

The Harcourt Herald

*The life and work of the Harcourt Memorial United Church
Guelph, Ontario Canada
April, 2017*



Betrayed With A Kiss

Harcourt Memorial United Church

An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

Seek | Connect | Act

Our Mission:

Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate, and non-violent relationships

Our Vision Statement:

To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service

Our Core Values:

Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

Our Purpose:

To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

Harcourt Memorial United Church

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1L3

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Monday to Friday, 9am-noon; 1pm-4pm

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The Harcourt Herald

Published 10 times each year

by the

Communications Committee

Your contributions are welcome!

**Deadline: 20th of each month
Sept-June**

Editor: Gillian Joseph

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Printer: Anne Purkis



Worship Schedule

- April. 9. *Palm Sunday*. Garment Sunday / Donations to Chalmers Centre 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- April 13. *Maundy Thursday*. 7 p.m. Three Willows United Church
- April 14. *Good Friday*. 10 a.m. Harcourt U.C. Sanctuary.
- April 16. **Easter 1**. All Ages Service / ONE service only 10 a.m.
- April 23. **Easter 2**. Communion 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- April 30. **Easter 3**. 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- May 7. **Easter 4**. Affirming Service / (Rainbow Chorus at 10:30 a.m.) 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

For those who didn't attend the February 26th Congregational Annual Meeting, we recognized the many successes we achieved during 2016, the small financial surplus we shared, and the contributions of all who provided leadership through committees, teams, and individual tasks. We celebrated with Brian Magee and thanked him for his role as Treasurer for eight years.

Kent Hoeg presented the 2017 narrative budget to highlight all that we hope to achieve this year. His informative slides and commentary focused on these outcomes from our Joint Needs Assessment process in response to "What's important at Harcourt?"

- Spiritual Growth
- Music
- Feeling of community, acceptance, diversity
- Work for justice, acceptance, diversity
- Need for experimentation

Watch for other opportunities to see and hear Kent's presentation. Our 2017 budget was approved, showing a deficit. Our year will be successful through our ongoing and renewed commitments of time, talents and financial resources to what we value from being part of Harcourt.

Our March 15th Council meeting focused on the Annual Meeting discussions and some next steps that we can take to continue our Harcourt 20/20 journey. We reviewed Peter Jackson's summary of the table groups' input about our 'glue' of commitments, discussed possible ways to take risk with experimentation, and explored ways to enhance our approach to being a welcoming community and to re-focus the Councillor for Congregational Life position. We also discussed:

- Suggestions from Spiritual Life Committee on ways to consider stewardship as a spiritual practice;
- Response to a Request for Action from the Communication and Tech Teams re exploring the role of live feed technology at Harcourt; and
- Recruitment of a lay representative to Guelph United Ministries (GUM) to replace Kathy Magee.

As we move through the season of Lent towards Easter, may we reflect on what we seek, how we connect with each other, and what actions we feel called to take as our ministry within this community. With faith and hope.



New to Harcourt? Welcome!

Harcourt is a diverse community that welcomes everyone. Please hold down the ctrl button on your computer and at the same time click your mouse on the photo above to hear Jim Ball's welcome message.

To contact the Church: Office e-mail office@harcourtuc.ca or call 519 824-4177

Visit our webpage at www.harcourtuc.ca for information about services, supports, room rental, activities and outreach

The Latest Buzz...



- **Harcourt's Narrative Budget by Kent Hoag is Now Online!**

Understanding where our money goes at Harcourt has never been easier. If you did not see Kent's presentation of the Narrative Budget at Harcourt's last Congregational meeting, *this video is a must see*. It is amazing how much happens at Harcourt. Kent has skillfully pulled information together, from a financial perspective, so we know how much money is being spend across categories which we, the congregation of Harcourt, has said are important to us. Many thanks to Jerry Daminato who made this video with Kent. Please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykDC8qwSSTY>

- **You Can Make A Difference – Sign the Petition**

Joan Barham draws our attention to an opportunity to make a difference. For Lent 2017 join United Church partner Citizens for Public Justice and [pledge to reduce your carbon footprint](#) while urging the federal government to keep its Paris Agreement carbon commitments. Sign the Petition online by clicking on the highlighted text above.

- **Spiritual Practice Website**

Andre Auger invites the congregation to view and provide feedback on his website entitled *Spiritual Practices* which can be accessed at <http://spiritualpractice.ca>. He states that when he designed the site he thought the best approach might be to address some of the questions that he tended to hear from beginners on their spiritual journey. He also suggests that this is not a website one can take in at a quick glance, but as with spiritual practice itself, it requires time, quiet, patience, and openness.

- **United Church Observer Raises the Startling Issue of Pain Killer Addiction**

Approximately one in five Canadians live with some kind of serious pain and the increasing use of prescription painkillers is becoming a serious social problem. In Ontario alone, opioid overdoses are now the third leading cause of accidental death, killing two people in the province every day. Check out this fascinating article in the United Church Observer. http://www.ucobserver.org/society/2017/03/aging_addicted/

Committees and Groups

Harcourt Men's Group Celebrates the City of Guelph

by Bill Lord

The next Harcourt Men's Group meeting will be **Wednesday, April 12th**. Margaret and Ivan Stinson will be the guest speakers with a talk on "*Celebrating Guelph's 190 Anniversary: Iconic Persons and Places*". They have been awarded both the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award and Landscape Ontario Legacy Award for their volunteer work in Canada, USA and Europe. The Stinson's are avid local historians as well. All men are welcome to attend and you are invited to bring a friend (or a neighbor) who would enjoy this session. Bryan Fuhr will have the coffee and tea ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Murray Woods will be the leader. In your date book please record the date of May 10th for the next meeting. The program will be announced at the April meeting.

A Tender Topic: Update on the Sanctuary-level Washrooms

by Dave Hume, Chair of the Building Committee

I am hoping that, by the time you read this, the Call for Tenders will be out to local contractors for the Sanctuary-level washrooms. Lisa Mactaggart has kindly provided specifications for landscaping after a sanitary sewer gets installed out to Dean Avenue and all the other details are being built into the Call for Tenders. After the call goes out, the Building Committee will review the bids, chose the contractor and things will start to happen!

Finance Tidbits

by Kent Hoag, Finance

A little bit of information to keep you up to date in the world of Harcourt finances:

1. At the end of February we currently have a surplus of \$2,475 – nice! Keep the momentum going! We need to build up a surplus to overcome our congregational budget approved deficit of \$17,000. We can do it!



2. Did you miss the February Annual Meeting? Our Annual report is located at <http://www.harcourtuc.ca/space-resources/annual-report/>. A video of our Narrative Budget can be found on Harcourt's YouTube channel: <http://www.harcourtuc.ca/space-resources/annual-report/> - check it out!
3. Want to target your memorial donations? When a memorial donation is received, unless otherwise specified the donation will be applied to our Operating budget. You may also wish to target your donation to one of our pillars (Property, Outreach, Music and Arts or Spiritual Life & Education).
4. Have a question about finance? Just ask! hoeg@rogers.com or [519-265-5956](tel:519-265-5956).

Hear, Hear!

by Jerry Daminato, Tech Team

We have had an increased use of our hearing assist devices in the Sanctuary for the 10:30 services. Actually for some services, we have had all 6 units out and more were needed. So we are going to purchase more and their respective charging units as soon as possible so all can hear our Sanctuary services.



Virginia Gillman Special Guest at Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship

by Cisca Vander Kamp

Did you know that Guelph is noted widely for having a very high percentage of book-readers? Well, it has a much higher percentage of its population owning public library cards! No wonder we have a famous group called "Friends of the Library" and no wonder Guelph stages a three-day book sale every October with thousands and thousands of books (as well as other things to entertain and teach)! The original idea of such a sale was started by Virginia Gillman, a noted librarian in two different universities and an energetic, very fine speaker. She organizes the BIG book sale annually here in Guelph and the profits (from all the books, games, etcetera that are donated) go into an invested fund to purchase equipment for the new downtown Public Library that we hope to get one of these years. Virginia will be the featured speaker at the **April 10th** meeting of the Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship. Every woman welcome. Bring your bag lunch and desserts, and tea will be supplied. And, by the way, bring a friend – maybe that new lady who moved onto your street recently? We'd like to meet her too!

Some Easter Reading

by Mary-Lou Funston, Library Committee

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AS AN ADULT:

We now have a number of DVD's available on a number of topics. Recommended for Easter viewing is the following:

First Light Jesus and the Kingdom of God - featuring John Crossan & Marcus Borg.

DVD Tape 26 CRO

This DVD has 12 segments, of which no's 9 and 10 deal with the Crucifixion. No. 11 is entitled "Resurrection as Resistance".

For your reading pleasure and meditation, we have the following:

Easter from the Back Side, J. Ellsworth Kalas

242.3 KAL

The author connects "the story of Christ's resurrection with other stories and scriptures throughout the Bible", thus giving new insights into the Biblical account.

Faces At The Cross, J. Barrie Shepherd

242.3 SHE

This book is in 3 parts:

Part One: is a very short introduction to, and use of, the song "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?".

Part Two: "...uses poetic imagination to explore what might have been the emotions, confusions, rationalizations, and insight of those who stood among that crowd on the hill called Golgotha"

Part Three: "...presents a selection of verse for Lent and Easter. ...in the form of a pilgrimage, tracing the Lenten journey from Ash Wednesday"...to Easter.

FOR THE "JUNIORS" IN YOUR FAMILY

There are several books of the Easter story, which will be displayed on the 'Junior' cube, but the one I want to recommend is the following:



Peter's First Easter, Walter Wangerin Jr.

J WAN

This account of Jesus' journey to Easter and beyond is told from the viewpoint of Peter. It doesn't pull any punches about Jesus' trial, crucifixion and resurrection, what Peter said and did, and how he felt about the whole experience. As a result, his experience of the resurrection and Jesus' forgiveness is a powerful one.

FOR THE YOUNGER CHILDREN IN YOUR FAMILY

Again, there are several books that will be displaced on the 'Picture' cube. I have chosen to highlight these three:

Jesus Washes Peter's Feet

P BEL

A children's account of the Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet on the night of the Last Supper.

Someone Very Special Vickie Howie

P HOW

A simple and beautiful retelling of the story of the first Easter.

The Story of Easter Robin Currie

P CUR

The Easter story is told through the eyes of animals, present but mostly unseen, during the events of Easter. The story includes actions that can be done as the story is told.

**We Invite YOU
to Share your
Photos with Us!!**

by Joan Barham, Chair
Communication Committee

"A picture is worth a thousand words". This is the reality when people view our Harcourt website, Facebook, twitter, Herald, Sunday worship material on the



sanctuary screens, archives, flyers and bulletin boards.

We need your help in building our collection of photographs for use across these seven different avenues where we tell people about the heart and soul of Harcourt.

Thank you if you have shared your photos in the past. We would love you to continue. Harcourt has now moved to Flickr as this sites capacity for photographic storage, for free, is suited to Harcourt's needs.

If you decide to share your photos with Harcourt:

1. When you want to submit a photo, please send it to: Horse99notes@photos.flickr.com
This email address is constructed to better ensure security
2. **VERY IMPORTANT! Please remember to:**
 - Title your photo with a general description, (e.g., picnic)
 - And date it,

In sending us your personal photos you are agreeing that they may be used for the Harcourt website, Facebooks, Twitter, Herald, Sunday worship material on the sanctuary and other screens, archives, flyers and bulletin boards.

Please ensure that any image which includes adults has permission from the adults to use their photo in public places.
Where children's images are included in an image, permission *in writing*, that their image can be used in public places MUST be obtained.

Harcourt reserves the right not to publish a photo where there might be legal concerns.

An Invite

by Ben Fear

*There's a nice, friendly church down on Dean,
With a garden that likes to be seen,
All spiffy and neat, which makes it a treat,
To sit on a bench and daydream.*

To prepare the gardens for daydreamers, scrutinizers, promenaders and those who like to observe nature through clean windows, there will be a gathering on the site on

Saturday morning, April 29th, shortly after breakfast (9 a.m.). At that time, there will be an opportunity for all those attending to improve their muscle tone and vascular circulation and also to demonstrate their horticultural technique. The invitation is extended to all those who like to watch grass grow. No previous experience is required. Expert onsite training provided. All we really need is YOU and your garden rake (or saw or clippers). Although it never hurts to bring a smile! This is an equal opportunity event sponsored by the Property Committee. The rain date for this event will be Saturday, May 6th.

News from the 3rd Guelph Scouting Group

by Jonathon Welch

Sunday, February 18th Church Parade

On Sunday February 19th the 3rd Guelph Scouting Group attended church as part of their celebration of Scout/Guide Week. We believe this year's attendance is a recent record, with 16 youth representing Beaver, Cub and Scout sections. Also in attendance were 12 leaders representing all sections, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and the Group Committee.

Rita Borho, chairperson of our Group Committee spoke briefly offering words of sincere thanks to the Harcourt Congregation and to Darko Cikovic for their continued support in providing excellent facilities for our programs. Rita also announced that 12 youth and 4 leaders would be attending the 2017 Canadian Scout Jamboree. This year it will be held at Camp Nedooae in Elderbank, Nova Scotia. The youth are carrying out various fund raising activities to help with their costs. For further jamboree details visit: <http://www.scouts.ca/cj17/index.html/>

The youth/leaders then left the main sanctuary in order to join the MANNA service. New songs, and a craft associated with friendship and Scouting were enjoyed. The Matthew 5: v.38-48 scripture on "love your enemy" was closely themed by Merrill's meditation for the Group.

Communion was celebrated under Rev. Miriam Flynn 's direction with two of the youth distributing the elements to the group. In all aspects, a wonderful day in our celebration.



Scouts Canada, the country's leading youth organization, offers challenging programs for boys, girls and youth aged 5-26 in thousands of individual Groups in most cities and towns across Canada.

Wednesday Feb 22nd - Annual Parent-Youth Banquet

This year our annual Scout Banquet happened to fall on the 160th anniversary of Lord Baden Powell's birthday of February 22nd, 1857. Lord Baden Powell and Lady Olave Baden Powell were the founders of the Scouting and Girl Guide movements.



The banquet is a wonderful opportunity for the sections to come together for one night and feast in celebration with our youth, parents and the leaders. This year was an exceptional affair with almost overflowing attendance. During the course of our evening we twice had to open the cupboards and set up more tables and chairs to accommodate those attending. Sumptuous treats were shared by all. The highlight of the evening was the

announcement of the Ethel Ogilvie Memorial Fund to benefit our 3rd Guelph Harcourt Scouting Group. John Ogilvie made the presentation to Rita Borho, our Group Commissioner. John and Ethel's sons David and Robert joined their Dad as our guests that evening. John presented Rita with the first cheque, with the Fund intended to provide an annual contribution for the 3rd Guelph Scouting Group. Ethel and John both have been integral participants and benefactors to the Scouting movement for many years, not only with the 3rd Guelph Group, but starting in Ottawa, Newmarket and Ste. Anne de Bellevue in, Quebec. Our evening program included a written tribute outlining Ethel's involvement in Scouting and we've included it as well in this article. Our most sincere thanks to John and the Ogilvie family for their generous support and contributions of time and energy over the years.

The evening also provided time to honour leaders for their contribution over the years. The following persons were presented with awards:

Steve Borho - 15 year pin and The Bar to the Medal for Good Service
Jon Welch - 15 year pin and the Medal for Good Service
Einar Skolseg - 10 year pin and Medal for Good Service
Joan Holland - Medal for Good Service
Matzi King - 5 year pin

Details were also shared regarding our upcoming CJ-17 Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser to take place on April 1st, 2017. It will be held in the Harcourt Gym. We intend to have 2 sittings 5 pm and 7 pm with pricing at \$ 45 for the family (2 adults, 2 kids), \$15 for an adult and \$ 10 youth (under 10).



Ethel Ogilvie

Ethel (Dempsey) Ogilvie [1931- 2010], a Scouter for more than 45 years, began as a secretary in the National Scout HQ in Ottawa, at age 17. A Cub leader in Ottawa and at Guelph (3 times), Newmarket, and Ste. Anne de Bellevue, QC. A District Cubmaster in Guelph, a proud Gilwell Scouter and a member of the service team for Wellington District, Scouts Canada. Part of her service responsibility was to the 3rd Guelph Scout group at Harcourt Memorial UC her home church. Ethel was awarded the Medal of Merit and Bar [1991] for her continued especially good service to Scouting and a Life Membership [2002] in Wellington District Scouts Canada.

Community

MANNA: New Ways to be the “People of God.”

by Andre Auger, MANNA participant

I have to admire the MANNA planning team. It must sometimes feel like an impossible balancing act: find the basic theme at the heart of the Lectionary Gospel reading, find a way to make it alive for children and meaningful for adults, find an appropriate participatory activity that engages all ages, and help build community that extends beyond the one-hour service.

Well, it's safe to report that the community part is succeeding. The Sunday worship service at MANNA is like the tip of the iceberg showing above water. The real MANNA community runs deep beneath the surface, with families helping each other out in challenging times, long “play dates” with the children after the Sunday service, multiple forms of communication occurring throughout the week and with people keeping each other informed of important life events.

The other parts in the balancing act also seem to be coming together better and better as the team develops confidence and experience. For example, James the puppet rivets the attention of young and old, time to reflect and share in small groups helps us learn more about each other, new ways to hear the old stories make them more alive. Through these practices, we are learning to link our faith life with our daily life.

As Kirk-Davidov (2007) in the Emergent church movement said, “If we've practiced building relationships in the church and can share our faith respectfully and without embarrassment, chances are we'll be able to share our faith outside the church as well.” And through it all, young children are growing up in the midst of a worshipping “village.” They absorb the sacredness of the moment by osmosis more than by words, and that's the way it ought to be. I've yet to see a single child “misbehave” at MANNA! Isn't that a remarkable thing in itself? Someone from another Emergent church experiment declared: “We want to be part of creating a community where our kids feel free to be who they are. We love that our church feels like a safe place for them to be themselves. They aren't expected to be adults, but they aren't looked down for being kids, either. I know that as they grow up there will be all kinds of pressure to conform, to change who they are. If there's only one place they can be fully who they are, it should be church.” (Barnhill in Pagitt & Jones, 2007).

It must nonetheless sometimes feel very lonely, being out on the edge planning new and engaging ways to spread the Good News. Despite the feeling of being very vulnerable in the experimentation, I can safely report that MANNA is far from alone and is but one example of many communities around the world part of the great movement known as “Emergent Christianity,” as attested to by the growing literature on the subject (Tickle, 2008; Tickle, 2012).

So MANNA is in very good company! Our task includes learning from each other and supporting each other as we each learn to be “church” in new and relevant, yet faithful ways. While there continues to be a place at Harcourt for the “traditional” worship format, MANNA is creating new ways to be the people of God, which might just end up appealing to other world-weary young families.

References:

- Kirk-Davidov, H. (2007). Meeting Jesus at the bar. In: D. Pagitt & T. Jones (eds), An Emergent Manifesto of Hope. Baker Books: Grand Rapids MI, p. 40.
- Barnhill, C. (2007). The postmodern parent, Op cit., p. 56.
- Tickle, P. (2008). The Great Emergence. Baker Books: Grand Rapids MI.
- Tickle, P. (2012). Emergence Christianity. Baker Books: Grand Rapids MI.

It’s That Time Again...Garage Sale Coming Up!

by Janet Webster

The clocks have spring ahead and the days are getting longer. Plans for the annual Harcourt garage sale for April 8th are well underway. Please bring your gently used household items to the gym on Friday April 7 between 9: a.m. and 7:30 p.m. We welcome decorative items, dishes, books, toys, music, jewellery, small furniture, small appliances, etc. Please, no clothing, car parts or computers/ televisions. If you have any questions, please contact Frank or Janet at [519 821-953](tel:519821953) or fwebst0953@rogers.com.

Once again, the Pre-school parents will be hosting a sale in the Friendship room. **Volunteers are needed both days, for whatever time you can spare. Teens may earn volunteer hours.** Contact the Harcourt office, the Websters or go to Harcourt web site and add your name to the Sign Up Genius chart.

Join the fun, de-clutter your nest, find a bargain and socialize. Remember, funds raised support Harcourt projects and programs.

Church 4 Lent on Campus

by Joan Barham

The Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph is hosting a series of Sunday afternoon chapel services over the season of Lent. These short, informal gatherings are student led – everything from music and speaking to kid’s activities and liturgy. We’d love for you to encourage these student leaders by making these gatherings part of your Lenten practice. Would you consider coming to one or two of these chapel services? Can you help spread the word?

Raithby House is in the centre of campus (Branion Plaza, beside the canon). Parking on-campus is free on weekends. Thanks to Guelph United Ministries and the Anglican Diocese of Niagara for their support of these services. Phone 519.824.4120 ext. 52390 for more information.



CHURCH 4
LENT on campus

Sundays 4:00-4:45pm :: UofG Raithby Rm. 100

March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16

Short, informal worship gatherings with music, speakers, & kids program to help and inspire your journey to Easter. All are welcome. Weekend parking free.
www.ECMguelph.org

Hosted by the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at UofG with support from Guelph United ministries and the Anglican Diocese of Niagara



Photo by Jerry Daminato

The art of wax-resist (batik) egg decoration in Slavic cultures goes back far before Christianity began. There are few ancient examples of intact pysanky since the eggshells are very fragile. However, small pieces of coloured egg shells with decorations on them were found during the archaeological excavations in Ostrówek, Poland, where a Slavic settlement from the early Piast Dynasty were uncovered. (Wikipedia)

SKYLIGHT FESTIVAL

you are the ones for skylight

July 28-30, 2017

Paris, Ontario

Skylight Festival – Another Year, Another Great Experience!

by Nick Swan

The 3rd annual Skylight Festival is happening July 28 - 30 in Paris, Ontario! With Zarqa Nawaz (creator of Little Mosque on the Prairie), Adrian Jacobs (Keeper of the Circle at Sandy Saulteaux), Romal Tune (communicator, social-entrepreneur, and leadership strategist), Kate Reid (queer musical activist), and many more, this year's festival promises to be inspirational and experiential.

Buy your tickets today, and start planning for Paris in July!

Check out the video below to see more. Place your mouse cursor over the photo below, hold down your ctrl key and, at the same time, click your left mouse button to view the video.



Chalmers Lenten Stories

by Peter Gill

Part of the capital campaign at Harcourt is the use of guest stories which come to us usually from volunteers. We all have stories to tell and Chalmers' guests are no different. The bonds which form between guests and volunteers offer an environment where those stories can be told and heard with mutual respect and dignity.

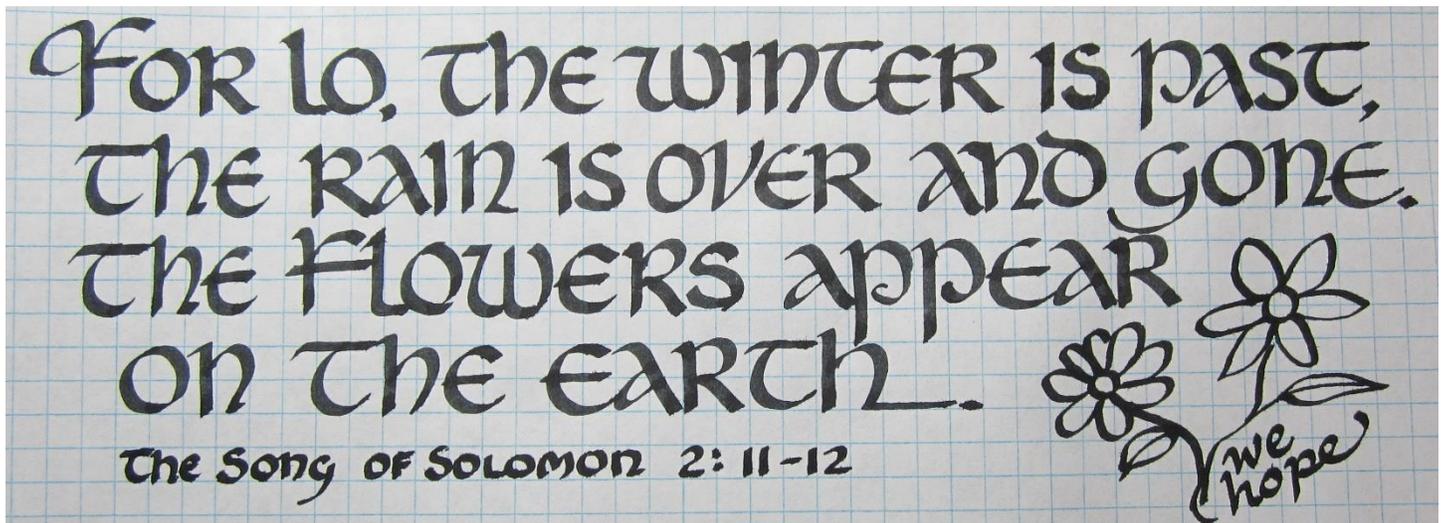
Over the six weeks of lent, we are hearing stories about:

- Money (microfinance)
- Food and Shelter
- Healing
- Relationships
- Safe Space
- Clothing (coinciding with our traditional Garment/Palm Sunday)

Many people have been moved by these stories and so if you wish to receive a copy of them, please let me know and I'll be glad to e-mail them to you.

According to CBC news, Habitat for Humanity Wellington/Dufferin/Guelph recently announced that it is planning a new condo development to provide 30 units to families, seniors and individuals with disabilities. The plan is to have this project completed by the end of 2019.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/guelph-habitat-humanity-condo-project-cityview-village-1.4039492>



Bye Bye Winter!

by Roz Stephenson

The verses above seemed to echo what we've been hoping ... that Winter be past! It's in fancy lettering because I was trying to do my calligraphy class homework. We were doing Celtic lettering and those convoluted Celtic knots. I thought I would be good at them, given the usual state of my shoelaces, but I just ended up going in circles. But you begin to understand why medieval contemplative orders copied and beautifully decorated the gospels as a spiritual practice – it slows you down! The Book of Kells is one such manuscript; another is the Lindisfarne Gospel Book. We were looking at some material from this manuscript – which through the wonders of the internet can be found on the British Library website.

The writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels is linked to the community on the Holy Island, off the east coast of northern England, close to the border with Scotland. It was the first hermitage of St. Cuthbert, who is known from the writings of the Venerable Bede. "St. Cuthbert's" was the name of the first church I ever went to, and I really didn't know who St. Cuthbert was. (I was only four at the time.) A book on spirituality and the Lindisfarne Gospels by Ewan Clayton, a well-known calligrapher, and photographer Robert Cooper filled in some of my gaps in knowledge. The book title is "Embracing Change", and Clayton remarks on the fact that the first decorated page in the manuscript is not the first page of St. Mathew's Gospel, but rather a letter written by St. Jerome to Pope Damasus, which opens with the words: **"Out of something old, you compelled me to make something new."** The Lindisfarne Gospels date to 698 AD (or a bit later), so it seems that the urge to "embrace change" and "make something new" is older than Harcourt 20/20 in 2017!

Before I side-tracked to St. Cuthbert and Celtic manuscripts, I was reading Brian D. McLaren's book *"The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian"* (2016, Convergent Books). So I am not too far into it, but again the theme is dramatic changes and their impact, but in current times. McLaren (p. 20) contrasts having faith with having "correct beliefs", and the need to re-centre on the primacy of love in Christian faith. This mirrors Cuthbert's focus on "the faith that works by love" (Gal. 5:3) – a way of life Clayton describes as "focused on active participation in life, in practical charity and loving response".

Then I was side-tracked again – back to the hope for spring - by Joyce Rupp's new collection of blessings, reflections and poems, called *"Prayer Seeds – A Gathering of Blessing, Reflections and Poems for Spiritual Growth"* (2017, Sorin Books). She includes a 10 verse poem (p. 40) called "Spring Equinox Rejoicing", that concludes with this wonderful image:

*People everywhere taste the freshness
Of Spring's brand new arrival.
Their grumpiness lessens
And their hearts grow lighter and freer.
Let us rejoice!*





VIGIL FOR HOLY WEEK

**A personal retreat
at your own pace,
in your own space.**

**We invite you to prayers
and reflections each day
based on this Guide,
which will move you through
the story of Holy Week
as told in John's Gospel.**

**On Easter Saturday, April 15th, 2017
you are invited to join us
in the Chapel at Harcourt
from 7 to 9 PM**

Printed copies of "A Vigil For Holy Week"
will be available following worship

Sunday, April 2, 2017

and Sunday, April 9, 2017

The text is also in the "Spiritual Growth" segment
of the Harcourt web site.

harcourt
seek | connect | act

Grow With Us! Harcourt Communal Garden

by Jill Gill

On Sunday, April 2nd, join us for a short planning meeting (approximately 1 hour) **at noon, in the Chapel**. Expertise in vegetable growing is not necessary, just a willingness to learn and get your hands dirty and have fun!

This will be the seventh season harvesting edibles from several on-ground and raised beds on the western perimeter of the parking lot and a bed adjacent to the Memorial Garden. So far we have grown 1,728 kgs (3,802 lbs.) of fresh, organically grown fruits, vegetables and herbs for donation to the Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) food pantry. These are distributed to CCSC guests and supplement the regular food offerings that they receive. CCSC is a Harcourt-supported charity.

The Communal Garden is entirely maintained by volunteers who plant, water, weed and harvest during the spring, summer and fall. Last year we had ten folks who worked in



teams of three for about 2-3 hours each week. Each team volunteered six times, on average, from June until the end of October. This year we would like to increase our volunteer base, so if helping in the Harcourt Communal Garden is an activity that interests you, please join our team.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would still like to volunteer to help with the garden, or have any questions, please contact Jill Gill at 519.767.1244 or email me at peter.gill@sympatico.ca.

Saturday Night Supper – A Meaningful Meal

by Jill Gill

Several folks who have joined the Harcourt congregation in recent years have asked if I would give some background information describing the Saturday Night Supper Program (SNS). The SNS program was started in 1998 at the former Chalmers United Church, currently Royal City Church. In 2008 after the sale of Chalmers the program continued with approximately twenty churches of various denominations providing the meals on a rotating basis. The supper offers a really good, hot meal to all in need (usually from 120-160 folks), in the company and fellowship of others. Supper is served every Saturday from 6-7 p.m. at Royal City Church, 50 Quebec Street, Guelph. Volunteers from Royal City Church also serve a simple evening meal each night of the week to many of the same guests.

Harcourt's next opportunity to host Saturday Night Supper at Royal City Church, 50 Quebec Street, is April 29 (Please note the change of date - due to a request from another church group). We require twelve volunteers on the night, to prepare and serve dinner and many more folks to prepare the food. Our menu includes pasta casserole (recipe provided and available on Harcourt's website), Caesar salad, pickles, cheese, assorted fruit pies, vanilla ice cream, milk, juice and coffee. Cash donations for food purchases will also be gratefully received.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Greeting Place where you can indicate how you are able to help out. Or, if you prefer to volunteer online at Sign Up Genius, go to the Harcourt website; click on "Connect to Community"; scroll down and click on "Saturday Night Supper"; then scroll down to "Sign up online".

Food and volunteers should be at the church (**backdoor entrance opposite the Baker Street Parking lot**) by 5 p.m. Servers will be needed until approximately 8 p.m. Be sure to sign up for this rewarding outreach opportunity.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and support for this worthwhile activity, serving a nutritious, hot meal to some of Guelph's most vulnerable individuals.

P.S. Our next scheduled hosting date for SNS has been changed to **June 3rd** (formerly June 10th)

Lay Down Your Cloaks: Garment/Palm Sunday

by Peter Gill

Our Lenten stories on that day will speak to the importance of clothing in Chalmers' ministry. Following an established Harcourt tradition, **April 9th** will be the congregation's 5th year observing Garment Sunday where we invite folks to donate a gently used clothing item to Chalmers Community Services Centre. We ask that donations be limited to spring and summer clothing as storage will be very limited as we transition to our new permanent space in June.

For those who wish, monetary donations will be gratefully accepted and a small clothing cut-out will be given in return, it can then be placed before the communion table during the gathering of the clothing items.

Thanks you for your ongoing support.



Minutes For Mission Qu(e)rying Religion

Our gifts for Mission & Service support university students on campus. Let us hear a story of one space for University of Toronto students.

"Faith and queerness have not always been natural friends," says the Rev. Ralph Wushke, chaplain at the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto. In 2005 the chaplaincy created Qu(e)rying Religion. The program creates a safe space for students of all faiths to explore gender identity, sexual orientation, and religious belief. It has grown to become a meaningful and life-giving program for students. When students arrive at university it is often the first time they are able to explore who they are. Many come from tight-knit communities and find that at university they are free to explore their identity as well as their faith.

Qu(e)rying Religion holds pub night discussions on such topics as online dating, gender identity, and coming out to friends and family, and it hosts seminars and workshops on queerness and faith. We sing thanksgiving for the support of safe spaces for university students on campus.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

TWO GARAGE SALES!

HARCOURT MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

and

ROYAL CITY PRE-SCHOOL

APRIL 8, 8:30am – 12pm

**Gym and Friendship Room
Harcourt, 87 Dean Avenue**

Everything from kitchen goods, books, decorative items, china, vases, small appliances, pottery, artwork, jewellery, toys, children's clothing, children's books.....

Come to find that treasure you have been searching for!

Want to donate, help, offer student volunteer hours?

Contact office@harcourtuc.ca

*Donations may be dropped off to
the Harcourt gym on Friday, April 7 9:30am to 7:30pm.*

harcourt
seek | connect | act

A Progressive Christianity Primer

by Andre Auger

We're hearing the term "Progressive Christianity" a bit more these days. Even Harcourt has taken to using the term to describe itself. At the Annual General Meeting in February 2017, a document was circulated entitled "Finding Our Way Forward," summarizing the work that was done throughout 2016 to develop a sense of who Harcourt was. In it, one of the six forms of "glue" that held us together was identified as a commitment "to a progressive or liberal theology (based on reason and experience, not external authority)." One might quibble with equating "progressive" and "liberal," (as we shall see below), but Harcourt is clearly stating that its worship and service rest on newer rather than older expressions of Christian theology.

Apparently, theology professor James Christie doesn't like "progressive Christianity." So he says in an opinion piece that appeared in the United Church Observer this month...

So, what do we mean by "progressive" anyway? Is it just some self-congratulatory label? ("I'm progressive; you're just static, or, worse, regressive" ...) The choice of word may be unfortunate. Researcher Hal Taussig first used it to describe a phenomenon he found as he studied over a thousand thriving American congregations – small and large, from a number of mainstream Protestant denominations as well as Roman Catholic – to try to determine whether there were common characteristics which explained their vibrancy and their vitality.

"Progressive" moves the church beyond the traditional "liberal" - "conservative" battle-lines. Both liberal and conservative are "modernist" expressions of church. They both live in the intellectual environment created by the aftermath of the Enlightenment, both accepting its premise that truth is factual. Liberalism, convinced that Scripture, to be true, needed to be factual, tended to minimize the importance of what it could not prove to be factual, sometimes eviscerating and watering down its theology. Conservatism, on the other hand, in order to maintain the truth of Scripture, insisted it was all factual.

"Progressive," on the other hand, situates itself in the "Postmodern" intellectual environment, which has a new respect for stories and a broader understanding of "truth." Something may be profoundly true without being necessarily factual. Marcus Borg, a progressive theologian, coined the expression "taking the Bible seriously but not literally."

In his opinion piece Prof Christie dismisses progressive theology as typically agnostic and reductionistic. Perhaps he might be referring to a recent hijacking of the term in Canada by the supporters of Gretta Vosper. For Vosper and her followers, there is little distinction between her understanding of progressive theology and atheistic humanism. The "progressive" theology we understand is neither agnostic nor reductionistic.

What, then, constitutes a “progressive” church? Hal Taussig, in his book “A New Spiritual Home” (2006, Pleridge Press), analyses congregations – large and small, across the denominational spectrum – in terms of “vitality.” He ends up identifying these characteristics:

1. **Spiritual vitality**, including a revival of spiritual practices, participatory worship, expressive and arts-infused worship and programming, re-claiming ancient Christian rituals, and adapting non-Christian rituals where appropriate.
2. **Intellectual integrity**, which includes care in the use of God language, imaging God as spirit and energy, and as presence in the world; seeing Jesus as a manifestation of God; a healthy dialogue between science and religion, especially the acceptance of scientifically-based cosmology, and the analysis of sacred texts with historical critical methods. It also includes a more “postmodern” approach to truth, recognizing that 'facts' must be analyzed in terms of the power benefit of who proposes them; this sometimes yields a healthy skepticism, and a more 'democratic' (dialogic) approach to faith truths.
3. **Transgressing gender boundaries**, including a rejection of homophobia, and an affirmation of equal rights across gender and sexual orientation lines.
4. **A commitment to Christianity without superiority**, including an integration of non-Christian expression into Christian practice where appropriate.
5. **A focus on justice and ecology**, including a new appreciation for Creation as 'blessing,' a new stewardship of environment, and maintaining Christian commitments to the marginalized.

How many of these characteristics do you relate to? Is this language we could use to let newcomers checking out our congregation know who we are? If you are interested in learning more about this church identity, take a look at the Progressive Christianity website www.progressiveChristianity.org . Their definition of “Progressive Christianity” is succinct: *“Progressive Christianity is an open, intelligent and collaborative approach to the Christian tradition and the life and teachings of Jesus that creates a pathway into an authentic and relevant religious experience.”* They also list a set of characteristics of Progressive Christianity, pretty close to this one. It all sounds pretty good to me!

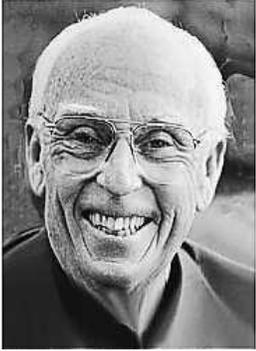
Interested in exploring this further? You can join either Mindstretch on Thursday mornings or “Explorations in Progressive Christianity” on Saturday mornings to engage in safe and supportive reflection on elements of our faith journey, from a progressive point of view.

References:

- Christie, J. (2017). What is progressive Christianity? The Observer, March, p. 9.
- Taussig H. (2006). A New spiritual home. Progressive Christianity at the grassroots. Pleridge Press.

Announcements

Passing:



Macpherson, Bruce John. Died peacefully, at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph, on Saturday, March 4, 2017, in his 87th year. Loving husband to Lorraine and cherished father and grandfather. During a visit to Uganda in 2008 while assisting a Harcourt United Church aid project, Bruce and Lorraine were troubled to learn of the dilapidated state of the Grades 1 through 7 Nyondo Primary School which held 1,400 students. They took on its rehabilitation as a

personal project. The Macphersons started spending their own money for improvements, then convinced other individuals and organizations to join in. They not only made building repairs, installed toilets and showers, repaired or replaced blackboards and provided soccer uniforms, but they also funded the refurbishing and outfitting of a cookhouse for some students who live or eat on site, had 2,000 feet of protective perimeter fencing installed around the school complex and provided testing and hearing aids for almost a dozen deaf and mute children requiring special education. In addition, a hostel was built to house 60 orphans and the Macphersons stocked a new library at the school, with advice from Guelph Public Library chief executive at the time Kitty Pope.



Sheard, Gladys. Passed away peacefully with her family by her side at Hospice Wellington on Monday, March 13, 2017 at the age of 87. Beloved wife of Robert. Loving Mother and grandmother. In addition to being a dedicated homemaker, Gladys had a great interest in sports, and was a member of the Guelph Curling Club and the Cutten Club. She received several trophies in curling and in 1976 served as President of the Ladies Section of the Guelph Curling Club. After suffering a major stroke in 1985, she turned her survivor experience and its challenges into a passion for other stroke survivors, playing a

leading role in the establishment and life of the Guelph/Wellington Stroke Group. This dedication was honoured in 2012 when she was a chosen recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II

Diamond Jubilee Medal. Gladys was an active member of Harcourt Memorial United Church, serving as president of the U.C.W. and she was also a life member of Order of the Eastern Star. Memorial contributions to Hospice Wellington, Harcourt Memorial United Church or Stroke Recovery Canada Guelph Wellington Chapter would be appreciated.



Sieunarine, Everson. A gifted and dedicated minister who for many years was an active member of Harcourt church including his participation in bible study and men’s breakfast. Everson was born, raised and educated in Trinidad and it was there that he died peacefully surrounded by family on March 1st. The Rev Sieunarine touched the lives of many. The distinctive simplicity of his ministry was driven by humility, conversational messages from the pulpit, unassuming elegance and a compelling sincerity that made him an iconic public figure in his dedication to his faith and church.

Other Announcements:

- **REMINDER:** The 3rd Scout group at Harcourt is hosting a **spaghetti dinner on April 1st**. We intend to have 2 sittings – one at 5 pm and the second at 7 pm with pricing at \$ 45 for the family (2 adults, 2 kids), \$15 for an adult and \$ 10 for youth (under 10). Please contact the Church office for more information.
- **Apr 2: Egg & Cheese Sunday.** Our next opportunity to help out the folks at Chalmers is coming up! Please put your donations in the coolers at the back of the church.
- **Trinity's Spring Garage Sale,** Fri Apr 7, 4-9 pm & Sat Apr 8, 7-12 noon at Trinity United Church 400 Stevenson St N, Guelph. Books, toys, household items, china, glassware, kitchenware, games, CDs, DVDs, sports equipment, garden utensils, linens, pictures, frames, giftware, collectibles, small furniture, small appliances, and much more!!! Call [519-824-4800 Ext 1](tel:519-824-4800) for more info.
- **KW Symphony Concert at Harcourt,** April 7th from 8-10 pm. Stravinsky & Beethoven-Baroque. Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://tickets.kwsymphony.ca/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=1984>

Behind the Scenes

How Should We Respond to Betrayal?

by Dr. Drew Randle

Professor of Christian Ministry at Bryan College, Dayton Tennessee.

Adapted with permission from "Suffering Through a Betrayal" at TheHighCalling.org.

Christianity Today, March 4, 2013

Used with permission

Betrayal. An abandonment or violation of trust by someone close to you. A husband betrayed by his wife. An employee passed over for a promotion by an employer who had promised it. A secret between friends brought to light for all to see. A promise made to a child so easily broken by a parent. How do we deal with that inevitable betrayal that will affect us in our everyday lives?

I was rejected and abandoned by someone very close to me, someone I trusted closely with secrets, struggles, and victories in life. The pain of the betrayal was intense, and I longed to be understood by colleagues and others close to me.

In a much more intense way, Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot into the hands of the Jewish religious leaders. The mental anguish caused by the betrayal of Judas, one of Jesus' disciples and closest friends, is an often overlooked aspect of Jesus' suffering. He had invested in Judas. He loved Judas. He cared intensely for Judas. He was discouraged. He hurt. He felt pain. He wept. Just like we respond in moments of betrayal.

The preliminary stages of Judas' betrayal are recorded in Matthew 26:14-16. Several questions come to mind, particularly as Judas' actions fulfilled prophecy: Can Judas be held responsible for betraying Jesus when he was fulfilling prophecy? Did Judas become disillusioned with Jesus' message and life because Jesus didn't fit Judas' paradigm? But the question I asked myself in the wake of my betrayal was: What internal anguish did Jesus feel, grappling with the reality that Judas had sold him out?

We often respond to abandonment or betrayal in anger, by dwelling on the circumstances. We often seek to get even or make our betrayers suffer intensely for how they've wronged us. Through Jesus' example, though, we see a proper model of how to handle betrayal.

Though Jesus' internal struggle with Judas' betrayal is not recorded, we can assume that it was difficult for him emotionally. We know that he instructed Judas to do what he'd set his mind to. He didn't stop him or throw a fit. We also know that Jesus responded to Judas

graciously. Jesus could never be accused of being a pushover, but he framed his response to Judas' betrayal with kindness and graciousness.

If we have been betrayed by someone close to us—and eventually we all will—our first response should be to cry out to Jesus who loves us, pursues us, and intimately understands the reality of that betrayal.



Photo by Dominicus Johannes Bergsma (Own work)

Wiki Commons

Happy Easter

Saturday April 1

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
4:00pm Scouts Spaghetti Dinner [G]

Sunday April 2

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am “Manna” Service [G/F]
12:00pm Communal Garden Meeting [C]

Monday April 3

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
6:50pm Communications Committee [L]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday April 4

10:00am Exploring the Psalms [F]
11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
6:45 Cubs [G]
7:00pm Drama as a Spiritual Tool [202]
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday April 5

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]
10:00am Taize Service [C]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Creative Intentions [C]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 6

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
9:30am Stroke Recovery Executive [F]
1:30pm Park’n Dance [G/F]
6:30pm Beginner’s Yoga [G]
7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday April 7

8:00pm KW Symphony Concert [S]

Saturday April 8

8:30am Harcourt & Royal City Preschool Garage Sale [G]
10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday April 9

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am “Manna” Service [G/F]
7:00pm High School Youth Group [202]

Monday April 10

Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women’s Fellowship [F]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday April 11

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Drama as a Spiritual Tool [202]
7:00pm Worship Committee [C]
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday April 12

8:00am Men’s Group [F]
9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]
10:00am Taize Service [C]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]
7:00pm Property Committee [C]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 13

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
1:30pm Park’n Dance [G/F]
6:30pm Beginner’s Yoga [C]
7:00pm Three Willows Maundy Thursday Service
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday April 14**Good Friday**

10am Good Friday Service [S]

Saturday April 15

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

7:00pm Drama as a Spiritual Tool [C]

Sunday April 16**Easter**

10:00am Worship [S]

Monday April 17**Easter Monday**

Church/Office Closed

Tuesday April 18**Office Closed**

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings

11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

6:45pm RCCP Second General Meeting [F]

7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday April 19

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:00pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Council Meeting [C]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 20

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]

6:30pm Beginner's Yoga [G]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday April 22

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday April 23

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

7:00pm High School Youth Group [202]

Monday April 24**Office Closed**

9:30am Quilting Group [F]

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]

7:00pm ARCH Men's Social Group [202]

7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday April 25

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday April 26

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 27

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]

6:30pm Beginner's Yoga [G]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday April 29

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

10:00am Communal Gardening [F]

1:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

6:00pm Saturday Night Supper

Sunday April 30

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]