

Annual Report of Port Elgin United Church



2022

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Mission Statement of Port Elgin United Church

To be a Christ-centered faith community,
living out God's Word, guided by the Holy Spirit,
welcoming all, serving others, and reaching out to those in need.

Life Passages



New Members

2022 09 27

Gordon Ross Wolfe

Deaths

2022 03 03

John Douglas Burke

2022 05 01

Linda Shirley Wolfe

2022 06 05

Audrey Ann Becker

2022 08 03

Marlene Hazel Allen

2022 08 21

Charlanne Rose Milroy

2022 08 23

Charles Jelle Feddema

2022 09 02

Heather Tennant

2022 09 21

Don Sutherland

The Life of Port Elgin United Church...A Year in Review

DATE	EVENT
January 9	Housing for All Presentation Rev. John Lougheed
February 20	Re-Open for In Person Worship
February 27	Communion
March 6	Annual General Meeting
March 13	Rev. Hugh MacDonald
April 10	Palm Sunday Communion
April 13	Labyrinth Walk
April 15	Good Friday Service
April 17	Easter Sunday
May 15	Rev. Hugh MacDonald
May 21	Yard Sale & Bake Sale Youth Group
June 2	Elections Ontario
June 17	Migrant BBQ & Potluck
June 19	Communion
June 26	Rev. Hugh MacDonald
August 28	Rev. Hugh MacDonald
September 17	Celebration of Life Heather Tennant
September 26	Funeral of Don Sutherland
October 2	Communion
October 3	Bruce Power Annual General Meeting
October 21	Coat Drive
October 23	Chantry Singers Concert
November 6	Soup Luncheon Mission & Outreach
November 13	Liz Dillman
November 20	Rev. John Lougheed / Sundae Sunday Youth Group
November 26	AcAppella Concert
November 27	Communion
December 10	UCW Bake Sale
December 11	Congregational Budget Meeting
December 18	Christmas Pageant
December 24	Christmas Eve Service online due to weather
December 31	New Year's Eve Celebration

From the Minister's Study

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13

Friends, what a privilege it has been to walk with you as your minister through the year 2022! I am amazed and astounded at all that we have done together through what can only charitably be described as very challenging conditions.



Early in the year, we were hit by the Omicron virus, which kept us from fully opening again, and for longer than we had anticipated. When the Fall rolled around, people finally felt it was safe again to gather at church, and our numbers have begun to increase each week since then. During the COVID years, a lot of things have shifted in church world. In general, we are less certain of ourselves I think, and the world seems much more polarized, with people everywhere (to me at least) less able to hear and accept different opinions and thoughts.

Last spring I initiated a healing circle process in order to clear up some of the lingering bad feelings from the personnel issue of months past. We contracted a person named Anne Martin to facilitate two listening circles, a process that was I think helpful to some extent, but in no way brought resolution to the wide range of feelings across the congregation. It was a drop in the bucket, but at least it was a drop. While it's true that time heals wounds, it's also true that somewhere deep inside the DNA of this congregation, there is a tendency to be in conflict with one another. I don't know where this comes from, but it is something that you absolutely must pay attention to in the future: whenever conflict is brewing, people need to intentionally listen to each other before moving too far in one direction or another. I don't think PEUC can sustain another large conflict like this last one.

In spite of all that, and as we have begun worshipping more regularly with one another, I feel that I can honestly say that the Holy Spirit is very active in this place. I sense this most at church in worship, and feel that the Spirit is bringing us together, knitting us together as it says in Psalm 139, building us up from the ground up, and hopefully inspiring our own hearts and spirits in the process. There is a very bright future ahead for PEUC, and it all hinges on how well you place yourselves in the hands of God's Spirit.

I want to tell you how gratifying my work here has been for me personally among you. I look forward to being here, both on Sundays and during the week. I enjoy the relationships we have been able to build, even though of course it is different qualitatively perhaps since I am a supply minister. I enjoy all your idiosyncrasies and all the laughter that is being heard more and more in the hallways here. Coming from the depths of COVID shutdown when I first started, it is absolutely glorious to hear the place becoming more alive!

In 2023 I will be moving on. I have not decided whether I will continue to do supply work in the church at large. Full retirement with more opportunity for family on the weekends is beckoning to me, as is the opportunity to travel for longer periods. We'll see. I have projects to work on that I have put on hold. I am confident that the right person is out there to take you on the next leg of your journey as a congregation. I will hold you all in my prayers.

~ Blessings of shalom, Rev Dr. John G. Smith

The Council of Port Elgin United Church

A Time to Reflect and Give Thanks

Reflection is an essential exercise for Christians. It is not just about reflecting on our past year or setting goals for the upcoming one it is also about learning from our mistakes, celebrating our successes and growing spiritually in the process.

These past few years have indeed challenged our patience and tested our perseverance. There will always be difficult times in our lives, but we can press on with assurance by relying on God and His strength during these moments.

This year has taught us how meaningful friendships can be in helping us stay connected to God and grow spiritually. Church life helps us cultivate relationships with friends who will stay by our side when times are tough and support us spiritually.

The Bible teaches us about the power of having a grateful heart. An attitude of thanksgiving has the power to fill us with both hope and joy.

A huge thank you to the members of Council who have served so faithfully with open minds and open hearts this past year.

Chair – June Van Bastelaar, Louise Jack, Dennis Kazimer & Ben Miller

Minister – Rev. John Smith

Secretary – Kathleen Wolfe

Treasurer – Brian Frook

Christian Education – Dennis Kazimer

Finance – Dianne Lawrie

Membership and Pastoral Care – Louise Jack

Ministry & Personnel – John Van Berlo

Mission & Outreach – Penny Inkster

Stewardship - Vacant

Property – John DeJong

Worship – June Van Bastelaar

Trustees – Ben Miller

Men's Group – Alec Kononiuk

UCW – Louise Jack

Youth – Dennis Kazimer

Regional Rep – John Van Berlo

To Rev John Smith, an everlasting thank you for your continued commitment to the congregation of PEUC. Your presence among us is a cherished gift.

To Kathleen Wolfe our Administrator a huge thanks for your steady hand and the skilled guidance you provide to all of us.

To Amber and Justin our Custodians our thanks for your hard work in maintaining our beautiful Church so that it can be enjoyed by so many.

In 2022 PEUC started the process to call a new minister. The team of Helen Cumming, Tanya Wolfe, Bruce Giles and Dennis Kazimer prepared the Community of Faith Profile for PEUC the first and critical step in this process. Thank you to these individuals for a job well done.

Thank you to all the committees and groups who work so hard on our behalf and to make this community of faith an important part of the broader community. Please take the time to read and enjoy their individual reports and give thanks for everything they do to serve God.

Thank you to the entire congregation for your support this past year. There is indeed strength in numbers. God knew that trying to live the Christian life would not be easy. He knew that if we are to succeed, we will have to have the support of each other.

Hug-a-Bear Ministry

2022 was a busier year with the help of the ladies who stuffed many bears. Thank you. We distributed 3 bags of bears (120) 2 bags to the Southampton hospital and 1 bag to the Owen Sound Hospital. Hopefully we can get back to regularly meeting this year as there are many bears waiting to be stuffed.

~ Dianne Lawrie



Christian Education Committee

The year began with Discovery Cove classes being online. Then in April the children started to come back into the church for class. There was only one class for Kindergarten through grade six. It started slow but by the end of the year most Sundays had eight to ten children in class. We started with a new curriculum called "Simply Loved". It is very similar to our VBS program. The children created Christmas cards for our more senior members of our congregation in November. Some of the children participated in the Christmas pageant on December 18th.

PD Day camps resumed in September 2022. The first camp had 12 children registered and the other two camps were full (25) with some children on a waiting list to attend. There was not a problem to get preteens and teens to help with these camps but we still struggled to get some adult volunteers. The more help we get the more children we can register. Donation jars were set out if families wanted to donate to the church.

VBS returned in August with over 80 children attending. A fun time was had by the children and volunteers.

An early New Years Eve event was held during the day on the 31st of December. We enjoyed a potluck, crafts, a scavenger hunt and a chance to visit.

The children's playgroup did not return in 2022 due to Covid concern.

There is excitement in Christian Education as we plan for 2023.

~ Joan Kazimer

Youth Group

Youth Group started after COVID restrictions in April 2022 and continued through the summer. It provides the youth a chance to get together after such a long shutdown. The Youth Group from April through to end of August consisted of our senior youth which included College and University students and a couple from High School. Youth held a BBQ and bake sale as well as volunteered at the Church Yard Sale during May Long Weekend.. It was great to see our youth so involved. Throughout the summer the youth were very engaged and led the weekly discussions, prayers, had campfires, went bowling and played Laser tag.

On September 6th we started Youth Group for the year where we began with three youth. Youth Group has always been for our youth who attended Grade 7-12. We decided to open the Youth Group to include students in grade six. To our surprise our youth numbers grew from three to twenty eight over a few weeks. Each week we have fifteen to twenty youth attending every Friday night. Weekly discussion topics are developed by one of our youth leaders. Discussions were engaging topics ending with bible verses and prayers.

On Halloween our Youth went 'Trick or Canning' where they collected canned goods for Living Hope Food Basket. This was a huge success and provided our youth a sense of giving to those less fortunate.

In November the youth ran 'Sundae Sunday' where ice cream was served to our congregation with lots of smiles and laughter following the Church service. December was an active month where youth decorated Gingerbread houses and had the Congregation vote for their favorite Gingerbread house as well as some of our youth participating in our Christmas pageant. All had a blast! Due to the infamous winter storm at Christmas our planned Christmas Carolling was cancelled.

We continue to plan activities with the youth for the remainder of the year and longer term. We continue to give thanks to God for our youth and all those coming out each Friday Night to lead and help co-ordinate events.

~ Dennis Kazimer

Finance Committee

The year 2022 was a partial re-opening story for Port Elgin United Church. Regular services began to be the norm with some Folks but not all congregants feeling safe to attend Sunday service again. This was the first year since Covid 19 started that the church didn't receive relief funds from the Government of Canada to help subsidize the staffing costs. Kathleen and I have a couple of years working together under our belts so as a result the Finance function seems to be getting pretty well standardized.

The finances of the church began to improve in the later months of the year as Regular Giving's picked up with the re-opening of services. Also, rental income that the church had missed out on for 2 years under Covid lockdowns began to supplement our revenues from numerous groups using the gymnasium space. This helped offset the increase in property expenses that the church was faced with including higher snow removal costs and higher Heat and Hydro bills. Insurance costs were also a drag on the Church's finances this year as rates being charged to all United Churches continued to increase. Erin Zorzi did a review of the church books for 2021 and also advised us on best practices going forward. Thanks goes out to the Congregational members of the Church that continue keeping

up with their monthly/weekly giving. Please consider increasing your giving's (if you are able) as the church budget has been faced with ever increasing costs in this highly inflationary environment.

Once again I would like to thank Kathleen Wolfe and Dianne Lawrie (Finance Chair) for their continued support of the Financial Reporting Function for Port Elgin United Church. As well, your Church Council has been very responsible with how funds were spent and managed in the year.

~ Brian Frook

Women of the Word (W.O.W.)



Wednesday mornings Women of the Word meet in the resource centre to study the Bible. We meet in person as well as via ZOOM to accommodate all who are interested in learning about God's Holy Word.

This year we studied "Nehemiah" and "Vanishing Grace".

It is important to us to give back to those in need and this year we raised \$425.00 which we donated to Safe N Sound.

If you would like to become more knowledgeable about the Bible you are most welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00. Please contact Laura Van Berlo at 519-832-9259. We are all on our own journey in deepening our relationship with God.

~ Laura Van Berlo

Men's Group

We have had opportunity to support the property projects and events, and will continue to help in future events like the yard sale. Looking forward to future "Coffee, Calories, Cholesterol, and Conversation" with the Men's Group.

~Alec Kononiuk

Membership and Pastoral Care Committee

The Membership and Pastoral Care Committee meets monthly (except in summer) to discuss the needs of our congregation and share ideas for reaching out to folks. In 2022, we were very pleased to welcome Marion Kelly and Karen Ribey to our committee. At the end of the year, Gregg Zeigler retired from the committee. We thank her for her long and dedicated service and know that although



no longer on the committee she continues to provide support and comfort to many. Throughout the year, the members of this committee have made hundreds of phone calls to our church members living in isolation, experiencing serious health issues or bereaved. Rev. John has been a huge part of the work we do and provides wise guidance to the committee. During the nice weather some outdoor visiting happened as well. Many cards of concern and support were also sent.

In the spring, Louise Jack and Marion Kelly participated in a 4 week Spiritual Care Visitor Training course put on the Grey Bruce Health Services Spiritual Care Department. I certainly found it useful.

At Christmas, the Discovery Cove children and the Youth Group between them made 55 beautiful cards which the Pastoral Care committee delivered to many older members of our congregation. Many thanks to Joan Kazimer for organizing the children and youth and providing them with all the great card making supplies! In addition, church calendars and poinsettias were delivered to our folks in senior homes.

On the Membership side, we were sad to lose 3 members (by transfer of membership) and happy to welcome 1 new member.

Our goals for 2023 include continuing to reach out to our members who are living in isolation, experiencing serious health issues or are bereaved, to look for new opportunities to connect with folks who need a friendly call or visit or a way to connect with their church in difficult times. We ask the congregation to help by letting us know, through the church office, if someone is in hospital, ill at home or experiencing other issues and would appreciate a call or card from the Pastoral Care team. We also plan a review of the Historical Role and will be looking to recruit a few long time PEUC members to assist with this important task.

The 2022 Membership and Pastoral Care Committee

Grace Reany, Gregg Zeigler, Ben Miller, Marion Kelly, Karen Ribey, Rev. John Smith and Louise Jack

~ Louise Jack

Ministry and Personnel Committee

2022 was another busy year for the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee

In addition to the routine matters of talking to staff and confirming that issues are dealt with, M&P had the following major items for 2022.

Firstly M&P continues to operate with only 2 members. Three is the normal minimum. Members of Council have filled in to ensure there has been a quorum of M&P where required.

M&P continues to use the M&P Manual produced and approved 3 years ago.

Our previous Custodian had medical issues and was transferred from long term disability to disabled. Because of this we were able to hire new custodians.

We thank John de Jong for volunteering to keep the church clean while our previous custodian was not available. This was a major task and we give John our thanks.

The decision was made to use Contract Staff for our Custodians. M&P used the online hiring service INDEED to advertise the vacancy. We received many applications, the furthest two were Venezuela and South Africa. We selected 4 local Contractors and interviewed them. We selected Amber's Cleaning Crew, who started May 01, 2022. We have seen that they are performing very well and we have received positive feedback from people on the good quality of their work.

Just before Christmas there was a medical issue with one of our current Custodians requiring Radiation and Chemo treatment. Volunteers filled in for him for the first few weeks. However, he has continued to work, even with Chemo, and we thank him for his dedication.

During the summer the United Church of Canada issued a new policy on Discrimination. It is comprehensive and covers all known aspects of Council, Staff and Congregation working together. Council accepted and approved use of the Discrimination Policy.

M&P contacted people and set up a Community of Faith Profile team to start the process for calling a new minister. The Community of Faith Profile Team reviewed our current circumstances, compiled our history and polled the congregation. They worked with our Region to ensure that Region was aware of and was not in disagreement with the findings and the recommendations of our Team. By the end of 2022 the Profile had been prepared, submitted to Region and was awaiting a decision from Region.

Assuming region accepts the Profile Recommendations we will start our Search and form a Search Committee in 2023.

Our Minister is with us as a short term replacement. Rev. John has graciously accepted extensions to remain with us. We are extremely grateful for his continued presence. Extensions are negotiated every 6 months. We have applied to Region and they have agreed to allow Rev. John to remain with us after the 18 month limit. Rev. John was in agreement with our request.

In December after the Budget was passed M&P issued letters with Salary Increases for all staff except for the Minister. The Minister remains on 6 month extensions and the next extension is due March 01, 2023

.~ John Van Berlo

Mission and Outreach Committee

- With the building opening up after Covid restrictions, we were able to see each other again! **YOU** are all part of the Outreach plan to attract more people into our faith community.
- What can you do to help? You can act as a friendly greeter at one of the entrances from 9:40 – 9:55. If you can't remember names, just smile and say "welcome". If you don't want to stand at the cold doorways, stand by the entrances to the Sanctuary. Be friendly! Sign up today.
- The greeters and service leaders also need to explain changes as they arise. For example, Offertory Plates, now located on the table outside the sanctuary, are not all that obvious so they need to be pointed out.
- Help with the Coffee Hour. Two people have been making the coffee since we reopened. It's time some others stepped up to the plate. The two ladies will teach you. Visiting done during Coffee Hour is very important.
- Did you know when you allocate some of your donations to United Church's Mission & Service Fund, 100% of those funds are sent to UCC in the following month. In 2022, \$10,281.90 were sent.
- When you allocate some of your donations to Directed Missions, this committee decides where that money should go.
- The war in Ukraine! \$5,000 Directed Missions funds were immediately sent to the United Church of Canada Mission & Service branch to help the people of the Ukraine. In addition,

members of the congregation donated an extra \$2,096.90 which was also forwarded to UCC M&S. We are a generous congregation which steps up when funds are needed for special causes.

- Taxi rides are arranged through our committee with funding from the General Fund. If you ever need help getting to Church please reach out to the office. Wolfy's Taxi makes it possible for Vi, Anne Marie, Emily, Mike and Greg to join us for Sunday services. Don't let transportation stop you coming to church!
- LENT: A new look for the Lenten campaign encouraged families with young children to cut out pictures of foods identified as being needed for distribution by Living Hope Food Basket. Much food and \$508.07 was raised. Monetary donations are gratefully received as every week they purchase fresh grocery items like milk, bread, etc. Some members of our congregation give of their time, talents and treasures on an ongoing basis at Living Hope. Thanks to all who help those with food security issues. If you think this is something you would like to help, please contact Diann Lutz.
- In the spring, Monkey Barrel Day Care approached the Church about renting some space for their before and after school program. Tours were given, rates were discussed but, in the end, they were unable to hire ECE qualified staff to run the venture. Income that could have helped with our bottom line did not happen.
- Council agreed to support the running of the Port Elgin Flea Market at The Plex. All expenses were to be paid for by the Market. Net profits will help a new venture to bring another Syrian family to Port Elgin. Saad Alibrahim and his family are lonely for their family. Saad has a sister whose house was bombed the same day as theirs as they were next door neighbours. Her family in desperate need with an injured husband and 8 children from the ages of 6-26 are refugees. The war in Syria continues to this day between the government and the rebels. It is not safe to live there, so they are refugees in Lebanon. If you have a heart for helping refugees watch the Friday File for more information.
- JUNE: Our first potluck dinner was held on June 17 for the migrant workers returning to HiBerry Farms. Funds unspent in 2021 were used to purchase burgers, hotdogs, chicken and sausages, buns, and condiments. Pot luck items included the ever popular desserts. The men had a representative speak to us in English and thank us for our hospitality and making them feel welcome. The Youth Group and their leaders came and helped with take down and cleaning up. Thank you so much! Getting volunteers is not as easy as it used to be.
- Our web site www.portelginunitedchurch.ca has generated inquiries for room use. Thank you Kathleen for your assistance in receiving those requests, discussing them as necessary and organizing the groups wanting to use our building.
- In August we were approached by Maria Bertrand about the Free Coat Distribution we partnered with The Adult Learning Centre on in 2021. For our part, Mission & Outreach committee took the lead on the project in 2022. ALC staff helped get the word out to the agencies who serve clients who might need the coats. We contacted the other churches in Saugeen Shores asking for them to collect coats and bring them to us for distribution. Lindsay Veitch hung the coats up in categories in the back cloakroom. She washed some that needed freshening up. We purchased signs and moved them around town to get word out of the pick up date. Some people came early, some later but the bulk of the coats were distributed on October 21. Leftovers have been taken to the food banks, the Salvation Army Thrift Store, the SS Police station and soon schools will receive the balance. Thank you to all who participated,

especially those who delivered the extra coats to other distribution centres. It has been suggested we run for two days next time and have a free lunch for the shoppers! On Remembrance Day Sunday, Karen Ribey provided soups for donations to Mission & Outreach to help offset the cost of the signs made up for the Coat Drive.

- In September, the Council appointed Mission & Outreach and Property to look into finding suitable tenant(s) to generate income as we were facing a devastating deficit. Many hours of thinking went into what kind of renter would fit well with our Mission Statement, how to attract such renters, how many different renters could we accommodate, what should we charge, how to make sure we could still have funerals and funeral teas, how and where would we store items we need to operate as a church.
 - In November we were referred to an existing Day Care looking to expand their operation by the County of Bruce.
 - Tours, inspections and tentative negotiations continue. To date no agreement has been solidified.
- In October, a \$1,000 Bursary was awarded to “Harley” Lidia Pittas. The student is chosen by the school staff. Harley did not attend commencement, so Penny was unable to present it. Instead, the cheque was left with the school staff.
- Three Hallowe’en events for children gave us a chance to hand out flyers about our Children’s programs attached to treats. Penny attended all three events – The Lion’s Club Monster parade on our property, Smith’s Apple Farms fundraiser by Caitlyn’s Crusaders and the Fairy Lake Parade – and talked up the fact we are open and have great kids’ programs.
- In the fall, we were approached by a fitness instructor, Steph Miller, who was interested in running classes geared to seniors. With help from Kathleen, information was distributed using social media. We had enough people sign up to run classes Monday & Wednesday plus Tuesday & Thursday. We had congregants from PEUC, Southampton United and the public. More are planned for 2023. Some participants mentioned they needed stairs included in their work out either after surgery or for increased heart rate, so walking is done in the sanctuary as well as the Activity Centre when it is available. Clean shoes guarantee the sanctuary carpet will not get dirty.
- Please consider joining your Mission & Outreach Team – many hands make light work.

~ Penny Inkster

Property Committee

Removal of the steeple was safely completed in July. Repairing property buildings continues, eg roofs leaks, soffits, due to wind damage is continuing. Repair of church plumbing such as taps, and toilets continue. Maintenance of Heat and Air Conditioning continues. Repair of chairs and painting church property continues. Snow removal has increased \$1K from last year due to fuel costs. Trapping of rodents mice and squirrels were an issue this and openings have been sealed. Several rooms were painted or touched up. Lawn maintenance is ongoing. We’re thankful for the donation of a lawn tractor as we blew a piston on the John Deere this summer. Maintenance of lawn equipment continues. The vegetable garden was a big success. The property committee members continue to support our church building and property with out them our costs would soar. Thanks to all those who makes the property and church building appealing. The butterfly garden will be our top priority to be restored in the spring.

~ John DeJong

Trustees of Port Elgin United Church

The members of the 2022 PEUC Board of Trustees are:

Minister – Rev. John Smith
Ben Miller – 2016 Chairperson and Council Representative
Harry Jack – 2016 Secretary
Dan Gray – 2016
Patti Byers – 2020
Barry Laurie – 2022

The Board of Trustees invests and manages the Youth Trust Fund (\$55,842.18) and the Manse Fund (\$134,007.88). Funds are disbursed from the Youth Trust Fund as directed by the Church Council. In 2022 the amount transferred to the Youth account was \$3,000.00. Investment income from the Manse Fund is directed to the General Fund and as such the principal is maintained.

The Board of Trustees oversees and maintains the church general insurance policy. Port Elgin United Church is enrolled in the United Church of Canada Group Insurance Policy. The group policy provides many advantages but has not insulated us from ever increasing insurance costs. In response to these high insurance premiums The United Church of Canada has launched a self insurance program aimed at reducing insurance cost. The program will be phased in and started on Dec. 1, 2022. PEUC will not see any financial benefit until our current policy comes due on June 1, 2023. We have been told to anticipate premium reductions of 15-30%.

All United Church congregations have Directors and Officers Insurance coverage on a no cost basis. This policy is fully paid for by the National Office.

~ Ben Miller

Worship Committee

We give thanks for our many wonderful, spirit-filled worship services this past year. These were made possible in no small part to the leadership of Rev. John Greg Smith. Rev. John has challenged us repeatedly to find our inner soul, to share the love of Jesus with others. He has led us through some difficult times to the point that we feel ready to move forward with a renewed sense of purpose. We have been so blessed.



One of the highlights of the year was our Christmas Pageant initiated by Rev. John. Despite his fears we assured him that it would all come together in the end and it did. We were especially thankful that it did as our Christmas Eve services had to be cancelled due to adverse weather. We were also grateful that Rev. John and Nancy Kline had the foresight to tape a service earlier in the week with the help of Jim Kline and John Van Berlo.

We are also grateful to our music leaders, Nancy Kline and Jenny Robinson, who with their own unique styles have added new dimensions to our worship services. It has been great to see the Worship Team back together and growing in numbers and to hear the congregation joining in with enthusiasm. We have positive feedback as well with regard to hearing the organ being played again thanks to Helen Cumming.

We are also fortunate to see an increase in volunteers in the A.V. booth. John Van Berlo, George Brown and Dan Playfair and helpers come prepared every Sunday to meet the challenges. It is good to see one of our youth, Aidan Playfair, learning the ropes and perhaps teaching us a few things in the process.

We have a dedicated bunch of Lay Readers as well who lend their voices to the scriptures and a small decorating team who help to make our church a warm and inviting place. We are in need of additional helpers for both groups.

Pulling this all together is Kathleen Wolfe, our extraordinary Office Manager, who always goes above and beyond her job description and makes the rest of us look good.

We look forward to 2023 with renewed energy as we prepare to search for a new minister and music director. The Lord has great plans for us!

~ June VanBastelaar

United Church Women (U.C.W.)



Although the pandemic continued to impede many of the traditional UCW events from happening in 2022, this amazing group of women found a way to reach out to our church community and raise spirits and funds with two bake sale events. Although UCW led them, many members of the congregation baked and helped with these sales. The first in April raised \$565 and the second in December raised almost \$1700 for UCW Missions.

We also did a thorough clean of the church kitchen and everything in the cupboards in the spring/summer as part of returning the kitchen to use after more than 2 years. Property assisted in returning the dishwasher and stove to service. Although we still did not have any big dinners or cater any events, due to COVID, the church was able to use the kitchen for a dinner with the migrant farm workers, VBS, several funeral teas and of course after church coffee time.

The Best of Friends UCW unit returned to regular meetings in September. The Tri-S unit had a dinner meeting in December and met to assemble cookie trays for Christmas Bake Sale. Both Units welcome new members. Contact the Church office for information.

In November, the UCW Executive called an open UCW meeting to discuss our path forward. A total of 17 people attended and a very good discussion ensued, resulting in the following decisions:

- a call would be put out for people to take on funeral tea convener duties for a month at a time. This initiative has resulted in 6 pairs of conveners signing up so far.
- At this time, we only have the resources to provide funeral teas for our Church community.
- A motion was passed that all net income from UCW undertakings will be held and disbursed at the discretion of the UCW executive.
- A 2nd motion was passed that monies currently in the UCW Memorial fund should be transferred to the UCW general fund and disbursed by the end of 2023 to support UCW missions. A reserve of \$1000-2000 will be maintained going forward.

- Louise Jack tendered her resignation from President (after 7 years). Susan Brown agreed to be our new president and Marcia Masuda agreed to be Vice President.

The UCW executive for 2023 is:

- Past President- Louise Jack,
- President – Susan Brown
- Vice President – Marcia Masuda
- Treasurer- Betsy Palko
- Secretary- Patti Byers
- Supplies- Michele Stansfield
- Member at Large - Penny Inkster



Our 2023 goals:

- If possible, restart more UCW led events.
- Raise money for UCW Missions.
- Ensure that any activities contribute effectively to the ministry and mission of PEUC.
- Tri-S unit is aiming to have 3 events in 2023 and Best of Friends unit plans to continue with regular meetings.
- Follow the Public Health Guidelines

~ Louise Jack (past president)

Statistic Report of Port Elgin United Church

<i>Households</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
Active Members	197	199	205	211	211	211
Long Term Care	9	22		12	16	16
Pastoral Care	212	212	212	200	200	200
Summer Residents	16	16	16	16	16	16
Average attendance (October & November)	132	136	117	0	0	0
Baptisms	4	4	10	3	0	0
Marriages	7	3	5	0	0	0
Funeral Services	16	18	12	16	6	8
New Members	2	2	11	2	3	1
Removed Members (by Death or by Transfer Out)	8	4	5	6	9	3

Nominations Report for Council of Port Elgin United Church 2023

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts
form one body, so it is with Christ.*

1 Corinthians 12:12

<u>Council Chairperson:</u> Chairperson: vacant	<u>Ministry & Personnel Committee:</u> Chair: John VanBerlo Nancy Kline
<u>Worship:</u> Chair: June Van Bastelaar John Van Berlo Helen Kononiuk Marcia Masuda	<u>Membership & Pastoral Care Committee:</u> Co-Chairs: Louise Jack Grace Reany Ben Miller Karen Ribey Marion Kelly
<u>Mission & Outreach Committee:</u> Chair: Penny Inkster Cathy Oulton Lindsay Veitch	<u>Stewardship Committee:</u> Chair: Vacant Helen Cumming
<u>Christian Education Committee:</u> Chair: Vacant Victoria Starkey Joan Kazimer Laura VanBerlo	<u>Property Committee:</u> Chair: John DeJong Harvey Bell Jim Kline Alec Kononiuk Barry Lawrie Ben Miller Ron Stewart
<u>Finance Committee:</u> Chair: Dianne Lawrie Morgan Smith & Tanya Wolfe	
<u>Group Representatives</u>	
<u>The Board of Trustees for Port Elgin United Church</u> Ben Miller – Chairperson millers@bmts.com Harry Jack – Secretary l.hjack@bmts.com Barry Lawrie bdlawrie@bmts.com Patti Byers bbyers@bmts.com Dan Gray dhgray@bmts.com	
<u>Men's Group</u> Alec Kononiuk	<u>UCW</u> Susan Brown
<u>Youth Group</u> Joan Kazimer	<u>Regional Representative</u> John Van Berlo

Port Elgin United Church U.C.W. Financial Statement

UCW BALANCE ON HAND January 1 2022			975.31
Transfer savings balance	6974.63	6974.63	
RECEIPTS			
Envelopes	167.00		
Life Member	25.00		
Funeral Teas	1410.00		
Bake Sales	2261.00		
Donations	475.00		
	4338.00	4338.00	
RECEIPTS 2022		11312.63	11312.63
TOTAL			12287.84
<u>Expenses</u>			
Allocation to Mission &Service			
UCC Mission &Service	2200.00		
Allocation to Direct Missions			
Womens House of Bruce	500.00		
Salvation Army	500.00		
	1000.00		
UCW WOW Annual Asst	63.00		
Total		3263.00	
<u>Community Friendship</u>			
Staff at Christmas	200.00		
Hampton Court	50.00		
Elgin Lodge	100.00		
Southampton Care Center	50.00		
Total		400.00	
<u>Community Projects</u>			
Breakfast Program Northport School	300.00		
Breakfast Program Port Elgin Saugeen Central	500.00		
Residential Hospice Grey Bruce	700.00		
Huron Shores Hospice	300.00		
		1800.00	
<u>Local U.C.W.</u>			
PEUC General Fund	4800.00		
		4800.00	
<u>Citizenship</u>			
Adopted Child	468.00		
		468.00	
Kitchen	16.93		
		16.93	
Bank Fees	164.30	164.30	
2022 Expenses		10912.23	10912.23
Balance on Hand Jan 1 2023			1375.71

Port Elgin United Church 2023 Budget

Port Elgin United Church Budget 2023

Operating Budget

Income

	2023 Budget
CONGREGATIONAL GIVINGS	
Offerings (Envelopes/Par)	\$145,000.00
Loose Offerings	\$1,000.00
Other Donations (Initial Offering, OPG, Online)	\$16,500.00
Holiday Offerings	\$2,500.00
UCW contribution	\$0.00
Other Givings	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$165,000.00
MISC. RECEIPTS	
Building Use	\$15,000.00
Interest	\$2,000.00
HST Rebates	\$4,000.00
Fundraising (Yard Sale, etc.)	\$10,000.00
Bequests & In Memoriam Donations	\$1,000.00
Other Receipts (Pastoral Care)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$32,000.00
DIRECTED RECEIPTS	
Subscriptions & Books	\$400.00
Décor (Flowers)	\$600.00
Children's Programs	\$500.00
Subtotal	\$1,500.00
Total Revenue	\$198,500.00

Port Elgin United Church Budget 2023
Operating Budget
Expenses

	2023
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	
Children's Programs	\$3,350.00
Subscriptions & Books	\$700.00
CE Events	\$800.00
Subtotal	\$4,850.00
FINANCE	
Office Supplies	\$1,000.00
Computer Maintenance (Power Church Help Desk, Antivirus, maintenance)	\$1,500.00
Website Maintenance	\$500.00
Photocopier Contract	\$1,000.00
Phone/Internet	\$2,000.00
Postage	\$250.00
Misc.	\$0.00
Fees (PAR)	\$250.00
Region 8 Assessment	\$10,700.00
Offering Envelopes (Weekly, Special Holidays)	\$300.00
Fundraising (Yard Sale, etc.)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$17,500.00
MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE	
Pastoral Care Training	\$150.00
Supplies/Outreach Projects/Cards/Postage	\$400.00
Subtotal	\$550.00
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	
Current Staff Expenses	\$113,840.00
Future Staff Expenses	\$22,200.00
Other Expenses	\$21,380.00
Subtotal Ministry & Personnel	\$157,420.00
MISSION & OUTREACH	
Guest Speakers	\$450.00
Supplies	\$100.00
Neighbourhood Outreach (Incl. Taxis)	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$1,550.00

	2023 Budget
PROPERTY	
Winter Maintenance (Harvey Design & Build Snow Removal)	\$9,000.00
Summer Maintenance (KnK Lawn Care)	\$2,000.00
Custodial Supplies	\$2,000.00
Building Maintenance	\$4,000.00
Fire & Security	\$1,500.00
HVAC Service	\$4,500.00
AED Pads	\$250.00
Floor Cleaning	\$2,800.00
Gas	\$7,250.00
Hydro	\$5,000.00
Water/Sewer/Hot Water Tank Rental	\$1,750.00
Subtotal	\$40,050.00
WORSHIP	
Advertising	\$100.00
CCLI, OneLicense	\$1,100.00
A/V Supplies	\$100.00
Music	\$100.00
Guest Musicians	\$100.00
Misc. (flowers, décor, communion supplies)	\$800.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance/Tuning	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$3,300.00
TRUSTEES	
Insurance	\$13,200.00
Subtotal	\$13,200.00
Total Expenses	\$238,420.00
Revenue	\$198,500.00
Expenses	\$238,420.00
Surplus/Deficit-General Fund	-\$39,920.00

Consolidated Balance Sheet 2022

	General Fund	Mission & Service	Special Projects	Trustee Funds	Total
ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
PEUC General Fund	\$26,904.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	26,904.96
GIC & Savings Account	\$57,579.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	57,579.42
PEUC Mission Account	\$0.00	\$9,251.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	9,251.10
Meridian GIC's-Cottrill	\$0.00	\$4,632.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	4,632.52
MERIDIAN SP PROJ ACCT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,714.62	\$0.00	4,714.62
MERIDIAN GIC Accounts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,736.84	\$0.00	84,736.84
PEUC Youth Trust Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,542.00	52,542.00
PEUC Manse Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$134,008.00	134,008.00
HST RECEIVABLE	\$2,657.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	2,657.77
Subtotal Current Assets	\$84,484.38	\$13,883.62	\$89,451.46	\$186,550.00	377,027.23
TOTAL ASSETS	\$84,484.38	\$13,883.62	\$89,451.46	\$186,550.00	377,027.23
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
CEBA Loan Payable-Dec 2022	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	40,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	40,000.00
FUND BALANCE					
Fund Balance	\$44,484.38	\$13,883.62	\$89,451.46	\$146,550.00	\$337,027.23
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$44,484.38	\$13,883.62	\$89,451.46	\$146,550.00	\$337,027.23
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$84,484.38	\$13,883.62	\$89,451.46	\$186,550.00	\$377,027.23

Income & Expense Statement General Fund 2022

	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget	2022 Budget Difference	2023 Annual Budget
INCOME				
CONGREGATION OFFERINGS	162,283.56	150,000.00	12,283.56	165,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS	11,219.49	6,505.00	4,714.49	31,000.00
HST REBATE	4,800.39	4,000.00	800.39	4,000.00
BEQUEST	1,084.06	1,000.00	84.06	1,000.00
DIRECTED RECEIPTS	5,597.50	1,500.00	4,097.50	1,500.00
 TOTAL INCOME	 184,985.00	 163,005.00	 21,980.00	 202,500.00
EXPENSES				
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	5,444.53	3,250.00	2,194.53	4,850.00
FINANCE	17,593.05	19,450.00	-1,856.95	17,500.00
MEMBERSHIP&PASTORAL CARE	150.00	650.00	-500.00	550.00
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	133,390.60	161,050.00	-27,659.40	157,420.00
MISSION & OUTREACH	936.30	2,550.00	-1,613.70	1,550.00
PROPERTY	29,482.62	39,470.00	-9,987.38	40,050.00
WORSHIP	3,314.99	8,000.00	-4,685.01	3,300.00
TRUSTEES	15,509.93	12,745.24	2,764.69	13,200.00
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	1,307.57	0.00	1,307.57	
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 207,129.59	 247,165.24	 -40,035.65	 238,420.00
 TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	 0.00	 0.00		 0.00
 TOTAL TRANSFERS	 0.00	 0.00		 0.00
 EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	 -22,144.59	 -84,160.24		 -35,920.00