

# *Friday News from South West*

March 10, 2023

## [Lent Three: Living Water](#)

Our Gospel reading from John 4: 5-42 is dominated by the conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman he meets at the well.

As in our reading of Lent 2, both Nicodemus and this Samaritan woman are struggling to understand Jesus' teachings about "spiritual" things.

But this woman is everything Nicodemus is not – she is a woman living in a society where she has no standing and no voice, despised as a Samaritan, morally suspect and isolated from her community. Why else would she be alone at the well at the hottest time of day?



This is a story about how a woman's voice changed a community; a community which has shunned her. She is alone rather than with the safety of other women, seeking water in the most dangerous part of the day.

She is in the wilderness, even though she is familiar with the terrain.

Jesus broke Jewish tradition to engage her in conversation. The woman was interested, initially confused and defensive, but, unlike Nicodemus, she felt she had nothing to lose by engaging with Jesus.

Perhaps it was this fact that allowed her to finally "see" past her physical needs to the spiritual truths that Jesus was teaching her. While the woman needs physical water for her body, it is the spiritual water, the living water of Jesus, that gives her a voice others will hear.

In verse 49, the woman asks a bold question of her community, "He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" She testifies to her community that "he told me everything I have ever done" and uses her voice to tell the truth about her encounter. There is a realization that her voice can effect change. The candour with which this woman had an open and honest conversation with Jesus leads to change. For herself and for her community.

This story speaks to those times when we ourselves may have felt shunned, on the outside, unworthy and yearning for a word of acceptance, a sign of respect, a show of welcome.

This story goes to the heart of what it means to be in a Christian community – an inclusive, intercultural, radically hospitable congregation where absolute welcome is both given and received.

Yes, water is necessary for human life; within the faith community it is we who must make the connection – as Jesus did – that God is the necessity for our daily living.

Like the woman at the well, we can use our voices to quarrel with God, to ask big questions, and to speak the truth. We can use our voices to change our communities and praise God. As we thirst for new life, we find refreshment in the water offered by God in the desert places.

Our Prayer for Lent 3

*God of all life, sometimes we think our voices don't matter.*

*We have important things to say and wonder if anyone will listen.*

*We offer a different perspective from the world and it is rejected.*

*Give us big voices, Holy One.*

*Give us voices that are loud enough to claim that you are the one who*

*provided water in the desert, living water at a well, and that in you we find resurrection and claim it for ourselves. Amen.*

In peace

Pastor Beryl, DLM

*These thought and words are a compilation of reflections I have done over the years, and are also based upon exegesis gleaned from Seasons of the Spirit.*

## *Spring Forward this Weekend!*

Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> is the day we change our clocks to Daylight Saving time. The best thing to do is to move the time ahead one hour as you are going to bed on Saturday (10pm becomes 11pm, for example). Yes, you may “lose” an hour of sleep, but think of the extra hour of daylight come Sunday evening!



## [Zoom Lenten Bible Study](#)

The third and final installment of this Lenten study is on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Use the same Zoom link below.

You are invited to a scheduled Zoom Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Christine-Marie Gladu, **Thursday mornings beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am.**

Please find links below to the materials that will be discussed.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86964005097?pwd=Sm9aVlFqMFIFaVhuMEVoQINiTTBnQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6400 5097

Passcode: 830264

Click the 3 links below to save or print PDF documents of materials for the bible study:

[Matisse 1](#)

[Matisse 2](#)

[Matisse 3](#)



## *PIE Day is Coming*

Moderator Carmen Lansdowne invites you and your faith communities to [participate in PIE Day](#), a time to be PUBLIC, INTENTIONAL, and EXPLICIT in welcoming and affirming Two-Spirit or LGBTQIA+ people in our churches, families, and society.

PIE Day is March 14, a day to celebrate with people across Canada, and maybe with some pie too! Watch Carmen's message [here](#).

## **Announcements**

As of now, there are no more 11:30 SouthWest services.

**Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup>: 3rd of Lent. Summerlea and SouthWest service at 10am**

SouthWest Annual Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> after the (10:00) service.

EASTER falls on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> this year.

If you would like to receive the Summerlea bulletin by email every second week, contact their office at 514-634-2651, or email [summerlea\\_united@hotmail.com](mailto:summerlea_united@hotmail.com).

**Please note: the new SouthWest office phone number is 514 538-0624**

### *Our Prayer List*

Bridget McCarthy

Phyllis Luther

Shirley Mitchell

Patrick O'Leary

Natalie Lalonde

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

Gilles Gauthier

Helen Cameron

May Cook

Donna Cobb

Keith Wood

Violet L'Esperance

Roberta Roberts

Sylvia Vallee-Girouard

If you would like your name added to the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.



*SouthWest United Church*

*phone: 514 538-0624*

*email: [southwestunited@gmail.com](mailto:southwestunited@gmail.com)*

*Web: [Southwestunited.net](http://Southwestunited.net)*