



Christians are People of HOPE

'All the leaves are brown, and the sky is grey, I've been for a walk, on a winter's day.' California Dreamin' has probably been the last thing on our minds, as we have been living through a seemingly endless summer in recent weeks. But this morning is colder, greyer, and the Blue Jays are flocking to our feeders for food, while we hope that those other 'Blue Jays' can pull this series out of the fire. We hope, too, that our economy and the various conflicts around the world can be brought back from the brink, as is seemingly being done this week in the Middle East with the truce in Gaza and Israel. We pray for all whose lives have been harmed, as they struggle to return to where their homes once were and to rebuild their lives.

The theme of our Pentecost Worship this year has been overlaid with Creation Connections that are keeping us ever mindful of our roles of caretakers for this planet, and for all of God's Good Creation. We may, at times, feel quite lost in this hectic, rapidly-moving society, with an overwhelming daily dose of bad news in the media, which inevitably saturates our conversations and our mindset. On Thanksgiving Sunday I read a children's version of the story of Noah, the Flood, and the Ark. I described the animals, the boat, and the flood, with its ceaseless rains, but gave only passing notice to why God chose to 'start over' with his experiment of humanity, with the glowing, ever repeating rainbow left as the ongoing symbol of God's promise to never destroy the earth through flooding ever again. Any flooding which is occurring at present is the direct result of human's interference with nature. I cried when I read yesterday about the current dead state of the world's coral reefs.

We Christians are people of HOPE. We have already been saved through our deep faith and belief in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. While we can and do contribute to the many humanitarian efforts in our area and around the world, to buffer and reduce the suffering of others, in every way that a person can suffer, we must always lead with our hearts and minds, then our hands, feet, and pocketbooks. Our ongoing support of our church's Mission and Service Fund, the Daffodil Auxiliary, the Grace Café, and the next project which we will undertake, together, will continue to make a true difference in the lives of individuals, families, and our community. It does take a village to raise a child, but also to care for the elderly, the poor, the ill, and the dying. Our hospitals, hospices, service organizations are always in need as they face a tidal wave of needs, needs of every kind when it comes to others' quality of living. And it is these others who Jesus calls us to reach out to. There are no strangers in Jesus' worldview, we are all brothers and sisters, parents and grandparents, grandchildren and humble, imperfect yet striving to be always better, kinder, more generous and loving.

I am so immensely proud and pleased to be the pastor of a faith community which does so much for those in need in our presence, and in this area. Very few organizations which work with people in need are financially well off. They all depend on the kindness of strangers, as did the proud man in my Thanks-

Thoughts from Rev. Larry

giving story. None of us is so special so as to be immune to Jesus' commandment to love one another. As we prepare to hunker down for the winter, like squirrels we gather up our own store of nuts, seeds, and shelter, against the harsh, freezing days of snow and ice.

Yet, Jesus inspires and calls us to be good neighbours, warming this world with our acts, our prayers, our concerns, and support given to others, doing our part to bring about God's Kingdom here and now. Let it be so. Amen.



Rev. Larry and Gwen welcomed a new grandchild this summer. Evaline, pictured above with her Mom, Meghan, and Gwen. Babe is wrapped in a quilt loving made by Grandma Gwen.

Anniversary Sunday

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Rev. Larry will lead worship

Advent Services

Advent 1 - Sunday, November 30

White Gift Sunday

Advent 2 - Sunday, December 7

Advent 3 - Sunday, December 14

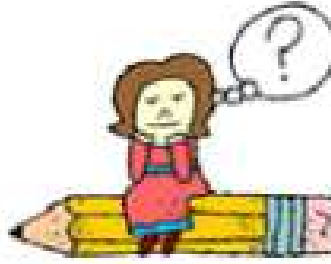
Advent 4 - Sunday, December 21

Christmas Eve - Wed., December 24

Rev. Larry will lead us in worship through Advent

Getting It Together

Thanks goodness we live in Canada! We can say what we want without fear of being jailed, we don't have a leader who is bumbling along destroying our once-strong country, and we are free to worship what ever diety we want. Our health care is the envy of many countries! I have recently experienced having a total knee replacement at no cost to my family and the second knee surgery is coming up quickly!



Autumn is such a beautiful time of year. The leaves are coloured with so many amazing colours and when they fall, they let us know is it okay to let go of things that are no longer useful. We could all take a lesson from Mother Nature.

The Wallacetown UCW Time Capsule, which was opened in June, has been repacked along with a video of the opening and placed back on a shelf in our vault. It is intended to be re-opened in another 25 years - 2050. I wonder who will be here to manage that?

Can you believe we've been in our new, full-accessible building seven years?? Our first worship service in our new building was held on Sunday, October 18, 2018, followed by our Dedication Service on November 25.

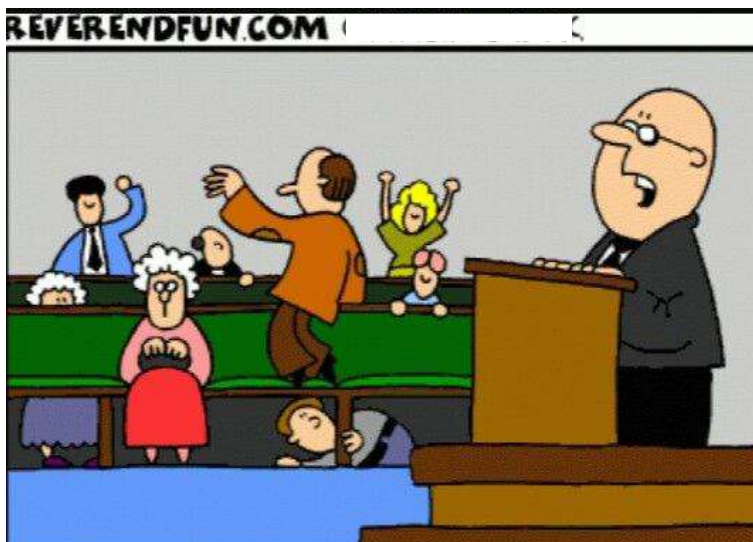
By the end of November the Advent Season will be upon us. Rev. Larry will lead us through all of the Advent Sundays so please plan to join us. We will have a Christmas Eve Service, time to be announced so stay tuned!

We "fall back" to Standard Time in the wee hours of Sunday morning, November 2. Remember to change your clock or you will be very early for church that morning. And if you are first there - please put the coffee on!

Have you checked out our website lately? Every week the website is updated with "Week at a Glance", the announcement reel of upcoming events, as well as lots of other information. Have a look: www.dunwichunited.ca

Hope you can join us for worship soon. Any Sunday, 10:00 a.m.!

Sharon



I know I'm supposed to be the Shepherd of the flock... but I'm really starting to feel like Keeper of the Zoo!



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Check our website calendar often to keep up-to-date on upcoming events and activities. And check our Facebook page daily for inspiration!



Ways to donate to DUC



donation4duc@gmail.com



Fundraisers: Funerals and Beef Pies



A funeral lunch for the late Iris Page was served at Backus-Page House on Thanksgiving weekend. BP House is the childhood home of Iris Page.

Our Fundraising Group of eight decided earlier in the year we would not take on any large, catered dinners but we would cater funeral lunches along with producing our beef pies. We did make turkey pies in the spring but we found we could no longer get all the supplies we need for turkey so we will only be producing beef pies moving forward.

In August we catered a small, light funeral lunch for the late Gerald Atkinson. In September we were asked to cater funeral lunches for the late Jim McFarlane (brother of late Ruth Rueger), and the late Jack Page. Thanksgiving weekend in October brought another small funeral lunch for the late Iris Page; this one was served at Backus-Page House as that was the family home in which Iris grew up.

As this is written we are gearing up to make our famous roast beef pies. We have orders for over 1100 pies so these will be made in smaller batches of about 500 at a time as that is all the freezer space we have. If you have placed an order, please be patient as we fill the orders in which they were received. Some may not be filled until the new year. And, yes, we are still taking orders for beef pies!

Making our pies is a huge undertaking: all supplies must be gathered including meat which came from St. Thomas, pastry ingredients and gravy from Strathroy, and vegetables from Glencoe and St. Thomas. Ted McCready cooks our beef for us and that is so appreciated. We have a small crew of men willing to cut the cooked beef ready for filling pies then a group of eight or nine women gather to assemble pies. Without all the help we get, we wouldn't be able to continue this pace!

To date, our Fundraisers have transferred \$9845.38 to the church to help keep the lights on; we have another \$1000 to transfer when all supplies for pies are paid for and then the profit from all of the beef pies we are going to make will also be transferred before year's end.

Thank you all for your support!



Dunwich UCW will meet at the church on Monday, November 3, at 1:30 p.m. Marilyn

Mitchell will present the program.

At this meeting, decisions will be made about which charities will be supported this season as well as plans for a December get-together.

Please plan to join us and bring a friend to find out what UCW is all about!

Search Team

We learned earlier in the spring that this would be Rev. Larry's last year with us at DUC. His current contract with us ends in the first few days of April 2026.

With that knowledge in hand an ad hoc Search Team was formed to go through the process of finding a new minister. Volunteer Team Members are Gord Griffin, Jane Johnson, Jackie Littlejohn, John Mannering, Marilyn Mitchell, and Ellen Palmer. The team met on October 21 for the required training from Antler River Watershed Region (ARWR) and now the work begins. So many decisions to be made and lots of discussion will take place.

There are some documents, such as our Community of Faith Profile, which must be updated before a vacancy can be declared; then the process of advertising the vacancy, receiving applications, and holding interviews continues.

Our Search Team's work is confidential but they will keep us informed of their progress as they move through the process. We all need to include the Search Team in our prayers as their work is crucial in the future of DUC.



Share the Warmth

It's that time of year again when our Annual Share the Warmth Campaign begins at DUC. We are asking for donations of new only, warm

hats, mittens and gloves, scarves, and socks for all ages. There will be envelopes available if you wish to donate cash - they will be with our collection box beside the Meeting Room door.

All donations will go to West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary where the items will be distributed with their Christmas Hampers. Last year over 80 hampers were packed and distributed to people of all ages. Campaign ends on our White Gift Sunday which is Sunday, November 30. Please give what you can.

Thank you from your Visioning & Stewardship Team.



You are invited.

Sunday, November 23rd, 2025

Service is at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Larry Schneider

Service will be followed by a
Pot Blessed Meal, Photo Slide Show,
and Music.

Prelude at 9:30 a.m. by
The Dunwich Highland Ringers

Please join us.

All are welcome.



Mary Manchester shares cake with our church family to celebrate her 80th birthday.

Mary is pictured above, with Grandson Jake and his wife Katherine.

New to Us

Dunwich UC has been blessed with some new items to enhance our Worship Space and Services.

The large bible on our Communion Table is 100 years old and sported a very tired old red ribbon as a book mark. When this was discovered, an antique book mark was found to replace it to mark the the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada.

A beautiful red antependium (also called a pulpit scarf) was donated by Anne McPhail. This antependium was presented in memory of Anne's Mom, Flora Bel Stafford, by her family, to Shedden UC in 1968. When Shedden UC closed the antependium was offered back to the family. Anne was pleased that a family treasure now graces our pulpit for special occasions. Anne also shared that her Father and Grandfather manually dug the basement of Shedden UC so very many years ago!

Dunwich United has a very ornate antique wooden Communion Set which has proven to be very heavy when serving Communion. Another United Church which was closing gifted us their lighter set which we will use here at DUC.

All of these gifts were presented and dedicated on Sunday, October 5, by Rev. Larry. We are grateful for these enhancements and the people who made them possible.



Outreach by DUC
Far left: Our donations of warm winter gear and other clothing for Grace Café.

Mike and Sue, two of the wonderful and welcoming staff at Grace Café. Our cash donation amounted to \$923.55.

Grace Café

Visioning & Stewardship (V&S) Team has been looking for outreach projects that our church could support. Grace Café, in St. Thomas was adopted for our first outreach. We hosted a hot dog and corn on the cob lunch after church in August, a chili and bun lunch in September and Soup Sunday on October 19, with all donations going to Grace Café. We also invited our church family to donate warm clothing and winter gear which all has been donated to Grace Café.

October 19 was designated as World Food Sunday, when the topic of food insecurity was discussed by our guest speaker Mike Toth, CEO of Grace Café. He shared many pieces of information about their work at the Café as well as The Annex, next door.

V&S was pleased to give Mike an envelope containing \$923.55, which included donations from the three lunches as well as some private donations. These funds will help stock the pantry at the Café with items that don't get donated.

When we delivered the bags and bags of donated clothing to Grace Café we were treated to a tour of the facility. What a warm and welcoming environment! No chrome and formica here to make this facility look like an institution but rather inviting sofas and comfy arm chairs with throws and wooden dining room tables provide lots of space for their guests to enjoy a meal or sit and chat. The Annex, next door, is an addiction resource centre but, again, is furnished as a warm and welcoming atmosphere for visitors who are, often, at their lowest. The staff is friendly and supportive, welcoming anyone who drops in, with no judgement. In Mike's words, this is a community.

V&S is so very grateful to all who made donations of goods or money for Grace Café. Thank you!

What's the Buzz - Tell me what's a-happenin'

This spot is for our Church Family to share news about families and what is going on in our lives. We need to celebrate all things!



Looks like Cameron Breen has had enough of Wallacetown Fair!



Evie (above) and Violet join in the craft in Sunday School. Welcome to DUC!



An Alpaca at the Wallacetown Fair Petting Zoo. Careful he doesn't spit at you!!



Rev. Larry likes to get down with the children during our services. Pictured here with him, from left: Izzy Breen, Cameron Breen, Corey Griffin, and Faith Noddin.

Good news: Rev. Larry got back up under his own steam - no help needed!



Right: Faith gets "photobombed" by the critters in Noah's Ark!



Next Edition deadline: Monday, January 19, 2026