

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
St. Paul's Pastoral Charge
April 21, 2024

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Lisa Houston

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: VU # 389 "God is Here" (vs. 1)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (Paisley)

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY

One: As we meet today, we recognize the Anishinaabek, the Haudenosaunee and the Attawandaron people as the original sojourners in this land.

All: We give thanks for them and for this land on which we meet.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is in you.

All: And also, in you.

One: We have come together to worship and pray.

All: To feel God's presence in a personal way.

One: There are scriptures to receive: gifts of music and praise.

All: We are ready to learn: we have hearts to raise.

One: The dance of love goes on and on.

All: The music of Spirit is our song.

Written by: Jani Francis. *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2023 (Year A),
page 37. Used with permission

OPENING HYMN: VU # 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & CONFESSION (responsive)

One: Eternal God, your Spirit moved on the waters—and there was light, your first creation.

All: You delight in your creation. You spread your colors of reds and golds, purples and greens for all to see.

One: But we get caught up in speeding through life, looking for quick and easy answers, intent on accomplishing more, yet somehow enjoying less.

All: Open our eyes to the wonder all around. Spin us around to see and appreciate. Let music touch our hearts and laughter fill our souls.

One: Slow us down enough to marvel at the splendor around us and to offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

All: Stir us to be a community of joy, a people of praise, a center of healing, and a gathering committed to your truth. Amen.

CHILDREN’S PRESENTATION

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURES:	Epistle:	1 John 3:16-24 pg. 94 (Natalie Stoffa-Ferris)
		John 10: 11-18 pg. 103 (Lisa Houston)
	Reader:	This is the Word of the Lord.
	All:	Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: “Loving the Shepherd” - Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

SELECTION: “Are You a Shepherd?” - The Choir

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN’S NOISY COIN COLLECTION (Sunday school children)

OFFERTORY HYMN: VU # 218 “We Praise You O God”

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

OFFERING: - Amelia Rose

OFFERTORY PRAYER (in unison)

Beloved family in Christ, we are called children of God because of God’s love for us. Which is as creative as a mother and generous as a father. Father, receive our gifts from our personal giving, our noisy coin collection and our food bank donations. May they be used to care for God’s family in this church and throughout the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE

CLOSING HYMN: MV # 89 "Love Is the Touch" (Shelley use tune to Be Thou My Vision)

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

4. Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

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**We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.**  
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Everyone is invited to join for fellowship and refreshments in the Friendship Room down the hall after today's service. Members of the Membership, Fellow and Care Committee are hosting today.



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**In our thoughts and prayers this week is:**  
Jim Withington, Margaret Vanderzweerde and her granddaughter Emily.



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The flowers today are given by an anonymous donor and will be delivered to the sick and or shut ins.

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**Birthday wishes this coming week to:**

**Mark Loponen on April 22, Reg Butcher on April 25 and Shirley Godfree on April 26.**

**Happy Birthday** to Alfred Neumann on April 27<sup>th</sup>, he will be **94** years young!



**Anniversary Wishes** to out to **Dave & Jenny Ramer**, celebrating **64** years of marriage on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The AOTS executive would like to thank all those who helped with the setup, preparation, cooking, serving and cleanup at our Spaghetti Dinner last weekend.



Thanks to the support from our congregation and the community we raised \$1750.00 towards our youth sponsorship in the coming season.

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**Next Sunday is Camping Sunday April 28  
Please wear your camping clothes to worship.**

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The UCW are selling geraniums again this year. They will be \$3.50 each. The colours available will be red, white, pink, and coral. Delivery date is May 11. **The last day to order is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.** If you wish to order geraniums please call either Rita Van Lamoen (519-842-9271) or Wilma Jeffery (519-688-0065). Thank you for your support.



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The **UCW Friendship Circle** will meet April 24 at 1p.m. in the Friendship room  
All are welcome.

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**Messy Church May 4**  
**BIRDS, BEASTS & FLOWERS TOO!**  
10a.m. – 12 noon  
Join us for Crafts, Games and Music



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**What's New??? Come and see the changes on Sunday May 5**



There have been several changes taking place recently.

1. View the family washroom and learn the proper way to use **the new mechanism** for the door. Dave Morris will explain the new door.
2. View the Community Kitchen area including the new Community Closet. Chat with Julie and Keith, the coordinators to **learn all about what's happenin' in the Multipurpose Room.**
3. View the new storage area for Messy church – Norma, the programme coordinator, will be present to chat and update you about all the work/organizing that has taken place in the Messy church storage room
4. (soon to get a new name).



**On May 5 our regular refreshment time after worship will be in the banquet hall allowing you to view all the changes. Join in the excitement, to learn more about our church and our outreach programmes.**

**See you there –May 5 after worship in the banquet hall.**

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**Helping Hand Foodbank needs for April**

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Small jars of coffee | Small jars of peanut butter | Kleenex                 |
| Tuna & canned meats  | Canned tomatoes             | snacks for kids lunches |
| Fruit cups           | Canned vegetables           | paper towels            |



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Please think of St. Paul's when 'cleaning out' your home; we could probably use it for our yard sale scheduled for Saturday June 8th from 9-1. We will be sorting the goods in the choir room.



We take anything and everything in 'good condition'. **We are especially looking for tools, children's books and toys.**

The UCW will once again have a 'bake table'. We will have BBQ'd hot dogs etc. etc. also.

Items can be dropped off from 10:30 A.M. until noon on Wednesdays and Fridays. The items can be left at the Bidwell entrance inside the doors not blocking the entrance please. They can be put on the trolley and we will get them downstairs for sorting.

Now we just need a 'good weather' day on June 8th!

Thank you in advance for your co-operation." Lesley, Brenda and Karon

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For friends or family in hospital (here in Tillsonburg or elsewhere) please contact our Church Office (519-688-0011) with Hospital name and details to let our minister know so she can follow-up with a visit or a phone-call. Hospitals no longer provide daily lists of patients wanting visits and we would not want to miss you.

<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>...that you can serve in unusual areas like getting stuff ready for our Garage sale? Or decorating for special occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving or Christmas?</p>
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LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572