

Woodlawn United Church

January 2022 Newsletter

Photo submitted by Vicki May

Word In My Heart

Jeremiah 29:11

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

This Scripture is short and easy to memorize, keeping in mind it is always best to memorize the Scripture verse as well as where it came from, so that would include the name of the book in the Bible, the chapter and the verse number. I chose this Scripture because we are starting a new year and it is a Scripture that's filled with the assurance of God's good plans for us that give us a future with hope.

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Mary Lynne

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 our Outreach Team Chairs Dawn Coleman and Al MacIsaac, the team members and everyone who contributed to a meaningful White Gift campaign. Your white gifts and good work touched the lives of so many in our surrounding community this past Christmas season.

Thanks to the dedicated members of our Tech Team who displayed great patience and dexterity as we moved to on-line worship only and were required to adapt due to the changes this made to our carefully planned Christmas services.

Thanks to Shelley Clee and Kelly MacNeil for organizing our festive Carol Service at the beginning of Advent.

And thanks to the members of our choirs for sharing their gift of music that joyfully and lovingly filled the gaps with some Christmas hope and cheer.

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!

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SIRI ... SAY GRACE

A New Year's Prayer

Contributed by Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner

The New Year has come.
Some ring the bells and blow the horns
while others wonder.
Are we now more anxious, the television asks?
More careful?
More tired?
Are we now more aware of the suffering, the
violence,
the inequality, the injustice in our world?
Holy God,
In this New Year,
We seek you
We need you
We hunger for your presence,
your peace, your justice and your love.

Open our hearts.
Open our minds
Open our hands
Open our ears and eyes
That we might know you
In our neighbour, in the foreigner, in the refugee,
Even in our enemy,
And, perhaps especially, in ourselves.
That we may know in the deepest part of
ourselves
That you call us
And that we are capable
Of seeing and naming, doing and being
Your love, your peace, your hope and your
justice
In this your world.
Amen.



All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Woodlawn United Church to be held on Sunday February 27th, 2022. There will be vacant committee positions to be filled at that time. At this time, we are planning a Zoom meeting. More details about the AGM will be available in the coming weeks.

Committee reports are due to the office by February 3rd. The agenda, the Annual Report which contains business from the past year, financial statements for the year ending 2021, committee reports, budget for 2022, 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.

"Christmas Outreach 2021"

The Outreach would like to extend its gratitude to everyone for helping make this a better Christmas for so many families and organizations once again. Here's a recap...

New to the program was the coat drive that Joanne Cameron initiated for the kids and teens of our families. We were able to provide 20 winter jackets. A Big thanks to you, Joanne!

Murdock Morrison revised our grocery list and met with the manager of Sobeys. Al McIsaac and son Cole, met at Sobeys to pick up the groceries and gift cards and delivered them to the church where we organized them per family. Many thanks to Murdock for taking on this chore.

Al, Jane, Karen and Dawn sorted and organized the shoeboxes for Welcome Housing and Support Services, Brockwell House and Edwards House, gifts for North Grove and the mittens and hats. Thanks to all who participated.

Tom and Al went to pick up and pack up the perishables that were ordered from Dave's Fruit and Vegetables. Thanks Tom!

Allan and Sandra Mitchell covered the 1-3 pm foyer shift on Wednesday as gifts came in. They delivered gifts and groceries to the 2 families that were unable to pick them up on Friday morning.

Jacob Boudreau, an outstanding young man and founder of "The Jacob Project" (a small charity he created to help families in need) had money left over from his fundraising efforts this year and helped out our efforts by purchasing 2 jackets that came in as a last minute request. Jacob is the son of our office administrator, Shelley Clee.

Our families picked up their gifts and groceries on Friday. Dawn and Al delivered the extra mitts and hats to two local schools. We had also received some beautiful baby and infant knit sweater and hat sets that were delivered to SHYM (Support Housing for Young Mothers).

To summarize.... We were able to support 12 families assigned to us from Feed N.S. (17 adults and 38 children) by providing gift cards (in one case gifts) and food. We also helped about 15 people that came to us through the church (some families, some individuals).

We were able to provide 36 Shoeboxes, 20 winter jackets, Baby knit sets, hats and mittens to 2 schools, and approximately \$400 worth of toys to the North Grove. Dawn's Tabitha UCW group donated \$200 to the cause and Dawn spent the money quickly on toys, clothing and books. A huge thanks to the Tabitha Unit as well as the other UCW units and the Choir who stepped up to support a family. 1 turkey that was donated by The Army Navy Airforce Vets, along with 2 jackets and \$250 worth of WalMart gift cards were also received and used to support outreach. Thanks to Jack Cameron for cooking the turkey and delivering it to Margaret's House.

By the end of this, we had some food and gift cards leftover which were needed during the week leading up to Christmas.

In comparison to other years, financially we are on target with monetary donations. As of Friday, we had received \$4,785 in White Gift envelopes. Some decided to write a cheque as opposed to do a shoebox or gifts this year due to Covid 19. We were actually a couple of shoeboxes short of our commitment to Edward and Brockwell Houses so we did some last minute shopping before the Thursday morning pickup.

When we say we owe you all a HUGE thank you for your help, we sincerely mean we could not have done this without you. Karen Jane and Joanne in particular, kept us on the right track. And we truly appreciate our wonderful office staff Shelley and Ruth, who know so much more than we do about the workings of the church. They didn't hesitate to step in when needed. Thanks, Shelley and Ruth. You are blessings.

There may be (probably are!) other things that we forgot to include here, but we will have a discussion at our February meeting and see if we need to make changes etc. in the process of carrying out our Christmas outreach projects.

We wish you all a fabulous, safe and healthy Christmas season. Take care, and thanks again for your dedication to Outreach.

Dawn and Al

Notes From your Transition Team



On Sunday, October 17th following Worship an, “Open Space” was held. This was a time that those who attended had an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas and suggestions for our church. There were lots of enthusiastic energy and passions shared for the future of the ministry of Woodlawn United.

A subgroup including Rev. Dale, Shirley MacLeod, and Allan Ellis has been formed to work on our Governance document.

In January 2022 we plan to have a ‘World Cafe’ and we encourage all those that can to come and participate or just come and see what it is all about. Wondering what is meant by a ‘World Cafe’? The World Café is built on the assumption that ... People already have within them the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges; that the answers we need are available to us; and that we are wiser together than we are alone. It is an easy-to-use method for creating a living network of collaborative dialogue around questions that matter.

We invite you to reflect and to pray about our transition time and listen for the Holy Spirit’s guiding voice to help us determine the people needed and the ways we can fulfill Woodlawn’s ministerial desires.

Please contact any one of us if you have any questions, suggestions, or want to be involved in this transition process.

A PRAYER FOR A TIME OF TRANSITION



Loving God, You know us better than we know ourselves. Guide our Woodlawn Family through this period of transition. Times of change are challenging for all, the team, the congregation, and ministers and we all have a role to play. We need Your wisdom that we might be receptive to change, conversion and growth.

Empower each one of us to use our unique gifts to create a beautiful life, to share openly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience and joy. Do not allow fear, ignorance or pride to limit the work of your Spirit. Instill in us a vision of the life You intend for us to lead. Guided by Your Holy Spirit we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings from:

Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner, Shirley MacLeod, Emily Masse, Jerry Jackson, Teri Giannou, Elaine Gray & Rev. Susan Chisholm

From your M&P Committee

As many of you may already know Rev Mary Lynne has fractured her right ankle (driving foot). As a result it is currently non full-weight bearing, and instructions from her physician are that she allows it time to heal. She has been working from home and Rev Dale has been covering some of her in-person worship duties. Rev. Mary Lynne will continue with Physiotherapy until she is able to return to work.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to her wishing her a speedy recovery. M&P will continue to follow her recovery and we will keep you posted."

Council Co-Chairs
Helen Dixon and Cathy Kay

"Lord, Help Me Be Faithful With A Few Things"

Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" (Matthew 25:21)

Recently I watched a video of a man who described his struggle of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro and being one of the few to make it to the top just in time to see the sunrise. As he shared the details of his journey his voice cracked slightly and his eyes became tearful and intense. He said how it was a time in his life when God revealed to him the millions of people that were living in darkness and without hope and how God had put a passion in him on that mountain that would change the rest of his life.

I must admit that as I listened to his story, I cringed. I cringed because I don't have a story like that and I don't believe that most of us do have stories like that. Most of us haven't stood on a windswept mountain-top where, in an instant, God laid out the purpose of our lives. And, while God seems to speak to some as loud as a trumpet blast, for most of us, the still, small voice of God is just that: very still and very small. And we wait trying to hear God, just in case we hear somethinganything.

Super spiritual people point to Moses, who sat around staring at bushes for a lot of years until he was ready to be used by God, or Abraham, who was really old before God followed through with his promises. I understand these Biblical examples, but inside my heart struggle. Will it really be that long before God gives any of us something significant to do? A purpose? Are we limited to a spiritual journey in the backseat where we continually ask "Am I there yet? Am I there yet? How much longer?"

In the scriptures, Jesus tells a story about a boss who, before leaving on a long journey, entrusted his employees with varying amounts of cash with the idea that there would be a good return on his investment. Two of the employees invested the cash for returns, while one guy buried what he had for fear of losing it all. In that story, the line that is repeated several times is: "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

What is this telling us? Maybe I want to change the world, but have I changed my backyard? My apartment? My neighborhood? My church? Even myself? Have I taken a backseat in my spiritual journey, waiting for "the" moment to arrive while thousands of moments pass me by?

T.S. Eliot said, "We had the experience, but missed the meaning." Every day God places experiences before us. Most of them are small and easy to miss, but they are packed with enough meaning and significance to change lives. The key is being faithful with a few things. Perhaps this is a good resolution for all of us in this new year. Lord, help me be faithful with a few things.

Friends of Accessibility

CHOWDERS

The Friends of Accessibility Team wish to thank all those who supported our four Fish Chowder Takeout Luncheons during the fall. These have proven to be very much appreciated by a wide ranging customer base thus we will continue through the winter months with our first on **Saturday, January 29th**. *This is two weeks later than originally planned due to the current surge in Covid cases.* Increased cost of ingredients over the past couple of years have forced us to increase our price to \$12.00 per meal. Order desk will open on Friday, January 21st, and all orders should be sent to ralphsams@ns.sympatico.ca or call 902-434-7786.

SATURDAY JANUARY 29, 2022

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM , \$12.00

Will be served **TAKE OUT STYLE ONLY**

COUNTRY CLASSIC SHOW

We were to host our first afternoon Country Classic Show on January 16 but this show has been cancelled, our next show is set for February 20th at 2:30pm. This show will feature the Sidewinder Band with hostess Wendy Manning with guests to be announced later.

We are moving to this time slot to enable folks, that do not drive at night, an opportunity to enjoy a concert and an afternoon out.

Tickets will be available January 25 from our office or from Freda Rogers, Bob Watt, Ralph Sams and will be available at the door, just \$10.00.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

January 27th represents International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This is a day when we honour the more than 6 million Jews persecuted and murdered during the Holocaust. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly declared January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this day, we also honour the courage, strength, and resilience of all Holocaust survivors and their descendants, some 40,000 of whom came to Canada.

In 2017, the Government of Canada unveiled the National Holocaust Monument in the heart of Canada's Capital to recognize their invaluable contributions in shaping the Canada that we know today and ensuring the lessons learned will resonate for generations to come. May we never forget the horrors endured by millions of Jews—let us never be silent in the face of hatred and discrimination.

Some adult and young reader book suggestions about the Holocaust.

- Night, by Elie Wiesel.
- Judenrat. by Isaiah Trunk.
- Ordinary Men, by Christopher Browning.
- Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto, by Emanuel Ringelblum.
- The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak (not just for youth)
- Maus by Art Spiegelman (Pulitzer Prize winning graphic novel)
- Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank

National Holocaust Monument, Ottawa ->



Mission & Service



According to UNICEF, more than half of the global population does not have access to safe sanitation and 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water.

Every day is a good day to consider our relationship with water.

How many Bible stories do you know have to do with water? Many of us have heard the story of Moses making water flow from rock and parting the Red Sea. We may remember stories about Jesus turning water into wine, walking on water, and calming it, too. So often, water is the focal point of God's miracles and grace. It figures prominently because it's necessary.

Clean water is essential to life, and yet around the world people suffer for lack of it.

The issues are complex. Climate change is altering weather and water patterns, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. In some parts of the world, a growing population means rising demand and there isn't enough water to go around. Water infrastructure problems sometimes mean people can't access water even when it is available. There are racial and gender implications to accessing water, too. Did you know that, on average, women and children in the Global South walk nearly 6 kilometres to access water and carry nearly 19 liters of water every day?

Through Mission & Service you help provide solutions to water issues worldwide.

Your generosity supports irrigation projects and provides accessibility to water. Your gifts help construct bore holes, wells, and rain catchment tanks, which in turn address food security and sanitation issues in communities. During crises, your gifts help deliver drinking water where it's needed most. In the midst of the global pandemic, your support is helping to construct sanitation stations and share life-saving hygiene communications through flyers and radio programs.

Together, we *can* build a better world. One water project at a time. To donate to Mission & Service, visit the website . Click here: <https://united-church.ca/donate>

If you would like more information about Mission & Service, please contact your M&S Steward, Mary Osborne.



Colouring Page
The Magi Worship Jesus
Matthew 2