



**Kathleen (Kathy) Platt**

Kathy with 3-month-old grandchild, Mia.

I studied at the Centre for Christian Studies from 1995 to 2000. In 1999 we traveled to Nicaragua for our Global Perspectives experience. It was my first major trip out of the country, and it was profoundly moving. While there, I tried to call home to touch base with Art and our three sons, but much to my frustration I couldn't get through to them. In those years we had a clunky desktop computer and the only way to connect to the internet was through dial-up, which tied up the only phone line we had; cell phones were not yet a reality for most of us. Clearly the boys were enjoying a LOT of computer time while I was away since I could rarely get through on the phone! Fast forward to 2020, when the only way to gather for worship was through Zoom. Many of our elders used their iPads or laptops to connect, and I found myself teaching them how to mute their mics and change their view...I became the technical expert for our on-line worship – ye Gods!! As one person described it so aptly: many of us who were once small-town, country preachers found ourselves becoming tele-evangelists!

Yes, there have indeed been many changes both in the world, and in our church. I feel very privileged that amid all those twists & turns, I've had a job that fed my soul and liberated my imagination. I'm deeply grateful for the education I received from CCS – I was given the inspiration and the insight needed to carry pastoral care, education and social justice into every facet of my ministry and to better enable me to navigate our ever-changing world. I was invited into people's hearts & homes at some of the most

vulnerable times in their lives. I will carry their stories with me, holding them with the love and the honor they deserve.

Many thanks to the communities of faith that have made me laugh, made me cry and taught me much about life and about love. I began in Minnedosa and will retire from Minnedosa. In between I was at Kelwood, McCreary, Alonsa; then to Regina (Sunset United); then to Portage La Prairie (McKenzie United). Now, I have new adventures ahead. Hopefully, our grandchildren will get to know a Nanna who is not quite so tired out!

Carrie Newcomer's Song is a good message to end with:

*I will sing a new song – the old one carried me this far and for so long*

*But it's time to walk on, lifting up heart and voice with a new song.*

*I don't know how – no I don't know how – I've never done this before – at least until now.*

*But I will sing – I will sing a new song.*

Blessed be.....Kathy