



Carlisle
United
Church

Newsletter



1432 Centre Road
Carlisle, Ontario
L0R 1H1
(905) 689-8630
www.carlisleuc.ca

Spring 2024

Minister's Message

Spring is here! There are signs of new life all around us in Creation, reminding us of the possibilities of growth and vitality. Life seeks to be lived fully and abundantly! Even in the harshest conditions, the urge to thrive rises.

What in you or your life is seeking to rise anew? Are there yearnings for more meaningful work or play? Perhaps you yearn for rest and rejuvenation. I invite you to spend some time with the Spirit, listening for what will bring you new life and joy. Most often, that which brings us true joy – spiritual fulfillment – is that which is most needed in the world around us. Our unique gifts are each part of the intricate and glorious web of life.

God invites us to live authentically, offering ourselves fully in this life. This is the promise of Easter. Can we let go of our ego-driven lives and live into the life offered us by Jesus? He too struggled – in the Garden of Gethsemene – and in prayer gave himself: “Not my will, but thine”. When we are able to die to our self-centred ego and come alive to the fullness of life found in self-giving, we find ourselves blessed and so much the richer. To laugh and dance and play and, yes, work in and for community for our brothers’ and sisters’ sake, it is glorious and all creation sings and dances with us.

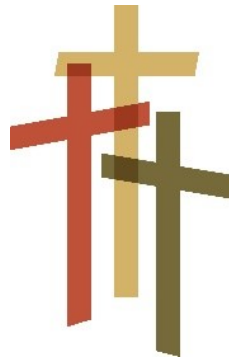
The example of Christ is to give ourselves fully and completely for the sake of God’s ‘Kingdom’.

To live relational lives where we recognize the Divine in all around us and CELEBRATE!!!

May you find new life and new joy in all you do!

Blessings, Allison

Holy Week Services



This year Carlisle, Kilbride and St. James are coming together to lead our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services. What a rich blessing to share these holy days!

Maundy Thursday (**March 28**) is a Potluck Supper and Readers Theatre. Gather at 5:30 at Carlisle in the Gathering Room. Share our abundance while hearing the Story of Jesus’ last night before his arrest told from the perspective of Mary and Judas. Spiritual Exploration Centres will be open before and after the meal if you choose.

Good Friday (**March 29**) is at 10 am at St. James United in Waterdown. A very profound and moving experience is offered. There is no Easter without Good Friday.

Easter Sunday (**March 31**) services will be at 9:30 am in Kilbride, and 11:00 am in Carlisle.

Spring Plant Sale ~ Order by May 9

We are once again offering geraniums and begonias in full flats of bedding plants.

These are the same excellent quality plants that we obtained last year. The plants are grown locally by Foxcroft Nurseries in Carlisle. Geraniums will be available in red, pink and salmon. Begonias will be available in yellow, orange, pink and white. The price will stay the same as last year, a bargain at \$37 for a flat of 10 plants in 4-inch pots. Watch for ordering information on the Carlisle Church website and in the Church lobby in the next few weeks.



Plants must be ordered by end of day on **Thursday May 9** and prepaid. Plants will be delivered (within the Carlisle and Kilbride areas) on the morning of **Thursday May 16**, and left on your front porch if no one is home.

For more information on the plant sale, please contact Linda Dodman at 905-689-7148.

Please support this fund-raiser and tell your friends! You will not be disappointed with these excellent bedding plants, just in time for spring planting.

Men's Coffee Hour

The Men's Coffee Group meets every second Wednesday in the Church Parlour at 10:00 am. To date we have shared a presentation on the AVRO Arrow, a World War II historical drama on video and several wide-ranging discussions. Our upcoming hopes are to schedule tours of: the Amazon "Fulfilment Facility" (Distribution Centre), a food production plant and a tour of Exotic Woods in Burlington. Please drop in whenever you are able.

On **Thursday April 4**, Rabbi David Mivasair will be a guest speaker on the Palestine/Israel conflict. All are welcome for this session at 10 am.

Bob Moulder

Fertilizer and Grass Seed Sale

Once again, the Church is selling fertilizer and premium grass seed as a spring fund-raiser. The order deadline is **Monday April 1**. The fertilizer will be delivered to your home on **Saturday April 13**, between 8:30 and noon.

We are again offering Corn Gluten Meal, which is recommended as a weed suppressant. The fertilizers and premium grass seed are the same quality products as we have offered in previous years. All products are provided by a local supplier and are the same high quality as landscapers use.

Our prices are very competitive. All taxes are included and all items will be delivered as per your instructions. We are only taking orders and payment on-line via the Church web site. Ordering is available now at <https://www.carlisleuc.ca/fertilizer-sale>.

Dave Walker

Chocolate

Very soon the Easter bunny will be stopping at many a household to bring chocolate in all shapes and sizes. Chocolate! Is there anything so wonderful as chocolate? It cures migraines, releases good vibes in our brains and simply tastes scrumptious.



However, it comes to us at a cost. Many labourers who harvest the cocoa beans are paid a pittance, while the big corporations make record profits.

Please do some homework and purchase sustainably-sourced chocolate or, even better, write letters to the major manufacturers asking that they eliminate child labour and pay their adult workers a decent living wage. We can make a change if we lift our voices! Google "fair chocolate trade" to find more information and a list of products from World Vision.

Rev. Allison

Another Great Drive Thru Chicken Dinner on Saturday May 11

Another opportunity to enjoy our delicious barbequed chicken and famous home-style beans... we are going to hold another Chicken Dinner fund-raiser this spring!

On **Saturday May 11**, we are offering a Drive Thru Chicken Dinner from the church parking lot. The chicken will be expertly cooked by professional grill masters. Menu will include barbequed half chicken, coleslaw, home-made baked beans, roll and brownies – all for \$25. Back by popular demand – we will also be offering a quarter chicken and all the same fixings for \$20,

This fund-raiser is in support of the Flamborough Food Bank, as well as the United Churches in Carlisle and Kilbride.

Please buy your meals in advance, so that you just have to drive through and pick up your dinner. Pick-up times are between 4:30 and 6:00. Watch for ticket sales to start after Easter, with advertising on the Church website and on Facebook. Please support this fund-raiser and tell your neighbours!

News from Kilbride

Kilbride United Church had an impressive turnout for our Music Sunday on February 25. We listened to the Glad To Be Here band and solo performer Bradon Thomas Dougherty. There was much toe tapping and head bopping to the music. Delicious cookies and refreshments were available in the kitchen. The funds raised were to support the repair of the piano.

Plans are underway for our spring event. It will be more than a maker's market with vendors, baking, an extraordinary silent auction, a breakfast and lunch BBQ provided by the Kilbride Firefighter's Association. Halton Community Police will be there, and weather permitting, live music. Be sure to save the date, **Saturday May 4**. More information will come soon.

Save your bottles for Kilbride's bottle drive. This will take place on **Saturday June 8**. Bottles are to be dropped off behind the church. More information will come soon.

Helen Callaway



Music Sunday in Kilbride (photo courtesy of Helen Callaway).

Finance

This year the United Church of Canada has asked all congregations to provide an estimate of volunteer hours which will be included in our annual Statistics Report. This was a very eye-opening exercise and makes us appreciate the many, many hours, in fact thousands, we put into volunteer activities to help the churches and the Carlisle and Kilbride communities. THANK YOU.

We are only two months into the new year and our Givings are down about 20% compared to last year. So, we have some ground to make up. Where you are able, we would appreciate your envelope and PAR donations be increased by 5% in 2024. Thanks to those who have already done this, and our request is a reminder to those who have not yet increased their Givings.

We applied for and received a further grant from Ontario's Anti-Hate and Protection program. The \$7,500 grant will be used to enhance and secure entry into the church.

There are a number of fundraising events this spring that will hopefully help the church finances. Again, thanks to all the volunteers that help make these events happen.

Barry Gilbert, Treasurer

Vacation Bible School - July 15-19 Youth Volunteers Needed



Our popular summer day camp, this year on the theme "Camp Firelight", is very nearly full – only two spots left. Contact Janet right away if you know a child who wants to attend:

janetkheeley@gmail.com.

We are still looking for enthusiastic youth volunteers to help with the camp. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering to help, please contact Rev. Allison Playfair or Janet Witty Heeley.

Mark Your Calendar



- **Mondays April 8, May 13, June 10** ~ Prayer Circle, 12:45
- **Wednesdays March 20, April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15** ~ United Church Women meeting, 9:00 to 11:00 am
- **Wednesdays March 20, April 3, April 17, May 1** ~ Men's Coffee Hour, 10 am
- **Sunday March 24** ~ Palm Sunday
- **Thursday March 28** ~ Maundy Thursday potluck and service in Carlisle, gathering at 5:30, service at 6 pm
- **Friday March 29** ~ Good Friday service at St. James United Church, Waterdown, 10 am
- **Sunday March 31** ~ Easter Sunday service in Kilbride 9:30, in Carlisle 11 am
- **Monday April 1** ~ Order deadline for fertilizer sale
- **Thursday April 4** ~ Rabbi David Mivasair, guest speaker on the Palestine/Israel conflict, 10 am
- **Saturday April 13** ~ Fertilizer deliveries, 8:30 to noon
- **Saturday May 4** ~ Kilbride Spring Event, more details TBA
- **Thursday May 9** ~ Order deadline for spring plant sale
- **Saturday May 11** ~ Drive Thru Chicken Dinner, 4:30-6:00
- **Thursday May 16** ~ Plant sale deliveries, 9:30-11:30
- **Saturday May 25** ~ Sean and The Mothballs concert, more details TBA
- **Saturday June 8** ~ Kilbride bottle drive, more details TBA
- **Monday July 15 to Friday July 19** ~ Summer Day Camp, 9 am to noon
- **Saturday October 19** ~ Shredding in the parking lot, 10am to 1pm
- **Saturday November 23** ~ Christmas Bazaar / Artisan & Vendor Sale

Flamborough Food Bank

The Food Bank was busy this winter. Due to overwhelming demand, our weekly visit count (200 families per week) outgrew our capacity. In January, we notified families that Food Bank appointments would be moved from weekly to every other week. This change has enabled the Food Bank to receive new families needing food support.

You may have noticed a beautiful custom-built picnic table by the community garden area. The material for this table was donated by a local resident and was crafted by a local company, Six North Designs. The table is to recognize the volunteers who visit our blessed space. We hope everyone in our community will enjoy the table when spring and summer weather arrives.



Thank you for your love and support. Because of our community, we can complete our mission of serving those in need.

For a current list of our most needed food items, please visit our website at www.flamboroughfoodbank.com.

Jim Leamen

Concert in May

We are looking forward to hosting a return visit of the great local band "Sean and The Mothballs" at a special concert on **Saturday May 25**. This will be a fund-raiser for the Flamborough Food Bank and Carlisle United Church. More details will be available as the event gets closer. Great rockin' music ~ please save the date!

Board Report

The Carlisle United Church Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the church Parlour.

Current Board Members are: Joan Eagle, Linda Dodman, Mary Gilbert, Janet Heeley, Mark Stanski, Andrea McRae (Secretary) and Bob Moulder (Chair). We would like to extend a sincere 'thank you' to Andrea for her many years of leadership as CUC Board chair.

Like many churches, we are experiencing feelings of uncertainty about our church's future. To address these concerns, the Board is focusing on developing a plan for "Our Path Forward". It involves looking at ways to increase revenues, decrease expenses and develop a "contingency" plan for future possibilities

Besides looking at revenue issues, we are currently studying a book by Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand entitled "When Church Stops Working". We are also arranging to listen to some experts from the United Church itself and to neighbouring ministers who have been through a similar process. There is, unfortunately, no simple, easy or guaranteed solution; However, in the words of Charlie Brown and others: "It's better to light one candle than to stand and curse the darkness."

Bob Moulder

United Church Women

The women of the UCW are starting to get organized to begin working for our bazaar this fall. The bazaar and vendor sale will be on **Saturday November 23** this year.

We will be meeting on the first and third Wednesday mornings at 9 am if anyone would like to join us. In May, we will be going out for lunch on the fifth Wednesday. All are welcome to join us for this social event.

Beginning in September, we will be meeting every Wednesday morning beginning at 9 am. We look forward to seeing everyone at our bazaar.

Lynda Speck



This photo is from the wonderful Christmas carol sing, held at Kilbride United Church on Sunday December 24. Special performances by Kaiha and Lachlan brought the joy of Christmas to everyone!

Prayer Circle

All are welcome to attend our Monday Prayer Circles and to engage in the ministry of prayer, supporting those in our community who are experiencing illness, grief or anxiety. Dates for upcoming gatherings are: **April 8, May 13 and June 10**, at 12:45 pm.

Joan Eagle



Photo above is from the Ash Wednesday service in Kilbride (courtesy of Tina DiToro). Photo below is from a Lenten service in Carlisle, with a beautiful quilt shared by Marie Ireland (courtesy of Linda Dodman).



Wesley Christmas Store Experience, December 8, 2023

Those of us with the opportunity and privilege of serving at the annual Wesley Christmas Store nearly always come away with a profound sense that something extraordinary has happened. Lynn calls them “defining moments” and because everyone contributed in some way to the Wesley Store, we want to share one of those moments with you.

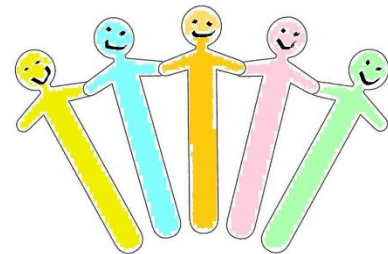
On December 8 when Lynn, Cathy, Frances, Linda and Catherine were on duty, there was a steady stream of clients, mostly emigrants or refugees who spoke little English. Fran greeted them warmly at the door and each family was given a ticket indicating the number of people in their family for whom they could shop.

About mid-day a young couple came in and we noted that they were shopping for their two children and themselves. We understood that their children were 2 and 4 years old, but they seemed intent on examining the baby items. We explained that there were toys and books more appropriate to children 2 and 4 years old at another table but no, they continued to examine the infant clothing. Finally, we understood that they were expecting another child. We informed the great people at the checkout that this couple was actually shopping for five and we were instructed to ensure they got a package of new-born diapers. So, we loaded them up with baby necessities. Linda helped them pick out a nice knitted baby blanket and we helped them choose gifts for their two children and themselves. This young couple was completely overwhelmed. Witnessing their tearful gratitude was both humbling and rewarding. They had no trouble saying the English words “thank you” which they repeated over and over again. They even called the wonderful Wesley translator over to help express their thankfulness. There was a compelling urge to hug them.

That moment belongs to everyone who filled the mitten tree and purchased the abundance

of gifts that filled a corner of our sanctuary. We wish there was a way to capture that experience so you could see how your giving truly made a difference, how the barriers of race, culture and religion were shattered in that place by your loving.

Fran, Cathy, Lynn, Linda and Catherine



We are grateful to Lynn: for driving us all there and back safely, for enthusiastically inspiring our participation, for always being there to carry on this tradition, for helping to keep the memory of our dear friend Sharon perpetually fresh, for her gracious leadership.

Property

The main focus of projects undertaken this year, to date, has involved using two government grants to enhance the overall security of the church building. We are awaiting the installation of a “cardlock” entry system for our side door, which should be completed within the next month. We are also entertaining quotes to install a more secure entry way between the Christian Education Room and the Food Bank.

Other projects include: the replacement of the two gas ranges in the kitchen and refurbishing the front door. Also, as there is the possibility of additional grant money for kitchen upgrades, we are looking at some renovations to the kitchen. To this end, we have asked a kitchen company to provide a plan for possible modifications.

Hopefully as the weather improves the contractor will be able to start on the Bell Tower restoration.

Bob Moulder

Tribute to Janet on Her Retirement

On January 28, we held a celebration in honour of Janet Witty-Heeley, to mark her retirement after 30 years as the Office Administrator for Carlisle and Kilbride United Churches. Unfortunately, Catherine Swatten who wrote this lovely tribute was not able to attend, but it was capably read by Mark Stanski, M&P Committee.

Janet, when it was suggested that I do this, I was profoundly honoured since I am a relative newcomer to Carlisle, with only 14 years experience compared with your 30.

Thirty years serving as Office Administrator for the same church must have a place in the record books. Speaking of records, at the risk of making Barry cringe, and not being very good with math, I have compiled a few statistics. Please don't write them down, they are very approximate. I figured that in your 30 years of service you would have:

- Spent 30,960 hours in the office.
- Produced 1,548 Sunday bulletins.
- Attended 90 M&P meetings. (Maybe you would rather forget those).
- Recorded and published minutes for 650 Board and Worship Committee meetings.
- Compiled 30 Annual Reports. (That one was easy to figure)!

I wasn't game to tackle the number of tax receipts or payroll entries but I'm sure they are substantial.

You have been the right-hand support for many ministers, 6 alone in my time, some of whom became your friends and are here today to celebrate with you. I'm looking around at your family and all the people who wanted to be here today. They are evidence of the respect you have earned during your 30 years. I'm sure they didn't come just for a good lunch! How extraordinary and wonderful that your mom can be here to join us in being proud of you.

Throughout your long career, you have seen children, including your own, for whom you organized baptisms, grow into adulthood. You have provided documentation and family support for countless marriages and funerals and sadly, like many of us, you have witnessed the empty spaces in the pews grow larger as the years go by.

Instead of the word "Administrator", I like to use "Facilitator". That word means to make easy, to enable and that is what Janet has been doing for 30 years, making life a little easier for the ministers and the people of both our communities. Recently we needed to update the Office Admin Position Description. In doing so we realized just how many behind-the-scenes functions Janet managed. One Board member was heard to observe that just reading the Position Description made her tired.

In spite of the extensive duties, Janet was never known to complain when her personal time was invaded by needs of the job, as it frequently was. I often referred to her as my peace-of-mind lady and we all loved that she unfailingly had a solution and a can-do approach for even the most hair-brained plans. It seems there is no office function with which Janet is not intimately knowledgeable. She is leaving the job in the very capable hands of Andrea and has generously agreed to be available as a consultant for Andrea, again providing peace-of-mind.

There are no adequate words to thank you Janet for your 30 years but, like Dr. Seuss, we won't cry because you are leaving the job, we'll smile because you were with us for 30 years.

Janet, you will be deeply missed but we know that this is not goodbye as you intend to offer your services in a volunteer capacity when the time is right, remembering that every ending is the start of a new beginning.

So now Janet, in retirement you will report to a different Governing Body. It's called family! The bad part of that is you won't have any time off and the good part is that you won't have any time off.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this very irreverent prayer for retired persons:

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway; the good fortune to frequently run into those I do like; and the good eyesight to see the difference.

Congratulations Janet, may your new beginning be happy, easy and above all, rewarding.



A few photos from the retirement tribute for Janet Witty-Heeley. The photo on the right shows three generations of our remarkable Church Office Administrators: Andrea McRae (2024-), Janet Witty-Heeley (1996-2023) and Muriel Lambert (1965-1997).

