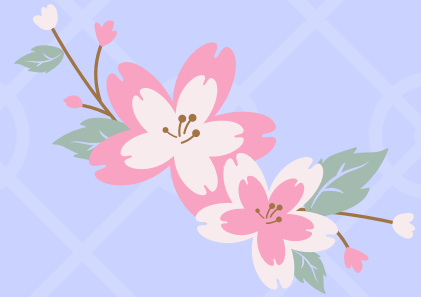




April 14, 2021



## *Pastor's Parable*

A recent book club group discovered *Braiding Sweetgrass*, a fascinating work by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a mother, scientist, professor and member of the Potawatomi Nation. I love this book as it has challenged me to the core!!

I was able to be a part of a virtual conversation recently with Dr. Kimmerer who was interviewed by profs from U Vic and UBC. She asks, "Can we behave as if the living world is a gift?" In today's culture everything is viewed through a market economy with all the world a commodity to be sold and purchased. When this happens, we grow increasingly poor, economically, politically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. What if we viewed the world through a gift economy with the world around us merits a "Thank you!" How dare we live an ungrateful life in which we fail to offer our thanks – in words, actions and attitude?

We are challenged to create longing within us to live in a world that is considered gift! Consider the lives that have been given for our comfort and our existence. Consider the tree that gave its life for the tissue paper, the massive oaks for our floors, the grapes that flavour our wine, the algae in our toothpaste. What if we begin to pay attention and notice until we feel awash in the gift of life around us? Everything we put into our mouths and everything that allows us to live is because of the gift of another life.

We are showered everyday with these gifts, but they are not meant for us to keep! Their life is in their movement. Our work and our joy is to pass along the gift and to trust that what we put into the universe will always come back.

Reflecting on our lives of late, it may be difficult to feel and to express a great deal of gratitude. Can you imagine thinking, feeling or saying, "Thank you that so much of our lives have been erased from our recent memories. No visits, hugs, or beautiful symphonies. Gone have been the memorable birthdays and anniversaries. Missing are the significant holidays.

What if instead of languishing in our losses, we celebrated our gifts. Thank you to the countless persons who have showed up at work every day over the last 13 months in Dr's offices and hospitals. Continue showing gratitude to the cashiers, delivery drivers, sanitation workers and postal employees. A gift economy creates new awareness of the sacrifices that have been and are being made so that we may live. Thank you for the new life that is emerging around us showing blooms and colors that remind us the death of fall and winter is now making possible the rebirth of the new life that is spring.

What if we begin to pay attention and notice until we feel awash in the gift of life around us?

Thanks to each of you for the life and energy you willingly give to the life and ministry that is St. Andrew's.

Thanks be to God. In Gratitude, Mitch

[Click here to sing with  
Susie and Christine](#)



[Click here for a video message  
from Pastor Coggin](#)

# Remember to stay safe!

We've been in "pandemic mode" for a while now, but it's important to remember the basics in order to keep ourselves and each other safe.

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. Keep them clean.
- Keep at least two metres away from people outside your household (or bubble of one or two if you live alone).
- Keep your distance from people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wear a mask in public spaces, especially indoors.



For information on the Covid vaccine and BC's vaccination plan, [click here](#).



## Hanami "Viewing flowers"



Hanami refers to the Japanese tradition of viewing and enjoying blossoms.

Sakura or Cherry Blossom festivals take place all over Japan during the months that the blossoms are blooming in different regions.

Traditionally, poets would write about the blossoms and the fleeting nature of their beauty. Today, many people gather to enjoy a picnic with family or friends. Sometimes foods are even flavored with blossoms and cherry leaves.

Maybe this week is a nice chance to go for a walk or a drive to see the last of the blossoms in Victoria. Pick up a bento box from a local restaurant or bring your own picnic. Maybe you'll even be inspired to write a poem!



## Presbyterian National Women's Gathering

An in-person gathering is being planned for 2022. [Click here](#) for preliminary information and to sign up to receive information

## Sustaining New Ministries Conference

Are you interested in learning how Presbyteries can support new ministry ideas? This conference is free and you can attend online. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Read From Your Bible This Week

- Acts 3:12-19
- Psalm 4
- 1 John 3:1-7
- Luke 24:36b-48

