

## *Methodist News*



### *Thanksgiving*

**This** month, regardless of the results of elections, our friends in the USA will celebrate Thanksgiving. It turns out that feeling and expressing appreciation is good for us, no matter what our circumstances. In church, we give thanks to God 'for all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above', and for those who share their gifts with the world. So here, borrowed from the Haudenosaunee people of America, is a Thanksgiving address.

#### **The People**

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

*Now our minds are one.*

#### **The Earth Mother**

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Waters**

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms: waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the water.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Fish**

We turn our minds to the all the fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the fish and send our greetings and thanks.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Plants**

Now we turn toward the vast fields of plant life. As far as the eye can see, the plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing plant life for many generations to come.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Food Plants**

With one mind, we turn to honour and thank all the food plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Medicine Herbs**

Now we turn to all the medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the medicines and to the keepers of the medicines.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Animals**

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honoured by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Trees**

We now turn our thoughts to the trees. The earth has many families of trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the tree life.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Birds**

We put our minds together as one and thank all the birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the birds, from the smallest to the largest, we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Four Winds**

We are all thankful to the power we know as the four winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the four winds.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Thunderers**

Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers, the thunderers, come from. With lightning and thundering voices, they bring with them the water that renews life. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our grandfathers, the thunderers.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Sun**

We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest brother, the sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our brother, the sun.

*Now our minds are one.*

### **The Moon**

We put our minds together to give thanks to our oldest grandmother, the moon, who lights the night-time sky. She is the leader of woman all over the world, and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our grandmother, the moon.

*Now our minds are one.*

### The Stars

We give thanks to the stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them in the night, helping the moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered together as one, we send greetings and thanks to the stars.

*Now our minds are one.*

### The Enlightened Teachers

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

*Now our minds are one.*

### The Creator

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

*Now our minds are one.*

### Closing Words

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

*Now our minds are one.*

**Revd Dr Helen Hooley**

*With thanks to "Braiding Sweetgrass", by Robin Wall Kimmerer*

[https://americanindian.si.edu/environment/pdf/01\\_02\\_Thanksgiving\\_Address.pdf](https://americanindian.si.edu/environment/pdf/01_02_Thanksgiving_Address.pdf)

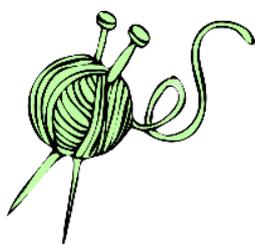
## *Update*

**Yet** another month gone by! We have now been 'open' for services either with a 'streamed' service or our own 'live' service for two months but there are no signs of being able to re-open for all our other activities. We are missing the fellowship we have with our usual groups and pray that everyone is coping with the situation. We are looking forward to the time when we can all meet together in normal circumstances.

House groups are still holding 'virtual get-togethers' and those who are unable to attend our chapel on a Sunday are accessing a variety of local and national services, details of which are being circulated to our attendees.

It is good to keep in touch as a church and to know that prayers are being said. If you wish for us to pray for someone or a particular situation, please let Ruth (861461) or Barbara (860823) know.

### *Calling all Knitters: help decorate the village for Christmas*



**I am** organising a community Christmas project to help us get into the Christmas spirit. We are not able to gather together in person at present but we can work individually to help this display take shape. All you need to do is knit a strip approximately 9" x 1" in green wool. I found that using DK wool and number 10/3¼ needles and producing 10 rows of 45 stitches is about right. However this can vary from knitter to knitter; it is just a guideline. I did garter stitch but there again you can choose.

You can deliver your finished strips to 16 Ryland Road, Welton.

Please ring Linda on 860998 if you would like more information.

### *Christmas Toy Appeal*

**Don't let Covid stop Christmas...** It may not be the Christmas we planned but it is up to us to make it special. So once again I am appealing for gifts for struggling families in and around Lincoln. We are looking for gifts for ages ranging from babies to teenagers. We ask that they are unwrapped to help with the sorting.



We have been organising this appeal for many years and are always overwhelmed by your generosity. These gifts make such a difference and bring a smile to the faces of the whole family.

Christmas is all about giving and I sincerely hope you will feel able to help.

**Linda 860998**