

April 2025

Easter/Spring Newsletter

St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, ON



EASTER SERVICES:

- Palm Sunday April 13
- Maundy Thursday April 17 at 6p.m.
- Good Friday April 18 at 10:30 a.m.
- Easter Sunrise April 20 at 8:00 a.m.
- Easter Sunday April 20 at 10:30 a.m.

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Greetings My St. Paul's Family,

Palm Sunday is the beginning of our Easter celebrations. We sing with those who waved palm branches and threw their clothes on the path welcoming Jesus with the words, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." What a joyous occasion that was as they celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

But we see how quickly things can change for soon after Palm Sunday, Jesus and his disciples were heading to the Last Supper, then Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion.

We continue to live in changing in times. Animosity between countries, trade wars and tariffs are words we constantly hear. As Canadians we are experiencing the effects of these changes but we get decide how we will react.

As we look to Easter 2025, we praise God because Christ's gift on the cross over 2000 years ago we get to experience God's authentic love for each of us. This is the love that continues to transform our lives.

As believers of Christ's resurrection, we find a source of renewal, hope and the promises of a secured future with God our Father.

Let us be led this season by the our UCC 100Th Anniversary theme "**Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice.**"

This was the example set by the women disciples who stayed with Jesus at the cross without fear and were the first responders at the tomb on '**Resurrection Sunday**'.

They dared where the apostles feared; they acted courageously when the apostles were paralyzed by their doubts; they wiped their tears and went to proclaim the good news to the world. Their courage is an example and a source of strength for all of us.

Christ is Risen!

May the light of the resurrection shine before us all.

Christ is Risen!

May the joy of the resurrection fill our lives.

Christ is Risen!

May the celebration of the resurrection renew our commitment to the unity of God's Church.

Have a blessed and holy Easter
Big Hugs,

Rev'd Karlene





CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Easter/Lenten Message 2025



The Journey begins. During life we take many journeys. Even a trip to the grocery store or the sports arena or to see grandparents etc can be a journey. What to take, what route will be travel and how will we meet the personal needs of all? A journey requires planning and preparation.

As Christians we are on our Lenten journey. This journey begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days ending on Maudy Thursday. Lent is a Christian Religious observance in the liturgical year in preparation for Easter. Our preparation echoes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan. As Christians we use Lent as a time for prayer and giving to others in need demonstrating our dedication to compassion and commitment in a Christ-like manner.

This Lenten journey through prayer, study, and acts of personal sacrifices ends with Good Friday a very sad day BUT we know that our journey does not end – it is NOT Final ---there is Easter – marking the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion. **Easter is the joyful end to the Lenten season.** It's a celebration!!! It's following Easter we sing with joy-

*I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today,
I know that He is living, whatever men may say '----
I see His hand of mercy; I hear his voice of cheer;
And just the time I need him He's always near.
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives?*

HE LIVES WITHIN MY HEART.

****Composed in 1933 by Alfred Henry Ackley (1887-1960)

***Enjoy the Spring – a time of newness, growth and brilliant colours.
Easter blessings to all!!!***

Mary Anne Silverthorn - Council Chair



During Lent we prepare for Easter by following Jesus' ministry as Christ's journey draws him nearer to the cross. During Jesus' teaching, He gave us a command to follow "Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Christ's ministry helps us become aware of our talents and how God's love and promises are kept through the gifts we use, when answering God's call. As a committee we offer our gifts by working together, and providing outreach to St. Paul's faith community. It is a real joy to serve the people of St. Paul's. Living our faith is reaffirming and helps us acknowledge that we are truly celebrating God's love.



May God's Blessing be with you this Easter Season as we celebrate New Life in Christ.

Rev. Pat Cook on behalf of Pastoral Care Committee

easter

"The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come,
The cooing of doves is heard in our land."
Song of Songs 2:11, 12 NIV

After the cold winter we have had, it is a welcome relief to enjoy the warmer temperatures these past few days. Signs of spring are appearing. I saw my first robin last week (1st week of March) and my daffodils are sprouting through the ground. All signs of new life for the spring season.



The church year is full of many seasons. During the season of Lent, it is a time of preparation, a period of quiet reflection, a seeking of forgiveness as we renew our promises of discipleship and move forward to the Easter weekend. Using the talents God gifted us with, we can better serve not only the local community, but the universal world at large. It is a time of joy, as true followers of Christ celebrate God's love.



As we pass through the next few weeks and enter Holy Week on April 13th remember, Christ died for us so that we might discover new life. On Easter Sunday, we are given new hope of eternal life, through Christ's resurrection. It is a time to come out, gather together, and rejoice and sing our "Alleluia's!"

Rev. Pat Cook, Voluntary Associate Minister



The Easter Lily reminds us that it is like a trumpet announcing the good news of Resurrection and New Life. And we are taken back to Bethlehem when this Saviour was born and laid in a manger. From there he grew up in the home of a carpenter where he helped his dad but also attended the learning from the Holy Book. Then for a few brief years gathered disciples around him teaching them the importance of loving one another as God has loved them.

Then there was the evening (Maundy Thursday) when He shared with the 12 the last Passover meal that became our

Communion. And His invitation to wash the feet of others as a sign of encouraging others following the New Commandment. And the saddest day of all time when his life was taken from Him. But the trumpet calls us to rejoice that 3 days later he was alive again and forever more.

May we feel the New life that the Risen Jesus makes available to all who believe. And in spite of all the sadness that surrounds us in our hurting and troubled world may you and yours experience a truly Happy Easter! Blessings to ALL.

From Rev. Maurice VAM



Hello everyone and Happy Spring from the MFC Committee!

Sincere thanks for your support of the photo directory. The wonderful volunteers did a great job. A very special mention of thanks goes to Beth Sandor and Helen Loehndorf. Orders for name-tags are still welcome.



We will be hosting Coffee Hour for April and we also hope to see you at the sunrise service on Easter Sunday.

Dianne Parnell, Acting Chairperson of the MFC committee.

St. Paul's Messy Church family

May your Easter be "egg....citing".
We wish you happiness and blessings today and always.



Community Kitchen Easter Greeting

The Community Kitchen team leaders, volunteers and guests would like to extend Easter greetings to the entire church family. It is through your support that our community benefits.



Keith and Julie

There are a lot of reasons to love Easter Day. You get to feast, pray and foremost of all, you get together with loved ones and celebrate Jesus's ultimate sacrifices. Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!



From Shelley and the Choir.



Happy Easter from your Sunday school children and youth.

Easter - new beginnings, bunnies, chicks, Easter egg hunts, and, of course - CHOCOLATE.

Is that what it is all about?

No. Easter is about the crucifixion of Christ on the cross, His glorious resurrection and eternal life for all those who believe.

What a wonderful celebration! Our children are enjoying the festivities of Easter but they are also learning what we are truly celebrating. May your Easter be filled with chocolate, good food and family as you all remember what Easter truly means to us as Christians.



From your Sunday school and Youth.



The UCW Friendship Circle

wishes all members of the congregation a wonderful Easter as we take time to pause and reflect on the resurrection of Christ.

Once again, we are taking orders for geraniums at a cost of \$3.50 each. A variety of colours are available: red, white, pink and orange. To place your order please contact Wilma Jeffery at (510) 688-0065 or Rita Van Lamoen at (519) 842-9271. Pick-up will be in early May. Last day to order May 5th. Thank you for your support!



Fran Bell
UCW Leader

