

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH

54 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth, NS B2W 2S1

www.woodlawnunited.ca

T: 902-434-8302



The Season of Lent

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

***We share our lives
and grow in God's
love to be a light.***



CONTACT US



Woodlawn United
Church

54 Woodlawn Road,
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B2W 2S1

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MINISTER

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YOUTH COORDINATOR:

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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: Jerry Jackson & Teri Giannou

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COMMUNITY OF CARE: Vacant

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHOWDER! Saturday March 4th . The chowder will be drive through-take out featuring all the same delicious ingredients that makes this chowder so good! 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 23rd. Please order by Wednesday March 1st at 8:00 PM to be guaranteed. Please contact Ralph at (902)434-7786 or Ralphsams@ns.sympatico.ca

SUNDAY SCHOOL TALENT STILL NEEDED Do you feel you have time and talent to serve in our Children's Ministry? Please contact Maggie Healy at any time to talk more about helping us to fulfill our Sunday School ministry. Youth.coordinator@woodlawnunited.ca

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) or by calling (902) 434-8302.

THE SPIRIT OF LENT

By Rev Dr. Dale Skinner

I remember a teacher of mine saying how there were two ways to read the Bible. He said, "Is it basically about me or basically about God? In other words, is it basically about what I must do, or basically about what God has done and is doing?" This is important for us to consider since it says a great deal about who we trust and where we place our faith. This is something I challenge you to consider during this season of Lent.

Lent is season that is often characterized as an empty ritual that focuses on self-denial. It can get reduced to trivial acts like giving up chocolate, sweets or fried food. In some respects, this self-denial can perpetuate the notion that it is only our actions that matter and that at one level, "it's all about me." Yet, understanding the roots of this tradition can indeed deepen our faith and reliance on God.

While the exact details surrounding the origins of Lent are unknown (it was established tradition by the fourth or fifth century), its focus has always been about Christians preparing for the Easter celebration marking the resurrection of Jesus. The significance of the resurrection is not merely that Jesus Christ rose to new life, but that through him we also have new life—having become new creations in the power of the Spirit (2 Cor. 5:17). The resurrection is the evidence that Jesus had access to a Spirit that could even overcome the forces of evil and death.

Christians, recognizing the significance of the resurrection, thought it wise to give devoted attention to its preparation and consider the ways the Spirit of Christ -of God- brings new life. Lent is intended to turn us away from the things and people that can never satisfy and redirect our hearts to the joy and life found in God.

Specifically, the word, Lent, is taken from Old English and refers to the springtime. It lasts for 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday, excluding Sundays (which are considered feast days that celebrate the resurrection), and concludes on the Saturday of Holy Week. The forty day period commemorates Jesus' time of fasting in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13) prior to the beginning of his public ministry and to the forty years the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness before entering the promised land. On both occasions Jesus and the Hebrews were led by the Spirit. Lent calls us to let the Spirit lead us again. The focus is not self-denial, it is affirming God's being.

Therefore, Lent should not be considered as a time when we make things right with God through self-denial. Rather, it is a time for me to reflect on what God has done and how God is calling me to fully enjoy the blessings of the life he has given. As David wrote, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you" (Ps. 73:25).

Lent provides a wonderful vantage point through which the confidence of our faith alone can deepen. Through this forty-day season, we continue to learn that it is not so much about what we are going to give up as it is about listening to the way God is already leading us to a kind of enrichment that cannot be lost.

WORD IN MY HEART – MARCH 2023



Lamentations 3:25-26 (NRSVA)

25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

Lamentations is thought to have been written by the Prophet Jeremiah. For forty years, Jeremiah proclaimed a message of doom to the people of Judah, prophesying that Jerusalem and its people would fall if they did not change their ways of idolatry, perverted worship, and moral decay. Jeremiah claimed that full surrender to God's will was the only way to escape the coming calamity. However, he was rejected and persecuted by his own people, even though he lived to see many of his prophecies come true. In the end, the Babylonian army invaded Jerusalem, causing bloodshed and destruction, as well as capturing many who were exiled to Babylon for seventy years. The book of Lamentations is known as the saddest book of the Old Testament. Jeremiah laments the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of its people. However, in chapter three, Jeremiah speaks of God's faithfulness and salvation that comes to those who seek God and wait patiently for the LORD.

In our world today, we can be burdened with the sad news of war, oppression, racism, hunger, illness, homelessness, climate change, and natural disasters. Memorizing these two short verses will help to remind us of God's faithfulness; the gift of salvation open to all through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Blessings as you continue your journey of faith through this Lenten season,

Rev. Mary Lynne

OUR STORIES



Gratitude for our Chowder Team! Over the past couple of years, our Chowder Team stepped up even during a time when Covid was still ever present. Our team was able to offer members of our congregation and our community one of the best take out lunches in Woodlawn! We wish to thank each of them for their unwavering commitment and contribution of time and talent.

THANK YOU!





And Chowder would not be possible without Ralph Sams at its helm.

Your guidance and leadership kept our Chowder lunch running. We just wanted to appreciate you and express how glad we are to work under your leadership. We're genuinely proud to be led by such a great chowder boss. Thank you for everything you do to make Chowder special (and accessible) for everyone in our community and for all of the wonderful relationships you have built with vendors, media, and families over the years to keep Chowder a staple of Woodlawn United Church.



OUR STORIES

The Webb/Allen families celebrated the special occasion of James' first birthday in February. It appears he is a fan of cake! Happy Birthday James. We look forward to following your many milestones in the years to come. (photo credits Amy Harrison).



CHILD AND YOUTH CORNER – MAGGIE HEALY

What happened In January? In January, we learned all about life in the Bible! Over the course of four weeks, we learned about jobs, music and instruments, animals, and food. To end “Life in the Bible”, we prepared a feast made up of Biblical foods to share with the congregation. Great job, everyone!

What happened in February? In February we learned all about the three main Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. We learned that these religions have a lot in common! They all trace their origins to the Middle East, they share many of the same founding stories, and it is believed they all worship the same God, though they may worship Him a little differently! – Looking ahead, we will be exploring the origins of Lent.

ATTENTION!! FAMILY SKATE

Upcoming Events in March - Save the date! The Children and Youth Committee is planning a Family Skate on Sunday, March 12th from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Join us in the morning for Sunday School, go home and have a good lunch, then meet us at East Coast Varsity in Woodside from 3pm-5pm. Get your skates sharpened and see you there! ALL WELCOME!! Feel free to invite a friend.



Family Webb. Left is a photo of Julie Webb and her mom, along with Grammie Ruth Steeves, who was a member of Woodlawn United and introduced her grands to Woodlawn United church at the Salvation Army Christmas concerts. “Such a blessing! Grammie gave us the best gift and realizing it now years later my daughters and I are members.” (- Julie)

From left to right taken in 2017

Ruth Steeves, Baby Isabelle Webb, Julie Webb, Annika Webb, Lana Webb

LOOKING FORWARD

By Rev Dr. Dale Skinner

If you are an occasional or even regular reader of the Bible, I suspect that the book of Deuteronomy isn't one that you turn to very often. I have to say that in my years of ministry, amongst the many sermons I have prepared and even more than I have listened to, texts from Deuteronomy have been few and far between.

The Book of Deuteronomy is the fifth book in the Bible and the last book of the Torah. It comes at a point in the life of God's people when the exodus from Egypt is past and the generation that wandered through the wilderness is no more. In the opening chapter, God addresses the people through the prophet Moses right after they had battled and defeated some opposing forces. It was a time where maybe the people were saying, "a lot has happened. This seems like a good spot. Why don't we just stay here for awhile?" Except God says, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain, resume your journey."

God did not want the people to get stuck or maybe too comfortable. With good reason God doesn't want the people in Deuteronomy (or us for that matter) to get too comfortable. God knows that the people have been through too much to just stop. Sometimes I wonder if maybe this is something that has happened to many people after so much time was spent "battling" Covid, if just maybe people want to stop, look back. Maybe people have gotten comfortable with new habits.

Texts like this one in Deuteronomy remind us of a God who desires we continue the journey. This is the call of living faithfully -of following the God of the living. This call is one that rises again and again. It is a call to keep moving (hopefully forward) and not get stuck in the present moment or maybe even worse, get lost in the past or left in the desert!

As we begin to wind down this time of Transitional Ministry at Woodlawn, pray we do not get stuck or somehow think transitional work is done. If anything the call of God's people (about which texts like this remind us) we are always being called to transition -to move forward. This is a part of what it means to be the church as we continue to learn, grow and adapt and discover the new things, people and places that God might be calling us into relationship with. In fact, in many ways, the time that follows this Transitional Time will be more important as Woodlawn seeks to follow through on some of the work and visioning that has now begun.

God knew there was more in store for the people. In fact, in the next verses in Deuteronomy, God directs Moses to prayerfully choose some elders, some leaders who

would help guide, sustain and serve the people as they moved on to the next thing God had in store even to the day when Moses would no longer be with them. In the weeks ahead, as Woodlawn makes its next steps, please pray for our church and for our leaders. Please pray that some others may also step forward and share the gift of leadership and followership as a part of a committee or group. Maybe prayerfully consider yourself and where the Spirit may be leading you. After all, one of the gifts of faith that our God gives, is the gift of looking forward.

Peace, Rev. Dale

Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



“According to the tests, it’s not water you are retaining. You’re holding a grudge.”

© 2012 Jonny Hawkins



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023 Please join us for the World Day of Prayer, a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. The service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan.

Location: Woodlawn United Church

Date and Time: Friday, March 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm

UNITED CHURCH MISSION AND SERVICE



Many of us sit down to good home-cooked meals and can afford to go out for dinner from time to time. We're able to prepare elaborate dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our daily experience doesn't include standing in line, tray in hand, for every single meal.

That's why the special dinners like Café Cinq-Zéro-Sept hosts are so important. Centre 507 is an Ottawa-based Mission & Service partner. Several times a year, the adult drop-in centre sets up a small room for a special fine-dining meal with gourmet food, decorations, and candlelight. For just \$2, participants have their choice of meal accompanied by full service and great company.



"We realized that people in our community struggling with poverty had to wait in line a long time for a meal. When they were served, they weren't given any choice and felt pressured to leave so that the next person could be served. That's why we started Café Cinq-Zéro-Sept," says Richard LeBlanc, Centre 507's Executive Director. "We saw a real change in how people felt about themselves after experiencing this kind of a meal. We wanted this dining experience to become the norm rather than the exception."

While COVID-19 has been challenging, it has also helped the drop-in take a step toward achieving their goal. "One of the great things that happened when COVID hit was that we had to start a system where everyone sat down and was served," says LeBlanc.

Centre 507 now serves 25 people at sit-down meals and provides 150 people with meals to go each day. The café has incorporated a training program where participants learn to be servers, too. "We are taking the next step toward achieving our goal. We aren't going back to line-ups after the pandemic," vows LeBlanc.

Thank you for giving generously through [Mission & Service](#). Your support helps create a world where everyone has enough food, served with dignity. For more information about Mission & Service, please contact Mary Osborne, your M&S Enthusiast.

Photo: Rose enjoys a warm meal at Centre 507. Credit: Centre 507

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 outgoing members of Council who have faithfully served as a part of the life and work of Woodlawn United Church.

Thanks to our Tech Team who have been ever so patiently seeking to resolve the technical issues with the sound system on Sunday mornings.

Thanks to our congregation for its continued support of the Dartmouth East Christian Food bank that operates out of the Heritage Building.

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!

NOTES FOLLOWING THE AGM

Thank you for attending our AGM!

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation for your presence and active participation at our recent AGM on Sunday February 26th. It was wonderful to see so many turn out to celebrate and reflect on the past year, to celebrate our work, and successes, despite the challenges presented to us by Covid 19 and its many variants that swept through our world.

Congratulations to our re-elected and newly appointed Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of committees: Jerry Jackson, Teri Giannou, Kelly MacNeil, Barry Zwicker, and Lisa Allen.

A huge thank you to all of our outgoing Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of Committees recognizing your time and talent in the previous year(s) in various roles: Barry Zwicker and Fay Gunter (Council); Brian Moors (Program); Jerry Jackson (Community of Care), and Teri Giannou (Trustees). We look forward to working with you in your new roles.

We invite and encourage you to consider the many ways you can become involved at Woodlawn United, as it is always important to bring your unique perspective, creative talent, and your personal experience to offer to the many committees and small group ministries.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead.