

New Look for the Fireside Room

By Rhonda Wishart



In accordance with the Rainbow Team's primary goal "to facilitate, encourage and support the congregation's commitment to diversity and inclusion in an intentional way"; the Rainbow Team began discussing the possibility of a Rainbow Family Care Group in late 2025. The Rainbow Team envisioned a group where family members of anyone in the 2SLGBTQAI+ community would receive education, support and community from a trained psychologist/counsellor and each other.

The Rainbow Team recognized the Fireside Room as a potential multi-purpose space and embarked on a renovation/refresh to make the space more inviting. First, we needed funding. We are grateful to Presbytery for authorizing a significant grant, to the StAC Finance Team for fronting funds while we applied (successfully) to the Memorial Fund, the Legacy Fund and the Ladies Guild for assistance. How blessed are we that we had such willing support for this exciting initiative!

There are so many others to thank – the office staff for answering so many questions and mobilizing groups, Matt Nolette for facilitating the new flooring (spearheaded by the Faith Formation Team) and helping with the electrical, all the Rainbow Team members (and families) in painting and design, Daryl for assisting as time permitted and groups like GriefShare which were temporarily displaced. We invite you to check out the rainbow-themed artwork! The colourful piece over the fireplace is by our own Ian Judd. The other lovely pieces warming the walls were painted by the gifted Sheri Coutts, Deanne Barrett and daughter Inara.

Without a doubt, the biggest thank you goes to the Werle family in getting our project across the finish line. We benefitted so much from Brent's guidance, supply of extra materials, instructions to the less skilled, framing of the fireplace and his outstanding commitment to getting the job done! Stephanie was devoted to picking up extra supplies, keeping track of the budget, rounding up volunteers and doing lots of painting herself. The Werles pulled us through the project, often with Braeden and Kaitlyn working right beside them!

We are thrilled to announce that the Rainbow Family Care Group will begin meeting in October and registration is full. God is good!

Rainbow Team Members: Linda Johnson and Stephanie Werle (Co-chairs), Rhonda Wishart, Lynn Judd, Cathy Millar, Kim McLachlan, Deanne Barrett, Derek Wilkinson and Mathilde Van der Merwe