



WORD IN MY HEART

June 2022 - Romans 12:12 (NRSVA)

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.

We can be thankful we have an eternal hope through our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is a constant loving presence in this life and the next. Looking to Jesus can help us be patient in our times of suffering and to persevere in prayer as Jesus did during his three-year ministry 2000 years ago. I've chosen this short Scripture as our next verse to memorize as it voices three things we need to remember in order to help us keep the faith. May the Holy Spirit bless us as we live out this verse in our daily lives.

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 Jamie from the Woodlawn Scouts for coming to the Church office and sharpening the well used paper cutter and scissors. We appreciate and value our long and rewarding relationship with our Scouting groups.

Thanks in advance (Wink! Wink!) for those coming to the outdoor work/gardening day scheduled for June 18 at the church, starting at 9:00 AM.

Thanks to everyone who has made an effort to get back to in-person worship in these past months. Being together in person means a great deal to so many. Let us continue to be strength for one another as we gather.

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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Thanks to Darnell Fenderson

06-25-2012

Transition Team *Update*

On behalf of the Transition Team, I want to say thank you to everyone at Woodlawn who has been so supportive of the work of not only the Transition Team but of the church as a whole as we continue to discern and imagine anew the life and mission of Woodlawn. Although we may see “Transitional Ministry” as something that takes us away from the “real” work of the church, historically the Church has always

been at its best when it understands that it is always a work “in progress.” Just as each of us are a work in progress in the eyes of God. We allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and discern who we are, what we do, and how we engage our neighbours and the world around us as a community of faith.

Over the past months, the Transition Team has spent some time meeting with the various committees and groups that sustain and support so many of the ministries that encompass the work of Woodlawn. This was an incredibly enriching and rewarding experience for the Transition Team as we got to learn more about the great work being done on behalf of so many by some very dedicated, capable and faithful people. The meetings were an opportunity to learn more about who does what and why and how. This is not only important in terms of revising the system of governance at Woodlawn so it accurately reflects the work of each committee and group, but also important in terms of understanding anew who we are, what we value and how we engage in mission moving forward. Like any relationship it is important for one to know who they are when inviting another to join them. As we seek to grow in faith and hopefully in number, knowing “who we are, who does what, and what we value” allows us to authentically communicate who we are as a church to others.

This opportunity to meet with the different groups was a sort of **taking inventory** that will hopefully raise up and affirm our strengths as a church. This inventory will also reveal where there may be some gaps or need for revision. This is especially important as we move forward out of this pandemic time that has been hard not only on Woodlawn but on all churches and so many other organizations. Looking at the state of the world around us with so much uncertainty and change, we understand that a time of transition is not something unique to Woodlawn. This is something everyone needs to wrestle with whether they realize it or not. Many are caught looking back, hung up on the past, they way things used to be. I know I am looking back at gas that was \$1.25 a litre and wish it could be that again. But some look back on other things that could be past successes or past hurts and find themselves stuck. It’s like the story of Lot’s wife in the book of Genesis who when she looked back on what was, she turned into a pillar of salt. It’s a reminder of how when all we can do is look back, we risk losing the possibility of moving forward.

As we seek to move forward on some of the great ideas that were brought forward from events like the Open Space and Wonder Café, it is necessary to identify what kind of supports and leadership need to be in place so new ministries and our church community of oldcomers and newcomers can flourish. As this work of transition continues at Woodlawn, I hope that we will continue to engage ourselves in heartfelt conversations and be the support for each other that God has always intended us to be. The world, it seems especially at this moment, is a challenging place. Hopefully we will endeavour to be the kind of church that builds one another up with the kind of love and support that allows us to be our best selves and a reflection of the Divine Image.

Whether it is through the collective works we do together as a church or as individuals in our day to day lives, we are in the world to make a difference. With hope in the future, may it always be a reflection of the difference Jesus makes.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner

Living out our Baptismal Faith Serving Others in God's Love

Dear Friends,

The death of a loved one always brings with it great sadness and bewilderment. Families are so often left with a tremendous sense of shock and loss as well as deep feelings of personal grief. It is at this time that they turn to us. In life and in death. What we have to offer as a church family is the comfort of faith as we wrap our arms around them to remind them that we are there for them in this time of grief. To walk with them during these moments.

Over the past 2 years, we have reached out to you for help in supporting our funeral ministry. Today, we are having to explore how best to continue to carry out funerals in a way that helps families through this difficult time, when we are faced with a shortage of resources. In order to continue to support Celebrations of Life into the future, we need to address the lack of resources and find a way forward.

Woodlawn was blessed for many years with a small group of lay people who were trained to serve as our funeral liaisons. This team worked with the Ministers and Office Administrator, the Ushers, the Tech support team, our Musicians, and the Funeral Reception coordinators, in assisting families to prepare for their loved one's funeral. We are so grateful to each of them for their many contributions to so many families. The torches were passed when they retired from their many years of service to Woodlawn.

This important work is now being carried out by our Office Administrator, Shelley, on top of her own duties. It has become impossible for her to continue with this workload. We are exhausting that resource, and she has sent out a Mayday call. She simply cannot continue to carry out the coordination of funerals in addition to her regular workload. We share this with you because we know that without a funeral assistant(s), our funerals will very soon become a bare bones offering, at best. We currently have 5 more funerals/receptions on the calendar in the coming weeks.

Our hope is that we can find a team of at least 2-3 individuals that can work together in a pastoral care community, to assist in coordinating this necessary service to our families, and become a resource for our families in the planning of a funeral. Shelley and Rev. Mary Lynne will work with you to show you the ropes, and provide you with the tools to carry out this ministry. You will play an essential role in continuing this important ministry for our bereaved.

We thank you for your consideration, and we invite you to set up a time to meet with Shelley and Rev. Mary Lynne to learn more about this role so that we may continue to serve our families at Woodlawn United and in the community.



Thank you



HAPPY BIRTHDAY RALPH SAMS

The Carrots, Celery, Onion and Potato "veggie peeler" team. As it takes many different teams to work faithfully, I'd like to speak on behalf CCOP. Ralph, we embrace all that you have done, what you continue to do, the ideas you've inspired. It is our honor to work together, as one small part of "WUC Fish Chowder" fundraiser with your faithful lead. What a wonderful way to feed Gods people, that they may all share in Gods love.

We Thank You, Happy 90th Birthday Ralph.

(Ralph celebrated his 90th Birthday on Tuesday May 31st. The CCOP team decorated the kitchen in celebration of this special milestone event.)

HELPING OTHERS IN THEIR TIME OF NEED

When families are going through tough times, such as the loss of a loved one, our Woodlawn families and friends step up by providing sandwiches, and sweets, as well as their time to help out at the funeral reception. Your gift of serving others is a blessing that our families who are experiencing a loss need at such an important time in their grieving. The UCW cannot thank you enough, for your faithfulness to this important ministry.

This year and recent years, have been difficult in that we have lost a number of Woodlawn members who have been involved in the funeral ministry. What this means for Woodlawn United is that we must replenish our ability to continue to serve our families and take care of one another. Your gifts are a way to show your love and support for grieving families.

This is an urgent plea that we need your help. If you are willing to make and donate sandwiches, sweets, or give of your time at upcoming funeral receptions, we would like to hear from you so that we can add you to our call list when that time comes. The tasks that we have are not great commitments of time, rather, they are a few hours to help set up the hall (putting out tables and chairs), plating the food, replenishing the food tables, serving coffee and tea, and cleaning up after the reception. Your gift of time can be for one or more of these tasks.



If you feel you are able to support this Ministry, please contact Bev Lynch by phone: 902-462-1553 or by email: bevlynch84@gmail.com to offer your name to support our Woodlawn families during these difficult times, or to ask any questions you might have. We are grateful to you for your consideration. Thank you.

COMFORT / COOLING CENTRE

Woodlawn United Church will again be a place where our congregation and the community may gather through the summer months when the temperatures reach unbearable highs. We welcome you to come by, sit a while, read a book, chat with your friends, and cool off in an air conditioned space. Please let your neighbours know that we are open and we offer a welcoming "cool" space.

GRADUATIONS

Woodlawn United extends best wishes to the
Graduates of 2022.



Maya Dixon, granddaughter of Bob Watt, graduates from Citadel High School in Halifax, and plans to attend Dalhousie University in the Fall. We wish her much success in the next phase of her journey.

Madalyn Jenkins, (photo not available at time of publication) granddaughter of Eva Jenkins graduates from Bernie Custis Secondary School, in Hamilton Ont. Madalyn plans on taking a year off before going to college.



Élise Rogers, grand daughter of Freda and Jim Rogers, graduated from Saint Marys University with a Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude, Honours Geography, Co-operative Education. She also received the Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Undergraduates. **Lianne Rogers**, also the grand daughter of Freda and Jim Rogers graduates from Lockview High School Class of 2022. Student Council Communication Representative. Future plans are to attend Saint Marys University to pursue a Bachelor of Arts, Social Justice and Community Studies. Also playing SMU Varsity Volleyball.



Julie Pace, daughter of Stephen and Susan Pace, granddaughter of Shirley and Arthur Lacey, and Graham and Roxie Pace, graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering in Industrial Engineering from Dalhousie University on June 1st.



Lauren Ada Leigh Currie, daughter of Paul and the late Kelly Currie; granddaughter of Dianne and Terry Barro, graduated from NSCC, Marconi Campus with a certificate in Office Administration. She plans to seek employment in the Sydney area.



Sydnie Leigh Anne Barro, daughter of Greg and Kim Barro, and granddaughter of Terry and Dianne Barro, graduated from Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School. Sydnie has received a scholarship to attend Acadia University in September to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree.



Leah Skinner, daughter of Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner and Rev. Maryann Skinner and granddaughter of Robert and Murdena Skinner. Leah graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Education on June 7th. She is now teaching at Lisgar Collegiate. Congratulations Leah!

On behalf of all of us at Woodlawn United Church, we wish you much success
and joy in your future endeavors.



JOYFUL SOUNDS



Nothing excites a technical mind more than a piece of equipment to figure out. This is the new sound board that was purchased late last year. It arrived this week. Peter Woods, Steve Rigden, and Paul Whyte are already investigating all the bells and whistles! Thank you to all who supported the purchase of our sound board.

(Photo credit June & Steve Rigden)



Woodlawn United Church Choir with their Easter scarves.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION



On Sunday June 12, we celebrated the Baptism and Confirmations of Jake Boudreau, Olivia Taylor and Emily Taylor.



Our wonderful music team of “Tapestry”,
Adelia Holloway, Lisa Clarke, Dodie Covert, and June Rigden

Photo credit:s: Bob Watt

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Our Father In Heaven,
We give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.
We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation;
May they find courage and perseverance
to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.
We pray for our fathers around the world
whose children are lost or suffering;
May they know that the God of compassion
walks with them in their sorrow.
For fathers who tossed aside toxic masculinity
in favour of a strength in love and empathy;
We pray for ones who are not fathers
but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.
We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers
who are no longer with us
but who live forever in our memory
and nourish us with their love.



Amen.

Celebrating You!

Are you celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, and would like to share that with your Woodlawn United Church family? We would love to celebrate your special day with you.

Please call (902) 434-8302 or email Shelley or Ruth office@woodlawnunited.ca with your birth date information or your Anniversary date, and we will publish that in our weekly bulletin. There are many other special celebrations to share such as a graduation, adoption, marriage, birth of a child, retirement, purchase of a new home, perhaps you have received a special award, or job promotion. We would love to celebrate you by recognizing your special occasion, because your Woodlawn family cares about you.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Psalm 98:4

LASTING GIFTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Woodlawn is blessed to have a congregation that supports one another in the work we do through the gifts we give. These gifts can be of volunteering time, sharing our expertise and also through weekly givings and financial gifts. No matter what form your gift takes it helps bring Christ's vital and vibrant message of love and hope to others.

Did you know there are other ways you can make lasting financial gifts to Woodlawn United Church?

Bequest/In your will:

You can make a gift in your will to any area of the church such as the General Fund or divide your gift among several programs and ministries of the United Church. Bequests are the most common form of planned gift. A bequest can be a specific sum of money, a percentage of your estate, a property or other asset. You can also specify when the church receives this gift—for example, when other named beneficiaries have died, or when other bequests have been filled. Your estate enjoys the tax benefit from your gift.

RRSPs, RRIFs, TFSAs, Registered Shares:

By donating a, RRSP, RRIF, TFSA or shares your estate receives a charitable donation receipt that will offset taxes, which will in turn replenish the value of your estate. Also, designating a ministry as the beneficiary of a policy helps avoid probate fees on these gifts.

United Church of Canada Gift Annuity:

An annuity is an agreement where you make an irrevocable gift to Woodlawn United Church in return for a guaranteed lifetime income, most or all of which is non-taxable. You will also receive a charitable donation receipt for a portion of your gift. Upon your death, the portion of the gift remaining becomes available to any area of work in the church that you choose. The exact amount of the gift depends on how long you live and future interest rates. Given the recent rise in interest rates, annuities are becoming a more attractive way of investing in and giving to the church.

The minimum amount to establish an annuity varies by age: anyone who is 60 years of age or older, or couples or siblings—one of whom is 60 or older and the other who is 55 or older—may purchase a joint annuity. You will receive payments twice per year. The income depends on your gender and your age when you take out your annuity, and most of the income is non-taxable. A joint annuity will continue to pay your spouse, partner, or sibling for as long as they live.

Please contact the Church Office and we can point you in the right direction if you would like more information on making a planned gift to Woodlawn. You are encouraged to seek independent financial advice about any gift, and to discuss this information with the members of your family who should be aware of your decisions.

"The church has always been an important part of my life—like an extension of my family. An appeal was made for financial support to establish a building fund. It was both possible and practical for me to make a gift of listed securities. There was a tax benefit for me, and the church will benefit from the increasing value of the gift until such time as they choose to use it for the building fund. But most of all, I was really happy that I could support my church in this way." —Grace Race, United Church Member





Mission and Service Fund
United Church of Canada



Millions Face Food Shortages in Afghanistan

Photo: Asian Muslim Action Network



Afghanistan is on the verge of the worst crisis in its history. Even before the Taliban took control of the country last August, Afghans were already struggling with the effects of 40 years of conflict, the worst drought in 27 years, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, with restrictions on international funding put in place to prevent money from falling into the hands of the Taliban, humanitarian assistance was impeded.

The consequences have been devastating. The United Nations estimates that nearly 23 million Afghans—more than half the population—face potentially life-threatening food shortages, with nearly 9 million on the brink of famine. People also lack proper healthcare and are facing unemployment and housing shortages.

Our Mission & Service partner the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) has been working hard to provide food packages to internally displaced families in Afghanistan during this emergency.

The life-saving packages contain staples like rice, sugar, oil, salt, beans, potatoes, and onions to feed a family for up to two months. So far, 133 families have received the packages, including widows and orphans.

“The most challenging issue was and is the fund transfer to Afghanistan because the banking system of the country is still almost completely frozen,” reports Zineb Naini, AMAN’s international program coordinator. “Nevertheless, we were able to reach these families and, in the future, we hope to reach many more. Recently we obtained a grant that will allow us to distribute food packages to about 400 families.”

Please make a gift through [Mission and Service](#) today. In the most difficult circumstances, your generosity helps sustain families and provides much needed hope.