

March 26, 2021

Easter/Spring Newsletter



Upcoming Livestream Services:

- Maundy Thursday worship at 6:00 p.m.
- Good Friday worship at 10:30 a.m.
- Easter Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.
- June 6 Annual Congregational Meeting

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St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, ON

MESSAGE FROM REV. KARLENE

Happy Easter My St. Paul's Family & Friends,

We are living in times we have never seen before. It was just a year ago that we were looking to journey with Jesus to the cross when we were hit with the terrible Corona virus. Since then, our experiences both locally and worldwide are unlike anything that we have ever known. Things will improve but there is no doubt that it will never go back to what it was before.

Amid covid-19 numbers falling and rising, trying to find available vaccines and wanting to gather together once more, we hear the herald cry: "It is Easter!"

What does that mean for us today? Of all the seasons on our Christian calendar, for me, Easter is the most meaningful. It celebrates the real gift that Jesus Christ was to humankind: paying the price for our sins and opening the gateway to heaven where we can be one with the Father.

Christ's sacrifice offers hope to a hurting world. The Easter message gives us hope in a bewildering world and hope to face the uncertainties of the future.

To recognize and embrace it we have to: "Stop! Take a deep breath! Be still and become aware of Jesus loving us and calling our names!"

This is the first step for finding hope in this Easter season 2021. We have to stop and reflect on the love that is being offered to us every second of our lives. We need to recognize that we are overcomers because Jesus is on our side!

This Easter 2021, let our faith be strengthened as we stand and lustily sing:

*"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!"*

As we hear His greetings to the disciples "Peace be to you!" may we find that hands.

Shalom
Rev Karlene

EASTER MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF COUNCIL



Today as I sit at my computer I'm reflecting on the realization that Spring is just around the corner as we all feel the warmth of the sun on our faces, listening to the birds like cardinal's, blue jays, sparrows, finch, and doves and many more responding to the springs fresh air, warmth, and the ritual involved in bringing new life into the world. So often we take each day for granted expecting to rise up in the morning, still have the ability to go to work, enjoy the company of family and friends, and enjoy the fruits of our labour.

But, so often we forget the One we have always been able to count on during our many accomplishments, our good and/or troubling times, and days that are filled with loneliness, sorrow, and despair.

During these times and because of what Easter means we know we can always turn to Him who shares Love.

Jesus said " I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. "

Do you believe this? This is the message we must all remember for always and for Easter.

As we consider our lives, consider how good and faithful God has been to us!! His love, grace, and mercy endures forever!

My wish for each of you and your families is that you have a Blessed Easter .

Reg Butcher



MESSY CHURCH



Everyone at Messy Church wishes you a joyous Easter and the happiness of spring.

Our Easter, family activity bags will be delivered to doorsteps on March 27th.



Respectfully, Norma and David Collis - Messy Church team



WORSHIP GREETING



The members of the Worship committee: Rev. Karlene, Dave Collis, Carol Crocker, Karen Hodges, Carol Morling, Dag Morris, Doreen Smith, Bonnie Stafford, Shelly Vermeer sch and past chair Laura Mahoney take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter and all the joys of Spring.



" Our Lord has written
the promise of the resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time "
Martin Luther

STAY INFORMED!!! KEEP Current with what's happening in ARW REGION!!!!

St Paul's UC has 2 Regional Reps to the Antler River Watershed (ARW) Regional Meetings. Because of the size of our membership we are eligible to have 3 – therefore we have one vacancy. At present our 2 reps are Marianne Ferris and myself. As a regional rep we are responsible to attend the 2-3 regional meetings that are held per year in addition to keeping you informed about ARW Region. Since COVID, meetings in the Spring and Fall have been held as virtual meetings. At these meetings we hear the current news from the region, hear reports and elect officers and Commission members for the three Commissions.

I am an elected member of the **Human Resources Commission**. This is a Commission of 10 including Rev Diane Blanchard who is the staff person on this commission. At the Commission meetings we approve position descriptions, receive requests for a change in Pastoral Relations and approve appointments /calls to Pastoral Charges. In addition, the Commission has responsibility for licensing and re-licensing the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL). The liaison work with the LLWL's is done by the **LLWL Resource Team** (a group of 7) of which I'm a member and the Chair. Both of these groups meet monthly.

At our last Commission meeting we were encouraged to make sure that individuals who are interested in keeping informed about the work of the Region and current about upcoming events, should make sure you read the **ARW Regional Council Newsletter** which is available monthly. This is available on the ARW website or if you want a personal copy, subscribe and you will receive your copy by email when it is distributed.

If you have any questions about this work please contact me.

Mary Anne Silverthorn
St. Paul's UC
ARW Regional Rep

NEWS FROM KIDSTOWN

Can you believe it? It's been over a year since we have been able to have Sunday School and see our children.

I'm so glad that we have been able to keep connected with them through online Sunday school and each week – we send out a craft to them. In between, we have sent out little cards to try and keep a connection there.

We are in the process of putting together little Easter bags for our kids that will be going out the week of March 29 so they have them for Easter morning.

As we celebrate Easter this year – we can also be thankful. Thankful for a God that loved us so much he sent his Son to die for our sins and thankful that Jesus rose triumphing over the grave.

Hallelujah. We can also be thankful for the vaccines that are now being given and that we will be able to see each other in person soon.

God bless each of you as you celebrate this Easter.

Karen Hodges, Sunday School Coordinator



NEWS FROM COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen has been quite busy this year. Generally, we are feeding 50+ people a week with a hot meal, salad, juice and dessert.

We have seen more transients this winter than normal, and more people who have nowhere to eat, except on the benches at the library. It has been heartbreaking!

Any meals that have been ordered and not served at the church back door have been taken to the HillTop Motel, or to other shut-ins who are also in need of some care.


We have found this year to be extraordinarily expensive, as we have to buy everything premade. Hopefully, we will be able to use our kitchen at St. Paul's next season!

Thanks to the Helping Hands Food Bank for their assistance when they are able to donate, and big thanks to Beres' Catering for preparing our meals for us.


Thanks also to the volunteers who have been picking up, distributing and delivering meals this season. It has certainly been different!

Laurie Drew

UCW NEWS



Happy Easter! Thank you to everyone who so generously supported our Easter chocolate fundraiser! The funds generated will go towards funding our outreach projects.



In lieu of our annual Geranium Coffee Break, the UCW have arranged to take orders and have geraniums for sale this year at a cost of \$3 each. Please contact Wilma Jeffery 519-688-0065 or email wjeffery09@icloud.com or Rita Van Lamoen 519-842-9271 or email mrvanla@kwic.com. We will start to take orders April 1st and last day for orders will be April 25th.

There will be a variety of colours to choose from including white, pink, orange, red, and punch (fluorescent pink). Pickup will be May 1st. Details will be sent out at a later date.

Once again, thank you to everyone for all of your support in our endeavours!

Fran Bell, UCW President

Stewardship

The Easter Special Offering will be divided between **Camp Tanner** and **Tillsonburg Salvation Army**.

Thank you for your ongoing gifts to Mission and Service.