

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 1 of 12

WE ARE IN IT TOGETHER - with God

It is wonderful news that Sara Temnewu and her family, part of our church family in Ethiopia, will soon be evaluated by our Canadian representative. This news was soon overshadowed by the shattering discovery of 215 graves in Kamloops, BC, who were part of the government and church's outreach family many years ago. Together with our relations, we mourn their deaths. As we learn about respectful 'outreach/mission', we realize that our previous thinking and theology was too restrictive and narrow. Rather than growing our economy, we need to emphasize growing our thinking about the interrelatedness of ALL things, where God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer – is, and achieving a sustainable future for all creation.

Inside, look for the new/renewed thinking of people moving on with hope, of people working ecumenically with others, of the UCW inspiring project 'Women for Change – Zambia', of the story of the Monarch butterfly. And organizations adapt to meet the needs of today, fundraise and teach us new ways to respect Mother Earth.



Marg Murray co-editor

**The problems that we have
today can not be solved
with the same thinking that
we used when we created
them. Albert Einstein**



**FOOD FOR THE
SOUL**

Prayer for the Loss in Kamloops, BC

*by Rev. Murray Pruden, Executive Minister,
Indigenous Ministries & Justice, The United
Church of Canada*

Creator,

We give thanks for this day and each day
you grant us life to walk on this great land,
our Mother.

Give us the heart and strength to come
together in prayer in time of mourning,
reflection, and peace.

The news we have heard these last few
days of our relations, our families, the
children who have been physically taken
away from us and who have now been
found.

And with this news, we grieve for their
memory, for their struggle, for their spirit.

We pray for good understanding, guidance,
and love for all our families and
communities who will need direction and
resolution at this time.

And we come together in prayer and ask
for your light to guide us to be a part of
that needed peace, support, and resolve
for everyone who is reacting to this great
tragedy in our Indigenous Nations of this
great land.

Creator be with us, allow us to be brave.
Allow us to be strong. Allow us to be gentle
to one another. Allow us to be humble. But
most of all, allow us to be like the Creator's
love.

Peace be with us, we lift up our prayers to
you. In love, trust, and truth, peace be with
us all.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 2 of 12

The Peace of Christ –Part Six. Peace in our world, a Work in Progress.

Although we have not had a world war for over 75 years, there have been far too many “civil” wars and far too much violence for our liking. However, whenever you get the extremes of rich and poor and the needs of the poor and oppressed are neglected for too long, you can expect violence. We have just witnessed that in Gaza.

Jesus path to peace was to respond to the hurting people around him with love and to confront the oppressors. He managed this through a life of non-violence.



We know that non-violence is the gold standard. We witnessed that in Martin Luther King Jr. as he

confronted racism with suffering love. We knew it in South Africa when Bishop Tutu along with international pressure, dismantled Apartheid.

We also know that sometimes bullies need to be stopped and suffering love alone will not do it.

In Rwanda in 1994 General Romeo Dallaire, Commander of the UN mission in Rwanda, said to the United Nations, “There is a civil war about to start. Send us a peace keeping force and we will save 800,000 lives.” They didn’t and 800,000 people were killed in less than 100 days. Dallaire promptly called the UN a racist organization. Part of a world of peace is a stronger UN so that disasters like that can be averted. It’s a work in progress.

We haven’t yet turned swords into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks (Isaiah 2:4) but when armed forces

become Peace Keepers and assist in a pandemic, we are one step closer to Isaiah’s vision.

We know that a world that reacts to injustice is a sign of immense hope. On this second anniversary of the death of George Floyd we recall the “Black Lives Matter” movement that began in the US and moved across the world.

On the 24th of May there was news of a Ryanair plane diverted to Minsk, Belarus, and a young journalist, Roman Protasevich, was taken off the plane and arrested. The next day the morning’s paper announcing that western nations were preparing to impose sanctions on Belarus. The world has the capacity to notice and respond to injustice.

The pandemic that so disturbed our sense of peace and well being is on its way to being controlled. Two things happened: the world has been brought closer together and when our lives are threatened, we can come up with solutions. What a difference a year has made!

It was and is good practice for the next threat, already upon us, namely the crisis of global warming. In the pandemic we learned to listen to the scientists. Just when we look forward to “returning to normal” we hear them say that normal, or the way we were, will not save the planet. So, the work of peace making goes on. It brings to mind the words of an unlikely prophet, Red Green, of Possum Lodge. “I’m a man, and I can change, if I have to, I guess.” Well, we have to. But as we have heard so many times, “We are in it together.” Thank God!

Peace.

Glen Wright, Co-editor



CONNECTIONS

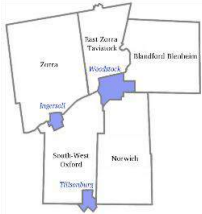
News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 3 of 12

COMINGS AND GOINGS AROUND OXFORD



CONGREGATIONS SEEKING MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP:

We hold in our hearts and prayers those communities

of faith seeking ministerial leadership. Each one is unique as they journey to live out God's mission. Note some of the requirements have recently changed.

Avondale UC (Tillsonburg) with Otterville UC; Hickson UC; Norwich UC; Princeton-Etonia Pastoral Charge; Beachville (Sweaburg - West Oxford) Pastoral Charge; Foldens UC; Burgessville UC.

Former Oxford Presbytery Members on the Move!

John and Agnes King are settling in nicely at Oxford Gardens. Agnes says 'It was time to move. We're very pleased that our room has a courtyard. The food is delicious, and I don't have to cook!' Both Agnes and John were active in Oxford Presbytery and London Conference from the 1970s through to the 2000s. If you'd like to drop them a note of welcome their address is:



Oxford Gardens, Suite #148
423 Devonshire Avenue
Woodstock, ON N4S 0B2


**Submit your requests from
the Oxford Legacy Fund
to Lynne Dunlop
lynndunl@execulink.com
Details [April Connections](#)**



SAVE YOUR BOTTLES! AND help Camp Tanner

Click [here](#) to check for addresses of drop off locations, noted in the poster. All drop offs will be outdoors and socially distanced!

CAMP TANNER



BOTTLE DRIVE

Dundas Street United Church
Trinity United Church
Knox United Church
Richwood United Church

Friday August 6, 2021
4:00 - 7:00 PM

Keep on eye on social media for some fun posts and activities over the summer. [Facebook page](#) and [website](#). Keep safe, and continue to keep the camp spirit alive,

Grrrruff & The Camp Tanner Board

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 4 of 12

MOVING ON – to Niagara!

My family and I: my partner Evan, our co-parent Liam, kids Nora (14), Fred (12) and Elias (4) have been measuring time in



relation to the week before March break, where the kids had their last few days of normalcy at school and life in general.

Everything before then just seems so surreal and magical. Since March of 2019 we moved out of Toronto, bought a 2-acre property with a farm house (and lots of hobby farm dreams), I graduated from Emmanuel College with my Master of Divinity, registered my 14yr old daughter for high-school and our 4yr old for kindergarten and started working on a Dairy farm not far from us.

Toronto was an interesting and entertaining experience, not my favorite place to live but I am glad I now know what the big city feels like, and I can nod along when people tell me stories of Danforth Ave or some corner of the GTA. We have, not so gracefully, dove into home ownership and by proxy, renovators. Those impromptu plastering lessons from Dad while trying to fix up my Undergrad dorm room, really came in handy!

I am grateful for the childhood I had growing up on our farm. I learned the value of hard work and the fruits of labor. This spring we tilled and worked up 3 different gardens over our property. Now, our choices of seeds may leave us doing more work than we should, but 5-year-old seeds should still be okay...right? Let's just call it a science experiment and we will see what the outcome is in 7-14 days!

Both Evan and Liam have primarily been working from home. Evan has quickly found that Seminary did not include a Technology degree but has embraced Zoom as much as possible. Liam has had

to be a bit more creative while teaching online but it is okay because Maggie the dog now gets to go to school with him!!

Earlier this month, Evan and I traveled to Toronto to work with her ministry. TUNM (Toronto Urban Native Ministry) had the opportunity to host a low barrier vaccination clinic out of Church of The Holy Trinity downtown. Originally there were only enough doses for 300 people. As we rounded the corner to the building, we saw the line of people already forming an hour before the clinic would open. By 3pm we received word from Toronto Public Health that we were able to get 300 more vaccinations. By the grace of Creator, there was exactly the amount necessary for the number of people lined up. God is good all the time, all the time God is good!

Covid has put a bit of a wrench in securing an internship placement for me to complete my ministry requirements, but I know the right opportunity is on the way. For now, I keep busy doing pulpit supply and milking cows which has kept me happy and content. I'm glad I was able to find an important piece of Oxford in Niagara! In just a few weeks the fruits of Niagara will be ripening and (depending on the lockdown situation) a road trip for Niagara peaches should be in order for everyone!

*Submitted by Jesse Swance,
formerly of Trinity UC, Ingersoll, now of Niagara*

PRAYER CYCLES

- **Oxford United Churches Dec. 2020**
<https://tinyurl.com/Oxford-Prayer-Cycle-for-UCC>
- **Antler River Watershed**
<https://www.prayercycles.ca/antlerriverwatershed>

**There will be no JULY Issue
of CONNECTIONS.**

**Next Issue is August 11,
2021**

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 5 of 12

The World Council of Churches Conference Germany. Delegates attended online.

The Rev. Dr. Hyuk Cho was one of two delegates representing the United Church of Canada. Hyuk is minister at Westpoint-Grey United Church of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council in BC and former minister of the Brownsville Pastoral Charge.



The theme of the International Conference was "Teaching Ecumenism in the Context of World Christianity". On June 5, Hyuk presented his paper "**All My Relations: Revisioning Ecumenism from the United Church of Canada's Vision of God's Mission and an Indigenous Wisdom.**" Click [here](#) to read it. The following timely paragraph is near the end.

Indigenous peoples do not believe the Great Spirit works only for them. They believe each person, regardless of racial or cultural background, has a "special relationship" with the Great Spirit. This kinship relationship is manifested in the phrase, *mitakuye oyasin*. **It is commonly translated as "all my relations."** It is a response often used at the beginning or end of a prayer, talk or story. ***All my relations* offers a sound basis for revisioning ecumenism, a church living in harmony and balance among people of different communities of faith, no faith and all living beings. *All my relations* may offer reciprocity in deep reverence to each other's presence in seeking a common concern even if there is no common ground, nor common values. We can create an in-between space where the Other is embraced, differences are affirmed and fellow creatures are respected as relatives as we seek to work together for the common good.**

Important Resources Residential Schools

Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada can be found [here](#). This includes the 94 Calls to Action for the government and churches. To date at most, only 14 of these have been done.

The Children Remembered - United Church of Canada - Residential School Archives Project

<https://thechildrenremembered.ca>

Kamloops Residential School: A Time for Mourning and Support UCC

resources <https://united-church.ca/news/kamloops-residential-school-time-mourning-and-support>

Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice>

If you wish to express your sympathy and support, consider donating to organizations who work with survivors or the UCC Healing Fund.

The Healing Fund supports healing initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts. Their website is [here](#).



Registration information is delayed awaiting pandemic restrictions.

SKYLIGHT: Nurturing a narrative of hope, joy, and transformation

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 6 of 12



Grim Reminder of Residential School Atrocities

Greetings to you all. We took this pic Sunday afternoon (May 30) at the Warrior Memorial across from the Kettle and Stony Point United Church when we were depositing shoes. According to a friend at the band office, by Saturday night there were 220-some pairs of children's shoes, laid out in this heart shape, and more still coming. By Tuesday the number of shoes had grown to 400. **The media release from the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation notes their shared pain and grief as though it were discovery of one of their own nieces or nephews.** Read the media release [here](#).

Submitted by Bill Butt



[ARWRC webpage](#)

[Facebook page](#)

See newsletter [June 4 2021](#) for details to register for the Regional Council Spring Meeting. [Go to Registration form](#)

Regional Council Spring Meeting -
ONLINE Thursday, June 10 to Saturday, June 12



Women for Change -Zambia

A project of United Church Women across Canada.

Educate a girl and you have educated a nation!

Nothing correlates better with a country's development than education for girls. But especially in rural areas, traditionally girls in Africa have less support from their families to stay in school. **Women For Change offers bursaries for motivated girls and a small number of especially needy and deserving boys to continue their education,** so that they become wage-earning supporters of their families, and community leaders and role models for others.



The program supplies such education necessities as school fees, uniforms, books, mattresses, travel luggage, transport money, school supplies, boarding costs where necessary, and groceries. Currently it is aiding 33 girls and 11 boys.

There are 5 secondary schools Read more about this at <https://arwsej.ca/justice-for-africa/> or <https://united-church.ca/stories/women-work-change-zambia>

From files of Bill Butt

CORRECTION to the May Issue

Rev. Dr. Tracy Crick-Butler of Trinity UC was a classmate of the late Rev Gary Carruthers of Manitoba. Sincere apologies for misidentifying Rev Crick-Butler.

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 7 of 12

FYI I, I, I Introducing a new monthly feature.

**An opportunity for READERS
to share what Interests,
Informs or Inspires you!**

Share with us the fiction you are reading, the movies you are watching or the songs you are singing!

Recommended from The Rev Bill Lord, former Director of Continuing Education at Toronto School of Theology.

By Tony Robinson

- Useful Wisdom – letters to young and not so young ministers
<https://crackersandgrapejuice.com/episode-307-anthony-robinson-useful-wisdom-letters-to-young-and-not-so-young-ministers/>
- Reflective analysis and book review.
<https://www.christiancentury.org/review/books/do-we-still-need-institutions>



Check out the website, <https://arwsej.ca>, of the Social and Ecological Justice Network of the Antler River Watershed Region for valuable resources on social and

ecological justice issues: **Climate Justice/Crisis, Poverty, Boomer Spirituality, Middle East Justice, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, United Church Women, Right Relations and Mozambique.** Also includes extensive resources for local Outreach projects and community groups.

Full disclosure: co-editor Marg Murray is a member of the ARWSEJ Network and is passionate about the need for an ecological theology to address the climate crisis.

FOR CHILDREN of all ages FCoaa) Monarch Butterflies

Monarch Butterflies are amazing. They fly from Ontario to Mexico, a distance of 7000 kms, to get away from our cold winters. Not only do they find their way to Mexico, but they gather all together on certain trees just outside of Mexico City.

When winter is over, they start their way back and get as far as Texas where they find a milkweed plant, lay eggs, which hatch into black, green and yellow striped caterpillars each called a larva. The larva eats milkweed leaves, then forms a pupa or chrysalis. Next it turns into an adult butterfly which continues on its way north.

It might repeat that one or two more times until it gets back to Canada and finds a



roadside milkweed plant on which to lay its eggs. The picture you see of the caterpillar, I took along Pittock Lake about 25 years ago.

Because there are not as many milkweeds as there were years ago, there not as many Monarchs. You can encourage the number of Monarchs by not destroying **or** by planting milkweeds. Also, Goldenrod and Cone flowers are some of their favourite flowers. Plant them in your garden. If you see a Monarch butterfly next fall sipping nectar from your flowers, she or he is filling up for the long 7000 km trip south. Say thanks and wish them a happy and a safe trip. Now isn't that awesome? (ITA)

GW



Aunt Doreen Armstrong age 85

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 8 of 12



A sacred place for peoples of all faiths as well as spiritual seekers to gather in community to live, work, learn, pray, play, heal and act for justice.

Current programs and possibilities are on their [webpage](#).

REPORT OF FIVE OAKS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Five Oaks Centre was held via Zoom on Sunday, May 30, 2021, with 36 members in attendance.

Despite COVID challenges, Five Oaks has had a good year. **The Centre provided housing and meals for 278 quarantined migrant workers as well as for 47 commuter workers who lived at Five Oaks and were bused daily to farms.** Both programs were a huge benefit to the workers, to the farmers and to the food supply chain. **The Acorn Adventure Day Camp ran several sessions over the summer while respecting COVID restrictions.** Several government and other grants helped with staffing costs and provided funds for much needed renovations to the Main Building, to the Chalet and to the Summer Centre.

Revenue from hosted groups declined in 2020 by about \$326,000. However, revenue from the Migrant Worker Program generated about \$305,000. Several grants were received. **In response to an urgent request in early 2020, donations from individuals and groups increased significantly, avoiding cash flow issues.** Careful management, lay-offs and reduced hours for staff resulted in total expenses being about \$27,000 less in 2020

than in 2019. The net result at year-end was a surplus of about \$151,000.



Funds (\$50,000) are still needed for renovation of the rooms in Wing B and in Wing C. Also, the Main Building is in urgent need of a new roof. **A 5 km 'Raise the Roof Walkathon' is to be held virtually (June 20 -25). To register visit their [webpage](#).** You can walk either individually or join an existing team. You can get sponsors and walk (5 km) in your own neighbourhood. If COVID restrictions permit, an in-person walk with a staff member may begin at Five Oaks.

The program staff team, working on programming for 2021 and beyond, has been redesigned to include three Program Coordinators – Indigenous, Muslim and Christian.

Submitted by Dave Schell, Member



Good food, if you live close to Five Oak, check here for [RETURN of TAKE OUT DINNERS](#)



To order books call 1-888-668-0871, email sales@grandriverbooks.com

Order books online [here](#). Mail delivery \$5.00.

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 9 of 12

OPERATION SHARING



Hotlinks are: [Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Page](#)

FOOD FOR FRIENDS

This program is funded with 25 cents each time you shop at supporting grocery stores in Woodstock and Ingersoll. It allows people to shop for their own food but nothing taxable.

TAXABLE ITEMS CUPBOARD helps folks stretch their monthly income. During the pandemic it has become increasingly more difficult to keep our cupboard supplied and we are appealing to the public for help with the following items:

- deodorant shower gel/body wash
- toilet tissue, shampoo/conditioner
- shaving cream, razors
- dish soap toothbrushes/toothpaste
- kleenex tissue, tampons/sanitary pads
- laundry soap, all purpose cleaner
- hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes
- diapers size 4 & up, adult depends etc.

Donations can be brought to either of the Operation Sharing Offices located at:

- **Woodstock at College Avenue UC,**
22 Wilson Street,
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
MORNINGS 9-12 NOON.
- **Ingersoll at Trinity UC,**
118 Church Street, Ingersoll
TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNINGS 9-
12 NOON

If you have any questions, please call Bonnie at 519-539-3361.

Woodstock: Bullwinkle's Eatery and Hospitality Training Centre

College Avenue UC. Takeout lunches available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (from noon to 1 pm).

A homeless shelter, serving all of



Oxford County at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church in Woodstock. Free of charge for

those 16 and up.

EXTENDED FAMILY PROJECT HELP FOR STUDENTS

Operation Sharing's Extended Family Project has volunteers aiming to help students learn through Zoom.

The program has **several volunteers who are offering tutoring in math and English for students up to Grade 8**, said Eric Schmiedl, coordinator of Extended Family.

"People have been hesitant – and rightly so- in making use of face-to-face volunteer opportunities during the pandemic," Schmiedl said. **"Therefore, we are making the move to Zoom."**

Students who wish to take part can email Schmiedl at eric Schmiedl@yahoo.ca or call 519-539-5926.

Extended Family has been operating for more than 15 years and offers a walk-the-walk approach, linking volunteers with people in need.

GOOD CLEAN CLOTHING NEEDED:

Children size 5 & up: jeans, pants, shorts, t-shirts, shirts and hoodies, jackets

Youth & Teens: jeans, pants, shorts, t-shirts, shirts and hoodies, jackets

Men's: jeans, pants, shorts, t-shirts, shirts and hoodies, jackets, summer shoes

Ladies: summer dresses, summer shoes, socks, jackets

Two ways to donate to the programs of Operation Sharing: webpage [here](#) or mail Treasurer of Operation Sharing, P.O. Box 20081, Woodstock, Ontario, N4S 8X8.

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 10 of 12

BOOMERANG AND NEW WINE SKINS

Last week driving through Southside Park in Woodstock, we came upon a dad with 2 preteens he was trying to teach to use a boomerang. With a quick flick of his wrist, dad would send the curved wood into a long oval airway to knock a blossom from a tree, turn and return to his waiting hand, a smooth and effective weapon. Then, in turn, each youngster would try to imitate Dad's action. Patiently and kindly the Dad kept on demonstrating until each child had managed to complete at least one successful shot. Then, three happy people headed for the ice cream booth.

Did you know that the boomerang was invented by Polish People before bows and arrows? Scientists believe it happened around 20,000 BCE. The tusks of the great mammoths that roamed the plains of what is now Poland were trimmed and shaped into effective hunting weapons: boomerangs. Then it took 13,000 more years for that invention to travel on to Australia.



In recent times American blue jeans went on sale in the USA and in 20 years they were already the top selling clothes in Russia and in China! Change these days has reached dizzying speed, hasn't it? Covid, for example, has pushed and pulled us to change and change fast: Change the way you do Church. Change the way you work. Change the way you organize your family and your social life. If you refuse to change, your mental health suffers. Your physical health suffers. Your relationships suffer.

Jesus knew all this and talked to his disciples about it. He said that if they were rigid like an old skin bottle, they would be

like old leather and burst under the pressure of change. Instead, they needed to be elastic and flexible in order to adapt to new ideas and new ways. Perhaps we should pay more attention to that teaching as covid leads us into a new world.

Edward Hays, in his book called 'A Pilgrim's Almanac,' (p.79) wrote this prayer for new wine skins: "O how can an everlastingly new covenant retain its freshness and vitality

Without injections of the new, the daring and the untried?

Come, O you who are ever new, wrap my heart in new skin,

Ever flexible to be reformed by your Spirit.

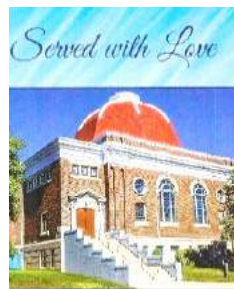
Come, O God of endless creativity, and teach me to dance with delight

Whenever you send a new melody my way."

Olga McKellar



St. Paul's United Church



88 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg
Saturday Community Kitchen
meals continue from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Hot meal will be provided.
Served in containers to go from the parking lot
at the bottom of the ramp to St.

Paul's church. No seats and no washrooms available.
Two entrances to parking lot off Bidwell Street.



**United Church Rural
Ministry Network**

www.UCRMN.ca

"Connecting rural stories
with rural people across Canada"

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 11 of 12

GOOD NEWS! From the OXFORD UNITED REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE (OURS)



Sara Temnewu and her three children refugees in Tigray, Ethiopia, feel a great sense of relief. Our cosponsor, Abrhazion Temnewu (Sara's sister in London),

is celebrating the good news that our sponsorship application submitted to Immigration Refugees Resettlement Canada (IRRC) on April 27 has been approved. I quote from the email:

"This email confirms that your sponsorship application under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program has been reviewed and based on the documents submitted, the sponsors appear to be eligible and have the financial and settlement support capacity to sponsor."

Our committee, working in partnership with St David's United Church, share in their joy. **There is now hope that this family will be able to escape religious persecution and a war taking place in the Tigray region that have put them in real danger.**



Waste in landfills is a poor solution threatening our water, our air and agricultural land. Read [this summary](#) of why we need to continue saying NO (write letters, speak to councillors, join protests) to Walker Industries Dump Plan in Beachville.

First Step

This **first step in the approval process** means the paper work is being transferred to a Canadian representative of the IRRC in Nairobi, who will travel to Addis Ababa to interview the family and if satisfied with the veracity of their story will give approval for Canadian Permanent Residency. When this happens, plans will begin to be made for their move to London and the home of Abrhazion. We are committed to playing an active role in their resettlement as agreed to in our sponsorship undertaking.

As we await the results of this next step, we ask for you to pray with us for a positive outcome.

Please continue your prayers for ALL refugees.

We also wait to hear from our UCC national church office (the Sponsorship Agreement Holder)

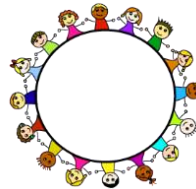


Birsat Yemane



that the applications submitted for Birsat Yemane, living as a refugee in Sudan, Mussie Habte and Kidane Habte living as refugees in Ethiopia, are progressing. OURS is assisting St David's Church as the Constituent Group for these applications.

*Submitted by Marj Martin,
Chairperson of the OURS committee*



PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Prayer Chain Leader [Olga McKellar](#) for on-going prayer concerns

ECO-JUSTICE is a necessity for planetary survival and human ethics; without it we are crucifying the Christ all over again in the form of destruction of forests, waters, species, air and soil

The Rev. Matthew Fox

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 3 Issue 6

June 9, 2021

Page 12 of 12



215 and Counting

Do we now have our own number? We know about 9/11. We know that the name George Floyd brings to mind the number 929.

We have just heard that 215 children's bodies were identified beneath the earth at just one of 130 residential school sites. The deep sadness and shame overwhelm us. It makes us want to apologize – again.

Eve Ensler, playwright, author and activist, says that there are **four parts to an apology**: the apology must include the details of what went on. A general statement such as “we tried to make you be like us” as in the United Church apology (1986) would not qualify. Secondly, the perpetrator needs to discover why it happened. Next the perpetrator must feel remorse, allowing the heart to be broken and finally there is the work of making amends.

The number 215 gives us some jarring truth details of what went on. For stage two, there is a long list of “the why” of residential schools. It is a list of good intentions cloaked in racism. The intent was to destroy their way of life. **The irony is they had much to teach us, such as the respect and care for Mother Earth, a part of our faith that we have all but forgotten.** Stage three of apology is remorse. The death of 215 Indigenous children under our care breaks our hearts.

The fourth stage is to make amends. We can't ever, but this raw truth hopefully gives us new energy and intent to hear and heed the cries of our sisters and brothers. **We must respond more intentionally to the work of reconciliation. It is our prayer. It is our work. It can no longer be delayed.**

Glen Wright

WORSHIP SERVICES IN OXFORD

Because of Covid, streaming services only are available at present.

Check the following re specifics:

[College Ave UC](#)

[Dundas St. UC](#)

Hebron UC - rsstock@execulink.com

Innerkip UC

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLByPBZsncJI4bIMphIVVbRuBZX86mcoj>

[Kintore/Brooksdales UC](#)

[Knox UC, Embro](#)

[Mt Elgin UC](#)

[Norwich UC](#)

[Peace UC, Plattsville](#) Also on Rogers TV channel 20

[St. David's UC, Woodstock](#)

[St. Paul's UC, Tillsonburg](#)

[Trinity UC, Ingersoll](#)

[Westminster UC, Thamesford](#)

Willis UC, Drumbo Sunday services by conference call. drumbocharge@hotmail.com

CONNECTIONS – News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Next Publication: Wednesday,

August 11, 2021

SUBMISSIONS DUE:

Noon Friday August 6, 2021

CO-EDITORS:

Marg Murray and Glen Wright

To add or remove names, email

oxfconnections@execulink.com

Submissions and feedback welcome.

**CONNECTIONS
has a website:**

oxfordunitedministries.ca