

# WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH

54 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth, NS B2W 2S1

[www.woodlawnunited.ca](http://www.woodlawnunited.ca)

T: 902-434-8302



Frozen Cat Tails in Winter Pond

Please join us for worship  
Sundays at 10:00 AM.

*I can do all things  
through him who  
strengthens me."*  
~ [Philippians 4:13](#)



# CONTACT US



Woodlawn United  
Church

54 Woodlawn Road,  
Dartmouth, NS  
B2W 2S1

(902) 434-8302

## MINISTER

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## OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

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902-434-8302

## CHOIR DIRECTOR

June Rigden

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## MINISTER

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## ORGANIST

Gus Webb

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## YOUTH COORDINATOR:

Maggie Healy

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# GETTING INVOLVED

Within WUC there are Ministry Teams which are responsible for different areas of Church Life.  
If you would like to know more or get involved with one of these please email the contact person.

**COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS:** Barry Zwicker & Fay Gunter  
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## FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore

Sharing the History and Culture of African Nova Scotians. This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, ***Seas of struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore***, outlines the struggles of people of African Decent faced from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia. Recognizing that the one thing that has remained constant in our history is the Atlantic Ocean. The long-standing history of people of African Descent in the development of Canada, the sea has played a vital role. This theme explores the struggle and adversity that was overcome and examines the effects of slavery and sea faring of African Nova Scotians. The theme also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and the passage towards presence in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of our people – past and present.

#### **Black History Month in Canada**

For over the past decades, contributions of African-Canadians have been acknowledged informally, however Nova Scotia has set a path for Canada's recognition of African Heritage Month. Our province has been a leader in the promotion and recognition of our African heritage to our country. Some efforts of Nova Scotia include:

- 1985 – The “official” opening night of Black History Month at the North Branch Library
- 1987 – First meeting of the Black History Month Association
- 1988 – First Black History Month in Nova Scotia
- 1994 – Black History Month Association was officially incorporated in Nova Scotia
- 1996 – Black History Month renamed to African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia

We believe some of these efforts have influenced our country to take action on a national level:

- 1995 – The House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament.
- 2008 – The Senate officially declared February as Black History Month by Nova Scotia Senator Donald Oliver, Q.C., the first Black man appointed to the Senate. His motion was the final parliamentary procedure needed for Canada's permanent recognition of Black History Month.



Click on the image above to watch the African Nova Scotia video.

## HERITAGE DAY

**Heritage Day 2023 is Monday February 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's Honouree: Rita Joe**

Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe, a member of the We'koqma'q Mi'kmaq Community and published author, was instrumental in paving the way for other Mi'kmaq authors. Her greatest wish was to see more writings would come from her people and "that the children would read it".

Learn more about Rita Joe here: <https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/content/2023-honouree-rita-joe>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**CHOWDER! Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>** . The chowder will be drive through-take out featuring all the same delicious ingredients, as only Ralph would approve! Chowder pick up times will remain the same (11:30 AM – 12:00 NOON; 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM, OR 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM.) You can look forward to chowder, rolls from the Fancy Lebanese Bakery and dessert choice of pumpkin or apple pie, or carrot cake. The most popular lunch in Woodlawn! Order desk opens Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>. Please order by Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM to be guaranteed. Please contact Ralph at (902)434-7786 or [Ralphsams@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Ralphsams@ns.sympatico.ca)

**WELCOME TO THE DARTMOUTH SENIORS CLUB** Woodlawn United is pleased to welcome the Dartmouth Seniors Club as a new tenant. Beginning in February, the DSC will be offering Friday afternoon Crib in the Brick Hall, and Monday afternoon Bingo at the Heritage Centre. Both begin at 1:00 PM and finish at 3:30 PM. New members are very welcome to join in. There is a small fee to play. For more information please contact Ron Norquay at (902) 476-6840.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TALENT NEEDED** Do you want to hang with the cool kids? Would you like to help us continue to transform our Sunday School ministry into something both kids AND teachers are eager to be a part of? Would you like to influence the minds and hearts of the next generation of church leaders?

Sunday School is a blessing, it gets kids excited about the Bible, it's fun for the volunteers to teach, and it engages kids with creative ways to think and be. Woodlawn has a long "culture of service". Our volunteers realize that serving God in the Church is an essential element of their faith journey. The value that you may have to offer to our Sunday School ministry may be exactly what we need to fulfill our Sunday School vision.

Sunday School leaders are so vital to the church. And you don't need to go it alone! We will provide you with the tools and resources that you need to use in Sunday School. If you are someone who would like to serve in our Sunday School, I would be interested in meeting with you one on one to talk more about the opportunity to join us downstairs for our Children's time each Sunday.

Do you feel you have time and talent to serve in our Children's Ministry? Please contact me at any time to talk more about helping us to fulfill our Sunday School ministry.

[Youth.coordinator@woodlawnunited.ca](mailto:Youth.coordinator@woodlawnunited.ca) *Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38)*



All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Woodlawn United Church to be held on Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2023. There will be vacant committee positions to be filled at that time.

The agenda, the Annual Report which contains business from the past year, financial statements for the year ending 2022, committee reports,

budget for 2023, and list of individuals seeking election to the Board and Committees will be available to members the week before the AGM. Shelley will notify you when they are available for either download from the website, or to pick up in person. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## LENTEN REFLECTION GROUP



Have you ever wondered where God is in the midst of a pandemic? The Coronavirus pandemic hit many of us off guard. Its arrival has brought about many changes in our world. Some of these changes have been on a grand scale while others have been more

personal. Some changes have been short lived while others appear to be more lasting. The pandemic has challenged some things in life we thought we were certain about and now we are certain our world will never be the same.

During the upcoming season of Lent at Woodlawn, anyone is invited to join the Lenten reflection group that will spend some time sharing experiences and considering the impact of the pandemic as we look for God in the midst of it all. We will be meeting at 7PM four consecutive Tuesday evenings in Room A/B beginning March 14 and ending on April 4. Please RSVP your attendance to the office ([office@woodlawnunited.ca](mailto:office@woodlawnunited.ca)) or by calling (902) 434-8302.



**Woodlawn United Church presents**

# **“WINTER - WARM UP” DANCE**

**Friday February 24th, 7:00 to 11:00. Doors open  
@6:30 Church Hall, Pond side entrance.  
Door prizes and snacks - Tickets \$15.00  
(limited supply available so get yours early)  
Available from church office & at the door  
Call (902)434-8302**



**Featuring The Ellis Brothers  
A blend of the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's & 90's.  
Pop & Country**

# OUR STORIES

## Tales from the Woodlawn Chowder House

Almost every chowder there is a story of some sort, most quite funny, this one a bit different. A few days before our January chowder I read an article in the Herald by "Ask the Money Lady". This lady freely shares financial advice via newspapers, YOUTUBE and a blog. This column was a bit different as she talked about meeting and chatting with a group of ladies during one of her speaking engagements. She was surprised at how happy, vibrant, beautiful and engaged they were even though all over 70 years of age. She learned that all were volunteers for causes they were passionate about and most were widows or single ladies. All felt better about themselves because they were helping others. She goes on to say that 2020 Statistics Canada data say that 3 of 4 single retirees over the age of 74 suffer from depression.

As I was driving home after our successful chowder on Saturday I was reflecting on the chowder and the past few days. There was the storm on Friday that threatened to derail our veggie and roll prep planned for 1:00 pm on Friday. At 9:30 am I sent an email to 14 people, asking them to come at 10:00am. 13 arrived and one advised she could not make it. On Thursday three additional people had offered help if we were short due to the storm. I included those in my 9:30 email, and all three arrived.

I am always struck by the laughter, teasing and stories told by the Friday preppers. On Saturday morning it is interesting to hear the volume of voices and laughter rise as the guys arrive at 7:00am to make chowder, again at 10:30 as the folks arrive to assemble orders. The laughter and teasing gets louder as they interact with the chowder folks. Around 11:00am the four people handing out the chowder gather and chat and laugh as they await the first customers and then the volumes rise as they deliver chowders and exchange pleasantries with the customers.

What was I thinking on my way home? I was saying a prayer of thanks for being lucky enough to be surrounded by these happy, vibrant and beautiful volunteers, both female and male, who not only feel good about what they are doing but bring joy to all of our customers and to each other. That joy spreads far outside our Woodlawn congregation. I have some great conversations with customers when they phone orders in, many are not from our congregation and they tell me how much they enjoy the chowder and the interaction when they pick it up.

Sincere thanks to the folks that bake pies and carrot cakes, they are helping spread the joy as well. During our years of working on the addition we often said we wanted Woodlawn to be a beacon of God's love on the corner. Our proposed new Mission Statement will reflect that thought.

If you would like to read the full article by “Ask the Money Lady” simply google her and her website will appear, scroll down to the blog and her columns are there. Don’t be distracted by the humming birds.

Blessings,  
Ralph Sams.

## WORD IN MY HEART – FEBRUARY 2023

### Joshua 1:9 (NRSVA)

**‘I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**



Joshua was Moses’ assistant, and when Moses died, Joshua was to take over leading the Israelites into the Promised Land (Canaan). God promised Abram (Abraham) centuries before that his descendants (Genesis 12:5-7) would one day claim this land for their own. Abram’s descendants, the Israelites, were enslaved in Egypt for about 400 years, and then wandered the desert for 40 years, but now, with Joshua as their leader, they would finally have a

homeland. Our verse for this month was spoken by God to Joshua just after Moses died, commanding him to be a strong leader with the sure knowledge that God will be present to guide and encourage him throughout his leadership. God would work with and through Joshua to accomplish God’s will to fulfill the promise God made to Abram so long ago.

Today, some of us may be facing a difficult time (ill health, grieving the loss of a loved one, job stress, lack of finances) or perhaps some of us are facing a new situation (newlyweds, parenting, new job, chairing a committee for the first time) so there is an element of uncertainty in our lives. Like Joshua, it would be beneficial for us to listen for God’s voice, for uncertainty and fear are natural in unknown situations, but God speaks to ease fear and offer encouragement, especially if we look to God for guidance and walk with God, in faith. Memorizing this verse will remind us of God’s loving presence that is with us at all times.

Blessings as you continue your journey of faith,

~ Rev. Mary Lynne

## TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

In June of 2021, Woodlawn began a time of Transitional Ministry. One of the goals laid out as a part of this transitional time was the review and revision of the governance system of our church. The Transition Team underwent a thorough process of meeting with the various groups and committees of Woodlawn to ascertain their actual work and function. The result of this process was to generate a governance document that reflects reality. It is hoped the new document will provide clarity of roles and responsibilities, improved communication and help newcomers better understand how we function as a church. The most significant changes in the new governance document include a smaller council that is more focused on strategic planning and visioning while committees carry out and make decisions that deal more with day-to-day operations. A congregational meeting has been scheduled to follow worship on February 12, 2023 for the purpose of approving the new governance document in order that it be in place for the Annual General meeting on February 26.

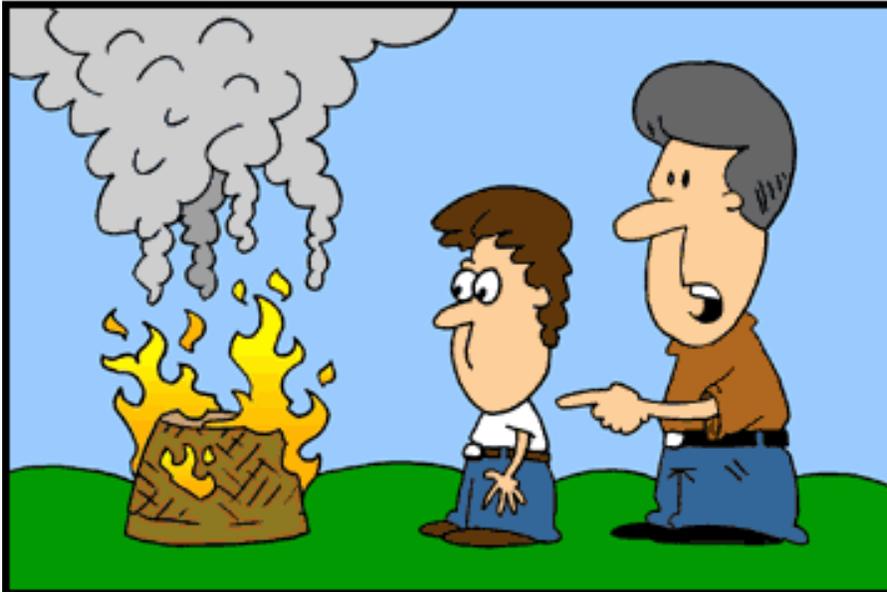
Also included as a part of the new governance document is a new mission statement. The mission statement came about through a process that goes back to the beginning of the transitional ministry period when congregants were asked to share their core values. These submissions were considered along with input that was received from the members of committees and groups during the governance review and written contributions made in the days leading up to our mission statement workshop in January. In many ways, a large number of Woodlawn members were a part of the discernment process at the mission statement workshop and present in spirit along with the thirty people in attendance. The whole process was quite inspiring and certainly a work of the Spirit.

The statement is as follows: *We share our lives and grow in God's love to be a light.* It may be brief, but it does not lack depth, especially if one meditates upon it to consider the many ways it can express what we do as a church. It celebrates the values of fellowship, community and serving others by acknowledging that we share our lives. Growing in God's love means recognize the Spirit's activity in our midst as a power of growth and renewal and a source of knowledge and faith. We seek to "be a light" both individually and collectively through our lives of faith and the ministries we share as a people of mercy, justice and peace who reflect the light of Jesus Christ. It is hoped the mission statement will be a source of identity, inspiration and guidance for Woodlawn and its leadership moving forward.

The transitional work will continue in the months ahead. Next steps include generating job descriptions that meet the ministry needs of Woodlawn United Church. It is expected that the transitional ministry time will end this summer with Rev. Skinner's appointment set to end on August 31. We also seek to relieve the Transition Team members of their responsibilities after two years. As the formal "transitional work" draws to a close,

Woodlawn will move into a search and call process to hopefully establish a long-term pastoral relationship with ministry personnel. Even though there is much work still to do, there is much to look forward to as we celebrate the life and ministry we share as we live out our mission to be a light.

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(See Luke 11:33)

12-30-1999

I TOLD YOU ... "HIDE IT UNDER A BUSHEL,  
NO!!!"

# UNITED CHURCH MISSION AND SERVICE



## What do you know about Mission and Service?

I would like to share some information with you –

**Mission and Service** is how we join together to share what we can with people and places that need it most.

### The three goals of Mission and Service are:

- 1) To help transform and save lives.
- 2) To inspire meaning and purpose.
- 3) To build a better world.

Locally **Mission and Service** helps people in need by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens, and refugee programs. It cares for those who are sick or at the end of life by supporting addictions, mental health, and counselling services as well as hospice care.

Globally **Mission and Service** helps people access clean water, food, and medical care. It supports skills training and economic development, peacemaking, sustainable agriculture efforts, and provides disaster relief and advocates for the rights of children and migrant workers.

### What a privilege to be a supporter of Mission and Service, to be able to help in so many ways.

If you are not already a supporter of **Mission and Service**, why not consider becoming a supporter by adding it to your PAR offering, your offering envelope, or put your donation in a plain envelope marked **Mission and Service**. Those so very much in need will thank you.

Mary Osborne

Mission and Service Enthusiast

## RANDOM NOTES OF THANKFULNESS

We at Woodlawn realize that the church is the sum of its parts and the great work that each of us does for one another and for the community around us as we glorify God together. We also realize that we do not do this good work to be thanked but we do have the God-given opportunity to give thanks. With this in mind, each month will seek to offer a few well-deserved "random notes of thankfulness."

Thanks to the many individuals who were a part of our Mission Statement Workshop weekend. A special note of thanks to Transition Team member Emily Masse for her facilitation of this event.

Thanks to our Church Treasurer Ivan Richardson. Ivan does much volunteer work on our behalf year-round, but has been especially busy of late working on end of year financial statements and putting together this year's budget.

Thanks to Jerry Jackson, Dwight Perkins and Jamie Lacey for their assistance in set up and preparation for the monthly men's luncheons.

We realize we cannot thank everyone every month, but it is hoped we can raise up in a *Spirit of Thanksgiving*, a few well-deserving souls each month.

**Thank you Woodlawn United Church for all you do!**

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee meets in person at the church monthly, usually on the second Thursday at 10:00 a.m. for about 1.5 hours.

The weekly Bridge/Crib games continue to attract players from the area. This is held every Tuesday at 1:00 pm. Cost is \$4.00. Bridge players and a few crib players gather and enjoy a social afternoon and small refreshments in the basement of the church. There are still spaces available if you wish to play.

We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and take down tables on a rotational basis. We will share our proceeds with the church general fund.

The following is a list of our current Outreach team members: Carolyn Doswell, Rev Mary Lynne Whyte, Rev Dale Skinner, Jane Cushing, Karen Nauffts, Laurie White, Linda Sinclair, Joanne Cameron, Murdock Morrison, Brian Moors, Tom Rogers, Dawn Coleman (co-chair) and Al MacIsaac (co-chair).

If you are interested in joining us, we always welcome new members. Come out and see what we are all about, as we work toward helping those in need.