

# STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

APRIL 30, 2023

*You are a valued member of our church family  
and a gift to us!*

## PRAYER - STEPHANIE (EPHESIANS 4:1-16)

Jesus thank You for calling us to one hope, one Lord, one baptism, one God and Father. May we live a life worthy of this calling, exhibiting godly character, moral courage, personal integrity and mature behaviour. May our lives express gratitude daily to You for our salvation, in humility, gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in unselfish love. May we make every effort to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the bond of peace, each individual working together to make the whole successful.

God thank You for Your grace and undeserved favor given to each of us in proportion to the measure of Christ's rich and abundant gift. Thank You for gifting us each uniquely, fully equipping us for every good work that You have for us.

May we speak the truth in love in all things - our speech and our lives - and may we grow up in all things into Christ. May You continue perfecting us to serve, so that we would look more and more like Your Son. May Your church continue to be built up, until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, becoming mature believers, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ - healthy, growing and full of love! In Jesus' matchless and mighty name, Amen.

## WORSHIP IN SONG

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one*

*And they'll know we are Christians*

*By our love, by our love*

*Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love*

## SERMON - PASTOR KIM

### The Church that Christ Builds: All for One and One for All (Ephesians 4:1-16)

I love the church even though it's often messy. We shouldn't really be surprised when things get messy at church since it's full of people—broken people. Yet that's the vehicle God chose to share His love with the world.

A lot of Paul's letters were written to respond to specific problems in the church. The principles in this letter are for the universal church but are meant to be practiced in the local churches. The church is God's presence in the world. We are a visual representation of what the grace and transformation of Jesus Christ can do in a person's life and then in the world. We are God's presence in the world.

Paul begs us to live up to our calling. He has been teaching about what that calling looks like and now he lists five characteristics, or virtues that should be part of the Christian life.

1. Humility—See yourself as you are. It's not looking down on yourself, but it's also not puffing yourself up. It's also recognizing that in God's eyes we're all equally valued and equally loved.
2. Gentleness or meekness—This is not weakness, but rather being gentle in how we relate to people, even in tough situations.
3. Patience—Sometimes we need patience, especially when others aren't gentle or meek!
4. Bear with one another—If we could do this better, it would sure make a difference in the church. Bearing with one another includes accepting differences and different ways of doing things and not getting angry, but recognizing that we all have personal preferences and personalities.
5. Love—Love binds it all together.

If we are humble, gentle, patient and bear with one another then it makes it easier to love others. Others that are different, have different ideas, different backgrounds and even different beliefs or

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interpretations on some things. We're talking about grace.

These are not easy virtues, but as Paul says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

It is work but it is a work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Unity is not uniformity. That will never happen, nor should we expect it to. There can be unity with different ideas and beliefs but we need those five virtues in order to have unity without uniformity. We build unity when we worship together, when we share our gifts, when we rejoice with one another and when we weep with one another.

The church is a living thing and living things are supposed to grow. Church growth is not just about numbers, but also about maturity. Unity and growth are intertwined in Ephesians. It takes maturity to get along with people that you don't agree with.

Paul also talks about spiritual gifts. The gifts he lists are for the leaders who are to use these gifts for equipping the body for the growth of the family of God. Others also have gifts and each gift matters for the growth and the work of the church. Working together in unity will honour God and grow the kingdom of God on earth.

"Herein is the great secret of unity. Our methods may be different, our organization may be different, even some of our beliefs may be different: but we are all striving toward the one goal, the goal of a world redeemed in Christ." – William Barclay

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT MCIVOR

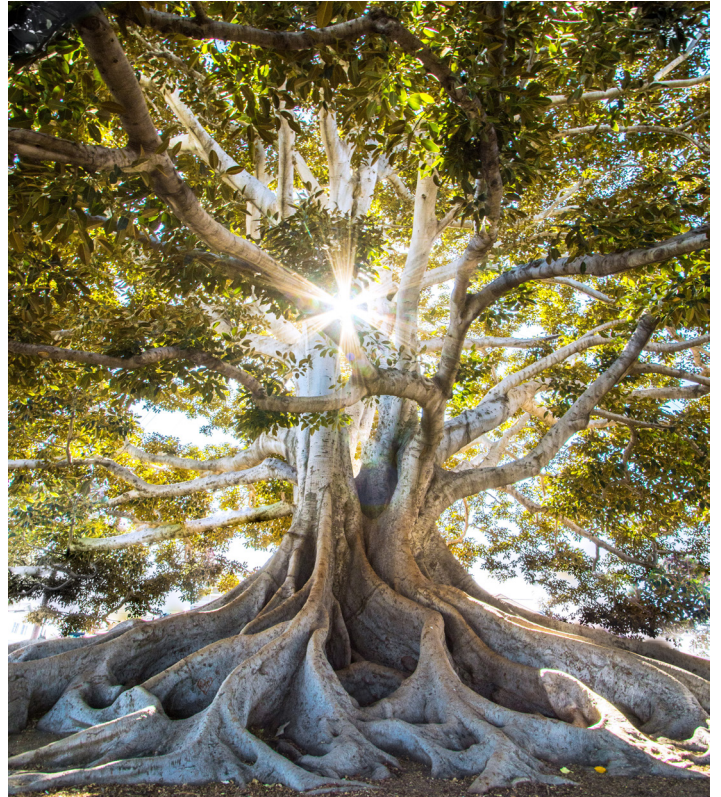
April 30 - Family Fun Day 12:00 pm  
May 3 - Tying quilts for MCC 9:00-noon  
May 3 - Youth Night 7:00 pm  
May 4 - Food Bank 9:00 am and 5:00 pm  
May 7 - Bridal Shower for Mikayla 2:00 pm  
May 11 - Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm  
May 16 - 10:30 am 55+ Ascension Day Pizza Lunch

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Drop-Off Cash or Cheque** during office hours Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

**E-Transfer** - Can be set up through your bank and emailed to [mcivor@mcivorchurch.com](mailto:mcivor@mcivorchurch.com).

**Direct Deposit** - Contact church office to request the forms to set up automatic monthly donations



healthy, growing, deeply rooted, mature, full of love

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Church Family News

On behalf of the Regier family, we would like to thank our church family for the flowers, cards, emails and condolences that were expressed to us at the passing of our daughter Carol/ sister and aunt. What a blessing it is to feel the prayers and experience the care and love of Jesus expressed through our church. - The Regier family

### 188 Lent Project

The Missions Committee wishes to thank those that contributed to our 188 Lent Project. With your help we raised just over \$440 along with two very full baskets of items. These will go a long way in helping the Outreach Ministry programs at 188 Princess!

### Bridal Shower for Mikayla

There will be a church bridal shower for our Youth Pastor, Mikayla next Sunday at 2 pm at the church. All ladies are invited. We will collect money for a group gift(s). We invite you to sign up in the foyer if you'd like to attend.