



**Carlisle
United
Church**

Newsletter



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Carlisle, Ontario
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www.carlisleuc.ca

Spring 2026

The Day Before Easter (aka "Holy Saturday")

After Jesus' death on the cross, friends removed his body and gave it a proper burial. His close followers were devastated. They spent the next 24-48 hours in grief, lost and confused. It was a gloomy, in-between time – after the death and before the resurrection – before life returned with renewed vision and energy. We call this period of time Holy Saturday. We don't give Holy Saturday much thought as we move from Palm Sunday toward Easter morning. And yet, more often than we realize, Holy Saturday is where we find ourselves in our own life and the life of the church.

- Has a significant change taken place in your life or community of faith – either quickly and unexpectedly, or slowly over time until the change can no longer be ignored and must be acknowledged (willingly or unwillingly)?
- Does the change carry some grief with it, that is, a sense that something has been lost which cannot be recovered (a "preferred" past)?
- Is there uncertainty about what the next day, month, year will look like? Are you or your community no longer certain what your next steps should be, or if what you are hoping for is possible?

If so, then you may be experiencing the reality of "Holy Saturday".

Holy Saturday is that uncomfortable limbo time between the loss of what was and the

transition to what will be. We read the Holy Week/Easter accounts and it seems like the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday is very short – almost no time at all. In reality, any time of loss or grief feels long and confusing and uncertain. Jesus, in the story we know, may have resurrected on Sunday, but that is not when the community of followers resurrected itself.

It was a week after the resurrection that the disciples met behind locked doors because they were still afraid of what might happen to them. It was some time after that that Peter and John and some of the others went back to their original occupation of fishing and were greeted in one early morning by a resurrected Jesus making breakfast for them on the beach. The book of Acts tells us that the disciples continued to meet after encountering the resurrected Jesus. Eventually, 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus (also 50 days after the Jewish Passover), the disciples and many others gathered for the feast of Pentecost. They had been gathering and praying all this time and, I would imagine, deciding what next. It was at Pentecost that the Spirit that Jesus had promised descended and ignited the fire within them. It was at Pentecost that the communities we have come to know as the church began to take shape and spread, like a wild fire spreads, throughout the middle east and beyond.

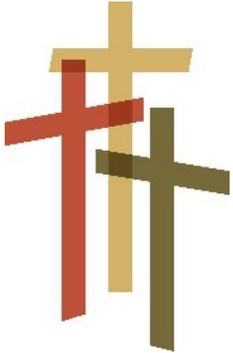
So, what do we do if we find ourselves, our community of faith in an in-between time, a "Holy Saturday" time? We gather, we talk, we pray and wait. Wait: not hopelessly, but

faithfully; not passively, but actively seeking God's presence, God's direction. We wait with open hearts and open minds; and while we wait, we are active. We remember, we imagine, we pray, we plan, we envision, we trust, we try new things. In our faithful actions, we are not alone. As it was in the past, as it is now, so it will be in the days to come: God is with us. Thanks be to God.

May the season of Easter fill you with hope and enliven your spirit.

Faithfully, Gayle

Holy Week Events



Palm Sunday March 29 ~
Service in Kilbride at 9:30,
service in Carlisle at 11:00.

Maundy Thursday April 2 ~
In Carlisle. Potluck Supper at
6:00 pm. Service of the
Shadows at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday April 3 ~ Service
at St. James United Church in Waterdown at
10:00 am.

Easter Sunday April 5 ~ Services in Kilbride
at 9:30, service in Carlisle at 11:00 am.

Prayer Circle

All are welcome to join us in the Parlour for our Monday Prayer Circle gatherings this Spring at 12:45 on **April 13, May 11, June 8 and July 13**. We look forward to sharing with one another and uplifting concerns for others as we join together in prayer.

Joan Eagle

In Memoriam



Judith Anne Parkin

May 13, 1944 – February 18, 2026

Within weeks of diagnosis, Judy passed away at the Juravinski Hospital. Her sons (Charles and Dave), her grandchildren (Krystal, Karissa, Matthew and Ryan), as well as her brothers (John and Murray Breckon) mourn her loss.

Judy was a long-time resident of Carlisle and an active member and leader of the Friends of United Church Women, helping to prepare for bazaars and bake sales. She was an avid knitter and donated many items and hours to the Christmas Bazaar. Judy loved jigsaw puzzles, reading, knitting, and spending time at the cottage. She enjoyed her alone-time with her books, crafts and in nature. The Carlisle United Church community, and the U.C.W. in particular, join her family in grieving this loss.



Gary Fancis Allan Irish

August 10, 1946 – February 19,
2026

The Congregation of Carlisle United Church joins Marilyn, Kim and Michael as they grieve the loss of Gary. Gary was a long-time member of C.U.C. and a dear friend to many here.

Gary worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia, and GSW, CAMCO. He received his CGA while working there. He played baseball with the Freelon Dangers. In 2004, he suffered and stroke and his working career ended. He enjoyed fishing, long walks, classes with Artful Moments at the Hamilton Art Gallery. Gary was generous, kind and good-natured. He was known for his humour, curiosity and a sense of adventure. We will all miss his smile and his quick wit.

Fertilizer and Grass Seed Sale

A sure sign of spring, good quality fertilizer and grass seed are now available to bring your lawns back to life and health! These are the same excellent products used by professional lawn services, provided by local dealer Sharpe Farm Supplies. Delivery is free to your home. Prices are competitive and HST is included in the price.

Please order online at

<https://www.carlisleuc.ca/fertilizer-sale>.

Orders must be received by **Monday March 30**. The products will be delivered on **Saturday April 11** before noon. For more information, contact Mark at msstanski@gmail.com

This is a fund-raiser for both Carlisle United Church and the Flamborough Food Bank. Please order today.

Drive Thru Chicken Dinner May 30

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

On **Saturday May 30**, 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 all the favourites... barbequed half chicken, coleslaw, home-made baked beans, roll and brownies. We are delighted to say that every product is Canadian and locally sourced. And all the packaging can be recycled!

The prices will be announced closer to the event, once we have sourced all the supplies for this year. 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. Tickets will be available on the Church website, from the Church office and from Joan at 905-689-7293. Please support this fund-raiser and tell your neighbours!

Spring Plant Sale ~ Order by May 10

Time once again for our sale of geraniums and begonias in full flats of bedding plants.



These are the same excellent quality plants, grown locally by Foxcroft Nurseries. Geraniums will be available in red, pink and salmon. Begonias will be available in five colours: yellow, orange, pink, white and red. We are delighted to report that the price is a real bargain, unchanged from last year at \$38 for a flat of 10 plants in 4-inch pots. You can order on the Carlisle Church website or by using the paper order forms available in the Church lobby.

Plants must be ordered by end of day on **Sunday May 10** and prepaid. Plants will be delivered (within the Carlisle and Kilbride areas) on the morning of **Thursday May 14**, and left on your front porch if no one is home.

For more information on the plant sale, contact Linda 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.

Supply Minister contact: Rev. Gayle MacDonald
289-442-8420 or mgmacd@gmail.com
Office contact: Andrea McRae
905-689-8630 or secretary@carlisleuc.ca

The annual Cemetery Memorial service
will be celebrated on
Sunday June 7 at 11:00 am.
Please join us for this special event.

Kilbride is Humming!

Kilbride United Church is a busy place. We have sessions of yoga, both mat and chair. Don't be fooled, the chair yoga is a workout! Every month we have Creative Time, when you can come to the church to work on your own crafts or learn a new one.

KUC has now planned for events for the rest of the year. They can be viewed on our calendar on the church website at <https://kilbrideunited.com/calendar>. Of course, we will always think of something to add.

For the very first time this past January, we held a Robbie Burns dinner and what an evening it was. Scottish trivia, a highland dancer, a piper and a menu that spoke to the heritage of Scotland and Robbie Burns. It was a resounding success and a sold-out evening.

And, we now have something equally unique and fun planned for 2027! Stay tuned.

Next, we are gearing up for our Spring Celebration and Maker's Market on **Saturday May 2**. This will include more than twenty-four



Hazel van der Werken and Bob Kerr address the haggis. (Photo courtesy of Linda Swance)

vendors, our famous Firefighter BBQ, bake sale, live music (let's hope the weather holds out) and our exceptional silent auction. We hope you will be able to come. Check out our calendar!

Helen Callaway

Flamborough Food Bank

The food bank serves an average of 141 families per week and is currently supporting over 300 households. Our strong food supply is made possible by our dedicated community partners and donors.

We are happy to announce that, with the Carlisle Optimist Club and Waterdown Rotary Club, we enabled a snack program at Flamborough Centre Elementary School. The school had been waiting for this support and is excited to have the program started. All schools in Flamborough now offer in-school nutrition for those who need it.

Looking ahead, we are eager to welcome Spring! Our community garden team is anxious to get "digging in the dirt" and plant our 2026 crops. The community garden has been a tremendous success since its launch.

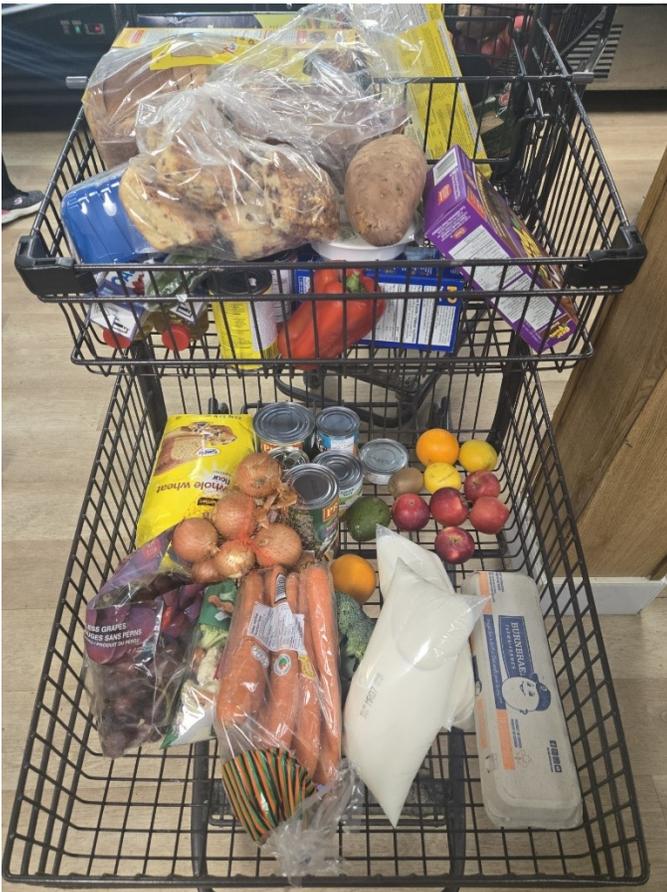
Thank you to Carlisle United Church for your ongoing support. Your help makes it possible for us to achieve our mission of helping those with food insecurity each week.

Jim Leaman

World Day of Prayer

The annual World Day of Prayer service, held this year at Millgrove United Church on March 6, was enjoyed by all the attendees. The money raised at that event was \$575. It will be added to the money raised by all the various denominations of churches from all over the world. The World Day of Prayer grants support women and children in need in Canada and around the world.

Erika Friesen



This is a sample cart of the healthy food which the Flamborough Food Bank distributes each week. (Photo courtesy of Jim Leaman)

Property

We have included the replacement of the “Hearing Assist” system in the sanctuary in this year’s budget. The challenge has been finding a Canadian company that deals with these products. Andrea has been in contact with a B.C. supplier; however, we would like to get some other quotes. If you know of or have heard of a company that supplies Hearing Assist devices, please contact Andrea or Bob.

There has been a significant increase in hydro consumption over the past year. In an attempt to understand this, we will be installing a second hydro meter to help track the hydro consumption of the church and the Food Bank.

Another priority will involve a general cleanup and decluttering of the church itself. As part of this, there are some areas that require some maintenance and “freshening”.

The church has been approached by a member of the community to consider converting the existing basketball area to a pickle ball court. We have asked for more information as to the logistics and possible liabilities of building and maintaining such a structure.

Also, the Scouts have asked for permission to build a storage shed adjacent to the Food Bank. This structure would provide a storage area for garbage and recycling in between weekly pickups. The Board has given approval in principle and is awaiting more information on the design of the structure and details of how it is to be maintained.

Bob Moulder

Kilbride Spring Celebration & Maker's Market
Saturday May 2nd 9am-2pm

HUGE Silent Auction **24+ Vendors, Bake Sale**

BBQ breakfast & Lunch
 cooked by volunteer firefighters

Planters & Baskets for Sale Live Music & Outdoor Games

Kilbride United Church, Kilbride, On

Note from the Board Chair

A few weeks ago, I was invited to attend a meeting with leaders from a group of area United Churches. The meeting was organized by Helen Callaway and its purpose was to explore the possibility of establishing a “North of 5 United Church Cluster”.

Below is an excerpt from the United Church website outlining the nature and intent of clusters:

United Church clusters are intentional, local groupings of Communities of Faith (congregations, ministries, or pastoral charges) that come together to share resources, support one another, and engage in joint mission work. These groupings are designed to foster connection, allowing for collaboration in ministry, social justice, and worship beyond the limitations of traditional presbytery structures.

Key aspects of United Church clusters include:

- **Purpose:** *To build community, provide mutual support, and share resources—such as in youth ministry or education—often allowing smaller congregations to offer programming they could not manage alone.*
- **Structure:** *They are flexible, often informal groups, though they can be part of the formal structure of Regional Councils.*
- **Activities:** *Clusters may organize joint worship services, study groups, social gatherings, and community partnerships.*
- **Focus on Connection:** *They are part of a broader shift toward “networks” and “clusters” that encourage whole communities of faith to connect with each other*

We will be hosting the next meeting of this discussion group at Carlisle United Church in April.

Bob Moulder, Chair

Cool VBC Fun This Summer....

As we refresh with the arrival of Spring, dreaming has already begun for this Summer’s CUC Vacation Bible camp.



Building on last year's successes and lessons, we are again welcoming campers ages 4 to 12, as well as teen and adult volunteers, for VBC 2026, **July 13 to 17**, 9 am to noon. Our leaders are enthusiastic in their commitment to offer an enriching, fun and joy-filled program. Again, we are offering programming from Cokesbury, with the 2026 theme "Snowball Mountain Challenge: *Challenge Accepted—With God I am Strong!*", and adapting it to reflect our Canadian perspective.

Registration is now open at www.carlisleuc.ca/summer-day-camp and we were thrilled by the great response even in the first 24 hours. Please spread the word to friends and family who may be interested in joining us this summer as campers or volunteers. Direct inquiries and those interested on being on the event email list are welcome to connect with Erin McBryde at vbc.carlisleuc@gmail.com. Sincere thanks to all who are giving of their time and talent to continue this popular community connection.

Erin McBryde

2026 marks the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the Eaton family in Carlisle and the beginnings of our church.

On **Sunday September 27**, Arlene and Cathy are planning a special celebration of this milestone.

Mark your calendars!

Mark Your Calendar



- **Mondays April 13, May 11, June 8** ~ Prayer Circle, 12:45
- **Wednesdays March 25, April 8, 22** ~ Men's group meets in the parlour for coffee & cookies, 10 am
- **Wednesdays April 1, 15, May 6, 20** ~ United Church Women meet, 9 to 11 am
- **Monday March 30** ~ Order deadline for fertilizer sale
- **Saturday April 11** ~ Fertilizer delivery, 8:30-noon
- **Saturday May 2** ~ Kilbride Spring Celebration and Maker's Market, 9:00-2:00
- **Sunday May 10** ~ Order deadline for spring plant sale
- **Thursday May 14** ~ Plant sale deliveries, 9:30-11:30
- **Saturday May 30** ~ Drive Thru Chicken Dinner, 4:30-6:00
- **Sunday June 7** ~ Cemetery Memorial service, 11 am
- **Sunday June 14** ~ Migrant Workers welcome event, more details TBA
- **Monday July 13 to Friday July 17** ~ Vacation Bible Camp, 9 am to noon
- **Sunday September 27** ~ 200 Anniversary special event, more details TBA
- **Saturday October 17** ~ Paper shredding in the parking lot, 10am to 1pm
- **Saturday November 21** ~ Christmas Bazaar / Artisan & Vendor Sale
- **Saturday November 28** ~ Chilli Cook-off

Migrant Workers' Outreach

We are told that one of the signs of a healthy church is its ability to continue outreach. Our ministry to the migrant workers, our heroes of the fields, has endured for over 20 years and defines both of our communities as welcoming places where people care for their welfare and acknowledge their sacrifices,

I have asked to reserve **Sunday June 14** (the Sunday before Fathers' Day) on our church calendar for a welcome event and I am seeking

a few fun-loving people to join me in planning an afternoon/evening that will both honour our migrant workers and be a fun occasion for the whole community.

At this time, anything is possible and all ideas and suggestions will be welcomed.

Catherine Swatten

Transition Team Update

Just to let you know that the Transition Team along with our Regional Council liaison have been working diligently in the background for the past few weeks to overcome the scarcity of Intentional Interim Ministers. We are looking forward to being able to share some welcome news with you soon.

Catherine Swatten, Transition Team Chair

Thanks from Wesley

A gracious thank-you letter has been received from Wesley, acknowledging receipt of towels, gloves and mitts for their Christmas drive. The full letter can be read on the bulletin board near the Church entrance. Special thanks to Lynn Gladstone for her faithful efforts to lead us in support of Wesley every Christmas!

Special Birthdays

This spring, our congregation is blessed by the presence of two Nonagenarians (people celebrating their ninetieth birthdays), and we want to rejoice with them and their families.



After church on **Sunday April 26**, we will be celebrating the birthday of Frances Quarrington, and on **Sunday May 24** we will be celebrating the birthday of Carolyn Eaton. Please mark your calendars for these opportunities to give thanks with cake galore!

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts under the guidelines of the *Manual of the United Church of Canada*. We provide resources and support for the staff and the community of faith with respect to any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members of the communities of faith.

If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issues will be confidentially considered by the M&P Committee, who will recommend action.

Carlisle and Kilbride UC are blessed with staff who are committed to their responsibilities and we are thankful for their work in our communities of faith.

Presently serving on the Ministry and Personnel Committee are:

- Catherine Swatten (swatten@sympatico.ca)
- Mark Stanski (msstanski@gmail.com)
- Debbie Serneels (debbieserneels@gmail.com)
- Linda Dodman (Chair) (ndodman@cogeco.ca)

Trustees Report

The Trustees will be meeting on April 13. As in past years, the meeting will mainly focus on the work/maintenance that needs to be done in the cemetery this year. Typically, this includes fence repairs, grass cutting, driveway maintenance, tree pruning and fertilizing, stump plantings, columbarium and butterfly gardens care/maintenance and monument inspection and maintenance where necessary.

Due to the recent thefts from niches in nearby cemeteries, we will be considering installing motion detector lights in the columbarium garden area. Barry will review the church/cemetery investments with the group. Effective April 1, the “no winter maintenance” signs and driveway barricades will be removed.

Andy Tarrant, Chair



The First Carlisle Scouts and Cubs were a delightful part of our service on Baden Powell Sunday, February 22, with their spirited rendition of “The Great Gray Ghost Elephant”.

Finance Comments

The year has just begun, so there is not a lot to report. For the first two months our Envelope and PAR Givings were \$9,542 which was unfortunately 9% less than last year. Mission and Service donations were down 14%. We encourage those on PAR to increase their donations by 2% to 3% to help cover the cost of inflation. Rental income was down by \$800 to the end of February, but we did have a film rental in March.

On a positive note, the March Soup event raised about \$1,000 and we have a number of fundraising events in the next couple of months. Thank You volunteers!

We just learned that our grant application to Ontario's Anti-Hate Security and Prevention program was successful. We will now work on establishing projects covered by the grant. In light of recent world events, our church community has a lot to be thankful for.

Barry Gilbert, Treasurer

My Mother's Kitchen

walls whispered untold secrets
tired linoleum painfully scarred
creaking floor boards played ominous tunes
sinister and creepy
even as morning light tickled
window panes and frolicked with shadows
best of all
that old kitchen floor tilted downhill
several inches
from one end
to the other

on cold winter nights
we roller-skated circles
up and down its slopes
worked up an appetite
for mother's old-fashioned
sugar cookies

on hot summer days
hazy stagnant air
hung with the aroma of spices
and simmering sweet fruits
as mother boiled and bottled
homemade jams

Mother was at her best
in that crooked kitchen
where walls whispered
sunlight danced with shadows
and the old floor tilted
downhill

Thanks to Stella Mazur Preda for this poem from the book Butterfly Dreams: a book of poetry (Serengeti Publishing House, 2003).



Thanks to everyone for supporting the Scouts' Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner in February. The Scouts cooked (right) and the Cubs served (left). First Carlisle Scouts are again offering award-winning maple syrup products from Quebec at <https://1st-carlisle-scouting.square.site>. There were no price increases this year. Orders are due before April 15 and the products will be available a few weeks later. Please support them with a purchase.



Carlisle United Church hosted our first Soup Challenge on March 7. Participants (left to right): Gale Bale "Very Souper Concoction", Erika Friesen "Chicken, Veggie and Noodle Soup", Nan Dodman "Miss Piggy's Hearty Ham Soup", Luke Mantin "Buffalo Chicken Wing Soup", Claudia Draper "Beef Barley Soup", Bob Moulder "Chunky Corn Chowder", Ament Berezowski "Creamy Chicken Tortilla Soup", Margriet Sinclair "Canadian Dutch Split Pea Soup", Gayle MacDonald "Lazy Italian Soup".

CUC 2026 Soup Challenge



Judges tasted all nine soups for \$20 and cast a ballot for their favourite. The winner of the Soup Challenge and the Prestigious Golden Ladle prize was Ament Berezowski.

Nine delicious creations competed in our first annual (hopefully!) Soup Challenge on March 7. The Gathering Room was packed with attendees aka "The Judges", who determined the winner – Ament from Freelon! A wonderful lunch was enjoyed by all, which featured live music performed by Joan, Rhea and Al. The event raised funds in support of our outreach ministries. It was inspiring to engage with a large number of community attendees. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the Soup Challenge participants, our volunteers and the Judges!

This was our second Food Challenge event, following the Chili Cook-off last fall. These fundraising events are gaining momentum with community participation. We hope to continue with additional Challenges in the coming months. The 2026 Chili Cook-off is scheduled for **Saturday November 28**. Mark your calendars! Any ideas for new Food challenges are welcome. Some suggestions include casseroles, summer salads or butter tarts,,, sounds delicious!