

The Harcourt Herald

The life and work of Harcourt Memorial United Church, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
March, 2018

**Spring Cleaning?
Don't Toss It Yet...**

**Women on a
Mission:
World Day of
Prayer**

**Harcourt's
Accessible
Washroom
Open For Business!**

**What's Coming Up
for
Holy Week**



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

Office Hours:

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

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Reverend Jim Ball (ext. 223)
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Director of Music Ministry:
Alison MacNeil (ext. 225)
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Church Administrator:
Anne Purkis

Technical and Office Support: Jerry Daminato
Custodian: Darko Cikovic

The Harcourt Herald

Published 10 times each year

by the

Communications Committee

Your contributions are welcome!

Deadline: 20th of each month

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Editor: Gillian Joseph
theherald@harcourtuc.ca

Printer: Anne Purkis



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



March 4

March 11

March 18

March 25

Lent 3 Harcourt AGM

Lent 4

Lent 5

Garment Sunday

Holy Week Services:

Thurs., March 29

**7:00 pm Maundy Thursday
Shared Service at Dublin Street
United Church**

Fri., March 30

**10:00 am Good Friday Service
Readings, reflections and song in the
Sanctuary**

Sat., March 31

3:00 pm Holy Saturday Vigil in the Chapel

Sun. April 1

**10:00 am Celebrate Easter with us!
One service only. A 'good news and great
joy' worship opportunity for all ages!
Nursery care available.**

by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

Council’s meeting on February 21 focused on five key areas that fall under our role as Harcourt’s governing body. Following full and thoughtful discussion, we made decisions that are important to us as a community of faith in support of our ministries.

- We approved the Board of Trustees’ request to initiate a Harcourt Awareness and Educational Program, identifying the value and benefits of Legacy Gifting, to both its place in sound estate planning, and in the long-term vitality of the church, and to establish a Legacy Giving Program.
- We authorized the Washroom Building Committee to fundraise to replenish the Pillars from which funds were used to pay for the project (in addition to the generous donations already received). We acknowledged that the timing for this fundraising approach should be sensitive to other financial needs and initiatives.
- We fulfilled our responsibility to vote on Remit # 6 – One Order of Ministry (approved by the 42nd General Council in 2015, part of the process towards final decisions at General Council 43 in 2018). We voted No.
- We continued preparations for the Annual Meeting, especially for presentation of the budget options and meaningful table discussion. I encourage you to re-read my update in the February newsletter. “Our narratives of revitalization and radical change provide a path that guides Harcourt towards a healthy future. Taking risks, accepting vulnerability, and working responsibly with respect and trust are important values that underlie all that we do. Are we prepared to blend ‘nuts and bolts and seeds’ into a resource-full budget for 2018?”
- We gave final approval to the Harcourt Rental Policy, a major accomplishment after many months of detailed work. We also used the policy to approve two requests for sponsorship of no-charge rental of space to provide activities open to Harcourt people this spring.

We concluded our meeting by thanking Stan Bunston for his three years as Umbrella Councillor for Christian Life. His commitment, experience, wisdom and faith have been valued contributions to Harcourt’s work.

The Congregation's input and endorsement at our Annual Meeting on March 4 will help determine our 2018 achievements along our Harcourt 20/20 journey. Guided by the Spirit, our community of faith will challenge ourselves as we continue to shape and strengthen our ministry together.

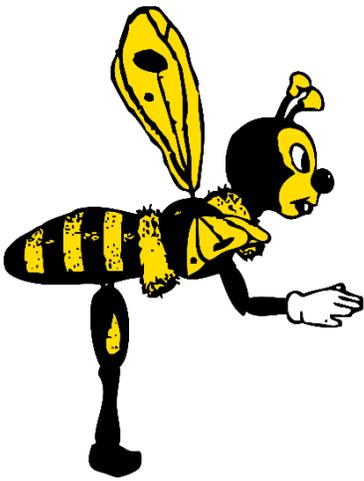
With faith and hope.



New to Harcourt?

Join us on our journey
of faith

Church office
Tel: 519-824-4177
E-mail: office@harcourtuc.ca
Web Site: www.harcourtuc.ca
Seek – Connect - Act



The Latest Buzz...

Proposed changes at United Church of Canada might ease co-operation with Anglicans

Changes now being considered to the structure of the United Church of Canada could conceivably ease clergy-sharing and other forms of co-operation between that church and the Anglican Church of Canada, say some leaders from the two churches.

<https://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/changes-united-church-canada-might-ease-cooperation-anglicans-sources-say/>

A parable of talents

Many houses of worship are turning over their unused space to housing and non-profits, raising needed revenue as they serve the community in different ways.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/property-report/property-report-churches/article37746572/>

Residential school survivor receives province's highest order

Part of a committee formed by the United Church of Canada that tours across Canada, Geraldine Robertson was recently awarded the Order of Ontario for using her painful past to educate and help others heal from their experiences in the residential school system. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/residential-school-survivor-order-of-ontario-1.4515429>

United Church Minister Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall shines a light on racism in Canada

The thought process that underlies Trump's alleged statements about immigrants and the countries they come from is also very much present here in Canada.

<http://www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/practicing-inclusion-we-preach>

Committee & Group News

Open For Business At Last! The Official Opening of the Accessible Washrooms!

by Dave Hume, Chair of the Washroom Building Committee



Photo by Jerry Daminato

Sunday, February 18th marked the Official Opening of the Accessible Washrooms on the Sanctuary Level in Harcourt. This was a celebration! Shown in the picture are members of the Building Committee (L-R) Joan Barham, Michael Hofer, Jean Julian, Murray Woods, Kent Hoeg and Dave Hume, the Chair of the Committee. Other members included Mark Sears, who was running the Sound Booth volume and Lynda Jessop-Lew. Michael Hofer and Frank Webster brought the toilet up the centre aisle in the wheelbarrow in what Michael called the “Parade of the Porcelain” (It was Franks’s wheelbarrow). We wanted to re-enact the tradition Ken Murray started by bringing a wheelbarrow forward when we celebrated the completion of the upgrades to the Sanctuary. Dave, in his remarks, noted how “relieved” he was to have this Washroom project finished.

Special thanks were extended to the members of the Building Committee, to Unto Kihlanki, the Architect on the Project and to Curtis Donnahee, President of Even Construction, the contractors. The toilet is festooned with blue ribbon, because this was a “Blue Ribbon” Building Committee and because that blue is the colour of wheelchair washroom symbols. Thanks, also, to Carol Jones for the ribbons that are being cut so that the new Washrooms could be declared “Open for Business”.

Following the Official Opening, Harcourt members were invited to “take a peek” at the new facilities and enjoy wonderful pavlovas, mostly made by Joan Barham, plus tea and coffee in the gym. That event was very well attended. Thanks, everybody!

Eggs and Cheese in Support of The Working Poor

by Ann Middleton, Chair Chancel

Chalmers Community Services downtown and at Three Willows serves a very wide population, up to 400 individuals each week. In addition to homeless people and those coping with physical and mental health challenges, many of Chalmers guests are members of the working poor. This group comprises five percent of the working population in Guelph-Wellington. These individuals and families do not earn enough to pay rent, put food on the table and deal with medical problems. Women, young people, racialized and recent immigrant workers are over-represented in the working poor in our community.

You can help by donating to Chalmers, which provides food, a café-meeting place, a mending service, and referrals to social service agencies. Donations are always welcome, but on the fourth Sunday of each month, we collect eggs and cheese, a valuable source of protein for those struggling to make ends meet. **On March 25 coolers will be provided at the back of the sanctuary for your gifts.**

An Important Notice from the Property Committee

by Ben Fear

Have **YOU** spotted our new defibrillator yet?

Out in the greeting place attached to the column on the west side of the church, (that's the window side) at a spot where everyone can see it and everyone can reach it is a white metal case.

IN THAT CASE IS LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT
CALLED AN A E D
AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR

Harcourt United Church has had one of these LIFE SAVING machines for almost ten years and it has been used with positive results on several occasions. It was kept in a plastic hamper about the size of a laundry basket in the cupboard under the desk with the MEMORIAL BOOK on it. Who knew?

The new modern equipment will be visible, and useable by anyone. When the door of the case is opened an alarm will sound to alert people of the emergency. When the AED is turned on it talks to you and calmly tells you just what to do and how to save a life. You will not injure anyone by using it. Familiarize yourself with its location, it might be needed in another area of the church.

Hello...Who Are You?

by Jean Hume

Members of the **Caroline Harcourt Friendship Circle** have suggested that they would like time allotted to getting to know each other. So to the tune of "Getting to Know You" we will be breaking into small conversational groups. Each member is asked to bring an item that would tell something about her. It can be an item that she has created, an item that she treasures and to share its meaning to her or it can be an item that she purchased at a thrift store since our last meeting! All women are welcome to come and join the group at noon on Monday, **March 12th**. Bring your Bag lunch. Tea and treats will be served. There is always a devotional component included in our meetings.

Harcourt Men's Group Goes Up The Creek

by Bill Lord

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **March 14, 2018** at 8 AM. Jim Shute will be the guest speaker. He will give a talk on "African Creeks I Have Been Up?" Jim has attended our group on occasion and is retired from being the Director, International Development Office at the University of Guelph. All men are welcome to attend. You are invited to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this session. Henk Dykman will have coffee and tea ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Sandy Middleton will be the leader. In your date book please record the date of **April 11** for the next meeting. The speaker for the April will be announced at the meeting.

Welcome Joyful Eastertide

by Ann Middleton, Chair Chancel

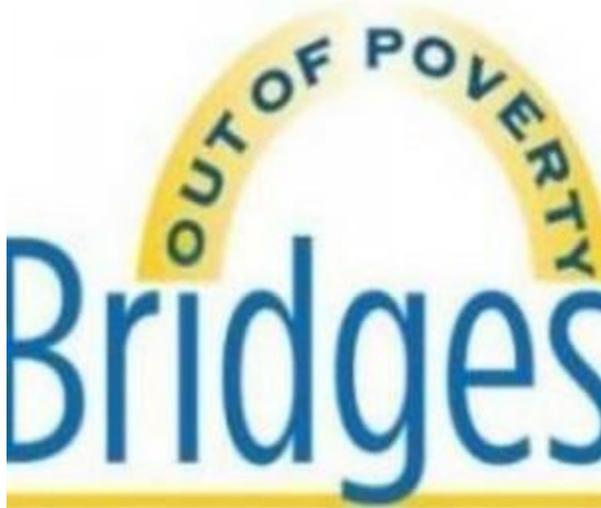
What better way to celebrate Easter than with flowers in our beautiful sanctuary. If you would like to donate a hydrangea in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion, contact Ann Middleton by March 27 at office@harcourtuc.ca.

Update on Justice and Outreach

by Arlene Fuhr, Justice & Outreach

Thank you for the generous response to the Advent appeal which raised \$1,295 for the northern Indigenous community of Attawapiskat. This money supports the local Kairos group which is in the process of getting basketball equipment and sports attire for the youth of this reserve (see 'thank you' note below).

At the end of January, twenty of us gathered to hear about the *Circles* program (<http://circlesgw.ca/>) which provides encouragement and support for individuals who are interested in getting out of poverty. For most people, this is a long journey that takes place over many years. We heard from an articulate and passionate Leader who wants to leave poverty behind. We also listened to several allies who walk with those who are trying to embrace a healthier and more productive lifestyle. We were all very moved by the stories and most impressed with the *Circles* process. After some training, the folks in *Circles* meet weekly over supper on a Thursday where they have an opportunity to listen, share and support. Real bonds of friendship are formed during these gatherings which help the Leaders to build confidence and self-respect.



At the time of writing, we are looking forward to hearing Wellington Service's Elaine Weir speak about *Bridges out of Poverty* during the February 25th church service. We hope you were there and took part in the question and answer period that followed the service.

Clippings from the Property Committee

by Ben Fear

The Property Committee will be conducting a survey of the storage space in the church to ascertain how much space we have available. This will enable them to possibly make better use of the space we have and to see if, and where, more shelving is required. If your group has a storage area that is under-utilized, we would like to know because currently some groups do not have adequate space to store their equipment and supplies. So if you have never-used items that are taking up some of your space, or if a reorganizing of material that you use would free up some space, this would be an opportunity to take an inventory and arrange to either jettison the "MAYBE SOMETIME ITEMS", or **give them to the Harcourt Garage Sale**. Older members of the congregation will remember Fibbers McGee's closet and will be glad to explain the significance of the reference on request. So if your storage area in the church resembles that, you need help... preferably with a pick-up truck.



Photo from Sand & Sisal

We are all aware (well there are some who haven't got or ignore the message), that CO^2 or carbon dioxide is increasing in our atmosphere and we know that trees and plants absorb it from the air and give off the oxygen which humans need. Do you know that each person exhales about 1 Kg of CO^2 each day and do you know that takes one quarter acre of grass to absorb that amount of CO^2 ? You do, good! Well did you know that it takes about 16 trees to absorb that same amount of CO^2 . The Property Committee had the opportunity to hear a presentation from Lisa MacTaggart at, the February meeting and there is a proposal to plant some more trees to provide more shade for cooling in the summer heat and to increase the absorption of CO^2 . Trees would be planted at strategic locations to shade areas of the asphalt parking lot and sides of the building which are exposed to summer sun. We listened and we are exploring further.



"Caught My Eye" Books from the Library Shelves

by Dorothy McCrady

The Divine Dance, the Trinity and Your Transformation

Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell, 2016.

248 ROH

What if changing your perception of God has the potential to change everything? The Divine Dance makes accessible and practicable the Christian tradition's most surprising gift...God as Community....as Friendship....as Dance.

Conscious Living Conscious Aging, embrace and savour your next chapter

Ron Penny, 2014

306 PEV

From the founder of The Center for Conscious Eldering, this book helps you distill wisdom from your many years of life experience, identify new passions and goals, and remain engaged and relevant as you aim high in life's later chapters, creating a lasting legacy and a healthier world for generations that follow.

Iona Dreaming, the Healing Power of Place, a Memoir

Clare Cooper Marcus, 2010.

941 MAR

This is the story of a journey of healing to the Scottish island of Iona that the author takes on a six-month solitary retreat, where she opens her soul to the magic of this place.

Downstream from Eden, the Amazing Gift of Water for a Thirsty World

David L Knight, 2012.

577 KNT

This is a celebration of water in a less-than-perfect world, aiming to inspire you and bring you hope. Insights from the Bible, science, history and literature on issues of social justice, the environment and personal spirituality.

The Lost Art of Gratitude, an Isabel Dalhousie Novel

Alexander McCall Smith, 2009

FIC McC

Mystery and Detective Fiction. The author paints his hometown of Edinburgh as indelibly as he captures the sunniness of Africa. We are invited into a world of kindness, gentility, and creature comforts. His assessments of fellow humans are piercing and profound.

Old Turtle and the Broken Truth

Douglas Wood, 2003

J WOO

From our picture book collection, this one is a classic...an eloquent parable for adults and children, deceptively simple, about reverence for the earth and all its creatures — including humankind.

These books will be placed on the book supports on the display shelves. Come visit the Library and borrow a book!



Cartoon by Roz Stevenson

Community News

Cleaning Up? Think of Us BEFORE you Toss It

by Janet Webster

I know that you are all packing away winter items and spring cleaning the cupboards. Why not set them all aside to donate to our annual sale happening on **Saturday April 14** in the gym?

Popular items with the buying public are ***dishes, books, records, artwork, costume jewelry, crafts, toys, garden supplies, decorative items, appliances, tools and small furniture in good repair***. We cannot accept clothing, car parts or computers.

Donations will be accepted at the gym on **Friday April 13 from 9am to 6pm**. Pick up arrangements are possible. Please contact the Websters at fwebst0953@rogers.com for more details.

This event raises substantial funds to cover Harcourt operating costs and is a great venue for fellowship. Please contact the Websters for volunteer times and opportunities or go online at the Church website (www.harcourtuc.ca) to volunteer through *Sign-Up genius*. Any students looking for volunteer hours are also very welcome. Now, start that de-cluttering!

Get Your Pie and Eat It Too! Saturday Night Supper

by Jill Gill

The Saturday Night Supper (SNS) program was started in 1998 at the former Chalmers United Church, currently Royal City Evangelical Church at 50 Quebec Street. In 2008, Royal City requested that responsibility for the Saturday Night Suppers be maintained by the various churches that actually provide the meals and volunteers. There are currently about 20 churches who take turns in hosting dinners each Saturday. This provides a really good hot meal to those in need (usually between 120-160 people), in the company and fellowship of others. Supper is served every Saturday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. 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 provide and serve SNS is **March 3, 2018**. Our usual, and much appreciated 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. We need twelve volunteers to serve the meal, as well as many folks to provide the food.

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”.

Volunteers and food should be at the church at 50 Quebec Street (back door entrance) by 5 p.m. Servers will be needed until approximately 8 p.m.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and continued support of this worthwhile outreach activity offering a nutritious, hot meal to many of Guelph’s most vulnerable individuals. Harcourt’s scheduled hosting dates for the rest of 2018 are: **June 16, September 22 and December 22**. For more information please contact Jill Gill at 519.767.1244 or peter.gill@sympatico.ca.

Put Your Hand Up for a Rewarding Experience !

by Jill Gill

The Saturday Night Supper program was started in 1998 at the former Chalmers United Church, currently Royal City Church, at 50 Quebec Street. In 2008, Royal City Church requested that the program be maintained by the various churches that actually provided the meals and volunteers to serve the meals, with the venue remaining at Royal City Church. This is still ongoing, with about 20 churches and groups providing Saturday night suppers throughout the year. Harcourt folks host dinner four times per year.

These dinners serve many of the same folks that we see at the Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantry. Saturday Night suppers, for many are their special night of ‘dining out’ and they express great appreciation for both the delicious food and fellowship that it provides. I have been coordinating the dinners that Harcourt hosts for approximately ten years and am looking for a capable person(s) to shadow me for the next few dinners to learn the drill and eventually take over this responsibility.

Responsibilities include:

- occasionally communicating with the organiser at Royal City Church;
- placing a notice in the Harcourt Herald in advance of dinner dates to recruit volunteers and food donations;
- placing a sign-up sheet in the Greeting Place;
- requesting that Anne Purkis create a Sign Up Genius posting;
- placing notice in Harcourt bulletins in advance of dinner dates; occasional announcements in church requesting volunteers and thanking participants;
- purchasing food that hasn’t been donated;

- preparation of 'Task Lists' for food preparation and serving as well as clean-up after the meal. The menu is set with a well-loved recipe for Pasta Casserole.

This really is such a rewarding volunteer activity, especially for anyone interested in Social Justice and food security in our community. There is a solid core of repeat volunteers who regularly prep and serve dinner, so the new folks who wish to participate have plenty of mentors. We meet wonderful folks and hear interesting and heart-warming stories over good food, in a non-threatening environment. I am willing to co-coordinate for a reasonable number of dinner events to allow a new person to gain some confidence and understanding of procedures. Our next date to host will be **March 3, followed by June 16, Sept. 22 and Dec. 22, 2018.**

If this sounds intriguing and fun to you, please contact Jill Gill (519)767.1244 or at peter.gill@sympatico.ca for further details.

A Conversation with *Selfhelp*, a Non-Profit Dedicated to Helping Holocaust Survivors

In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Remembering and serving the 43,000 survivors living in the New York area

By Kelsey Liebenson-Morse

January 25, 2018

<http://www.tabletmag.com/scroll/253985/a-conversation-with-selfhelp-a-non-profit-dedicated-to-helping-holocaust-survivors>

Submitted by Joan Barham

In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, Tablet's podcast, *Unorthodox*, spoke with Sandy Myers and Desiree Nazarian of *Selfhelp*, a New York based non-profit dedicated to "maintaining the independence and dignity of seniors and at risk population through a range of housing, home health care, and social services." The organization was founded in 1936 under the name "*Selfhelp* for German Refugees" by a group of recently arrived German refugees in New York, with the mission of offering support to others who had been forced to flee. Providing services to survivors continues to be at the forefront of *Selfhelp's* mission.

Who is eligible for services? And how is a survivor defined? Beyond those who survived concentration camps, the term survivor extends to anyone who disguised their Jewish identity, fled their home, went into hiding during the period of the war, or experienced persecution because of their Jewish heritage. Even those in utero until 1945 qualify as survivors.

Now located in 27 sites in Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Nassau County, 25 percent of *Selfhelp's* services go to assisting the 43,000 survivors currently living in New

York. A staggering 50 percent of these survivors are living at or below the federal poverty line. The Russian speaking population has faced severe difficulty, with 80 percent living at or below federal poverty line. The Russian population has faced challenges not only due to aging and lingering physical trauma, but lack of steady employment and negotiating language barriers.

Last year, 970 survivors approached *Selfhelp*, and in 2018 *Selfhelp* expects to surpass that number as word travels and survivors continue to come forward as they realize their eligibility.

In addition to more practical services, *Selfhelp* offers community programming like Coffee Houses where survivors can meet locally for refreshments and dancing. Another facet of the community programming is The Witness Theater Program, which pairs survivors with high school students to share their stories and memories, culminating in a performance during *Yom Hashoah*.

Selfhelp's training for home aide workers is unique, with an emphasis placed on sensitivity for survivor's past trauma. For example, home aide workers enter a home knowing loud noises or barking dog could be particularly disturbing for a survivor.

How to Help:

1. Identifying survivors. The definition of a survivor is broad, and does not just extend to individuals who were in concentration camps.
2. Consider your immediate network. Think about your parents, your grandparents and stories you might have heard about WWII. Is there anyone who could be eligible? Be aware that people might not want to talk about their past, so even knowing what countries people in your community were living might help assessing their eligibility for *Selfhelp*.
3. Get the word out. Find *Selfhelp* on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and encourage those you know to spread the word that resources exist in New York.
4. If you're a second or third generation survivor and want to get involved, go on the website or connect on social media to speak with someone about how to help.
5. This is the last generation of survivors and time is of the essence. The needs of survivors are growing more intense and costly and there are ways to make sure people are connected and able to live in an environment where they can thrive.

If you know a survivor, visit their [website](#) or call 212-971-7795. And for those outside of New York, you can contact your local Jewish Family Services or a local federation chapter for assistance.

Another Opportunity to Visit Chalmers Downtown

by Peter Gill

For those who may have missed our GUM Doors Open event back in November, Chalmers is hosting the 2018 Ignatius Farm Launch on Thursday 8th March from 4.30 – 6.30.

Folks from Ignatius, which runs a highly successful CSA (community supported agriculture) as well as offering vegetable plots for community gardeners, will speak about the upcoming season and the various programs they offer. Ignatius also provides generous and valuable support to CCSC with surplus produce during the summer and fall months.

Chalmers volunteers on hand to speak about the programs we offer and to answer questions.

Feel free to drop in at any time during those hours, light refreshments will be offered. Please remember that the entrance to our space is at 41 Macdonell.

There will be a further CCSC Open House later in the spring for those who are interested – stay tuned for that.

A Vigil for Holy Week

by Andre Auger



Poster designed by Marion Auger

When it is all said and done, we really don't know much about the historical facts of Jesus' arrest and execution, do we? Oh, there is little doubt that he was arrested and tried and executed as a traitor to the Roman Empire. But each Gospel writer seems to be responding to a different motive, for laying out the story in his own particular way.

This Holy Week, why not follow the story through the eyes of the Gospel of Mark? Perhaps his narrative, unpacked with the help of two great biblical scholars, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, will provide us some clues to the meaning behind the stories: the street theatre procession into Jerusalem, or the symbolic shutting down of the fragile Temple dynamics by challenging the money-changers. Jesus brings his radical vision of God's Dream for humanity out of the countryside

where he had spent his ministry, into the very heart of the Jewish faith and the Roman occupation. Why ever would he do all that? Would that not provide the authorities - both Jewish and Roman – with enough ammunition to have this upstart arrested and executed?

The Spiritual Life Committee has prepared a booklet for daily meditation during the days of Holy Week, culminating on Holy Saturday, that feast we all forget because we are so anxious to get beyond the horror and grief of Good Friday to the Alleluias of Easter Sunday.

So why not consider a somewhat different approach to Holy Week this year? Pick up the booklet, follow its meditations each day, and then join us for an Easter Vigil on Saturday Mar 31st at 3PM in the Chapel. Then we'll all be ready to shout our Alleluias.

Can You Dig It? The Harcourt Communal Garden

by Jill Gill

For the foreseeable few weeks it is predicted that we will see warmer temperatures than we might usually expect in February. A perfect segue for thoughts of gardening – and food production. Specifically, growing vegetables, herbs and fruits in the Harcourt Communal Garden this spring and summer.



This will be the eighth season of 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 harvested 4,280 lbs. of fresh, organically-grown vegetables, herbs and fruit 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. Families from Manna help with planting of seed and seedlings when the ground has warmed. Last season we had 16 volunteers who worked in teams of four for 2-3 hours on the weeks they were scheduled. Each team gardened six times, on average, from June until the end of October. This year we intend to utilize food “growing boxes” designed by the Julien Project at St. Ignatius to augment our ability to produce.

We would love to increase our number of volunteers, so if helping in the Harcourt Communal Garden is an activity that interests you, please join us for a short planning meeting (approx. 1 hour) following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 8, in the Chapel. You do not need to be an expert in vegetable growing, just be willing to learn and get your hands dirty! 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 .



People lined up outside Westminster Abbey on May 26th, 1940 – Anglican Ink

As a child my mother told me about her many experiences during WWII, but one memory has always stayed with me. On May 26th, 1940 she was in Britain at the time. The British army was trapped at Dunkirk. King George asked the people of Britain to pray for divine help. My mother told me that there were lineups at every church she saw, as citizens turned to God in prayer (photo above). The power of prayer brought people together and turned the course of history. O.O. Mine



ANNUAL HARCOURT GARAGE SALE

*Saturday APRIL 14TH 2018
8:30 AM-12 NOON*

**At Harcourt United Church
87 Dean Ave.**

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

Bring Donations to the Gym

Friday April 13

Volunteers needed, call the church!

***High School students can earn
volunteer hours***

Thank You Notes!

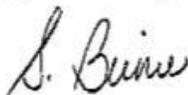
Thank you for your continued
Support to the Drop In
Centre! Warmly,
S. Guel

Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council values the partnership between your facility and our girls and adult volunteers.

We look forward to our continued partnership and thank you for your support in helping us reach our Mission:

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada enables girls to be confident, resourceful and courageous and to make a difference in the world.

Happy Thinking Day!



Susan Birnie
Provincial Commissioner

February 7, 2018

Dear People of Harcourt Church,

Thank you for your
generous donation raised
during your Advent appeal
for Attawapaskat. The cheque
has been deposited into
the KAIROS GUELPH account
and earmarked for the
purpose of gathering and
shipping basketball
equipment (which the youth
of Attawapaskat has asked
for) north as soon as
possible.

Yours Truly,
Joy Kilien
(Treasurer)

Announcements



Caldwell, Forrest Harvey. After a long dance with cancer, Forrest died at his home, Pasture Prime Farm, on January 27th at the age of 62 surrounded by his family. Forrest was a man who loved life and lived it well. All who met or knew him knew of his generosity and spirit. It was Forrest's wish to donate the gift of learning to students, emergency professionals and healthcare professionals studying human anatomy at the University of Guelph. Donations in Forrest's memory can be made to Medecins sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders, the University of Guelph Human Anatomy Program or a charity of your choice.



Allen, Florie passed away peacefully at Hospice Wellington, on February 13th at the age of 92. There will be a gathering in memory of Florie on Sat., **March 3rd, from 2:00 till 4:00 p.m. in the gym at Harcourt Memorial United Church.** Anyone who would like to share thoughts and memories of Florie are welcome to do so. You're invited also to wear something sparkly in her honour. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Hospice Wellington or the Foundation of Guelph General Hospital would be appreciated. For more information, please contact GILCHRIST CHAPEL – McIntyre & Wilkie Funeral Home, One Delhi Street, Guelph, (519-824-0031). We invite you to leave your memories and donations online at: www.gilchristchapel.com and they will forward them to the family.



Pilkey, Brock on February 21st at Hospice Wellington, following a courageous battle with cancer. Brock was in his 88th year. He was the beloved husband of Mary (nee Goodbrand), and loving father and grandfather. A graduate of the Ivey School of Business at UWO, Brock ran a large beef operation for many years near Listowel. His final years of work were with his nephew at Scott Capitol Group in Mississauga. Brock enjoyed the family cottage at Lurgan Beach on Lake Huron for over 20 years, and in retirement, he and Mary travelled Canada and the US in their motorhome, before wintering in Florida and then Georgia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Hospice

Wellington, to the Salvation Army, or to the charity of one's choice, are available at the funeral home (519-821-5077).

Other Announcements:

- **NOTICE:** Marion Auger will no longer be assisting in the administration of the Harcourt Facebook page. The Communications Committee would like to give a heartfelt thanks to Marion for her work in helping us to get the word out about church events and news. Alison MacNeil will continue with her input to Harcourt Facebook and asks that if anyone has information that they want to go up on Harcourt's Facebook page to please e-mail it to her at alison@harcourtuc.ca or to office@harcourtuc.ca . We are very grateful to Alison!
- **Harcourt experienced** another successful Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. Manna wants to thank everyone who volunteered to cook, donate frying pans, set up, clean up and all who came to enjoy the dinner. There are too many to mention individually, but we want you to know that all of this support is appreciated very much. After the costs of the food, there was \$250 to donate to Chalmers or the community garden. Thank you all!
- ***Embracing the Spirit*** is a learning network and innovation fund. It offers funding and support for innovation ideas hatched out of faith communities and communities in ministry. Some of the stories and best practices that are happening throughout The United Church of Canada are shared in this newsletter. If you have an idea that you want to launch, reach out and tell us about it! Proposal deadlines are quarterly, and due on the 15th of the month: January, April, July and October. Contact Lorraine Holding at office@harcourtuc.ca for more information.
- **I wish to thank all of you** who have been so kind and generous to me in these weeks following my accident in December. Your cards, letters, flowers, sugary treats(!), and, especially, your visits to see me brighten my day, and warm my heart. I am most grateful for your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, M. Ruth Tatham
- **Garment Sunday at Harcourt**
"As he rode along, people spread clothes on the road in front of him" – Luke ch. 19 v. 35. For the past five years Harcourt has honoured Palm Sunday in accordance with Luke's telling of the old story. It has become Garment Sunday. Again this year we invite you to bring an article of clothing on **March 25th** to donate to Chalmers Community Services Centre. We would ask that only spring or summer items be donated. For those who wish, paper cut-outs of clothing will be available to 'purchase' before the 9.00 and 10.30 services. These can then be placed with the clothing at the appointed time. Thank you for your support. Peter Gill

Behind the Scenes

Women on a Mission: World Day of Prayer

by Marilyn Whiteley

"All God's Creation is Very Good!" That is the affirmation and the invitation of this year's World Day of Prayer, to be celebrated this year on March 2. Three Willows United Church will host this year's service in Guelph at 2:00 p.m. But where did this tradition come from?

In the 19th century, women in the Canada and the United States became concerned about women and children in other parts of the world. Yes, their denominations had begun sending missionaries abroad, but these missionaries were *men* (and often their very busy wives), and in many societies, these men's contact with native women was severely restricted. So North American women started forming women's missionary societies and sending out female missionaries in order to reach women and children.

Members of the societies learned about the lands to which they were sending missionaries, and they supported their missionaries financially. But even more important to them, they supported the missionaries with their prayers. Soon groups began to set aside an annual day of prayer for missions, and before long they realized that their concern for women and children everywhere cut across denominational boundaries.

With the end of World War I, women recognized that world peace was also part of their concern, and that they needed to work together. The Canadian women founded a group that became the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. The first Canadian interdenominational women's day of prayer was held on January 9, 1920. The next month, a similar day was held in the United States. Two years later, women in the two countries observed the same day of prayer, and the tradition has not only continued but spread around the world.

For many years, the service has been planned by women in one of the participating countries. This year's service has been prepared by women in Suriname, on the northern coast of South America. They call us "to evaluate how our actions affect our planet – one of our Lord's greatest creations. The environmental crisis is also a crisis of global justice. God's justice always meant loving and sacrificial self-giving. We, as Christians cannot be silent. We live with the hope and belief that people have the means, and increasingly, the will to focus on justice, peace, and the integrity of creation." Come to Three Willows on March 2 to be part of this longstanding but very timely movement!

Harcourt Calendar – March 2018

Updated February 13, 2018–www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Thursday March 1

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
9:00am Stroke Recovery Executive [F]
11:00am Staff Meeting
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday March 3

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
6:00pm Saturday Night Suppers

Sunday March 4

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]
11:30am Congregational Annual Meeting [G]

Monday March 5

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday March 6

6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday March 7

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 8

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
11:00am Staff Meeting
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]
7:00pm Creative Intentions [F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday March 9

7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G]

Saturday March 10

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday March 11

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday March 12

Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F]
7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

Tuesday March 13

7:00pm Worship Committee [C]
7:00pm Finance Committee [202]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday March 14

7:45am Men's Group [F]
9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]
7:00pm Property Committee [C]
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 15

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
11:00am Staff Meeting
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday March 17

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
5:30pm Potluck and Games Nights [F]

Sunday March 18

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship Service [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday March 19

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday March 20

11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]
6:45 Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday March 21

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 22

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
11:00am Staff Meeting
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]
7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday March 23

8:00pm KW Symphony Concert [S]

Saturday March 24

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
10:00am Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Sunday March 25

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]
7:30pm High School Youth Group [202/203]

Monday March 26**Office Closed**

9:30am Quilting Group [F]
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday March 27

6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday March 28

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 29

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
11:00am Staff Meeting
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday March 30**Good Friday****Office Closed**

10:00am Good Friday Service [S]

Saturday March 31

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
3:00pm Holy Saturday Vigil [C]

Sunday April 1**Easter**

10:00am Easter Worship Service [S]

Monday April 2**Church/Office Closed****Tuesday April 3****Office Closed**