surrounded by thoughts and stars, not people. One evening, which started out like any other, became an extraordinary evening they would always remember.

An angel appeared in the sky. Not the Disney/Hallmark angel we think of all tiny, pink and cuddly. This was a grown-man-sized angel with a wingspan to match. Terrifying! It is no wonder then that Gabriel's first words were "do not be afraid". At the top of the page is a painting by Govert Flinck, a Dutch painter, (1639) depicting the angels visit.

The shepherds were terrified, yet they heard the message of the angel that a miraculous baby had been born and they needed only to follow the star in the sky to meet him. The story of the angels and shepherds has been captured in many of the Christmas hymns we enjoy to this day.

Let us be like the shepherds. Terrified at times, yet trusting in the angels that remind us to look for the Christ child. Follow the star to Bethlehem is what they did. Let us invite the Christ child into our hearts that we may step forward in faith, in hope, in love and in joy. O Come Emmanuel!

As the chorus of Shepherds in the Fields Abiding reminds us "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the highest). From my heart to yours I wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas season. May we see with the innocence of children; trust with the strength of the shepherds and love with the heart of Mary.

Andrea+



Please post this list in a prominent place at home.

Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Pajama Mass at CHRIST CHURCH Anglican

7:00 pm – Traditional Worship at KNOX UNITED Church

11:00 pm – Candlelight Worship at CHRIST CHURCH Anglican

Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day

10:00 am – Contemplative Said Service at Christ Church Anglican

Sunday 29 December – 10:00 am – Christ Church Anglican

Parish Lessons & Carols Service

As it is the 5th Sunday the Congregations of Knox United Church and Christ Church Anglican will join together to worship at **Christ Church**. Please note time change.

Saturday 4 January – Parish Outdoor Church – Epiphany Edition!

4:30 pm – we gather on the back lawn of City Hall where we will share some songs and games. Potluck supper followed by a reprisal of the funny Epiphany play from 2018 including a visit from the Wise Women! All are welcome!

Sunday 5 January – Epiphany

9:00 am – Christ Church (Holy Eucharist)

11:00 am – Knox United (Holy Communion)

Thursday 9 January to 19 February – Reverend Andrea will be on medical leave

Friday 14 February – ACW Valentine's Supper

Bring your Valentine to a delicious turkey and ham supper with all the trimmings at Christ Church Anglican. Tickets \$15 Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Sunday 16 February – Epiphany 6

9:00 am – Christ Church (Morning Prayer)

10:30 am – Christ Church Annual General Meeting – Reverend Andrea in attendance

11:00 am – Knox United (Holy Worship)

Sunday 23 February – Transfiguration – Reverend Andrea back to work

9:00 am – Christ Church (Holy Eucharist)

11:00 am – Knox United (Holy Worship)

11:30 am – Knox United Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14 March – Irish Stew Supper

Bring your favourite Leprechaun to a fabulous Irish Stew Supper at Knox United. Tickets \$15 Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Sunday 29 March - 10:00 am – Knox United Church

Parish Worship – YAY!

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