



**Carlisle
United
Church**

Newsletter



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Summer 2026

Summertime/Sabbath Time

Sabbath was a foreign word to the young me. I knew it as another word for Sunday, and it meant that if we played cards, we shouldn't tell my grandmother. It also meant when we asked in the cold and dark of winter if we could go to the outdoor rink on Sunday evening the response was, "Okay, but don't let your grandmother see your skates when you go past her place." I couldn't understand why, as it seemed to me my grandmother liked for us to have fun, but I did as I was told. As a child, I memorized the Ten Commandments, and I knew that we were to "remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy". I am not sure I understood, as a child, what 'holy' meant.

The word 'sabbath' means 'rest' or 'cease', as in cease or stop your regular activity. Sabbath observance is part of our Christian tradition. The Christian church changed the day to observe sabbath rest and remember God from Saturday to Sunday to coincide with the day that Jesus rose. Judaism still observes the seventh day (the day of rest after the 6 days of creation) i.e., Saturday. Regardless of what day of the week we choose as our "day of rest", the principle of pausing from our regular routine to nourish body and soul remains.

Sabbath time is time set aside to remember creation and the creator, to give thanks for what is good in your life, to enjoy the activities that nourish your self, to lay aside your worries just for that time and rest in God. So, let's do that in this summertime. Let us make room for

Sabbath time. Let us find space in our week, in our day, to nourish our souls.

As plants and trees bloom this summer, may we give our hearts space to bloom. In the next few weeks, spend time nourishing your inner life. Take a few moments during the day to gaze on something you find beautiful, or engage in a soul-satisfying hobby, to read an uplifting book or listen to a piece of beautiful music. Try, once a day, to sit or walk quietly, so you can let go and not wonder about the time. It is your time, it is God time, it is soul time, it is Sabbath.

Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath. – Mark 2:27

May the summer be filled with life-giving sabbath rest and deep peace.

*Faithfully yours,
Gayle*

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905-689-8630 or
secretary@carlisleuc.ca

Transition Team News

By now everyone on the Carlisle mailing list will have received the pastoral letter from Rev. Gayle which provides a history of her leadership and work with the team from April this year. The letter also relays our hopes for revitalization of our church with a strong emphasis on the critical role every congregant will play in shaping our path forward, by providing ideas, and by responding to the questionnaire attached to the letter. Your name on the questionnaire will ensure the response is from a Carlisle congregant. But if you wish your contribution to remain anonymous, a box has been placed by the church entrance for your response.

You will also receive an update from the TT which will provide some specific initiatives that the team has underway and is pleased to share with you, especially as some are simple and quick to implement.

The team will always welcome your ideas and will receive with gratitude your candid input and especially your prayers.

Transition Team: Rev. Gayle MacDonald, Erin McBryde, Andrea McRae, Mark Stanski, Catherine Swatten

Summer Services

Sundays in July – Carlisle at 10 am

Sundays in August and Labour Day
– Kilbride at 10 am

Save The Date! **Sunday September 27**



Meet some interesting characters from our 200 years of history...

Vacation Bible Camp July 13-17



Excitement is in the air... the world around us is springing to life with warmer weather arriving and CUC's Vacation Bible Camp 2026 will soon be here. This summer our church will fill with the energy

and fun of camp **July 13 to 17**. As the anticipation mounts, our session leaders are busy planning, this year with a chilly "Snowball Mountain Challenge" theme. We are thrilled to share that we have a dynamic mix of returning and new campers and youth volunteers joining us, with only a few spots still available. Interested families or volunteers can find details (including registration) on the church website <https://www.carlisleuc.ca/summer-day-camp>, direct inquiries to vbc.carlisleuc@gmail.com or speak with Erin McBryde in person before or after church.

Sincere thanks to all who are giving of their time and talent to continue this important community connection. We are also thrilled to share that building on the past success of our summer VBC and its connection with community youth campers and volunteers, CUC has been awarded a United Church of Canada Seeds of Hope Grant to invest in and expand our reach to community families by offering seasonal programmed events through the year. This grant will help our church with the purchase of programming and specific equipment to extend our reach, but donations will still be necessary to cover supplies. The focus of these "Community Family Events" will be **simple fun** and **connection**. Stay tuned.



Erin McBryde

Carlisle UCW Members and Friends

Summer has arrived, and as friends and members of the United Church Women's group, we have made great progress on preparations for our annual Bazaar on **Saturday November 21**. A big 'Thank You' to all the ladies who have been working so hard since January preparing for our bazaar; now it is time to take a short break for the summer.

We had a very enjoyable potluck on Wednesday June 17, as we gathered for lunch at Gilberts'. The appetizer taco dip welcomed the girls to gather with conversation and comradery. The weather held and we were able to sit outside to enjoy an amazing selection of main course dishes and desserts. So yummy!

This past spring we did several learning sessions on how to knit, make jam and make pastry. If anyone is interested, please let us know and we can arrange another session or if you have another topic you would like to learn about, please let us know. We are all learning together.

We will again resume the hard work of preparing for our bazaar in September. Our meetings will begin weekly on **Wednesday September 2**. Invite a friend to join us. Come learn, laugh, participate, socialize. You are all WELCOME!

We have started to collect crafts so feel free to bring any treasures that you plan to donate. Gale needs help to finish some donated crafts. Speak to her if you can help please.

Our fall plans include continued pie making sessions, cabbage roll making, help with apple peeling for our famous apple pies, butter tarts, quiche and other baking treasures. Donations of jams, preserves, pickles and jellies start arriving to be decorated for sale. Pricing sessions will also need volunteer helpers. On the Wednesday to Friday before the bazaar, we also receive donations of baking from congregants that are then packaged and sold on the Saturday.

Our fall schedule is available, to allow you to plan. Check our church Google calendar for information or call Mary 905-689-8126.

Hospitality and a welcome to the Bazaar are being planned by Erin McBryde. Watch for information.

Gale Bale is also working on the plans for all Vendors who come to sell their special treasures. Book your table before tables are sold out.

An additional NOTE: A Turkey dinner on **Saturday November 7** is in the planning stage. Volunteer servers are needed. Ask a teen to help and receive volunteer hours.

Report by Lynda Speck and Mary Gilbert



UCW members and friends enjoyed a mid-season luncheon at Gilberts' on June 17. (Photo courtesy of Judy Speck)

Shred that Stuff!

Time again to start gathering all those dusty files and tax receipts for another paper shredding event on **Saturday October 17**. We will be offering secure document shredding for a modest sum, from the comfort and convenience of your car. Please tell your friends and neighbours!



What's Up at Kilbride United?

Well, we have had a busy time since the last newsletter. Our semi-annual Maker's Market was a great success. We had 24+ vendors, a huge silent auction, delicious bake sale, firefighter BBQ and music in the backyard. We also had surprise snow and ice pellets. A big thank you to all the organizers and donors. It certainly takes a village.

Coming up we have a pop-up strawberry sale on **Saturday June 27** from 9:30 am to 1 pm or until sold out. If you would like to reserve a flat, please email the church.

For the City of Burlington's Annual Heritage Week, there will be a presentation at Lowville United Church on the history of the Village of Lowville. The date is **Saturday August 8** at 10 am. Registration is required. The event is free. Please go to kilbrideunited.com and click on events.

We're gearing up for our second annual car show on **September 12**— pun intended! If you have a vintage vehicle and would like to reserve a spot, please email the church. Otherwise, come enjoy a BBQ, bake sale and some really cool vehicles. We hope to welcome the vintage firetrucks back again this year.



Everybody loves the vintage car show! (Photo courtesy of Linda Swance)

On **September 18**, we are having a back to school "skip the dishes" community dinner. More info will be coming. And the very next

day, on **September 19**, we are having a bottle drive. Please start saving the bottles and cans.

For those of you who attended the Council on Aging series we had last fall, you may be interested to hear that we will have a 6-part series starting **September 17** on Positive Aging led by Dr. Nora Curran-Blaney. More information will be coming.

And even more events are in the works. Stay tuned.

Helen Callaway

Report from the Board Chair

We continue, through the work of Transition Team, to make progress towards imagining and realizing our vision for the future of Carlisle United Church. Part of this vision has to do with growing and strengthening our relationship within the community!

As part of this intention, a proposal has been made to construct a pickle ball court in the field behind the church. The construction of the court would be funded by the Jonathan Brown Foundation. Preliminary groundwork concerning costs and permits has been done. As well, an opinion poll survey has been initiated to determine whether or not there is community support for this, and the degree to which the court might be used.

Discussions are continuing and there will regular updates on the progress of the project. The final decision will be made by the congregation.

One of the best rules for life suggests that "we say please often and thank you more often". I'd like to extend such a 'thank you' to the church staff for all that they do for us. We are truly blessed to have Gayle, Andrea, Heather and Jenni. As well, a sincere 'thank you' to the Carlisle United Church Board members for their faithful service: Rev. Gayle, Andrea McRae, Mark Stanski, Joan Eagle, Linda Dodman, Arlene Munro and Mary and Barry Gilbert.

Bob Moulder

Migrant Worker's Outreach

As our numbers decrease, the need for individual giving and sacrifice grows. Following the leadership of Rev. Gayle, the Transition Team is currently concentrating on creative and do-able ways to revitalize our church. This retrospect involves examining what we currently do well. Our outreach efforts come to mind, namely, our Vacation Bible Camp, Wesley Urban Ministries support and our Migrant Workers' events.

By the time you read this, our congregation will have contributed a Christmas gift of much-needed towels to both Wesley and the migrant workers, our welcome event for our local migrant workers will be close to being a reality, and the planning, recruitment of volunteers and programs for VBC will be well underway. Erin will kindly arrange for VBC donations to be contributed to Wesley Case for Kids this year.

I first became involved in the migrant workers' events in 2010 and it had been in existence for several years before that. Despite a steadily declining congregation, we have been able to continue it for almost 20 years because of your persistent outflowing of generosity which still amazes and inspires me. Even through the pandemic we managed to partner with our colleagues from Kilbride to send caring messages and home-cooked treats to the farms.

Now, as we prepare for our 2026 welcome dinner, set for **Sunday June 28**, we will once again continue with the tradition of honoring our hardy heroes from the fields with a place to enjoy a few hours of respite and fellowship.

The sign-up sheet for cooks, drinks, prizes, clothing, travel bags and help on the day is filling up nicely, with sincere thanks to all who have already offered their help. Thanks to a kind donation, a few lucky guests will receive bicycles which will transform their lives. Since we are now the only local church providing this type of hospitality, we are expecting up to 80 guests. We are still in need of:

- Salads
- Home-baked cookies and squares (purchased welcome too)
- Gently used men and women's work clothes, boots and travel bags
- Laundered bath and kitchen towels

If you haven't yet had a chance to sign-up and would like to help, please call me at 905-690-7472 or send an email to swatten@sympatico.ca.

Let us all be conscious of St. Paul's idea that in welcoming strangers we may "unknowingly be entertaining angels".

"I was a stranger and you took me in".

Matthew 25:35

Oh, and please pray for a cool day!

Catherine Swatten



We had a very full house for last year's Migrant Workers event. Please pray for a cooler day!

Mark Your Calendar



- **Wed. June 24** ~ Dementia Friendly Communities presentation, 7 pm
- **Saturday June 27** ~ Strawberry sale in Kilbride, 9:30 to 1:00 or sell-out
- **Sundays in July** ~ Services in Carlisle at 10 am
- **Sundays in August** ~ Services in Kilbride at 10 am
- **Mondays July 6, August 10, September 14** ~ Prayer Circle, 12:45
- **Monday July 13 to Friday July 17** ~ Vacation Bible Camp, 9 am to noon
- **Monday August 17** ~ Deadline for backpack donations to Food Bank
- **Wednesday September 2** ~ United Church Women resume meetings weekly, Wednesdays at 9 am
- **Saturday September 12** ~ Kilbride vintage car show
- **Friday September 18** ~ Kilbride community dinner
- **Saturday September 19** ~ Kilbride bottle drive
- **Sunday September 27** ~ Carlisle Anniversary joint service at **10 am**
- **Sunday October 4** ~ Concert: "Beethoven's Unbirthday Celebration", 3 pm
- **Saturday October 17** ~ Paper Shredding Event, 10 to 1
- **Saturday November 21** ~ "Christmas in the Country" Bazaar,
- **Saturday November 21** ~ Local Vendors and Artisans Sale



Prayer Circle

With summer upon us we are looking forward to gathering for our prayer circle under the trees as we did for our June meeting. We plan to meet in July on the first Monday (**July 6**) so that it will free some members to fully participate in the Vacation Bible Camp which will be held the second week. The other summer meetings will be held as usual on the second Monday of the month (**August 10** and **September 14**). All meetings start at 12:45 pm.

It is a privilege to meet with faithful friends to uphold the concerns of our world, our church community and one another. All are welcome to attend.

Linda Dodman and Joan Eagle

You Are Invited to Beethoven's Unbirthday Celebration!

When: **Sunday October 4 at 3 pm**

Where: Carlisle United Church sanctuary

Why: Why did Ludwig van Beethoven so vociferously deny the year of his birth? What were his relationships with his family like? And

who was his "Immortal Beloved"?! These are just some of the intriguing questions investigated in the musical event "*The Psychology of Beethoven Explored through Word and Music*", presented by Dr. Deborah Henry (narration/organ), Dr. Heather Olaveson (piano), Klaudia Thibault (violin) and special guests. We are excited to perform some of your very favourite Beethoven compositions and perhaps introduce you to a few new favourites. All are welcome. Gift Registry: In lieu of 'unbirthday' gifts, Carlisle will gratefully accept freewill offerings for the church.



A big thank you to Foxwood Greenhouses for once again partnering with us to provide beautiful flats of geraniums and begonias for our annual spring plant sale fundraiser. Thanks to all who purchased plants and to the faithful volunteers who delivered the 130 flats to customers. And of course, thanks to Linda Dodman for her superlative organization of sales and delivery routes! (Photo courtesy of Drew Mudge)

Invitation to SING!

Need a little more music in your life? Consider joining Carlisle's "small but mighty" choir for Thursday evening practices at 7-8:30pm starting in September after Labour Day. Perks of the gig: making beautiful noise with good friends and special seating Sunday mornings. Come check out what the view is like facing southwest in the sanctuary!



Finance Comments

As a result of the Chicken Dinner fundraiser overlapping into June, our May financial statements do not reflect the results accurately. The only point I want to highlight is that our Envelope and PAR Givings are still running less than last year by 5%, whereas we budgeted an increase.

Fund-raisers – Thanks to our many great volunteers, we had two successful fundraising events in May. The Plant Sale had receipts of \$4,940 with a profit of approximately \$1,950. The preliminary Chicken Dinner results are: 300 meals served; total revenue, including sponsorships, some monetary donations and sales of left-overs was \$11,100, with a profit of \$6,700. The profit is slightly higher than last year. Many of the ingredients were donated which kept our costs down. We are thanking local businesses and sponsors for their support, including recognizing them on our electronic sign.

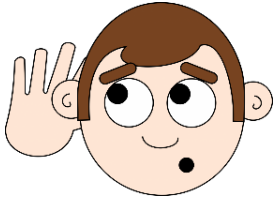
The Church received a Seeds of Hope grant from the United Church Foundation. Thanks to Erin McBryde's initiative, we received a \$1,750 grant to support community activities such as Vacation Bible Camp, concerts and the 200th Anniversary celebration.

Earlier in the year we received a \$7,500 grant from Ontario's Anti-Hate Security and Prevention program. Three projects have been proposed for these funds, with quotes under review. The projects are: replacing the foodbank exterior entrance door; solar lighting in the columbarium area in the Cemetery and possibly securing the church's front doors.

During this volatile financial market conditions, our investments in the Planned Gift and Manse Funds have performed quite well.

Barry Gilbert, Treasurer

New Hearing Assist System



After many months of research and reference checking, the Board has purchased a Williams Sound system which is able to cater to a wide range of hearing impairment and amplification. The system was received mid-June and will be installed shortly, but likely not before we move downstairs (and to Kilbride) for the summer.

We will work with anyone who may wish to take advantage of the technology and lay out the various options open to you. We should be in a position to personalize a device for each person who is interested, so you can use the same unit week after week.

The system's cost exceeded our budget amount by just over \$1,000, so if you are considering a donation in the near future, it could be directed toward this important mission.

Andrea McRae

Scouts Support Food Bank

When the 1st Carlisle Scout troop learned that, due to a change in the date for garbage and recycling pick-up for the Flamborough Food Bank, there was a need for outdoor storage for these materials, the troop decided to take on building an 8' x 4' shed to meet this need. Carlisle United Church approved a location for the shed, near the food bank entrance.

Canadian Tire Waterdown and Weeks Waterdown donated some materials and the shed is now nearing completion. Over 200 volunteer hours will go into this project, which will count towards the Chief Scout Award for our senior scouts.

Al Ernest, Troop Scouter, 1st Carlisle Scouts

Flamborough Food Bank

Dear Friends at Carlisle United Church, we hope this message finds you well. We want to share an update on the ongoing work at the Flamborough Food Bank and thank you for your steadfast support.

Our food bank continues to be a vital resource for our community, serving approximately 150 families each week with healthy, nutritious food. The need remains great, and your generosity helps us meet it head-on.

We're excited to report that our community garden is thriving! With the summer sun and recent rains, the garden is in full growth. We look forward to soon harvesting fresh vegetables, fruit and herbs, which will be shared directly with families in need. If you are able, donations of fresh garden produce are especially appreciated at this time.

In addition to fresh produce, our most needed food items include:

- Canned brown beans
- Canned tomatoes
- Meal replacements such as Ensure

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our annual Back to School program this August, where we support local children as they return to the classroom. We will be collecting school backpacks and supplies, and any contributions are most welcome.

Thank you, Carlisle United Church, for your ongoing support and commitment to our mission of eliminating food insecurity in Flamborough. Your partnership makes a real difference in the lives of our neighbours.



*With gratitude, Jim Leaman for
The Flamborough Food Bank Team*

From the Trustees

Due to many incidents of theft and vandalism at GTA cemeteries, the Trustees have decided to install motion detector lights in the columbarium garden area. Placement of these lights will be determined at the upcoming Trustee meeting on June 22.

A local monument specialist is offering cleaning of monuments and flat markers in Carlisle Cemetery this summer. If you are interested in having expert help with cleaning, raising, repairing and restoring family monuments please contact Al Ernest directly for a quote (905-689-9466 or a.e@cogeco.ca).

Andy Tarrant, Chair

Drive Thru Chicken Dinner

Here are some of the numbers:
We sold a total of 300 dinners, 257 pre-ordered and 43 drive-ins. We also sold a lot of leftovers. Total profit approx. \$6,700.



Thanks to local businesses who donated products and services. We are very grateful for the support of Fortino's Waterdown, Harvey's Waterdown, Sobey's Extra Burlington, Carlisle Farm Market, Josling Farms and Breezy Corners. We also had many generous business sponsors this year:

- Gold Level Sponsor: Rankin Septic
- Silver Level Sponsors: ICM Painting and Garden Goddess Landscaping
- Bronze Level Sponsors: Vickie Cooper Real Estate, Kyrsten Feere Real Estate and Ruth Moore travel consultant at Expedia Waterdown

And special thanks to the many, many volunteers who pitched in with this event. Your dedication helped make the dinner another great success.

See you next year, **Saturday May 8, 2027!**

Property Report

There have been a number of property related initiatives over the past few months:

Security Enhancements

Using the funds from a grant from the government, we will be adding the following:
1) An additional security camera; 2) Motion-activated lighting in the Columbarium garden; 3) A new door for the Food Bank entrance; 4) A security upgrade to the church front door. Much appreciation to Barry Gilbert for his efforts in obtaining these funds.

Parking Lot "Remediation"

Although we realize that much of what we can afford for the parking is at best a "Band Aid solution", we have made arrangements for the pot holes to be filled.

Sanctuary Hearing Assist System Upgrade

Over the past several months we have been looking for a replacement Hearing Assist system for the Sanctuary. Thanks to much research on Andrea's part, we have purchased a system that we hope will serve. The system comes from a Canadian company and is "expandable" to meet future needs. We hope to have it installed within the next few weeks.

Hydro Consumption "Analysis"

As hydro consumption has been on the rise over the past few years, the Board has been investigating different options for assessing and analyzing our consumption. We have installed a monitoring system which should inform us about hydro use. Thank you to Drew Mudge for his help in installing the system.

Food Bank Recycling Storage

Because of changes to how recycling is collected, the Food Bank has been looking for additional storage space. The Carlisle Scouts, under the leadership of Al Ernest, have offered to construct a storage shed. Thank you!

Vestibule Refresh

The appearance of the vestibule as you enter the church by the side door is in need of "freshening". A group has been formed to look into this and to make recommendations.

Bob Moulder

Cakes, Cakes, Cakes!



On April 26, we celebrated Frances Quarrington's 90th birthday with cake.

On May 24, we celebrated Carolyn Eaton's 90th birthday... with cake.

And on June 7, we said farewell to Dave and Mary Walker. You guessed it, with cake.

Our very best wishes to all of these dear people – may you always have cake and friends to share it with.

