

JUNE NEWSLETTER

REMINDER

Our service time has changed from
10 AM to 11 AM.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICE

- **June 7th:** Fancy Hat Day
- **June 14th:** Pride Sunday
- **June 21st:** Rev. Heather's Last Sunday /
Indigenous Sunday / Recognition of
Sheffield Participation
- **June 28th:** Elizabeth Mooney
- **July 5th:** Lynne and Bill Rusk
- **July 12th:** Elizabeth Mooney
- **July 19th:** Gerry Hofstetter
- **July 26th:** NO SERVICE Marine Heritage
Ecumenical Service in Pioneer Park
- **August 2nd:** Gerry Hofstetter
- **August 9th:** Gerry Hofstetter
- **August 16th:** Elizabeth Mooney
- **August 23rd:** Communion
- **August 30th:** Lynne and Bill Rusk
- **September 6th:** Lynne and Bill Rusk
- **September 13th:** Lynne and Bill Rusk
- **September 20th:** Elizabeth Mooney
- **September 27th:** Elizabeth Mooney



A LETTER FROM REV. HEATHER



*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" —
Isaiah 43:19*

Spring has a way of doing this, springing things up before you quite expect them. New growth. New chapters. New things that God is already busy with, even when we can't yet see the whole shape of them.

This will be my last Southampton newsletter. It has been an honour and a privilege to walk alongside this community through so much. We began as a two-point pastoral charge, grew into a three-church shared ministry, navigated COVID together, and then expanded into something I couldn't have imagined at the start the Rural Connect HUB, worship partnerships stretching from Rockton, Sheffield and Lynden to Trinity Kitchener and Ryerson United in Ancaster, and now our newest collaboration with Sauble Beach and Hepworth. Through all of it, we kept doing the holy ordinary things, welcoming new lives at the front, celebrating marriages, and saying goodbye to beloved people at the end of their journeys. Bittersweet doesn't quite cover it.

None of this happens without people. I have been surrounded by extraordinary staff and volunteers in the tech booth, in the office, at the piano, and around the board table. From the very beginning to right now, the leadership and dedication I have witnessed has humbled me. This congregation knows how to show up.

A LETTER FROM REV. HEATHER



And yet do you not perceive it? Something new is springing up. For me, and for you too.

Before I go, we have three Sundays left to celebrate together. On **June 7**, we're bringing out the fancy hats because joy needs no justification. On **June 14**, we mark **Pride Sunday**, continuing the welcome this congregation has been building for years now, saying again with our whole hearts that everyone belongs here. And on **June 21**, I'll preach my last sermon among you which also happens to be National Indigenous Peoples Day, a fitting reminder that every ending sits inside a much longer story than our own.

The God who has been at work here will keep being at work here. I have watched it happen again and again in this place in the unexpected conversations, the quiet acts of care, the moments nobody planned for. That's the thing about God. God gets in. And once that happens, no ending is ever just an ending, it is a beginning too.

That's what lets me go with a full heart.

With love and deep gratitude,

Heather

UPDATE FROM **OUTREACH**



Over the Spring, the Green Boutique shared donations on the first Thursday of the month with the Women's Shelter Serving Grey and Bruce and Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce. Proceeds from this quarter's potluck fundraiser also supported Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of these outreach efforts.

Summer Donations Will Go To:

- **June:** Salvation Army Food Bank
- **July:** Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation
- **August:** Migrant Worker's Barbeque

If you wish to contribute, you can do so by cheque, Square, or e-transfer. Please note what your donation is for.

We will be hosting a potluck to raise additional funds for the Migrant Worker's Barbeque on August 9th. Please plan to stay and socialize.



Held in August in conjunction with Port Elgin United Church, the Migrant Worker's Barbeque is a thank you to all the migrant workers who support our farm industries. Sign-up sheets will be available closer to the event for those wishing to participate by providing food, helping with preparations or attending. It is a fun event for all!

UPDATE FROM **JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE**

While the search process has included a number of challenges along the way, the Joint Search Committee continues to move forward with dedication and hope.

The United Church of Canada's online platform, ChurchHub, is a detailed and complex system that requires considerable preparation and documentation before a ministry position can be posted. Each church is responsible for completing extensive information related to demographics, finances, ministries, and the unique life of our congregations. These documents help introduce prospective ministers to who we are as faith communities and provide the information applicants need as they consider a call. In many ways, this process allows us to thoughtfully share the strengths and spirit of our pastoral charges as we seek the right person to journey with us in ministry.

Both Southampton and Hepworth/Sauble congregations are actively working through the required materials with the support of our church administrators.

Once all documentation has been completed and approved by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, we will be able to post the shared full-time minister position. The final posting must also receive Regional Council approval before it is released.

We remain encouraged by the progress being made and are grateful for the patience, prayers, and support of our congregations throughout this process. We will continue to keep you informed as new information becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Silenzi, on behalf of the Joint Search Committee

UPDATE FROM **COLLABORATION** **TEAM**

Your Collaboration Team, consisting of Karrie Reich and Karen Plaskett, continues to meet with representatives from Hepworth/Sauble to ensure that the collaboration is running smoothly.

Reverend Heather has been instrumental in making this collaboration viable. Her mission has been to prepare the way for a smooth transition to her successor. We thank her sincerely for her guidance through this process.

We are now working on examining our separate policies to ensure that they reflect current practices. Together, we will be coordinating existing procedures for such things as funerals, marriages and baptisms to simplify the process for incoming ministers.

With Heather's departure, it will be important that every member of both congregations continues to support the collaboration by being present at services and events, sharing ideas and concerns, and offering leadership when needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Plaskett, on behalf of the Collaboration Team



The Green Boutique

The Green Boutique is still thriving. We have helped some PSW's who moved here to work at the new Southampton Care Centre. We helped them with clothing and with household items that they needed to set up their apartments.

A BIG THANK YOU to Sheila Caputo who donated three racks of clothing to the Green Boutique, left over from the Sister's Sale.

We are excited to see our profits soar as we sell each item for \$10!



The Green Boutique is in need of children's books so please let your friends and family know.

We also need cookies, squares, loaves or small muffins to serve in our Tea Room. If you can't bake but would like to help, we accept store bought items too!

We look forward to a busy summer season as cottagers return to our beautiful town.

FUNDRAISING AT **SOUTHAMPTON** **UNITED**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our amazing volunteers who took the time to make batches of homemade old school laundry detergent in support of Southampton United Church. Your hard work, dedication, and community spirit are truly appreciated and make a meaningful difference in helping support the life and ministry of our church.



JOIN US!

Our homemade laundry detergent is available for purchase:

- **Small Container — \$8**
- **Large Container — \$15**

Every purchase gives back to Southampton United Church!

We are so grateful for everyone who volunteers their time, talents, and energy to make fundraisers like this possible. Interested in helping with future fundraising events and community projects? We would love to have you join our next fundraiser!

Join our Special Events and Fundraisers email list today to be the first to know of the next event or fundraiser we need help with. To sign-up to the email list, please email the Office Administrator at: southamptonunited@gmail.com

HONORING HEATHER'S JOURNEY WITH US

In the upcoming weeks, we will take time to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared with Heather. From her heartfelt sermons to quiet moments of support, to her steady leadership and prayers offered in times of need, she has walked alongside us with kindness and grace. She has shared with us her personal stories aligned with the scriptures always reminding us that God gets in.

Over the years her leadership and passion have shaped our worship, strengthened our fellowship, and guided us through both joyful and challenging seasons. Her compassion, wisdom, and steady presence have been a blessing to us all and Heather has gone above and beyond to keep our hearts and doors open. We extend our sincere gratitude as she ends her time with us. Her dedication to our congregation, spiritual leadership, and community outreach has left a meaningful and lasting impact.

Although we are sad to see Heather go, we celebrate the new opportunities that await her. We pray that this next chapter brings her renewed energy, deep joy, and a continued purpose. Her presence has touched every corner of our church life, and her influence will continue to shape us long after her departure.

We thank her for her commitment and the many ways she has enriched not only worship but all of our ministry. As she moves forward into new endeavors, we offer our prayers for continued guidance, strength, and blessing. May God's grace be with her every step of the way.

With love and many many thanks.



**YOU WILL BE
MISSED...**



JOIN US FOR A FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR REV. HEATHER DAVIES

As many of you know, Sunday, June 21 will be Rev. Heather Davies' final service with us at Southampton United Church. Following worship that morning, we will gather together for a catered Farewell Luncheon following the 11:00 service as we celebrate Heather's ministry, friendship, leadership, and care for our congregation and community.

Heather has been a much loved minister, and we hope many will join us as we share stories, laughter, gratitude, and best wishes for the future.

To help us plan for the luncheon, **please RSVP by June 10 by emailing the church office at: southamptonunited@gmail.com**

We would also gratefully welcome donations toward:

- A farewell gift for Heather
- Costs associated with the catered luncheon

Donations may be made in cash to Ann-Marie Collins, Karen Plaskett or Laurel Silenzi, by cheque to Southampton United Church, or by e-transfer to southucfinance@bmts.com.

Please mark your donation with Heather's lunch/gift.

If you know of former members, friends of the church, or others whose lives have been touched by Heather's ministry, please share this invitation with them. We would love to have as many people as possible come together to say goodbye and thank you.

We look forward to gathering in fellowship for this special occasion.

With gratitude,
Southampton United Church

