

**SUMMERLAND & WESTBANK UNITED CHURCH**

*celebrating faith  
seeking justice and  
serving others in a loving community*

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**A Joint Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches  
Rev. Donald Schmidt - Presiding  
Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> - 10 a.m.**



PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey, Summerland United  
Words of Welcome: Sharon O'Shaughnessy, Summerland United  
Scripture Reading: Lois Jefferis, Westbank United

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**GATHERING TIME**  
**INTRODUCTION & EXPLANATION**  
**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

9:45AM  
Rev. Donald Schmidt  
Rev. Donald Schmidt

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**BELL RINGING**  
**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Sharon O'Shaughnessy, Summerland United

A warm welcome to our friends from Westbank, and Summerland United Churches who are with us today and to all those joining us from other locations. If there are any visitors today from other congregations or other places, we welcome you and thank you for joining us this morning. If you are comfortable, please unmute yourself and tell us where or what congregation you are from. Please remember to re-mute yourself.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION**

Friends, we gather apart but together. I invite you now to switch to gallery view or scroll through your screen to witness the children of God gathered with us today.

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE**  
**WE SING TOGETHER**

Rev. Donald Schmidt  
MV 8 – And on this Path

**CALL TO WORSHIP** – *from* Whole People of God

**Responsorial**

Come let us gather and give thanks  
**for long bright days and the spouting of seeds.**  
Come let us gather and listen  
**to the beloved stories of Jesus.**  
Come let us gather and sing joyously  
**as an expression of God's Spirit within us.**  
Come let us worship God!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**In Unison**

O God, as we gather this morning,  
fill us with wonder and openness to your surprises,  
around us and within us.  
Help us to see how the smallest actions of love  
can transform our world and our lives.

Nudge us and nurture us that we might grow into the people you intend us to be. Amen.

**WE SING TOGETHER**

**VU 222** – Come Let Us Sing

**SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 4: 26-34**

Lois Jefferis, Westbank United

**REFLECTION**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

**WE SING TOGETHER**

**VU 660** - How Firm a Foundation

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Traditional

**OFFERING**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

Loving God, we offer you our gifts and ourselves. We pray that you would use them for your purposes that your glory would be shown in every area of our world. Amen.

**COMMUNION**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

**WE SING TOGETHER**

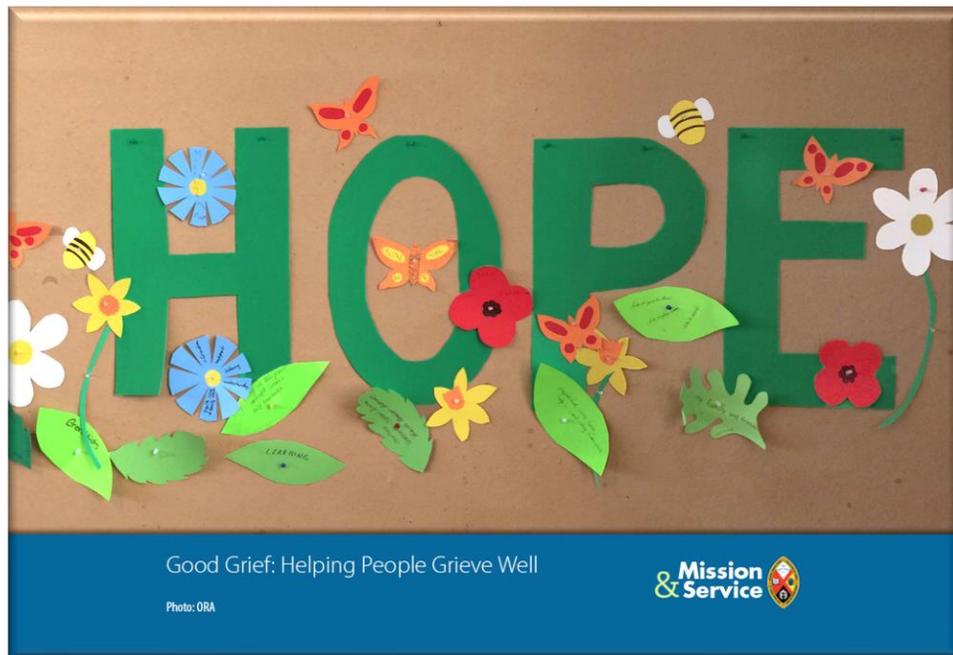
**MV 209** – Go Make A Difference

**BLESSING**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

**CHAT ROOMS**

## MISSION & SERVICE



People experiencing loss, share what brings them hope on a wall at Ste-Geneviève United Church.

*Credit: ORA*

“Languishing.” That’s the latest popular word to describe how many of us feel as the pandemic rolls on. Some organizations, like the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), are flagging the potential for a mental health “echo pandemic,” explaining that even after the virus is brought under control it could be followed by a pandemic of mental health issues.

“Concerns about the mental health impacts of COVID-19 align with recent research on the mental health consequences of large-scale traumatic, natural, and environmental disasters. Disasters are frequently accompanied by increases in mental health problems...all of which can persist for prolonged periods,” says CMHA in a [policy brief](#).

COVID-19 has amplified grief, which for some can contribute to mental health issues. None of us is a stranger to grief these days. Losses are piling up: income and security, physical contact with loved ones, future plans, rituals like funerals and weddings, going to school in person, losing loved ones to the virus. To quote grief expert [David Kessler](#), “This is hitting us and we’re grieving. Collectively. We are not used to this kind of collective grief in the air.” Blessedly, numerous organizations that your Mission & Service gifts support provide crucial mental health services. From chaplaincies, to shelters, to addiction treatment, to counselling services, your support is there.

ORA Loss & Living Program, a non-profit community outreach initiative developed by Ste-Geneviève United Church in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec, is one organization your gifts support. ORA, named after a Maori word meaning “life,” helps people move through grief and loss in order to lead full and fulfilling lives. So far, peer-support groups hosted by skilled facilitators have been held for family caregivers, refugees, seniors, widows, and churches in transition.

“We have offered online conversation during the pandemic. Many social workers and students participated to get a handle on coping mechanisms for grief in general and COVID grief in particular,” says Judy Coffin, ORA’s former program coordinator and ongoing volunteer. ORA is currently running an online widow support group, cooking program, and yoga/meditation group.

“Everyone in the world gets hit with loss and grief at some point in life, but most of us are totally unprepared to deal with it. Learning how to acknowledge, recognize—and even embrace—our grief allows us to start rebuilding our lives around our loss,” says Coffin. *Your gifts through [Mission & Service](#) help transform lives during life’s most stressful times. Thank you.*