

# Annual Report of Port Elgin United Church



2025

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## Mission Statement of Port Elgin United Church

To be a Christ-centred 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

January	Audrey Ribey,
January	Frank Eagleson
January	Doris Eagleson
January	Shannon Eagleson
August	Gary Gravett
August	Lynne Gravett

### Deaths

January	Lois Mark
March	Murray Wilson
July	Dennis Stier
July	Laura McDonald
September	Harry Schildroth
September	Linda Baux
September	Yvonne King

### Baptisms

October Charlotte Rice

### Marriages

August Emily Thornburn and Todd Frey  
November Ashley Millette and Thi Bich Ngoan Nguyen

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

Date	Event
<b>January</b>	UCW January Social Annual Budget Meeting
<b>February</b>	Youth Shepherds Pie Take Out Dinner George Strait Tribute Concert
<b>March</b>	UCW World Day of Prayer Annual Congregational Meeting Vote and decision to keep service at 10 AM Spring Cookie and Cake Sale 5 day March Break Camp Youth Pizza and Palms
<b>April</b>	Congregational Directory issued Easter Sunday Frankie and Fairlanes Tribute Concert Youth 24 hour famine
<b>May</b>	Annual Church Spring Clean Youth Tri-Regional Conference
<b>June</b>	Celebrate United Church of Canada Centennial Youth Brunch
<b>July</b>	Celebrate Rev. Dan Leaver, first year at Port Elgin United Church
<b>August</b>	True North Vacation Bible Camp and afternoon day care.
<b>September</b>	Migrant Workers Supper collaborating with Southampton United Church Youth 3 days Outdoor Education Centre
<b>October</b>	Thanksgiving Sunday Coat Drive First Annual Kitchen Thorough Clean Up Dolly Parton Tribute Concert
<b>November</b>	Annual fall clean up Youth Lasagna Take out dinner Youth brunch and silent auction
<b>December</b>	Youth soup and sandwich lunch and silent auction to support family at Christmas. Children's Christmas Pageant UCW Christmas Cookie Tray Sale Kids / Family Christmas Eve Christmas Eve with Communion Christmas Break Day Care and Youth home skills training.

## From the Minister's Study

On the wall of my office, I keep a full-page image titled *The Seasons of the Church Year*. It serves as a reminder of the cyclical journey the church moves through, as well as the symbols and colours associated with each season. What is especially eye-catching when looking at the graphic is that the largest portion of time in the church year is coloured green. This large green section, split into two parts, is known as "Ordinary Time," the period that follows Epiphany and Pentecost.

The significance of the colour green is that it represents and reminds us of new life and growth. Just as in spring, when nature moves from dull to vibrant colours and our lawns turn from brown and yellow to a lush green, Ordinary Time reflects growth in our lives of faith. In the image, Ordinary Time makes up more than half of the year and reminds us that the majority of our faith journey is a time of personal, spiritual, and communal growth. Growth in our worshipping community, in our personal lives, and in our spiritual well-being is essential to our relationship with God and to the continued ministry of Port Elgin United Church.



Always time to share laughter and good feelings (Penny, Rev. Dan, Lill and Roma)

During 2025, where has there been growth for Port Elgin United Church?

As you read through this Annual Report, I invite you to watch for signs of growth in our community and in the mission and ministry of our church over the past year.

One example of growth I wish to highlight is our practice of sharing Gratuities during worship. This has become a meaningful moment when those who wish may share something for which they are thankful. Here is a brief summary of the gratuities shared over the past year:

- Approximately 40 gratuities were related to the church: volunteers, staff, gardeners, committees, camps, friends, phone calls, visitors, music, worship, and the presence of a safe and welcoming place.
- Approximately 20 gratuities were related to family, friends, and community, including appreciation for living in a free and safe country, VON nurses, and pets.
- Approximately 10 gratuities were related to our wider community, including Meals on Wheels, event volunteers, public service workers, snowplow drivers, and public utility workers.
- Approximately 20 gratuities were related to nature: the lake, sunshine, sunrises and sunsets, snow, birds, apples, and crops.

There is much for which we are grateful in our faith community. Let us continue to give thanks for both the small and the large ways we share in God's work and make a difference together.

Respectfully submitted ~ The Reverend Dan Leaver

The lighter side of Church. Rev Dan encouraged Vacation Bible Camp to meet goals for donating food to the Food Basket. If the goals were met he would break dance, get his hair and beard shaved off and take pies in the face. When goals were met, it was time to get the shave, the haircut, the dance and the pies in the face.



Barber Nancy at work on Rev. Dan.



Pie 1 successfully placed.



Pie 2 successfully placed

## The Council of Port Elgin United Church

In 2025 we rotated Council Chairs(John Van Berlo, Louise Jack, Marcia Masuda and John Dejong). We continue to search in our congregation to find one person willing to be Council Chair for a longer term.

Life is change. Sometimes we try to resist change. However, resisting change, changes us. To hold onto where we are, we can harden ourselves against what might be.

At the 2025 Annual Budget Meeting and immediately afterwards, we confirmed that we had balanced the budget in 2024. This was great news. We had brought in significantly higher building rental revenue than expected. In 2025, we met our budget expectations and ended the year with a deficit.

For years our congregation asked us to find a new music director. In March, Council believed we had found the right person. They were already employed and in order to work with us, we would need to make alternate arrangements to meet their requirements. We decided to retain our current Worship times.

In June our Church Building hosted the official 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada for our area. We were proud to receive people from all over Bruce and Grey Counties and to meet people who helped to shape our church.

As a Council we are so happy to have Rev. Dan with us. He inspires us with his many talents and reminds us that Church can be fun. We have gotten to know him better and learned about him. Of course he has also learned about us and is finding ways to bring out our talents.

In December we said goodbye to Jenny Robinson. For about 5 years she has graced us with her musical talents and brought joy to our worship through those hymns. We look forward to 2026 when Leanne Tees, our new contract music person, will arrive and we start on a new musical journey. On Council you get to see all the work that Ministry and Personnel has to do to be able to get a qualified person in to fill a position.

In a time when many churches are closing in the area and in Canada, we saw growth at our church. As a Council we thank Joan and Zoe and all the Leaders for their amazing work with our Christian Education and Youth programs. When the children are really interested and happy, mom and dad are more likely to come in and continue to come in. We thank Rev. Dan for inspiring children and adults with his worship services.

In the past we have seen new people come in for a few weeks and then not return. In 2025 we have seen new people come in and continue to come in. We hope they are connecting with us. Everyone in this world has needs. Each of us searches to fill those needs. We hope that these families and individuals find those needs fulfilled within our church. It is up to each of us to play their part welcoming people to our church.

Let us keep up the good work. A person or family who is welcomed, feels at home, feels a part of our group will return. It is up to each of us to welcome people. Say hello! Smile! Invite! Share a story or just listen. It is so important to realize we are each an Ambassador for our church. So let's each of us give positive feedback and welcome and reach out to those around us. Help our church to find and fulfill peoples' needs. Is it working? Yes! We are seeing more people in church. Let's keep up the good work.

*Submitted by Church Council*

**Port Elgin United Church Council for 2025**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>
<b>Chair</b>	John Van Berlo, Louise Jack, Marcia Masuda, John deJong
<b>Past Chair</b>	Vacant
<b>Secretary</b>	Michelle Ertl (Staff)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brian Frook (Staff)
<b>Christian Education</b>	Joan Kazimer
<b>Finance</b>	Dianne Lawrie
<b>Membership and Pastoral Care</b>	Louise Jack
<b>Ministry and Personnel</b>	Susan Brown
<b>Mission and Outreach</b>	Penny Inkster, Cathy Oulton
<b>Stewardship</b>	Nancy Sharpe
<b>Property</b>	John deJong
<b>Worship</b>	Greg Sharpe
<b>Representative Trustees</b>	Ben Miller
<b>Representative Men's Group</b>	Harry Jack
<b>Representative United Church Women</b>	Marcia Masuda
<b>Representative Youth Group</b>	Zoe Wolfe
<b>Representative Regional Liaison</b>	John Van Berlo
<b>Representative Property Use Sub Committee</b>	Ben Miller
<b>Representative Building Use Sub Committee</b>	Nancy Sharpe

## Hug-a-Bear Ministry

We did create a lot of bears which were delivered regularly to the O.S Hospital Day Surgery by Brian Frook. Thank you Brian.

Thank you to the many helpers. It takes many hands to create many bears.

- Ruth Dudgeon cutting and sewing
- The ladies who gathered to stuff bears and visit
- Helen Cumming for the final stitches to complete the bears

The faces were painted on and the ribbons (bows) were added by myself Dianne Lawrie.

A big thank you to everyone who donated fabric for creating these bears. Many nurses and children thank everyone who worked on these bears. It made their day easier.

*Dianne Lawrie*



*Hug a Bears made with love. Ready  
To go!*



*Anika, Donovan and Anjali love to hold the  
Hug-A-Bears!*

## Christian Education Committee

This past year has been another busy and rewarding year for Christian Education. This year we had PA Day camps, March Break camp, Christmas camp, Vacation Bible Camp, Discovery Cove classes every Sunday along with a Christmas pageant. We received a grant from the Regional Offices to provide a cooking cleaning class for the preteens for four days.

Discovery Cove class ran every Sunday during service. The attendance was between two to thirteen children each week. The nursery ran under the watchful eye of Zoe Wolfe with usually two toddlers each week. The Discovery Cove class was for children ages four to twelve years old. The nursery age was from infant to age three. Each week the children watched a five-minute video of the bible story we were learning, plus answered questions, read the story, and did a craft.

The children prepared cards for our older members of the congregation for Easter and at Christmas the committee made the cards with the children signing them and making ornaments. The children handed out little treats to the congregation the Sunday before Christmas Day.

On Palm Sunday we hosted Pizza and Palms. Everyone in the congregation was invited to the event. We retold the story of Jesus entering the city and all the excitement that day, in an interactive way. After the story we all enjoyed pizza.



After the Easter Service, children hunted for eggs and found a few!

We ran eight PA Day Camps this past year with anywhere between 21- 36 children. We played games, had scavenger hunts, did escape rooms, decorated cookies, crafts, free time in the gym and watched a movie. We provided afternoon snacks for the children plus prizes for games and scavenger hunts. We continued to have a waiting list for each camp but often people would drop out a week or so before and we were able to fill the spot. We continued to have help from our teens, each camp day had between five to seven of them.

The Christmas Camp had between 8-26 students each day. The March Break Camp had between 14-30 students per day.

The Vacation Bible Camp this year went to the True North. We had 74 children registered, 14 teens and 18 adults a day helping. We offered an extended day program for those that needed care in the afternoon. There were between 32-36 children that stayed in the afternoon. We provided lunches such as spaghetti, charcuterie items, grilled cheese, pizza, hamburgers, and hot dogs. We played games, did crafts and even had a water balloon fight with the teens.

The church was transformed into the True North. There was fun had by everyone. Allison Stevens collected food for The Food Basket - if the children bought in enough food Rev Dan agreed to get pies thrown at him, his beard and head shaved – he was a good sport.



True North, Vacation Bible Camp decorations and Rev. Dan getting a shave and a haircut.

In late November we had an Advent Family Celebration with five families attending. We decorated gingerbread houses, had a scavenger hunt for pieces of the Nativity, made an advent calendar of good things we could do each day, and finally had pizza, veggies and juice.

We look forward to the coming year. We would love to welcome new members to our committee. The more people we have the more diversity in events we will get.

Submitted by Joan Kazimer (Chair), Victoria Starkey and Zoe Wolfe

This year, our group covered Grades 6–12. We met on Friday nights from 7:00–9:00 p.m. regularly, with breaks during the Christmas and summer holidays. We liked to start the evening in the sanctuary, lightly passing a beach ball around, socializing, and catching up on everyone’s week. Once most of the teens had arrived, we would sit in a circle for “circle time,” where we shared our names and answered a question of the night. Each week, we discussed topics that often continued for several weeks and related to the Bible. After sitting for a while, we liked to burn off some energy by playing games in the gym or going outside when the evenings are warmer. To end the night, we headed to the kitchen for a snack—and let’s just say it wasn’t always healthy, as we like to have fun! Most nights ended with a popcorn prayer, where we went around the circle, and everyone shared something they were thankful for or prayed for someone or something.

Over the past year, we held two takeout dinners (Shepherd’s pie in February and a lasagna dinner in November). We also hosted two brunches following church services, one in June and the other in November. The brunches consisted of soup, sandwiches, and desserts, with the November brunch including a silent auction. The donations raised supported three families at Christmas. The youth then went out and purchased gifts for the families to give to them for Christmas.



The 24 Hour Famine is always a fun time for us. This year, it was held in April, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and ending at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Walker House in Southampton, where we enjoyed a delicious supper. During the famine, we started the evening with Justin Selorio, who led a lesson on finance and investing at a young age. We had a lot of fun learning about the stock market and playing a game with him. After that, we enjoyed singing karaoke, crafting, and playing games.

Youth Group getting Financially Educated!

One of our youth group nights in June involved meeting at Walmart to shop for groceries. We divided into groups, each with a budget and a time

limit. We left with a large amount of food, which we delivered and put away at the Living Hope Food Basket using money raised from one of the brunches we hosted.

On the second weekend in September, we took the youth to the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre in Oliphant, from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. This year, we cooked all of our own meals, with the youth helping with preparation, clean-up, and more. We enjoyed spending time outside in the gaga ball pit, playing soccer, and hosting a game night filled with laughter. We also participated in activities led by one of the program staff, including archery, a nature walk, and barn games.



Dennis enjoying lunch at the Outdoor Education Centre.



Fun at the Outdoor Education Centre

## Revenues 2025 Youth Fundraising Events

Balance Remaining:

**\$300.00**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lasagna Dinner	\$937.85
Shepards Pie Dinner	992.34
24 hr famine	\$1423.02
Brunch in June	\$1028.4
Brunch in November w auction	\$1227.13
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5608.74</b>

<b>Disbursements of Revenue</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Coldest night of the year	\$437.85
Port Elgin United Church	\$500.00
Food Basket (groceries)	\$1423.02
Port Elgin United Church Playgroup	\$616.99
Port Elgin United Church Vacation Bible Camp	\$375.35
Human Services (supported 3 families plus gifts for other children)	\$1227.13
Silver Lake Camp	\$600.00
Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation	\$428.40
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$5608.74</b>

## Wednesday Morning Play Group

Wednesday mornings from 10:30 until noon you will hear the giggles and laughter of children (ages 0 – 4 years) and their parents/grandparents/caregivers interacting with each other. The gym is set up with activities such as the plasma cars, slides, trampoline, balance beam, basket ball hoops, tunnels, hula hoops, craft table, colouring table, playdoh table and assorted vehicles, baby dolls and dinosaurs. The primary pod offers Lego, a little kitchen, puzzles, reading corner and the quiet space of the nursery. Set up is done by Allison Stevens, Harry and Louise Jack and Diann Lutz.

Each week we enjoy themed crafts provided by Victoria Starkey. Small circle time with occasionally a story and always music led by Diann and some of the moms.

We celebrate special occasions such as Hallowe'en, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Pancake Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and always an end of year celebration.

We have friends join us from 30 different families. News of our program is spread by word of mouth and posts on the church's Friday File and Facebook.

Clean up is done by the children and their caregivers with the help of Allison, Victoria and Diann.

This is an important ministry of our church with a welcoming smile to all who come and play.

Submitted by Diann Lutz

## Finance Committee

The 2025 calendar year has come and gone with a few surprises with our Operating Revenues. The Regular weekly offerings were about the same as previous year except late in December we did receive a few onetime donations for Holiday offerings totaling \$4,280. Our rentals from our sports and recreation groups were \$38,000 which was down from \$45,000 in 2024. This is a significant source of Revenue and I thank Michelle for her extra work involved with management this portfolio. We had a few funerals at the church in 2025 and this resulted in \$3460 in our church coffers. Our interest income from GIC's invested with Meridian paid out \$10,574 in the year which certainly helps support our operating

budget as well. Nancy Sharpe spearheaded a few fundraising events in the year which resulted in \$4125 from the Stewardship Committee. Joan Kazimer and friends led several PD Day camps as well as Youth Group fundraisers and events which pretty much self-supported all of the Youth events and Camps that the Church held in 2025.

The Expenditures for Church operations totaled \$292,646 with Staffing costs totaling 66% of the total Operating budget. This is pretty typical for Churches to have a large portion of the budget going toward paying for staffing.

In 2025, our Assessed WOW Dues to our Regional office increased to \$12,297. As more United churches close their doors, I foresee these costs continuing to climb.

The Property committee received a \$15,000 grant in the year to upgrade the church security including installing cameras as well as higher end lock and key system complete with alarm system. The snow removal bill for 2025 was quite a bit higher than previous years as there were extra salting costs that the Church faced in keeping the Parking lot safe for all to walk on. 2025 was a heavy snow filled year and it looks like 2026 is shaping up to be similar. Finally, the Insurance costs for the Church went up about \$3,000 year over year. 2026 is going to see our Insurance rates hold steady. Our deficit of approximately \$21,000 is lower than budgeted but Finance still feels that there is room for improvement with new ways of fundraising and possibly finding more Rental income to help offset our ever-increasing Operating costs.

Finally, thanks goes out to the Congregational members of Port Elgin United Church who continue keeping up with their monthly/weekly giving. The church bills continue to rise with inflation and The Finance committee hopes that we receive continued support from our members. Please consider increasing your Givings a little to keep up with inflation. If members choose to make sure that their monthly financial support of the church continues, we do recommend joining the PAR program (Pre-authorized giving) that will support this need. Alternatively, the Church is set up to receive donations through E-transfer to email account [peucfinance@bmts.com](mailto:peucfinance@bmts.com).

*Chair: Dianne Lawrie*

*Members: Tanya Wolfe, Dan Gray*

*Treasurer Brian Frook*

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



Every Wednesday morning, the Women of the Word gather in the Resource Centre to study the Bible. We meet both in person and via Zoom to ensure everyone has the opportunity to engage with God's Holy Word.

This year we continued with the Minor Prophets; Obadiah, Jonah and Micah. Then the 12 Disciples and the Sermon on the Mount.

As part of our mission, this year, we are proud to have contributed \$100 to the General Fund.

If you are interested in deepening your knowledge of the Bible, we would love to have you join us on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00. For more information, please contact Laura Van Berlo at 519-832-9259. We are all on our individual journeys to strengthen our relationship with God.

Laura Van Berlo

## Men's Group

The men's group is more of a Social group, but we also receive a free will offering at each gathering which we donate to a local charity each year. We believe in having fun and sharing our news once each month. Join Us on the 3rd Sunday at 8 AM of Every Month for the 4 C's! Caffeine, Calories, Cholesterol, and Camaraderie! We gather at the Colonial Motel's *Sunrise Café* for a morning filled with great conversation, delicious food, and plenty of laughs. It's the perfect time for fellowship and a hearty breakfast. Everyone is Welcome! At each breakfast an offering is collected. In 2025, \$200 was given to support the purchase of a replacement AED for the church.

Harry Jack

## Stewardship Committee

Committee Members: Doreen Wark                      Helen Cumming  
   Rhonda Otte                      Nancy Sharpe (Chair)

Rev Dan composed an Easter Letter to the Congregation about the life and work of our church and to encourage us to increase our givings, if at all possible. Our committee worked together to check names and addresses, fold and stuff to mail out.

May 4 - June 1, 2025 was 5 Sundays of talks on Time, Talent and Treasures.

Our speakers were Zoe Wolfe, Morgan Smith, Mike Moreau, Doreen Wark and Rev. Dan.

Stewardship also led Worship on Sunday May 04, 2025.

We did coffee time, March 30th, Nov. 7th and Dec. 7th.

We held these concerts:

Feb. 15/25 George Strait and Paul Williamson Band	\$1100.00
April 27/25 Frankie and the Fairlanes	\$1595.00
Oct 26/25 Dolly Parton and Paul Williamson Band	\$1430.00
Total to the General Fund	\$ 4125.00

Submitted by: Nancy Sharpe.



Doreen, Rhonda and Nancy meet Elvis.



Helen jamming with the band



Nancy jamming with the band

## **Membership and Pastoral Care Committee**

The Membership and Pastoral Care Committee meets monthly (except in the summer) to discuss the needs of our congregation and share ideas for reaching out to folks. We enjoyed working with Rev Dan in 2025, as he gets to know our congregation and works hard to support those facing health or life struggles.

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 bereavement. Some in person visits were also made although we continue to be cautious due to the risk of various respiratory illnesses. Many cards of concern and support were also sent. We have been involved with Rev Dan providing services through the Saugeen Shores Ministerial at the Southampton Care Centre and at Elgin Lodge.

In March, our committee members and others from PEUC assisted the Elgin Lodge residents when flooding required evacuation to hotels and family members. As well as assistance with moving, we did extra visiting during this stressful time.

At both Easter and Christmas, the Discovery Cove children and the Youth Group made 30 plus beautiful cards/ornaments which the Pastoral Care committee delivered to members on our care list and other older members of our congregation. Many thanks to Joan Kazimer for organizing the children and providing them with all the great card/ornament making supplies!

On the Membership side, we were happy to welcome 6 new members via transfer in 2025.

Our goals for 2026 include continuing to reach out to our members who are living in isolation, experiencing serious health issues or are bereaved. 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 are planning to organize a Valentine's tea at Elgin Lodge in conjunction with the Worship Team who will provide music and the UCW who will provide tea and snacks and visiting afterwards.

The 2025 Membership and Pastoral Care Committee

Ben Miller, Marion Kelly, Karen Ribey, June Van Bastelaar, Rev Dan Leaver and Louise Jack

Although not on the committee in 2025, Grace Reany continues to write notes and cards on our behalf.

Louise Jack – Chair Membership and Pastoral Care

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

### Ministry and Personnel Committee 2025

Chair – Susan Brown

Members – John Van Berlo, Nancy Kline, Lisa Thornburn\*, Betsy Palko\*

\*Lisa Thornburn was welcomed onto the committee in April. Betsy Palko resigned from the committee in May.

### Ministry at Port Elgin United Church

Reverend Dan Leaver continued to provide Ministry Leadership at PEUC on a full-time basis (40 hours/week).

### Ministry of Music Changes

At the Budget Meeting on January 12, 2025, PEUC voted to begin looking for a permanently employed, part-time Music Director. One qualified applicant was interviewed; however, the hiring of this applicant meant a necessary change of time of Sunday services. Following a Congregational Meeting on April 6, Council decided that a change of time of Sunday service would not occur. After several more months of advertising, no suitable applicants were found.

Music Leader, Jenny Robinson, chose to decrease her time from 2 Sundays per month to 1 Sunday per month, starting in September. Music Leader, Nancy Kline, graciously agreed to pick up Jenny's Sunday on a temporary basis.

At the September Council meeting, under the advisement of the Ministry and Personnel Committee, Council decided to change the position job description and search to that of a yearly contracted Music Leader who would ideally work 3 Sundays per month. Two qualified applications were shortly received and both applicants were interviewed. Leanne Tees was hired to provide music leadership for the first 3 Sundays of each month with a start date of January 1.

Jenny Robinson's final day at Port Elgin United was on December 7. Nancy Kline presented Jenny with a gift and words of appreciation during this service.

The M&P Committee extends heartfelt thanks to Jenny and Nancy for 5 years of service in their roles as Music Leaders. Nancy will continue in this role, providing music leadership along with The Worship Team on the 4th Sunday of each month. Nancy will also cover the 5th Sunday per month when that occurs (4 times/year).



In early December we bid farewell to Jenny Robinson and thanked her for her 5 years of music ministry.



Although she starts in January 2026, we welcome Leanne Tees as our new Music Leader 3 weeks a month.

Welcome to Leanne.

### **Church Administrator – Office Hours Change**

Michelle Ertl continued as PEUC's Office Administrator in 2025. Council voted in December 2024 to increase the Office Administrator's hours to 23 hours per week. This began in January of 2025.

Following a request from Office Administrator, Michelle Ertl, Council agreed to change Port Elgin United Church's Office Hours to Tuesday to Friday, 9AM to 1PM, beginning in January 2025. This change has worked well for employees and congregants alike.

### **Custodian**

Amber's Cleaning Crew (Proprietor Amber Crewson) continued to provide custodial services for 23 hours/week on a contract basis at PEUC in 2025.

### **Treasurer**

Brian Frook continued as PEUC's Treasurer in 2025 on a contract basis (28 hours/month). Brian is in the Church office ½ day per week, usually Tuesday afternoons.

### **Annual Reviews**

Annual reviews for all staff members were completed in November 2025. No major issues were identified. Any ideas, concerns or suggestions brought forth have been followed up with appropriate actions.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee would like to thank each of our wonderful employees for their dedication and hard work!

**Report Submitted by:** Susan Brown, Chair of Ministry & Personnel Committee

*Chair: Susan Brown*

## **Regional Liaison**

In 2025, Port Elgin United Church worked with Region to continue to train members of Council and to keep our knowledge of the Church up to date.

The United Church of Canada canvassed all United Churches in Canada to find out how effective the reorganization of the church has been.

Port Elgin United Church Council reviewed all the questions and responded to the survey. A summary of the survey is included below.

The 3 Council model has not had much impact on PEUC. We have had a great deal of support and training from Region and National and found information was delivered in a timely manner. When we dealt with Region we found their help was acceptable but tended to be legalistic. The United Church of Canada has started a process of clusters of churches, we were not familiar with this process as we have been a stand alone church. We have been generally pleased with the assessment model and we remain hopeful for the future of the United Church of Canada and for Port Elgin United Church.

Our congregation is also welcome to have multiple liaisons with the Region. If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to John Van Berlo.

*John Van Berlo*

## **Mission and Outreach Committee**

In the middle of the year, Penny had to resign for Health Reasons and Cathy took on the mantle for the Committee.

The Mission and Outreach Committee spearheaded the annual Coat Drive/Distribution in the fall. Coats, hats, scarves and mittens were collected in large bins outside the front door of the church beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> to

October 16<sup>th</sup>. A very successful day of distribution happened on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 370 coats, plus hats, scarves, mittens and boots, were donated. Around 270 coats were picked up on the day of distribution. The remaining articles were donated to Living Hope Food Basket, Salvation Army Food Bank, the Saugeen Shores Police Station and Saugeen First Nation Food Bank.

In December following the Discovery Cove Christmas service the congregation took part in a "Sock it to me" Sunday as members were invited to toss new socks at Rev. Dan. Many, many socks were collected and distributed to Living Hope Food Basket, Salvation Army Bank, The Women's Shelter on Saugeen First Nation, and the local police station.

We donated use of Classrooms 3,4,5 and 6 one afternoon a week to the Good Food Box Program. Each week a box of healthy vegetables and fruit is distributed at low cost to those registered in the system.



Good Food Boxes filled and ready for distribution

Also in December, Direct Mission Funds were distributed to the following community outreach organizations:

Living Hope Food Bank	500.00
Salvation Army Food Bank	500.00
Canadian Foodgrains Bank	300.00
Chapman House Residential Hospice	300.00
Huron Shores Hospice	300.00
Operation Smile	300.00
Saugeen Wesley United Church	300.00
O Share (Owen Sound)	300.00
Safe and Sound (Owen Sound)	300.00

Mission & Outreach Committee  
 Penny Inkster, Lindsay Veitch, Cathy Oulton  
*Members: Cathy Oulton, Lindsay Veitch, Penny Inkster*

### Highlights of 2025



The winter of 2025 had an incredible amount of snow. Our snow contract required an extension due to the amount of snow to be cleared. At one point the emergency exit was blocked by snow. We had to hire workers from the snow clearing service to clear a path for the exit.

Our furnaces are over 25 years old. Our service provider had to come in and complete repairs on a few of the furnaces.

The plumbing fixtures in the washrooms failed a few times. Taps and toilets had to be repaired or replaced.

The property committee did routine set ups for funerals and church services.

There were many repairs to the building including:

- Caulking along cracks and seams.

- Repairing walls in the gym.

- Working up on the roof to reseal and anchor flashing.

- Painting in various rooms.

- Replacing failed emergency lights.

- Lawn maintenance, watering, pest control, lawn moving.

- Replacing ventilation ductwork

- Planting and weeding the garden

The annual spring and fall cleanups took place.

Chair: John De Jong



*The winter of 2024/25 had an incredible amount of snow.*



*Much of the parking lot was filled with snow.*



*For the first time ever, we had to get workers in to clear the emergency exits.*

## Trustees of Port Elgin United Church

The members of the 2025 PEUC Board of Trustees are:

Rev. Dan Leaver	Minister	2024
Ben Miller	Chairperson & Council Representative	2016
Harry Jack	Secretary	2016
Dan Gray	Board Member	2016
Patti Byers	Board Member	2020
Barry Lawrie	Board Member	2022
Virginia Bailey	Board Member	2025

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the management of two trust funds: the Youth Trust Fund (\$40,305.27) and the Manse Fund (\$141,718.04). Disbursements from the Youth Trust Fund are made as directed by the Church Council. The investment income generated by the Manse Fund is allocated to the General Fund.

The Board of Trustees oversees the Church's general insurance policy. Port Elgin United Church is enrolled in the United Church of Canada's group insurance plan. Trustees must ensure adequate insurance is maintained to protect buildings and other congregational property and to minimize the exposure of congregational assets. The United Church of Canada recommends that an appraisal of Church assets be completed every 5 years. In 2025 the Trustees hired Loss Control Consultants Limited to conduct a professional appraisal of the Church buildings and contents. The replacement value of the Church buildings was set at \$8,622,487.00 and the contents at \$750,184.00.

Organizations or groups using Church facilities are required to have their own liability insurance coverage. The United Church of Canada offers Third Party Liability Insurance, which can be purchased conveniently and affordably online. All United Church of Canada congregations receive Directors and Officers Insurance coverage fully paid for by the National Office.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Miller

## Worship Committee

Committee Members - Helen Kononiuk, Marcia Masuda, Nancy Kline, John Van Berlo and Rev. Dan.

Greg Sharpe - Chair.

Our committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

The Committee is responsible for:

Communion: Getting the supplies, preparation and servers.

Flowers - Ordering and pick up for Christmas and Mothers Day. Palm Branches and leaves for Easter.

Lay Readers and Scheduling

Changing of the Linens on the Communion Table, Pulpit and platform.

Candles for Advent and Candles and Glow Sticks for the Christmas Eve Services.

I would like to Thank Karen Ribey for organizing people to take the collection every Sunday. Thank you to the Two people that take up the collection every Sunday, Roma Rolfe and Bruce Buchanan, and all others that serve.

The Chesley Communion Cabinet matches our decor beautifully.

In 2025 St. Johns United Church Gifted to Port Elgin United, their Communion Serving Tray, Pitcher and Chalice.

The Clarke Family donated the Storage Cabinet that holds the Communion Trays and sits in front of our Pipe Organ.

This was a Very Emotional Time for the Congregation of St Johns.

When we picked up the cabinet, it was very emotional and I think it is a Great Honour and should be a Great Reminder to Port Elgin United Church, just what can happen.

It would be my wish that we continue using this gift, as a way of honouring the remembrance of 100 years of St Johns United Church.



Respectfully Remitted By:  
Greg Sharpe, Chair.



Baptism of Charlotte Rice



Poinsettia Parade

**United Church Women (U.C.W.)**

**PEUC – UCW 2025 Executive:**

- President:** Marcia Masuda
- Vice-President:** Position Unfilled
- Past-President:** Susan Brown
- Secretary:** Patti Byers
- Treasurer:** Betsy Palko
- Supply Manager/Tri-S Unit Rep:** Michele Stansfield
- Best of Friends Unit Rep:** Allison Stevens

**PEUC – UCW 2026 Executive:**

- President:** Marcia Masuda
- Vice-President:** Position Unfilled
- Past-President:** Susan Brown
- Secretary:** Sue Caley
- Treasurer:** Marcia/Sue (Brian F. - Administrator)
- Supply Manager/Tri-S Unit Rep:** Michele Stansfield
- Best of Friends Unit Rep:** Allison Stevens

**Executive and Unit News:**

2025 was a very active and successful year for the PEUC UCW. We give thanks to all the volunteers in the PEUC UCW for their hard work and dedication they gave for the work of our members.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, commitment, donations and talents to the UCW throughout this entire year.

The UCW Executive held many meetings in 2025 to advance many initiatives two of which include the January social (\$200 in donations) and the World Day of Prayer on March 7, 2025 facilitated by Past President Susan Brown and President, Marcia Masuda. It was a great success.

Both the Best of Friends UCW and the Tri-S groups held meetings and social events during the course of the year. One of the major fundraising events that both units shared was the Cookie-Tray Fundraiser this past December raising a total of \$2, 125.00.

**Fundraising and Disbursement of Funds:**

In 2025, funds from the funerals, donations and the Cookie-Tray Fundraiser were distributed to support various local groups including:

United Church of Canada General Fund; UCC/M&S; Silver Lake Camp; Women's House; Salvation Army (including SDSS lunch program); Living Hope; Hampton Court; Elgin Lodge; Southampton Care Centre; Northport School; Ecole Port Elgin Saugeen Central School; Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce; Huron Shores Hospice; Southampton Hospital Palliative Care; Foster Child; Crafts for the PEUC Wednesday morning Tots group; PEUC Quilters Group.

**Kitchen/Food Safety:**

A few of the UCW Executive members cleaned and organized the Kitchen this past fall. The UCW purchased four new large cutting boards. They were also instrumental in researching and organizing the new fridge that was purchased to replace the old one. Members of the Best of Friends Unit also cleaned toys numerous times throughout the year..

**Funeral Teas/Luncheons:**

There were a number of funerals that the UCW contributed their time and work to organize and prepare. There were seven funerals conducted at PEUC in 2025. The UCW ladies and members of the congregation donated their time, food and work at all of them. Thank you again for the special effort made by all. The UCW made a decision to open up the funeral luncheon service to non-members of the congregation. The UCW provided luncheons for 6 out of the 7 funerals that took place from January to November of 2025.

UCW President – Marcia Masuda

## Property Use Sub-Committee

The PEUC Property Use Sub-Committee was formed by Council in 2023 with the goal of exploring and recommending potential uses for the surplus land surrounding the Church. The committee holds monthly meetings.

Port Elgin United Church retained Tim Welch Consulting to conduct a feasibility study for the development of affordable housing on Church land. This study was funded by Community Living Owen Sound and District. Congregational information meetings were held on April 7/25 and May 5/25 to discuss potential future uses of the Church property and review the Feasibility Report. These discussions were aided by a Power Point presentation.

The Committee hosted a meeting with the Board of Community Living on May 15/25. There was a discussion about the growing need in the community for housing for adults with developmental disabilities and the possibilities of a future partnership between the Church and Community Living to try to meet some of those needs.

Committee members attended the Bruce County Housing Forum on November 19/25. The day included several dynamic presenters and time to network with people from the various organizations that work diligently in an effort to meet the housing needs of our community.

The Committee has made several unsuccessful attempts to secure seed funding. Applications for seed funding have been submitted to The United Church of Canada Foundation and Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation. Also a request for municipal funding support was sent to the Town of Saugeen Shores.

Special thanks to Penny Inkster for her participation in this Committee over the past 2 years. Thanks to Rev. John Neff for his continuing support on behalf of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

Committee Members: Rev. Dan Leaver, Ben Miller, John Van Bastelaar, Susan Brown, Harry Jack and Kent Milroy

*Committee Members: Rev. Dan Leaver, John Van Bastelaar, Ben Miller, Susan Brown, Penny Inkster, Kent Milroy and Harry Jack*

## Building Use Sub-Committee

Building Use Sub – Committee

Nancy Sharpe

Tanya Wolfe

Rhonda Otte

The Sub Committee was formed so that the process of renting out our property would be simplified.

We started this with the objective of ensuring all policies and procedures are updated, some changes were made when we found repetitious procedures.

Ensuring the Fee Structure is easy to read, so the appropriate fees reflect rental usage.

This committee is also willing to lend a hand to the Administration when finding that some rentals are unique/time consuming. Another sub group has taken on this role, when the rental might have an effect on the building and or the congregation.

That group would then consist of 1 person from finance committee, 1 person from Building committee, 1 person from the Building use Sub committee as well as Administration

To help ease the burden of the Administration, I have volunteered to be the go to person for the Monitors of the various organizations that rent from us. My objective with this is to ensure, all are reminded of housekeeping, how to report damages, as well as checking in with them, if they have any concerns. This would mainly be for the after hours groups when no Administration is available

Rhonda Otte

### Comfort Quilters of Saugeen Shores

Comfort Quilters celebrated its 6th anniversary this past December and has expanded to 14 members! We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month, from January through November, at the Port Elgin United Church to craft quilts for charity. The fabric for our quilt tops has been generously donated by members of the community. To keep our efforts going, we rely on monetary donations to purchase new batting and backing for each quilt. In 2025, our wonderful group produced **231** quilts, which were distributed to various recipients:

- Women's House of Port Elgin
- Southampton Care Center
- Hampton Court
- Brightshores Oncology Unit
- Brightshores Wellness and Rehab Center
- Salvation Army
- Saugeen First Nation
- First Nation Hospice
- Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby Program
- Individuals in community

New members are always welcome – a few hours of your time can make a big difference! If interested, please contact Michelle Jack at 519-389-5151 or [dmsjack@bmts.com](mailto:dmsjack@bmts.com).

We sincerely appreciate the financial support we received throughout 2025, particularly from the Port Elgin UCW and Bruce Power. Our gratitude also extends to the Port Elgin United Church for generously donating classrooms 3, 4, 5, and 6 for our monthly gatherings.

Thank you all for

your invaluable contributions!

Submitted by Michelle Jack

Some examples of the Quilts made and donated in 2025.



## Statistics Report of Port Elgin United Church

<i>Year</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023<sub>est</sub></i>	<i>2024<sub>est</sub></i>	<i>2025</i>
Active Members	197	199	205	211	211	211	211	211	213
Long Term Care	9	22	15	12	16	16	14	14	15
Pastoral Care	212	212	212	200	200	200	200	190	197
Summer Residents (Estimated)	16	16	16	16	16	16	18	15	17
Average attendance (October & November) In Person Online	132	136	117	Covid 0	Covid 0	67 70	77 109	85 88	91 60
Baptisms	4	4	10	3	0	0	1	1	1
Marriages	7	3	5	0	0	0	0	2	2
Funeral Services	16	18	12	16	6	8	3	5	7
New Members	2	2	11	2	3	1	3	8	6
Removed Members (by Death or by Transfer Out)	8	4	5	6	9	3	2	5	5

**Active Members** refers to those who are Full Members, Adherents, and regular participants in the life of the church. This is an estimated figure.

**In-Person Attendance** is determined by a headcount during Sunday Worship services.

**Online Attendance** is based on the number of views of the Worship service recording within two weeks following the event.

## 2025 Port Elgin United Church U.C.W. Financial Statement

2025 Financial Statement		United Church Women	
balance on hand Jan 1 2025			2777.38
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
	Envelopes	668.65	
	Life Member	40.00	
	Funeral Teas	6750.00	
	Bake Sales	2125.00	
	Donations	545.50	
	Savings trans	0.15	
	World Day of Prayer	550.00	
		<b>10679.30</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10679.30</b>
			<b>13456.68</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
	PEUC	1400.00	
	UCC Mission & Service	1000.00	
	UCW WOW 25+26	172.00	
	Silver Lake Camp	1000.00	
		<b>3572.00</b>	3572.00
<b>Community Friendship</b>			
	NOP breakfast prg	400.00	
	EPESCS breakfast prg	650.00	
	Womens House	800.00	
	Salvation Army Food Bank	900.00	
	Living Hope	800.00	
	Sally Ann lunch prg	700.00	
	Hampton Court	75.00	
	Southampton Care Ctr	125.00	
	Elgin Lodge	100.00	
	Grey Bruce Hospice	200.00	
	Huron Shores Hospice	1100.00	
	Brightshores South palliative	500.00	
	Weds Kids Group	250.00	
	Comfort Quilts	500.00	
		<b>7100.00</b>	7100.00
<b>Other</b>			
	Adopted Child 2 yrs	1056.00	
	Funeral expenses	267.88	
	Kitchen	298.62	
	Bank Fees	65.07	
	World Day of Prayer	550.00	
		<b>2237.57</b>	2237.57
			<b>12909.57</b>
			<b>12909.57</b>
<b>Balance on Hand Jan 1 2026</b>			<b>547.11</b>
Jan 4/25 B. Palko			

## Port Elgin United Church 2026 Budget

	2026 Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>	
CONGREGATION OFFERINGS	171,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS	49,000.00
HST REBATE	7,500.00
BEQUEST	2,000.00
DIRECTED RECEIPTS*	18,000.00
TOTAL INCOME*	248,000.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*	16,800.00
FINANCE	20,100.00
MEMBERSHIP & PASTORAL CARE	500
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	205,627.00
MISSION & OUTREACH	2,500.00
PROPERTY	47,400.00
STEWARDSHIP	0
WORSHIP	5,350.00
TRUSTEES	13,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES*	311,777.00
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	0
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES*	-63,777.00

## Consolidated Balance Sheet 2025

Port Elgin United Church  
Consolidated Balance Sheet - December 2025

	General Fund	Mission & Service	Special Projects	Trustee Funds	Total
ASSETS					
CURRENT ASSETS					
PEUC General Fund	\$18,302.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	18,302.76
GIC & Savings Account	\$261,476.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	261,476.87
PEUC Mission Account	\$0.00	\$7,544.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	7,544.05
MERIDIAN SP PROJ ACCT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$298.58	\$0.00	298.58
MERIDIAN GIC Accounts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00	\$0.00	65,000.00
PEUC Youth Trust Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,236.00	44,236.00
PEUC Manse Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$137,787.00	137,787.00
HST RECEIVABLE	\$4,971.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	4,971.59
Subtotal Current Assets	\$279,779.63	\$7,544.05	\$65,298.58	\$182,023.00	539,616.85
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$279,779.63</b>	<b>\$7,544.05</b>	<b>\$65,298.58</b>	<b>\$182,023.00</b>	<b>539,616.85</b>
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
FUND BALANCE					
Fund Balance	\$279,779.63	\$7,544.05	\$65,298.58	\$182,023.00	\$539,616.85
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$279,779.63</b>	<b>\$7,544.05</b>	<b>\$65,298.58</b>	<b>\$182,023.00</b>	<b>\$539,616.85</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$279,779.63</b>	<b>\$7,544.05</b>	<b>\$65,298.58</b>	<b>\$182,023.00</b>	<b>\$539,616.85</b>

## Income & Expense Statement General Fund 2025

	2025 Actuals	2025 Annual Budget	2025 Budget Difference	2026 Annual Budget
INCOME				
CONGREGATION OFFERINGS	175,778.00	185,000.00	-9,222.00	171,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS	61,404.00	49,000.00	12,404.00	49,000.00
HST REBATE	9,515.00	8,000.00	1,515.00	7,500.00
BEQUEST	1,630.00	1,000.00	630.00	2,000.00
DIRECTED RECEIPTS	22,969.00	18,000.00	4,969.00	18,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>271,296.00</b>	<b>261,000.00</b>	<b>10,296.00</b>	<b>248,000.00</b>
EXPENSES				
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	24,818.00	16,500.00	8,318.00	16,800.00
FINANCE	20,717.00	18,000.00	2,717.00	20,100.00
MEMBERSHIP&PASTORAL CARE	497.00	500.00	-3.00	500.00
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	193,000.00	210,000.00	-17,000.00	205,627.00
MISSION & OUTREACH	2,127.00	2,500.00	-373.00	2,500.00
PROPERTY	35,408.00	50,000.00	-14,592.00	47,400.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WORSHIP	2,601.00	5,500.00	-2,899.00	5,350.00
TRUSTEES	13,478.00	13,500.00	-22.00	13,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>292,646.00</b>	<b>316,500.00</b>	<b>-23,854.00</b>	<b>311,777.00</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES</b>	<b>-21,350.00</b>	<b>-55,500.00</b>		<b>-63,777.00</b>