



Centennial United Church

Stayner, Ontario

Message from the Minister



I don't know if I have ever been as done with winter and ready for spring as I am this year! Between the frequent snowstorms and ice storms and dismal grey days, I cannot wait to sing "Here comes the sun!" and glory in the butterflies and flowers that go hand in hand with

Easter. Even with the help of our "Purveyors of Awe" worship series (adapted from Worship Design Studios) this Lenten Season, it has been a struggle to see this as a winter "wonder"land. Yet, in responding to the call to notice the beauty and wonder all around us through the lens of curiosity and meaning, the encouragement to delight in the world around us and connect with one another, I have found myself filled with awe again and again. I pray the same has been true for you because these glimpses of awe, however fleeting, remind us of our Easter faith—that joy comes with the dawn and scatters the night with her song (VU 166).

Yours in service,

Reverend Jennifer Irving



Message from the Board

Just a note of thanks for your support this first quarter. We have had every weather event imaginable thrown at us this winter. Snow storms, heavy rains, freezing rain, a warm spell in early March and then back to winter. Getting out to church proved to be a real challenge. Services even had to be cancelled.

Thanks for joining us via zoom, Facebook live-stream or watching us on YouTube when unable to attend. We appreciate the effort members make to support us when they can't make it out.

As I write this more snow is in the forecast..... not quite what you would expect at Easter. Even so the days are much longer and I am awakened early in the morning by singing birds Certain signs that spring and resurrection are coming regardless. It will be refreshing when we can spend more time outdoors and in our gardens.

Our Lenten journey has brought us to Holy Week and we are busy making preparations for Palm Sunday, the Community Cantata as we enter Holy Week at Jubilee Presbyterian Church, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and Easter services.

We look forward to sharing this time with you in person or through our broadcasts.

Easter Blessings,

Dave Hopper, Board Chair



Finance & Stewardship Report

As I am writing this report our March month has not been completed, so the following financial numbers are for the two months ending February 2025 comparing to February 2024 taken from the General Fund Report which doesn't include income and expenses from the Building, Outside Food Cupboard, Sunday School, and M & S Funds.

	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
INCOME	\$ 19,696.73	\$ 31,396.58
EXPENSES	\$ 25,775.09	\$ 28,362.41
BALANCE	\$ -6,078.63	\$ 3,034.17
M&S	\$ 1,848.00	\$ 1,492.00

As you can see we are well behind last year to the end of February. Contributions are down over \$5,500; fund raisers are down \$2,000 plus the HST refund claim for \$4,000 has been sent in but we have not received the rebate yet.

It has been a challenging winter which has limited attendance. Thank you for considering the needs of Centennial in your monthly budget and for your continued financial support even when you cannot attend in person on Sunday mornings.

Looking for how to give weekly even when church is cancelled? Here are some donation options:

- A) Mail a cheque to Centennial United Church at 234 William St., Stayner, ON L0M 1S0
- B) Set up PAR (pre-authorized remittance)
- C) E-transfer to office@ucstayner.ca
- D) Use Canada Helps site we set up 5 years ago <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/70645>

Even in these uncertain times, we give of our time, our talents, and our money to be the church and live out our Easter faith.

With gratitude,

Doug Dickinson, Chair Property and Finance
John Squire, Treasurer

Office News

Pat Elson is in the office at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 1pm. She can also be reached at 705-428-3711 or by email at office@ucstayner.ca.

Please speak to Pat if you wish to sponsor a bulletin (\$20) in memory of a loved one or to recognize a special occasion.

Centennial Women

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, [...] but encouraging one another...”

~ Hebrews 10:24, 25a

Centennial Women continue to celebrate that special community that is made up of women of faith. We meet 5 - 6 times per year, and roughly follow the following format.

Christmas luncheon: late November, or early December, we meet in the CE hall and enjoy Christmas music, table games, a delicious catered lunch and an outreach activity.

February: we meet at Blue Mountain Manor and share a Valentine's themed meeting with the women who make BMM their home. This February, we had about 25 women attending - half from Centennial and half from BMM.

Field trip: this year on **May 21st at 11 AM**, we will be having a field trip to Rural Roots for a picnic and plant talk and a chance to do a little plant shopping. Rain date May 22.

An informative speaker: the focus is generally on an aspect of health, community support, or issues in the wider world that we might not be aware of, or just need more information about.

Mission outreach: A speaker comes to share with us an outreach project that gives us information about what's going on in the wider world, and perhaps might like to be involved with.

Prayer: we have begun a new prayer initiative: **On the 15th of the month, from 7PM-7:30PM** we meet via the worship zoom room to bring our prayer and praise to our loving God. This is very low pressure: we state our prayer desire, and then pray together in silence, finishing each prayer with: “Lord, hear our prayer” and then go on to the next one. If you have things that need praying about and you cannot make it to the zoom, you can contact Liz Kraan, Nancy Brillinger or Deb Allen and leave your prayer request with them, knowing that we will spend time praying about your concern.

We welcome theme & speaker suggestions. If you have ideas to share, let Liz or Deb know.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2025 1:30pm. Come join us in “A Celebration of Women”

Liz Kraan, President Centennial Women

Education and Program

For our Lenten study, we have been using the book Something Sacred: Reflections on Music and Faith and taking the time to think about the meaning, words, tunes and impact of hymns. We are thankful that the United Church has adopted inclusive language, even though our memories sometimes drift to old wording. Music is very integral to worship; familiar hymns can bring back cherished memories and new hymns can add beautiful music to our worship experience. Take a moment and reflect on your favourite hymns.

In Sunday School, as in worship, we have been using the Purveyor's of Awe package, seeking all of the awesomeness around us. As we enter the Easter season, the hymns and all the world around us become even more joyful, as we take in the awe of God's world.

On Easter Sunday we will celebrate worship with all ages together, sharing the mystery and joy of the risen Christ.

United Church communities have been sharing worship and projects for almost 100 years! Over the next couple of months, in Sunday School we will have some fun exploring the connections that our families have with Centennial, the wider church and other churches. This journey will take us into our history and inspire our future together as the United Church of Canada.

Donna Nadolny, Chair Education and Program



Centennial United Church
234 William Street, Stayner
ANNUAL YARD SALE!
MAY 17th 2025 8am-Noon

WOW Regional Council News

The Spring Meeting of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council will be held in Port Elgin and on Zoom on May 2nd and 3rd with a theme of "Deepening Connections". This will be our minister, Jennifer Irving's, final meeting as President of the Region. We congratulate her on her contribution and commitment to the wider United Church of Canada.

This year, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church, the Regional Council is creating a mosaic featuring pieces created by Communities of Faith throughout the Regional Council that will be assembled at the Spring Meeting. This is how Centennial will be represented! Thank you to Donna Nadolny for her design and artistry.



We are allowed two representatives to the Regional Council. Some duties are attending WOWRC meetings (some in person, some online) and reporting to the Board on Regional work. Speak to Greta or Jennifer if you'd like to know more.

The WOW website is wowcucc.ca.

Greta Horton, Centennial WOWRC Representative

Upcoming Events

There are many exciting and meaningful events and services happening at Centennial United Church and the local area. **Come and join us.**

Sunday April 13th, 10:30 am – Palm Sunday service with communion.

Sunday Apr 13th, 7 pm – Palm Sunday Community Concert at Jubilee Presbyterian Church.

Friday, April 18th, 10:30 am – Good Friday Service. Join us for this reflective service of remembrance.

Sunday, April 20th, 6:15 am – Easter Sunrise Service at Lloyd and Marilyn Somerville's home (204 Elm Street Stayner). Join us as we watch the sun rise together. Please bring your own chair. Coffee and tea provided.

Sunday, April 20th – Easter Worship Service. Begin at **9:30 am** with Hot Cross Buns, Coffee, Tea and Juice in CE Hall. **Worship** to begin in Sanctuary at **10:30 am.**

Wednesday April 23rd, 1:30 pm – Centennial Women meeting in the CE Hall. Bring a friend and come prepared to share a momento, anecdote or quote from a woman who was/is important to you as we join in **"A Celebration of Women"**.

Sunday April 27th, 10:30 am – Camping Sunday with hot dog lunch to follow. Donations to Camp Simpresca.

Tuesday April 29th, 7 pm – Booksharing. Come and share what you have been reading or learn what others have enjoyed. There are books for borrowing at the church.

Saturday May 3rd – Stayner Kinsmen Duck Race Come out and cheer on the Centennial United Church duck!

Sunday May 4th, 10:30 am – Celebrating 100 Years of History through Hymns We'll sing our way through 10 decades of United Church music and then join together in a Potluck lunch. You are encouraged to bring a dish for the potluck using a recipe from United Church and UCW cookbooks. Cookbooks will be available to borrow on Camping Sunday if you don't have one! Don't feel that you have to bring a dish in order to join in the potluck There is always more than enough food!

Thursday, May 8th, 4:00 - 6:00 pm – Fish Dinner. Fresh Georgian Bay Fish with all the trimmings plus dessert. Eat in or take-out. Pre-order by e-mailing fundraisers@ucstayner.ca by May 5th. \$25/person.

Saturday May 17th, 8 am noon - Spring Yard Sale! Donation Drop-off at the church Thursday May 15th, 3pm-6pm & Friday May 16th, 1pm-5pm. Proceeds to support Church and Community Outreach projects. Please no clothing, heavy/large furniture, child seats, books or Christmas decorations. Volunteers needed. E-mail Geoff Allen for more information: geoff.allen.re@gmail.com

Wednesday May 21st, 11 am – Centennial Women's Field Trip to Rural Roots for a picnic and plant talk. Rain date is May 22nd.

Sunday June 1st, 10:30 – 100th Anniversary Service, Join us for this special day as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada starting with worship, followed by an afternoon of entertainment and activities and food!

Sunday June 8th – Joint Worship for the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada United Churches from the area are joining together at **Trinity United Church in Collingwood** for a special worship to celebrate! No Worship at Centennial! Stay tuned for more details and plan to carpool and fill the church!

Thursday June 12th, 7 pm – Centennial's Affirm United committee invite you to a **Movie Night** to watch "1946, The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture".

Centennial Online

Be sure visit our website regularly to find new activities, sermons, bulletins, newsletters, videos, pictures and more – www.ucstayner.ca. Share and Like our Facebook Page : Centennial United Church–Stayner to get a notification when we go live! Subscribe to our Centennial United Stayer YouTube Channel and watch our uploaded worships and special videos anytime.

Send your e-mail to jennifer@ucstayner.ca to be added to our Centennial Family e-mail group and receive weekly updates with links to Zoom worships and more.