

Farewell and Goodbye, For Now

Last Thoughts from Rev. Larry

We are all sojourners on this journey called life, and we are called by God and by Jesus to walk together, whether the roads are smooth and straight, or winding and we get winded. Science tells us that people who live in a loving community, with constant mutual care and communication, live longer, happier and more gracious lives. Over the last three years of our journey side by side with you, we have felt your love, friendship, and commitment to this church, Dunwich United, and to each other. Our explorations of the scriptures, and songs sung in voices united as one, or with our wonderful choir, have been a blessing to us, enriching our lives, as we hope that yours have been inspired and enhanced.

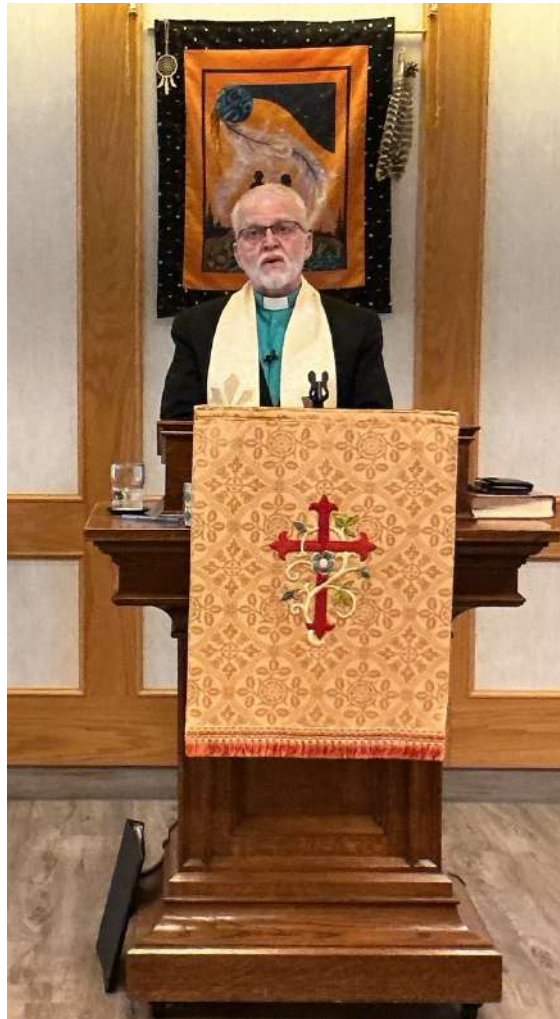
I got to know this congregation through my previous career, caring for and guiding your children and grandchildren and then a bit better when I had the golden opportunity to lead you in worship and communion. I truly felt called to be with you when I contracted to be your minister, and you have been so very supportive and kind as we have endured my occasional 'brain blocks' or getting lost in the order of service! I have been so honoured that you have shared your lives, your faith, and your doubts with me, as we have prayed together, and mourned together. We have celebrated the sacraments of baptism, communion, and in funeral services when we have suffered the loss of one of our members, tempered by trusting that they are simply beginning their new lives as one of the cloud of the saints, the departed faithful, with God our parent, and

Jesus, our loving teacher and friend.

There have been many musical highlights, I hope some meaningful services and sermons, and the delights brought by treasuring children in our midst, as well as our more senior members, with all of their humour and wisdom. You have proven yourselves extremely capable and caring when those in our midst have suffered illness or loss, when others in our community are in need, or when we partner with other organizations to spread God's good abundance and love through our gifts, deeds, and providing nourishment, during our potluck lunches, Lenten lunches and soups, and through the perfectly created and crafted pies of so many scrumptious and nourishing delicacies. You have fed our bodies, our hearts, and our minds through the many expressions of love, support and goodwill!

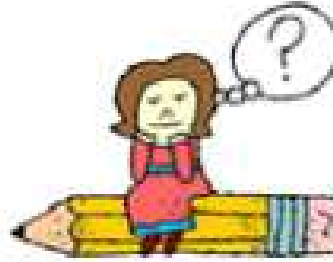
So for now we bid you farewell (that you will fare or do well in the coming days and months) and goodbye (may God be with you.) I will be around for the second week of July for Vacation Bible School, and then again on occasion in the fall for Communion services, and oth-

ers. Gwen will still be nearby for UCW, pie-making and occasional services, and you will all continue to have a permanent place in my heart, my memories, and my prayers. May God bless you all, people of Dunwich United Church. Until we meet again.



Getting It Together

Summer's coming – I am sure of it! Spring has been long and colder than normal which really seemed like it would never end. But Spring did come and the farmers are busy stirring the fields and planting their crops. Rose Leitch has been busy around the gardens at the church weeding and planting new annuals and Ike Enns makes sure the grass is kept trimmed. Thank you Rose and Ike, for all you do.



Our Worship Team has been filling in creating and presenting services, with a couple of guest speakers and pulpit supply since Rev. Larry retired. If you have suggestions for someone to lead us in worship or be a guest speaker, please speak to any one of the Worship Team members or leave a message on the church phone.

The Pastoral Care Team quietly goes about their work visiting and making phone calls to support our Church Family. If you are aware of one of our Church Family who might appreciate a call or visit let Rose Leitch know.

Rose Leitch and Rosanne Murray have dedicated themselves to our Sunday School children and for that we say “thank you”! Attendance varies from 1 to 3 children weekly. There is music, a lesson, a craft, and even a video each week.

Vacation Bible School is taking place again this year in our building July 6-10; to date we have registered our maximum of 60 children, and a waiting list has been created with several more names. Many adult and student volunteers make VBS possible. For some children who attend, this is their first introduction to the stories of Jesus and the Bible.

Summer worship is always a little more casual; the a/c will be on so we are comfortable in the sanctuary. Why not join us at 10:00 a.m. some Sunday?
Sharon



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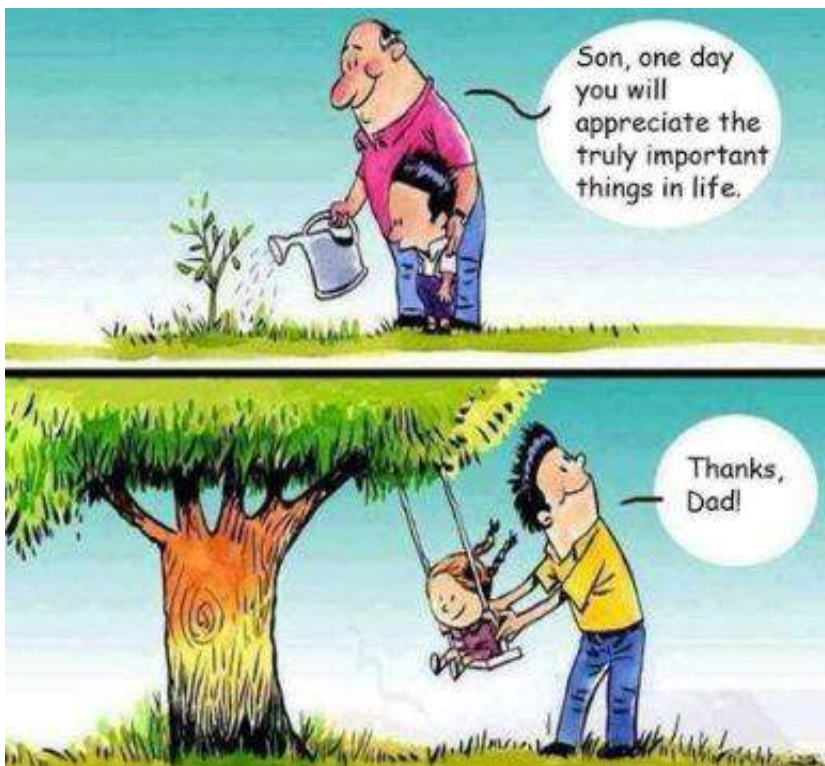
Check our website calendar often to keep up-to-date on upcoming events and activities. And check our Facebook page daily for inspiration!



Ways to donate to DUC



donation4duc@gmail.com



Camp Sunday

Joe Richards, Director of Pearce Williams Christian Camp (PWCC), joined us in April for Camp Sunday. We sang campfire songs, played a camp game and learned more about PWCC and what they offer for all ages.

PWCC began offering Golden Seniors' activities weekly, on Thursday mornings, encouraging Seniors to join and learn a new skill, find fellowship, and share in laughter. If you haven't had a chance to attend a Thursday morning session, they will continue to meet, 9:30 - 11:30 through June. And Golden Getaway is scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday, October 13-16, 2026. This is just like summer camp only for seniors. Joe assured us that if sleeping in camp bunks is not for you, just attending the day-time portion of Golden Getaway is possible.

To learn more, check out their website: campisbetter.com



Donation to "The Pantry"

Visioning & Stewardship Team (V&S) organized several events to collect funds for "The Pantry", a service offered through West Elgin Community Health Centre (WECHC). Events included: a Hot Dog lunch and a Spaghetti lunch following church on a Sunday morning plus six weeks of Lenten Lunches on Wednesday mornings. All events asked participants to "give what you can".

We were pleased to donate a total of \$1600 to "The Pantry". These funds will be used to help fill The Pantry which is available for anyone who needs help supplementing their regular groceries.

V&S collected hygiene products for men and women and sent them to our local food bank: West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary-Welfare (WEDA). These donations are much appreciated by WEDA as they try to pack special gift packages that go out in May for all receiving households with a woman, and in June for all receiving households with a man.

As we move towards summer V&S is planning a Strawberry Social after church on a Sunday in June.

We are also considering charities for our activities in the fall. If you know of a worthy charity, please let any one of the V&S Team members know. Team consists of Stacia Lett (Chair), Jackie Littlejohn, Denise Noddin, and Darlene Towers.

"The best way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." - Walt Disney



	Ways you can donate to Dunwich UC
	Weekly envelopes
	E-transfer
	PAR



You're Meeting Where?

After meeting all season at our church, the DUC UCW took their meeting to Harry's Bar, located within Royal Oak Senior Living, where several members are residents. A brief worship and discussion, followed by a business meeting, was capped off with

coffee and tea provided by the kitchen at Royal Oak, and treats brought in by Jane Johnson.

Attendance at this meeting was the best all season with 18 women attending - perhaps to check out Harry's Bar!!

UCW members and friends will finish their season off with a trip to Port Stanley Festival Theatre to see Norm Foster's new play, "The Long Weekend", followed by dinner at a Port Stanley establishment.

Meetings will resume in September, first Monday of every month, 1:30 p.m., at our church!



President Marilyn Mitchell, left, and Secretary Jane Johnson, hosted our UCW meeting in April.



Darlene Ford pointing the way to Harry's Bar for UCW

Dunwich Highland Ringers

With regret we accepted the resignation of Anne Griffin as leader and director of the Dunwich Highland Ringers in December. Since our inception in 2019 Anne has guided us, taught us, and helped us grow as a handbell choir. For that, we are truly grateful! We invited Anne back for a get-together to say "thank you".

Early in the new year we regrouped with those who wished to continue with the handbell choir and began practicing again, choosing familiar music to start. We have some new ringers who have filled out our choir and are enjoying the challenge and camaraderie.

We were pleased to present our music as the prelude before church on May 3 and have now packed the bells away for the summer. We will resume practices in September.



Dunwich Highland Ringers get-together to thank Anne Griffin for her leadership. Front row from left: Jackie Littlejohn, Lin McCann, Anne Griffin, Darlene Towers, Stacia Lett, Carolyn Jensen Back row from left: Sharon Mannering, Kathy Taylor, Rose Leitch, Anna Hofstee, Beth Beecroft, Heather Blakley, Wendy Tunks, Adele Lasson



New Members at DUC

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026, brought us two new members to our flock. Welcomed by Rev. Larry and Chair of Council Jackie Littlejohn, our Church Family welcomed adherents Stacia Lett and Denise Mitchell Noddin to full membership.

Along with the Liturgy of the Passion and waving of palms, we were delighted to have these ladies join our membership.

Denise is the daughter of member Marilyn Mitchell who was completely surprised by this couple's decision to become full members!



On March 22, 2026, we welcomed Guest Speaker Rev. Therese Samuel, Minister of Right Relations & Social Justice for Antler River Watershed Region, speaking on “seeing your brother or sister in the face of a stranger”.

Rev. Samuel took the time after worship to meet with DUC Council to discuss our response to Right Relations and Social Justice. It was a lively and interesting discussion.

Search Team & Future Worship Possibilities

An ad hoc Search Team was struck last fall tasked with updating and completing the documentation required to issue a call for a new minister. Members of the Search Team are Gord Griffin, Jackie Littlejohn, Jane Johnson, Ellen Palmer, and Marilyn Mitchell.

The team has been meeting to continue their work. Documents required to be filed with Antler River Watershed Region must be approved by Council and Congregation before they can be submitted. Watch for Congregational Meetings to be called when the Search Team is ready to present their work for our approval.

In addition to a Search Team, another ad hoc team has been struck to investigate future worship possibilities with two other local church who are either reducing from full-time to part-time ministry or searching for a part-time minister, a task that is prov-

ing to be very difficult. Several scenarios have been discussed jointly and with the individual churches. Also, research into other shared ministry units in the area is proving very valuable as we continue down this path.

Stay tuned for what might be in store for Dunwich UC!



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!



Upon his retirement from DUC, Rev. Larry and Gwen were presented with a pencil sketch, of our building by the congregation. The art work is that of the late Jenny Phillips. A 'pot-blessed' lunch was held following service to honour Rev. Larry who was presented with a cake noting his time with us.

BE THE CHURCH
Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.
FORGIVE OFTEN.
REJECT RACISM.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
EMBRACE DIVERSITY.
LOVE GOD.
Enjoy this life.



Next Edition deadline: Monday, September 21, 2026