

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

St. James United Church Christian Education Committee Newsletter

Welcome

Pamela Norman (She/Her), Chair of the Christian Education Committee

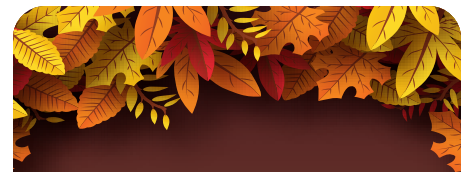
We would like to take this opportunity to extend a special welcome to (Rev) James Ravenscroft and his husband Glen Warren as they join our faith community and as James joins in leading the team ministry at St. James. The infusion of energy and ideas they bring lifts our spirits and inspires us to grow in new directions and serve in new ways. We are brimming with plans for the future just waiting to unfold. Eagerly anticipating the future that is just around the corner, Susan and James will guide us in coming together once again in a healthy and safe environment. We are excited about this new season of ministry!

In the meantime, the seasons march on. Autumn is a season with a myriad of meanings. Some people see it as a new beginning, perhaps harkening back to the days of a new school year. Some lament the end of the long pleasant days of summer, while others are excited to resume their activities and routines after a summer hiatus. Most, however, are thankful for each passing season that brings us through the pandemic and a little closer to the life we used to know.

Traditionally this is a season of harvest where we reap what we had earlier sown, when Autumn beckons and we celebrate Thanksgiving. As the colours fade and the darkness wins over the shorter days, we move into a time of Remembrance. It is a necessary pause in the business of daily life, Lest We Forget. It is interesting to see the seasons of nature reflected in the seasons of the spirit, when it is during this time of harvest, thanksgiving and remembrance, that we enter the Season of Creation.

The Season of Creation is the focus of this newsletter. Once again, we invite you to reflect upon the inspirations and activities offered here to nurture you or to nudge you along the journey of faith formation. Allow the questions and the new ideas to percolate. Faith can develop along many meandering and winding paths; we offer you this newsletter as sustenance on this journey. Blessings.

Pamela



Love /ləv/

noun

1. an intense feeling of deep affection.
2. a great interest and pleasure in something.

verb

1. feel deep affection for (someone).
2. like or enjoy very much.

"Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire"

(Teilhard de Chardin)

Creation Time

Susan Sheppard (She/Her), DLM, Minister of Youth and Christian Education

In Godly Play we talk about the time between Pentecost Sunday and the beginning of Advent as the Great Green Growing Season. In fact this time includes both the growing season and the harvest time in our more northern climate here on the eastern edge of Canada. With the introduction of the new church Season of Creation in the 1990s the season of Pentecost was divided into two parts with Creation Time corresponding to our harvest time.

The Season of Creation occurs from September 1 to October 4, with Christians around the world praying and caring for creation. The beginning and the end date of the Season of Creation are linked with the concern for creation in the Eastern and the Western traditions of Christianity, respectively. Of course being the United Church of Canada we decided to celebrate slightly differently. We begin the Season of Creation on the Sunday following the Labor Day Weekend and continue through to Thanksgiving Sunday.

September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. The Orthodox church year starts that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. On October 4, Roman Catholics and other churches from the Western traditions commemorate Francis of Assisi, known to many as the author of the Canticle of the Creatures.

Throughout the years, major Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Anglican organizations have joined to encourage the 2.2 billion Christians worldwide to pray and act on ecological issues.

In 2016, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew I released their special messages for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, kicking off the month-long Season of Creation celebrations. Both leaders used strong language to stress the urgency of the ecological crisis and the need to take action on climate change.

We are living in a time when urgent action is required to slow the effects of our lifestyles on the planet, its oceans, air, plants, animals, the poor and even ourselves. Every small action helps whether it's using less plastic, walking to work, planting a garden, or shopping locally. So let's be mindful of our actions all year long, not just in the Season of Creation.

Susan





Creation Prayer Calendar

Susan Sheppard (She/Her), DLM, Minister of Youth and Christian Education

This prayer calendar gives you some ideas for animals, plants, organizations and locations in Newfoundland and Labrador which you can add to your daily prayers. Some are endangered species or ecologically sensitive areas. We have not included any specific dates on the calendar so you may start at any time. For more information on the organizations, plants, animals, or sites look them up on Google.

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice	Balsam Fir <i>(Abies Balsamea)</i>	Labrador Tea <i>(Rhododendron groenlandicum)</i>	Two-lined Salamander <i>(Eurycea bislineate)</i>	American Black Duck <i>(Anas rubripes)</i>	Newfoundland Pine Marten <i>(Martes americana atrata)</i>	Long Range Mountains
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador Inc	Tamarack <i>(Larix laricina)</i>	Cloudberry <i>(Rubus chamaemorus)</i>	American Toad <i>(Bufo americanus)</i>	Rock Ptarmigan <i>(Lagopus muta)</i>	Eastern Meadow Vole <i>(Microtus pennsylvanicus)</i>	Bonavista UNESCO Geopark
Nature NL	White Birch <i>(Betula papyrifera)</i>	Arctic Lupine <i>(Lupinus articus)</i>	Atlantic Cod <i>(Gadus morhua morhua)</i>	Atlantic Puffin <i>(Fratercula arctica)</i>	Little Brown Bat <i>(Myotis lucifugus)</i>	Torngat Mountains
Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network	Black Spruce <i>(Picea mariana)</i>	Wild Strawberry <i>(Fragaria virginiana)</i>	Brown Trout <i>(Salmo trutta)</i>	Greater Black-backed Gull <i>(Larus marinus)</i>	Woodland Caribou <i>(Rangifer tarandus)</i>	Mistaken Point



Creation Time - Reign of Christ Weekly Readings

September 5 - Creation 1

- Genesis 1:1-25
- Psalm 33:1-9
- Romans 1:18-23
- John 1:1-14

On Planet Earth Sunday, we celebrate our identity as Earth creatures and the amazing reality that Creator Spirit continues to express spiritual presence in the natural world.

September 12 - Creation 2

- Genesis 1:26-28
- Psalm 8
- Philippians 2:1-8
- Mark 10:41-45

Humanity Sunday, calls us to listen again for humanity's relationship with Earth, Earth creatures, and the Creator, and consider how humans do not always live with respect in Creation.

September 19 - Creation 3

- Jeremiah 4:23-28
- Psalm 19:1-6
- Philippians 2:14-18
- Mark 15:33-39

An image of a world in which we are alone, where beauty is destroyed, and God's good Creation undone, startles us from complacency and calls us to take seriously the reality and danger of climate change.

September 26 - Creation 4

- Isaiah 65:17-25
- Psalm 48:1-11
- Romans 8:28-39
- Mark 16:14-18

A vision of God's holy mountain: a vision that offers us a path of hope for the future and calls us to live justly and in partnership with God.

October 3 - World Communion Sunday

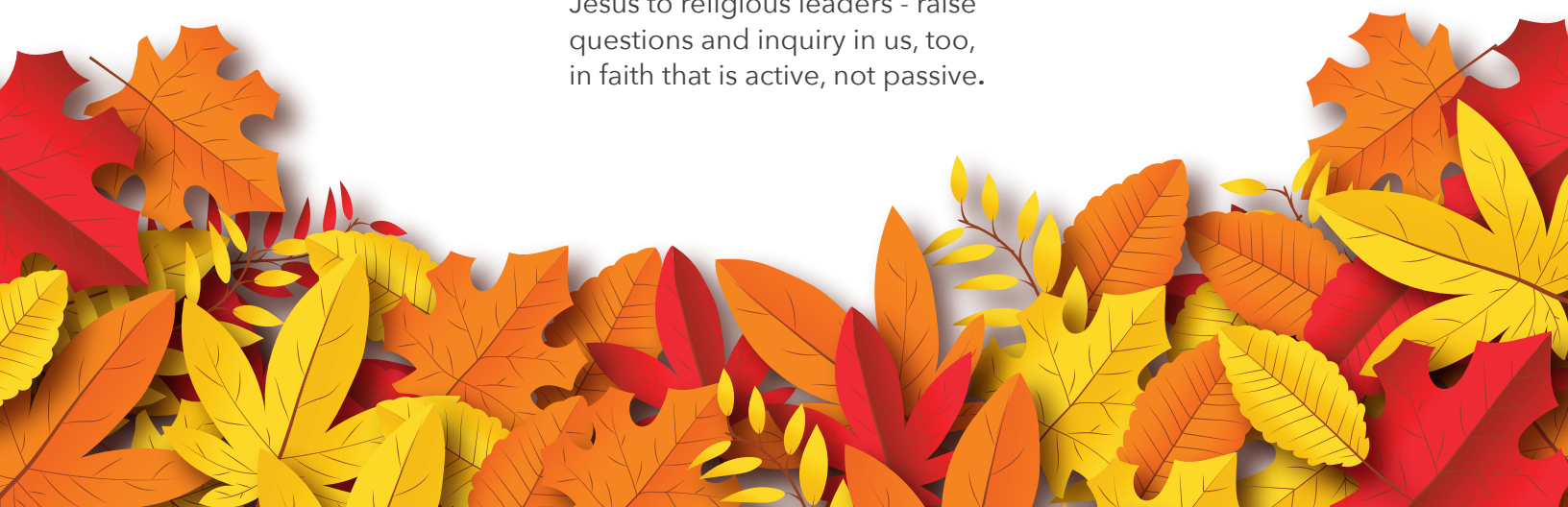
- Job 1:1; 2:1-10
- Psalm 26
- Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
- Mark 10:2-16

Questions - God to Satan, Job's wife to Job, Job to his wife, religious leaders to Jesus, Jesus to religious leaders - raise questions and inquiry in us, too, in faith that is active, not passive.

October 10 - Thanksgiving

- Job 23:1-9, 16-17
- Psalm 22:1-15
- Hebrews 4:12-16
- Mark 10:17-31

With a question about eternal life, we ponder the hard questions of discipleship, even as we celebrate following in the way of Christ.





October 17

- Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
- Psalm 104:1-9, 24,35c
- Hebrews 5:1-10
- Mark 10:35-45

The disciples are concerned with attaining power and status based on earthly standards, but Jesus teaches that God's ways are different, and helps us to learn and follow them.

October 24

- Job 42:1-6, 10-17
- Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
- Hebrews 9:11-14
- Mark 10:46-52

We stand still with Jesus as he listens to the voice of Bartimaeus who will not be silenced, hear Bartimaeus' response to Jesus' direct question, and reimagine the way we serve.

October 31 - Reformation Sunday

- Ruth 1:1-18
- Psalm 146
- Hebrews 9:11-14
- Mark 12:28-34

In Ruth's pledge to Naomi, a psalmist's recount of God's faithfulness, an image from the letter to the Hebrews of Christ's sacrifice, and Mark's recording of what is "first of all," we encounter love's summons to "give it all we've got."

November 7 - Remembrance Sunday

- Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
- Psalm 127
- Hebrews 9:24-28
- Mark 12:38-44

Widows - Naomi, Ruth and one who gives all she has - challenge us to look into the deeper and sometimes subtle sources of oppression in our world.

November 14

- 1 Samuel 1:4-20
- 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
- Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus warns of trouble ahead, we reflect on the climate crisis, unjust political systems, waning faith in global and national institutions, and look to what lasts.

November 21 - Reign of Christ

- 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
- Revelation 1:4b-8
- John 18:33-37

We watch as Jesus speaks truth to power about ultimate power and feel moved to take our part in God's wise reign by living the truth of that witness, even when it threatens authority and puts us at risk.

(Adapted from Seasons of the Spirit, SeasonsFusion Season of Creation 2021, Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020)



Beaumont Hamel 105th Anniversary

Hannah Sheppard (She/Her), Chair of the Diversity Committee

On this the 105th anniversary of the battle of Beaumont Hamel, I want to share with you the words written on a plaque at the battle site.

Tread softly here! Go reverently and slow! Yea, let your soul go down upon its knees. And with bowed head and heart abased strive hard to grasp the future gain in this sore loss! For not one foot of this dank sod drank its surfeit of the blood of gallant men. Who for their faith, their hope - for life and liberty, here made their sacrifice - here gave their lives. And gave right willingly - for you and me.

From this vast altar - pile the souls up men sped up to God in countless multitudes: on this grim crated ridge they gave their all. And, giving won. The peace of heaven and immortality. Our hearts go out to them in boundless gratitude. If ours - then God's for his vast charity all sees, all knows, all comprehends - save bounds. He has repaid their sacrifice - and we? God help us if we fail to pay our debt, in fullest full and all unstintingly.

- John Oxenham



Thanksgiving for the Earth

Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray (She/Her), Member of the Christian Education Committee

Hello friends,

As our journey brings us back to the beauty and richness of the fall season I do not know about you but, for me this season brings with it a sense of intensity as we return to studies, return to work or other regular activities after summer breaks. I also feel a sense of urgency from the natural world – a somewhat contradictory invigorating feeling as nature prepares for a season of rest.

We too prepare for the arrival of winter – a time to be more inward in our homes and within our thoughts as the church season of Advent draws near.

While we prepare spiritually for reflective time through the Season of Advent; habitually we prepare outwardly to gather with family and friends. That is until the interruption by the coronavirus pandemic – which is changing daily.

Shortly, we prepare for Thanksgiving – traditionally a harvest festival which celebrates the ingathering of produce from our Mother, the Earth. Today, for those of us who live in urban settings, it has become a time to gather with family and friends to acknowledge and give thanks for the gifts of Creation's abundance as manifest in the vast varieties of foods available to us as well as all our relations and ask God's blessing for those who are less fortunate. In our church calendar it marks the end of the Season of Creation in the greater Season of Pentecost. This ending of the Season of Creation gives me some food for thought.

Pondering the notion that there is a special time set aside to honour and celebrate Creation (which is good) it is in the notion of its end that a question (in two parts) comes to mind. "Have we, perhaps, drifted away from the broader view of Creation with its many interdependent, intricately woven interrelated parts? ... and while it is important to have distinctive times to celebrate and

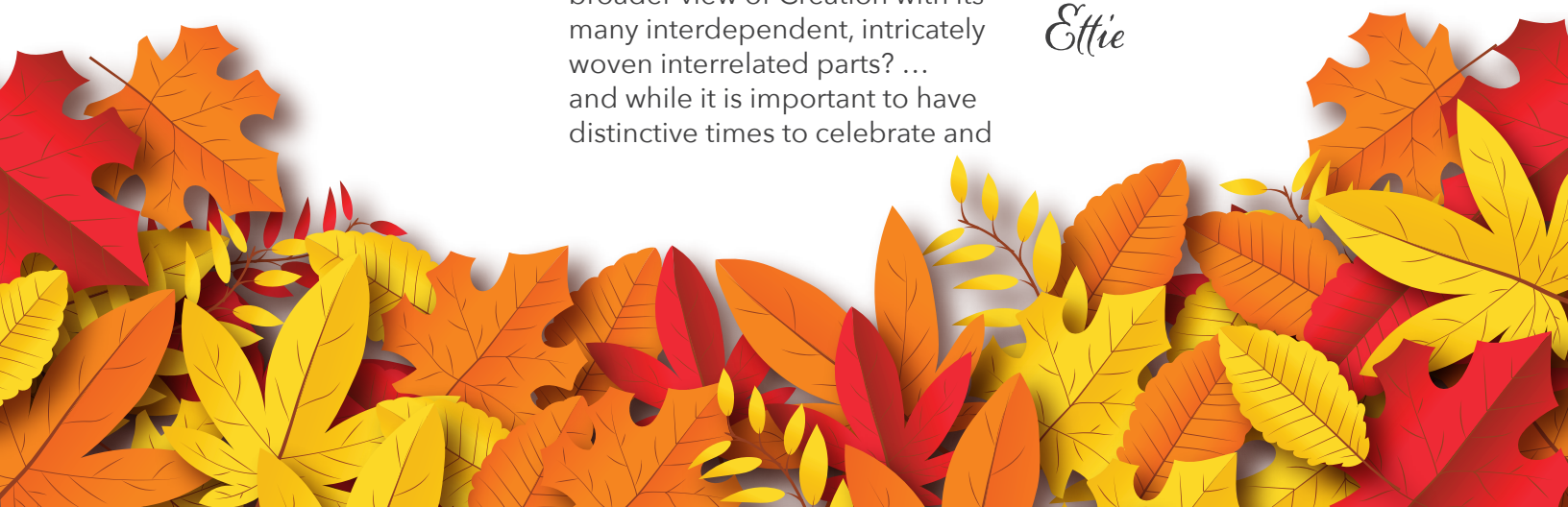
raise awareness about Creation is it not also important to undergird all that we do with the sense of oneness of the web of life?" I am reminded of the ancient political metaphor used by Paul to describe the delicate balance and interrelationship of all parts of the church (the body of Christ) on earth. (1 Corinthians 12: 1-31)

It is with those thoughts and questions in mind that I invite you to reflect on and pray the prayer that follows for Thanksgiving for the Earth – a prayer that embraces and gives thanks for the wholeness of Creation.

Once again, I am glad, as a member of the Christian Education Committee to be invited and to be able to share some thoughts about the approaching time of Thanksgiving.

Peace, health, love

Ettie



Thanksgiving for the Earth

Creator, the strength of all creatures, we honour you.

Listen to the thoughts of your people.

We honour your Spirit who renews the world and calls us to care for your creation to the East, to the South, to the West and to the North.

We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name.

(We turn our bodies [our minds as we are able] to the Four Directions as we pray the following prayers. Begin by turning toward the East and continue to turn, with each prayer, in a clockwise direction)

We face the East:

The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning; there the seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honour life around them, all who honour life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray,

Come Holy Spirit, Come

We turn to the West:

The place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray,

Come Holy Spirit, Come

We turn to the South:

In the South, the place of growing, there is wisdom in the earth, both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the Earth gives up her lifeblood so that her children's hearts may beat, so we give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray,

Come Holy Spirit, Come

We turn to the North:

We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. To Jesus, who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And the Holy Spirit, who comes to inspire us. And we pray,

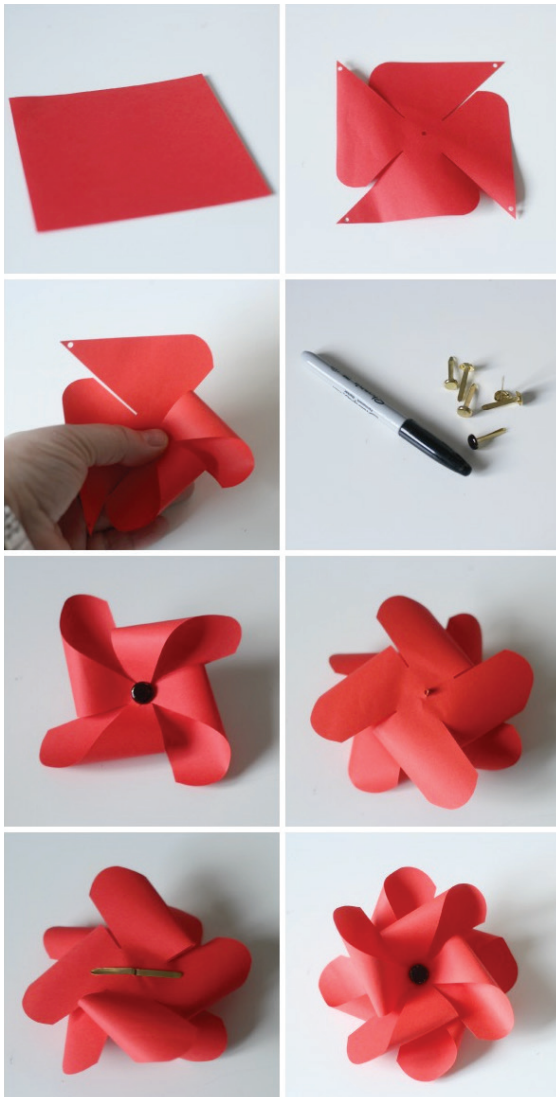
Come Holy Spirit, Come

(Adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honouring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ECLA [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America])





How to make pinwheel poppies



Pinwheel Poppies

Original Craft from: <https://www.muminthepadhouse.com/pinwheel-poppies-a-remembrance-day-veterans-activity>

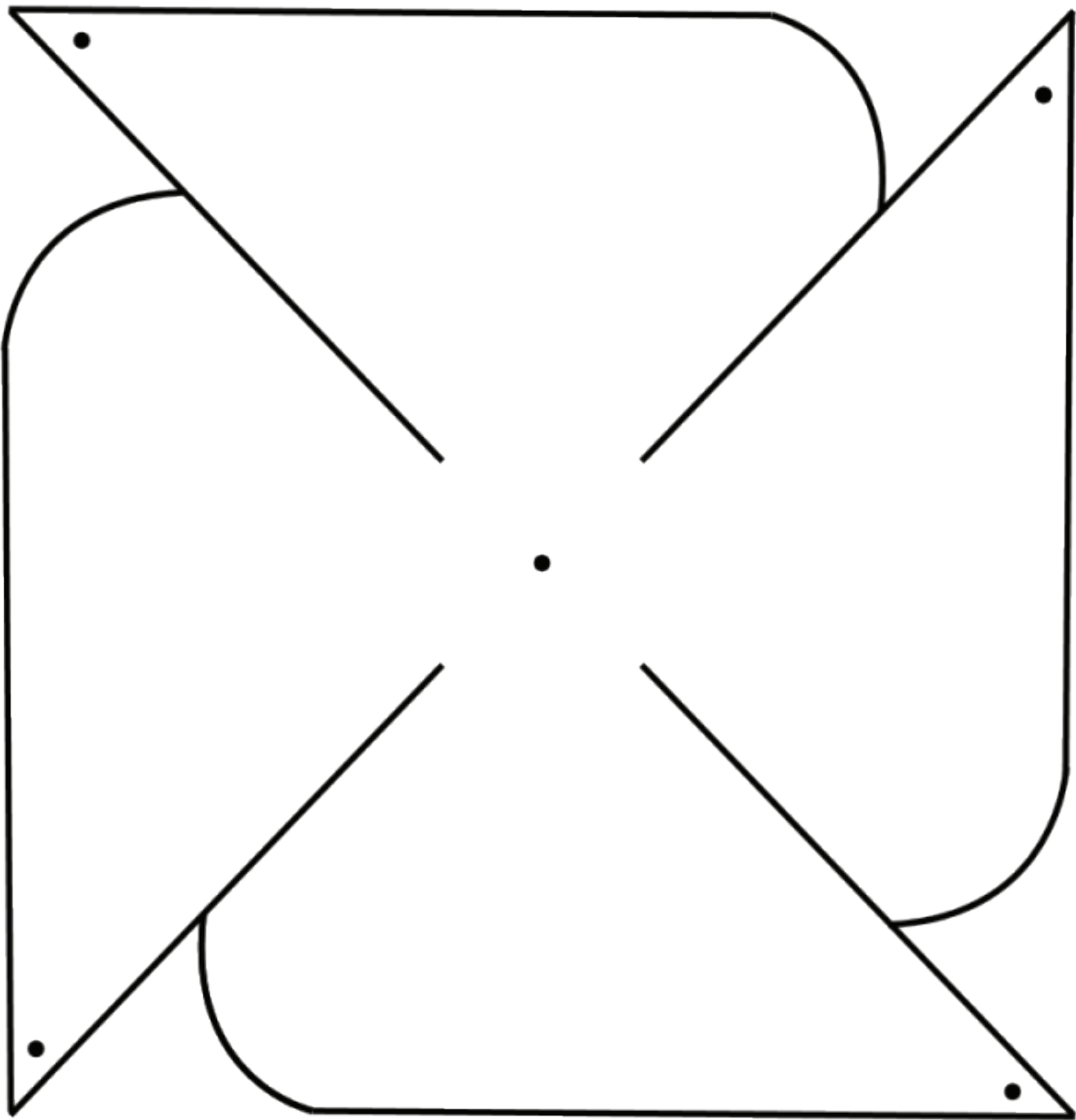
Materials:

- Red paper
- Brass Paper Fasteners
- Black Sharpie
- Green Paper straws
- Hole punch 1/8 inch
- Pinwheel Poppy Template (next page)

How to make a pinwheel poppy

1. Use template to cut 2 pinwheels from red paper
2. Punch holes where indicated on template
3. Colour head of paper fastener with black sharpie
4. Fold the each pointed end to the center before placing a paper fastener in.
5. Do the same with a second square, but place behind the first one and turn the petals to the side to make the pinwheel more poppy like.
6. Place a small amount of glue over each paper fastener end and place into a green straw.

Alternately, you could add a safety pin to the back and use as a badge or glue to the paper and make your own field of poppies.





Book Leaves Fall Wreath

Original Craft from: <https://www.countryliving.com/diy-crafts/g1988/fall-craft-projects>

A paper wreath is an incredibly lovely addition to any front door. With leaf shapes galore, this one's perfectly seasonal too.

Make the wreath:

1. Draw a 3-inch-wide maple leaf shape on a piece of cardboard and cut out to create a stencil.
2. Trace on original pages (or, preferred, photocopied pages) of a vintage book – consider old church bulletins – and cut out approximately 100 leaves with decorative scissors that have a "torn paper" edge.
3. Attach book page leaves to maple leaves (real or artificial) with hot glue.
4. Attach layered leaves to a 16-inch wreath form with hot glue, layering and overlapping them as you go.
5. Hang with a burlap ribbon.



Knit Flat, No-Sew Poppy

Original Craft from: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/knit-flat-no-sew-poppy>

A poppy knit flat that looks like it was knit in the round. We made these for an art installation, not to wear.

Materials:

- 9 to 10m of red worsted yarn (I used Red Heart Soft Touch)
- 1m of black worsted yarn
- 3.0mm needles
- yarn needle to pull through last remaining stitches



Pattern Notes:

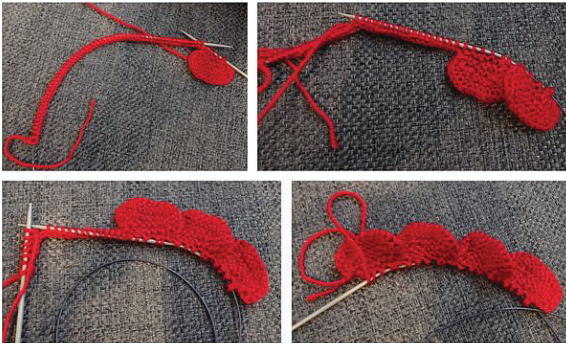
- This poppy is worked flat, in garter stitch. Short rows, decreases and wrap & turns shape the petals.
- There are 2 ways to do this:
 1. cast on all 84 sts and work each petal over 21 sts.
 2. cast on 21 sts and work 1 petal, then cast on another 21 sts and work the next petal, etc.
- The only difference in the pattern instructions is that if you do cast on the petals one by one, there is 1 extra row to work before you can CO the next petal.
- There is no need to pick up the wraps from the W+Ts.

Making other sizes with larger or smaller yarn:

- Use a needle size smaller than the yarn ball suggests.
- For larger yarns, chunky and bulky, I added 1 more straight row to the black centre before the decrease row, done purls to the front/right side, then if needed, did the decreases as P2tog or K2tog to match right side.

Abbreviations:

CO	cast on	P	purl	W+T	wrap and turn	WS	wrong side
st(s)	stitch(es)	SSK	slip, slip, knit	P2tog	purl 2 together	RN	right needle
K	knit	K2tog	knit 2 together	RS	right side	LN	left needle



Directions for the all at once CO version:

In red: CO 84 sts. (st counts given are for each petal after row worked and turned, not counting other petals' sts)

- R1 (RS) K20, W+T. (RN 1st, LN 20sts = 21sts)
- R2 (WS) SSK, K14, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 17sts = 19sts)
- R3 (RS) SSK, K11, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 15sts = 17sts)
- R4 (WS) SSK, K8, K2tog, W+T. (RN 3sts, LN 12sts = 15sts)
- R5 (RS) SSK, K5, K2tog, W+T. (RN 3sts, LN 10sts = 13sts)
- R6 (WS) SSK, K2, K2tog, W+T. (RN 4sts, LN 7sts = 11sts)
- R7 (RS) K3, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 8sts = 10sts)
- R8 (WS) K4, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 7sts = 9sts)
- R9 (RS) K4, K2tog, W+T. (RN 1st, LN 7sts = 8sts)
- R10 (WS) K4, K2tog, W+T. (RN 1st, LN 6sts = 7sts)
- R11 (RS) SSK, K1, K2tog, K1.

This leaves you RS facing with 5 sts on the right needle and the next set of 21 sts ready to go on the left needle.

Repeat (rows 1-11) three more times. When you're done all 4 petals, you'll have 20 sts left. (5sts/petal).



After 4 petals made, cut red and join black.

If you join black RS facing:

- R1 (RS) K20 sts
- R2 (WS) (K2tog) x 10

This leaves 10 sts on needle.

Cut yarn and pull tight through remaining sts. Secure ends.

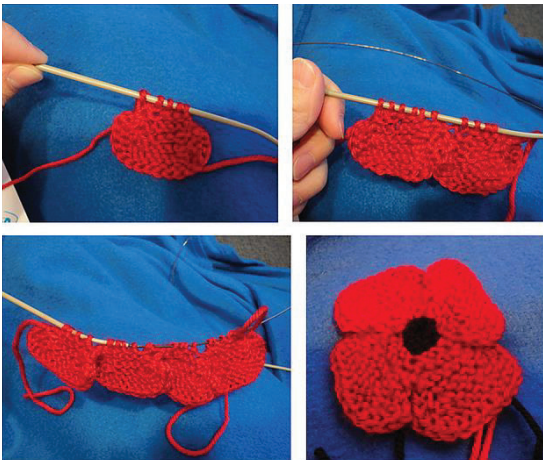
If you join black WS facing:

- R1 (WS) P20 sts
- R2 (RS) (P2tog) x 10

This leaves 10 sts on needle.

Cut yarn and pull tight through remaining sts.

To finish, tie the black yarn tails together, and tie the red yarn tails together.



Directions for the one petal at a time CO version:

In red: CO 21 sts. (st counts given are for each petal after row worked and turned)

R1 (RS) K20, W+T. (RN 1st, LN 20sts = 21sts)

R2 (WS) SSK, K14, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 17sts = 19sts)

R3 (RS) SSK, K11, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 15sts = 17sts)

R4 (WS) SSK, K8, K2tog, W+T. (RN 3sts, LN 12sts = 15sts)

R5 (RS) SSK, K5, K2tog, W+T. (RN 3sts, LN 10sts = 13sts)

R6 (WS) SSK, K2, K2tog, W+T. (RN 4sts, LN 7sts = 11sts)

R7 (RS) K3, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 8sts = 10sts)

R8 (WS) K4, K2tog, W+T. (RN 2sts, LN 7sts = 9sts)

R9 (RS) K4, K2tog, W+T. (RN 1st, LN 7sts = 8sts)

R10 (WS) K4, K2tog, W+T. (RN 1st, LN 6sts = 7sts)

R11 (RS) SSK, K1, K2tog, K1. (turn, no wrap) (RN 0sts, LN 5sts)

R12 (WS) Slip 1, K4 (no turn)

This leaves you WS facing with 5 sts on the right needle and ready to cast on next set of 21 sts.

Repeat (cast on & rows 1-12) three more times. When you are done all 4 petals, you'll have 20 sts left. (5sts/petal)

After 4 petals made, cut red and join black.

If you join black RS facing:

R1 (RS) K20 sts

R2 (WS) (K2tog) x 10

This leaves 10 sts on needle.

Cut yarn and pull tight through remaining sts.

If you join black WS facing:

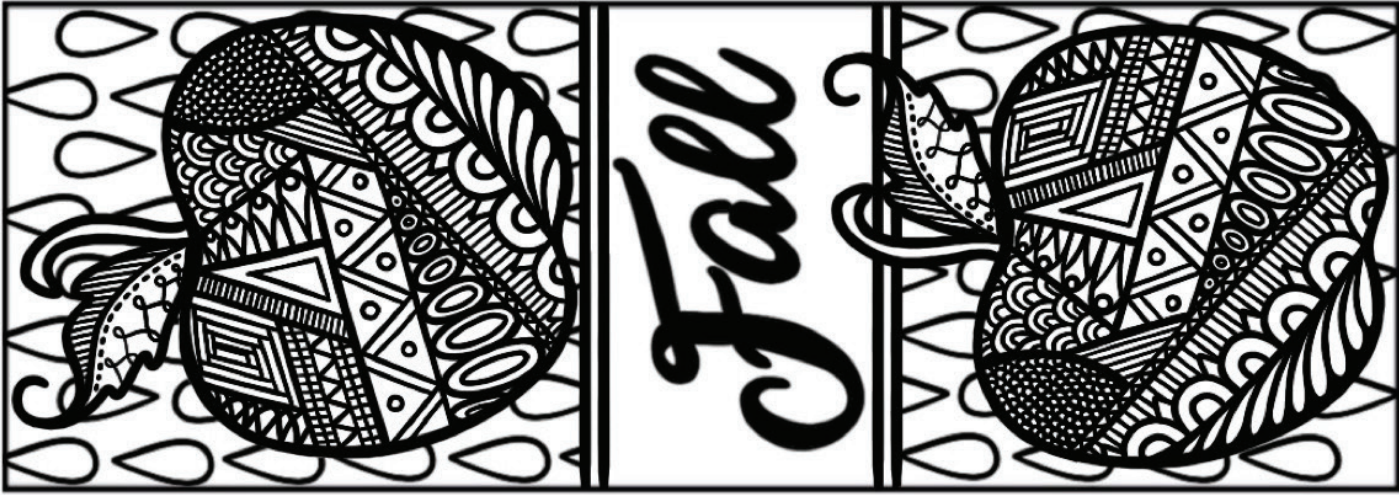
R1 (WS) P20 sts

R2 (RS) (P2tog) x 10

This leaves 10 sts on needle.

Cut yarn and pull tight through remaining sts.

To finish, tie the black yarn tails together, and tie the red yarn tails together.



www.muminthemadhouse.com



Drawn by @doodle.drew for @muminthemadhouse

