

Hello From the President July 19, 2023

On Sunday July 9, I joined worship with another of FSLDW's congregations, West River United Church in Cornwall, PEI.

Once again, much to my surprise and delight, another friend, colleague and classmate from the Atlantic School of Theology, Rev. Pix Butt was leading worship while filling in for minister Rev. Franklyn James. It was wonderful to be on the receiving end of Pix's big smile when she noticed me in the congregation. Oh to be so warmly welcomed!

In her reflection, Pix drew our attention to a welcoming sticker on the entrance glass doors. So after worship I checked it out. It reads SAFE ZONE. The words, *gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation* encircle a centre of rainbow colours. Pix reminded us how life giving - literally - such a small sticker makes to many.

The scripture reading came from Matthew 25, "For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home..."

From the pew, I witnessed these words lived out in real time.

As Pix offered a meaningful reflection from her heart, and eyes became moist, a person from the congregation quietly left their seat and the sanctuary only to reappear from behind a low wall, that separates the pulpit from an overflow section. She quietly and gracefully, reached over the wall and placed a box of tissue on the preacher's chair. All this without the preacher even knowing. In fact, I doubt if many from the congregation even noticed.

"When I needed a tissue, you came to my aid."

A small sticker. A box of tissue. Not earth-shattering acts, not ones that catch social media, still simple acts of kindness... of faith in action. Thank you West River United.

Check out the pictures from West River United on the [FSLDW Facebook page](#).

In Peace,
Elizabeth

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