



Monday Musing: June 22, 2026
Changes...

As Karen and I have hiked through the years, we have hiked through the seasons. We've watched forests turn from being white with snow to lush with green. We've watched the changes in between as leaves are born, grass pushes through the soil, flowers bloom, and ice gives way to running water. And then when the weather becomes colder, the skies gray, the branches empty of their leaves and the snow falls. Each transition takes time. We have to remember to intentionally notice the small changes that lead to the bigger transitions. We can all see these things in our own backyards too, right?

We can also see the changes and the transitions in our lives as we move through the seasons of being kids like in the spring of life, then we move into the summer of excitement, work, friends, marriage perhaps, maybe children, then into the season of houses empty of kids, patterns changing, until we reach the season of retirement that takes us to our last quarter, the winter of our years. There are seasons of the earth. There are the seasons of our lives. And there are changes that when noticed mark the transition from one season to the next.

We see the same thing in our own bodies. We start out as young, able to fall and bounce back up, able to run and play and work and stay up all night! Then we slow down as our life season changes. Our patterns change. Our bodies show a few wrinkles and maybe some rolls. Then come the gray hairs, a few extra pounds maybe, and a few aches and pains. The last season is difficult as we see our decreasing independence, our need for more assistance, our need to hire others to do what we use to do for ourselves. Our bodies tell our stories like the seasons of our lives, or the seasons in the forest.

The church has been through seasons too. It started out so small in Jerusalem with the disciples. It spread and grew with the apostle Paul throughout the Middle East to the Gentile world. It attached itself with the Roman Empire and had huge influence and prominence for centuries. The church split in 1054 into the Western or Roman Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Roman Catholic Church split again in 1500s with the Protestant Reformation which was really a revolution! The Roman Catholic Church went through its own Counter Reformation, reforming, changing, transitioning, even as the Protestant Church continued to spread and grow and divide itself too. That is how we come today to have Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Anabaptist, Congregational, Baptist, Adventist, Pentecostal Churches and more! Then, later some churches chose to join together, almost like living together, or getting married. For us, that's when The United Church of Canada was born.

We were young in 1925, enjoying the waters of our growth across Canada. By the 1950s and early 1960s, we were pretty darn big. But changes were happening. A transition was coming. We're living in the wake of the transition that was the end of Christendom and the beginning of the spread and growth of new ways of believing. But within the United Church, we changed internally over the years too. And now, many of our churches are transitioning even as the United Church is transitioning to meet the new age that is upon us.

Looking back through my pictures of our hikes, I can see each new season and when I really pay attention, I can see the changes in the forests and the trees in those pictures. Flipping through our photo albums and digital frames, we notice how we have changed within the seasons of our lives. Transitions don't suddenly happen. They evolve. Changes along the way, noticed or not, lead to transitions. Our task is to notice the changes and be willing to let go of what was and be open to what is unfolding. Like ... be ready to notice the grass coming through the soil.

What other seeds lie there in the soil of life? What seeds of new life lie in the soil of time? Remember even the Dark Ages were the soil for the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. And what a re-birth that was!

Prayer

Creator of the seasons, in the world, on the earth, in our lives,
May we notice the changes and welcome the transitions,
May we move with the winds of change, celebrate the transforming new ways,
May we trust in the circle of life, of death to new life,
Through the seasons in which we live and love. Amen.

Scripture This Week

Genesis 22:1-14	The sacrifice of Isaac.
Psalms 13	How long God?
Romans 6:12-23	The wages of sin.
Matthew 10:40-42	Welcoming and offering a cup of water.

TR Question (theological reflection)

How and where has God been through the seasons of your life? What do you think lies in the soil of time, yet to be? Which season of life is your church living in right now?

May the beauty, warmth and playfulness of summer renew your spirits,
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