Hello friends!

A bittersweet moment: it has been a joy and delight to worship with you, get to know you, and work with you these last few months. I am sorry it is ending; I am also looking forward to all that is on the horizon for us all.

This week we will read Acts 1:1-11, which tells of Jesus’ ascension but also features the disciples gazing up after him and then being told that there is work to be done! So it is a fitting note on which to end our time together.

Last week we offered the opportunity to type prayer requests into the chat box during the gathering time before the service, and that worked really well. If that is something that works for you, you are welcome to do that again this week.

Thank you all so much for your warmth, welcome, openness, and grace in these months. It has been a privilege to work with you.

Bless you all.

Take care,

Frances

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**September 27, 2020**

**A Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches**

**Frances Kitson presiding**

**Power Point:  Judi Ritcey (SUC)**

**GATHERING TIME: 9:45AM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**Frances

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**Frances

**BELL RINGING:  10AM**

**WORDS OF WELCOME:  Helen Reid – Westbank United**

*A warm welcome to our friends from Summerland and Westbank United Churches who are with us today and to all those joining us from other locations. If there are any visitors joining us today from other congregations or other places, we would love to know you. If you feel comfortable, you are now invited to unmute yourself and introduce yourself.*

**MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION:**Frances

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE:**Frances

**GATHERING PRAYER:**Frances

**WE SING TOGETHER:**Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives (MV 6)

**OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**Frances

**WE SING TOGETHER:**       Called by Earth and Sky, (MV 135)

**SCRIPTURE READING:**Acts 1:1-11 (RSV) – Larry Harder, Summerland United

**REFLECTION:**Frances

**WE SING TOGETHER:**My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**Wanda Colvin – Westbank United

**WE SING TOGETHER:**Be Thou My Vision (VU 642)

**GOODBYES & THANKS:**Frances

                                      Lois Schultz, Westbank United
                                      Dixie Rosher, Summerland United

**ANTHEM:**The Blessing (South Africa)

**BLESSING:**                   Judi

**BREAK INTO CHAT ROOMS**

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**Announcements:**

To all school bag helpers:  Thank you all.

As sales end, we are now beginning to count supplies. If you are working on school bags at home, could you contact Kathryn McLaughlin at 494-9277 or Charlotte Burley at 494-1173 to help us get an accurate count.

We’d also like to know if you would be interested in helping when we “bag” it all at the church. Please call us to volunteer, we have “FUN” and would enjoy your company.

A Reminder:

If you are making a donation to The Food Bank, please make it out to Summerland United Church, with a note at the bottom of the cheque; Donation to the Food Bank. The United Church of Canada will match these funds. This means we will continue to help the Food Bank at a time when we are not able to do our usual fund raising activities. The receipt for those donations will come from our church at the end of the year. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

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Acts 1:1-11

Revised Standard Version

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

**1**In the first book, O The-oph′ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2**until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3**To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. **4**And while staying[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1%3A+1-11&version=RSV#fen-RSV-26910a)] with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, **5**for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**The Ascension of Jesus**

**6**So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7**He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar′ia and to the end of the earth.” **9**And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10**And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, **11**and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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The Rev. Donald Smith is leading a book study on Revelation from Thursday, October 15th to Thursday November 26th., 2020 - 7 weeks duration.  **It will be a zoom Bible Study and will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

Though this Bible Study is part of Summerland and Westbank's contract with Donald, please feel free to invite family or friends who might be interested in learning more about The Book of Revelations.

Copies of the study guide have been placed in the church offices. It is not necessary to purchase the Study Guide, but it would be very helpful to have it for the Bible Study Sessions. The cost for the book  is $15.00.

If you are interested in being part of this Bible Study please purchase your book there, or let the office know that you do want to register. All proceeds from the sale of Donald's book are being donated to an El Salvador Educational Fund which provides higher level schooling, to a maximum of three years, for students who otherwise would not be able to continue on with their education.

A **recurring Zoom meeting** will be sent out to those who register.  Please provide the office with the following information so that you will

be included in the Zoom invitation.

**Name:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Contact Phone Number:**

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**RECAP OF THE BOOK**

Revelation is a powerful book that was written a long time ago to express a powerful message. Unfortunately, so many people have played with it and interpreted it and have found in it only the things they wanted to find, it’s difficult to “hear” the original intent through all the interpretation.

Yet, when we set aside the nonsense and speculation, we find a story of God’s presence with a fractured and frightened community, with a church that had no idea what the future might hold, and with a people who wondered if it was time to give up and abandon what they believed – all of which makes Revelation a perfect book to study in our own time and place, because so many church communities today and so many of the people who inhabit them are all of those things: fractured and frightened, uncertain of what the future might hold, wondering if we should just give up.

Revelation for Progressive Christians is a seven-session study guide that invites readers to explore Revelation as fun, hope-filled book that contains a lot of fanciful imagery and symbolic references, to be sure, but that, as its core, offers words of assurance and hope to the church and its people today.

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