

Knox United Church's Mission:

**“to share the gospel of Jesus with all people,
through worship, service and care”**

WORSHIP

Worship is Knox Church's central activity, and 60% of our church expenditures go toward supporting this.

Through dynamic, relevant, uplifting and sometimes challenging worship experiences, Knox members develop their ever-evolving faith, expand their Christian calling, and receive spiritual support for their living. Worship services are a key point of contact with newcomers to Knox, and the welcome these visitors receive goes a long way toward a number of them deciding to return and become regular participants.

Music is a key element of people's worship experience. We place a lot of emphasis on music here at Knox. We have two staff members – Patricia Deibert (organist) and Mary Lou Beck (Music Director) – who plan, prepare, and offer excellent music during worship to ensure that it is engaging and participatory and helps form the faith of members. Our volunteer choir along with a number of talented member musicians add much to the depth and breadth of the congregation's musical experience.

A large part of Rev. Brian's work is to plan, prepare and present well-rounded progressive worship services that connect members with the roots of their faith and offer relevant insights to their lives today. Leading worship is his favourite part of his work at Knox, and he puts a lot of time and attention to making sure that the worship experience is one of quality and impact.

Baptisms and weddings are part of our worship ministry. Our local visibility, along with the size and visual nature of our worship space, makes Knox an attractive place for both.

Rev. Brian has a policy of accepting almost every request for a baptism or wedding, believing that the church needs to be in the business of saying “Yes” to such requests, rather than finding reasons to say “No” as unfortunately happens with some other churches. A typical year can see anywhere from 12 to 25 weddings, although as many as 40 have occurred in some years. Baptisms may number up to a dozen a year. These are ways to connect with individuals and families, who come to recognize that the door to the church is always open for them. Some choose to reconnect with the church after these special family events.

For many years, Knox has cooperated to share worship services with another church for special services like Good Friday and Easter morning, or through the summer months. Our long-standing connection was with Third Avenue United Church, and we are just beginning a similar partnership with St. Thomas Wesley United Church.

Knox has an active Worship Committee who oversee the broad scope of the worship experience here at Knox, and support our staff and minister to promote worship excellence. They approve baptisms, coordinate the sequence of services, plan events around special services, arrange for visiting ministers, and involve a large number of other volunteers in activities that support the range of our worship activities.

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