



## Woodlawn United Church June 2020 Newsletter



As the Regional Councillor for the Woodlawn area, I am so thankful to have community leaders like Rev. Phillip Kennedy and Youth Minister, Shannon MacLean who have worked tirelessly to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of our families and youth. Your contribution will not be forgotten and we wish you the very best as you move forward and continue to love and serve your communities.

~ Tony Mancini, Halifax Regional Council

## FROM WOODLAWN UNITED M&P COMMITTEE



The members of the Ministry & Personnel Committee (Helen Dixon, Don Trider, Cathy Kay, Margo Macleod and Kevin McTaggart) would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about Rev. Phillip and Rev. Shannon. It has been a rewarding experience to have had the opportunity for us as a committee to work with both Phillip and Shannon who each bring a unique set of Ministering skills to Woodlawn.

We have been fortunate to have worked through some challenging times such as the recent Covid 19 virus which has taken Woodlawn into a whole new world of social media. Both Phillip and Shannon have mastered the modes of media tools extremely well to provide the congregation with ongoing prayers, sermons and devotionals which all take an enormous amount of work to create.

Both have been at Woodlawn for many years and have contributed to the growth of our church as it stands today. Phillip you have brought your teaching, preaching and your listening skills to all at Woodlawn. Shannon you have had such a positive impact on our Youth and have brought so much to the Youth program. We love you both for all your contributions. We can thank them both for the implementation of the inclusiveness of our church in welcoming all to our church family.

Phillip, we will miss your ongoing positive attitude and willingness to share the love of God in your sermons, and contributions to Woodlawn over the past 12 years. We wish you all the best in your next call of Ministry and please know you will be missed.

Shannon, we have shared in your journey to become an ordained minister and we are thankful for that and we are so proud of you. Your dedication and hard work are coming to fruition with the recent call to Ministry in Truro. Good Luck Shannon, we are going to miss your beautiful smile and tireless energy always present in everything you have done for Woodlawn.

Woodlawn has been blessed to have had the pleasure of both Phillip and Shannon as Ministers.

We are looking forward to getting together as a congregation to give you a proper send off, hopefully in the early fall.



I would like to wish Rev. Philip Kennedy and Shannon all the best as they move forward from Woodlawn United and continue their journey with faith. They will greatly be missed by the community, but I know that we are all excited for the new experiences that await them. May God always be in your life, bless you with health and happiness, and guide you to future success. *With regards, Tim Halman,*

*MLA Dartmouth East*



# A CONVERSATION WITH SHANNON MACLEAN

*Tell us a little about your calling into ministry? What was the poignant moment when you discovered this was your calling?*

Some people have a “mountain top” moment when they feel called to ministry. Their life takes a 360° turn. My experience was nothing like that. It was more like a typical road trip where you sometimes follow your GPS and take the quickest, most direct route. Other times you go the scenic route... and if you are me, you spend a considerable amount of time LOST but still enjoying the trip. Asking minister’s their call story is a typical question, but we ALL have call stories really. I have felt called by God to volunteer at l’Arche and then in an orphanage and prison in Bolivia. Those experiences profoundly changed my life and how I saw the world.



I felt called by God to being the best mum I can be. My family, as you know, was grown through adoption, birth, hosting international students... we are wonderfully diverse and believe that the more love you give away, the more you have. I was called to become a youth minister. I was called to Woodlawn. And then, one ordinary Tuesday evening, I was driving down the road when I “heard” the call to ordained ministry. It was unremarkable except for the immense feeling of peace that filled my body when I realized this was to be the next part of my journey. I have come to associate that feeling of complete peace, a peace I believe can only come from God, with the knowledge that I am on the right path. The

path has not always been easy, but God never promised it would be. And now, I am mixed with grief & excitement as I say goodbye to my Woodlawn family and begin a new ministry at St Andrews United in Truro.



*How do you live out your faith in Christ? What are some of your daily faith practices?*

There is a song in “More Voices” that we have used as a sung response to our offering. “*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours. Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.*” I believe we live out our faith by using our God given gifts to do the work of Christ in this world. We all share the same goal. We are working to make the world resemble the Kingdom of God: a world where the hungry are fed, where justice reigns and where love always wins. But HOW we work towards this goal is different. You just need to look around our congregation to see the diverse ways people are working to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. People working to keep the foodbank running (even in times of Covid-19), children decorating their windows with messages of gratitude for essential workers, people running errands for those unable to safely leave their homes, check-in phone calls being made, Woodlawn worship moments happening each day, and those of us who are essential workers doing the necessary work and the rest of us staying home in order to keep everyone safe!

Personally, I live out my faith by helping others build relationships with God and fighting for social justice in the world. I try to reflect the love of God in the world by working to live out the lyrics of another favourite hymn from MV. *"My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find; and takes me into places where I've never been before, and opens doors to worlds outside the lines."*



***In your decade at Woodlawn United, are there things you hoped to accomplish, and feel good knowing that they were? And what do you feel was left unaccomplished that you might have had more time to work on? What do you consider to have been sources of blessings in your role?***

The work of a youth minister is never done. A lot of people think that the goal of youth ministry is running great programs. And I am proud of many of the programs I have developed and run over the years. Some of these include Youth Retreats, creating a partnership with the CCRD in Cuba, prayer centres, Mystery Friends, the Santa Claus breakfast, Family Fun Nights, Tweens & designing a new Sunday School curriculum. However, programs are just a vehicle for doing ministry with children, youth and the greater congregation. So I count "accomplishments" as the relationships I have facilitated in building (or strengthening) between people and God firstly, but also between each other. Hearing young people speak about their faith and God brings me immense joy, and thinking that I was a small part of that makes me feel pretty

awesome! Watching young people blossom in their own ministry through being worship leaders is an amazing gift. Walking with youth as they find their niche as change-makers in the world is an honour. Seeing young adults remain connected for years and able to depend on each other because of the deep relationships they build during youth group is a reward beyond measure. Having people trust me with their grief and joy, exposing a small piece of themselves to me, is a blessing. *Accomplishments* is a strange word for ministry but I feel very blessed to have shared in ministry at Woodlawn for eleven years and I am sure the next youth minister & ministry team will bring their own gifts to continue this vital work.

***In what ways are the relationships different now than when you arrived, both in good times and in bad?***

During these eleven years we have accompanied each other through lots of milestones! I cannot overstate the honour it is to walk with people on their faith journey and be welcomed into these intimate moments. The relationships I have formed have helped me become the person I am today. Thank you. Thank you to the children who have made me laugh and cry. Thank you to the youth who text in the middle of the night, travelled with me and who allowed me to challenge them and struggle with them. Thank you to the parents who trusted me with your children. Thank you to the adults for conversations, visits and meals shared. Thank you all for your friendships. Once I heard a Monk at Nova Nada monastery say that we are all like rocks in the ocean tide, rubbing against each other and being changed by each other. But it is the rocks that rub you the WRONG WAY that rub you smooth. That always stuck with me. To those people who I rubbed the wrong way: I am sorry if I ever did anything to hurt you; that was never my intention. However, if it was the result, I hope you can forgive me. I bless you all on your future journey. I would not be who I am, or where I am today, had it not been for you.

***What advice do you have for the continued development of our youth?***

Dear future Woodlawn Youth Minister,  
As I am sure you know Youth Ministry is about so much more than fun and games. Youth today can get those needs met at a multitude of places. What we have to offer is something that they cannot get anywhere else! What we have to offer is learning about God. It is about learning to live a way that is not the same as the way our capitalistic, me-centred society leads us to believe. It is following the Way of Jesus! Of working to bring God's justice to earth, of loving our global neighbours as we love ourselves, of living in gratitude for all God provides and understanding that there IS ENOUGH for all when we all take only what we need and share the rest. We have this immense responsibility of teaching young people about another, "richer" way to live our lives. Of course, although the focus is not about fun and games... it is a great way to teach these lessons to people of all ages ;)

Youth are longing for community. Help them to be part of the larger congregation, while giving them a safe space of their own. Give them the tools to be the ministers they are called to be: a place to share their unique gifts and stretch their wings. Provide a safe space for them to be vulnerable, ask important (and not very important) questions, and a place to feel completely loved and accepted.

Love them. Love them fiercely and advocate for their needs, even when it is difficult. Even when it does not win you popularity contests. Tell them over and over that they are wonderfully made and God loves them COMPLETELY and UNCONDITIONALLY exactly as they are. That doesn't mean we can stop striving to be better... but no matter what... they are loved. And reflect that unconditional love of God on them in all you say and do. Be there for them. Be a person they can look up to and always count on.

Be inclusive, look for the good in each person and empower them to share it with the world.

Let your love colour outside the lines. And enjoy the abundance of blessings that will come to you from this important ministry.  
Love, Shannon

***As a newly ordained Minister, what are you most looking forward to in your new role?***

I am scared and excited about my move to Truro. It feels like a big adventure. Much will be the same as Woodlawn but also much will be different. Of course, being ordained comes with a new role and responsibilities (that I have been preparing for at Woodlawn during my Supervised Ministry Education) and I look forward to embracing these. Also, since Covid-19 has taught us a whole new way of being Church in the world, I am excited to see what practices we keep and how our traditional way of doing church evolves. St Andrews United has been without a permanent minister for three years and I know that has been very challenging at times. I look forward to working with them to see what part in God's mission we are called to work towards together.



***We have witnessed over the years your dedication and devotion to your family. Tell us about something you have always wanted to do, that once your kids are grown and gone, that you would like to tick off your bucket list.***

When Shelley asked me to answer these questions, I laughed and assumed she put in this one as a trick question! I do NOT want my children to be "grown and gone"! Grown of



course, I raised them to have roots AND wings! Originally it looked like Julia and I would be the only ones living in our BIG Truro house in the fall... and I did wonder if I should have down-sized. But, Covid-19 is changing all plans and it looks like we will have a very full house all summer and maybe into the fall! But one thing I have on my bucket list is to improve my Spanish! I used to be able to communicate effectively, not grammatically correct, but people knew what I meant! I have lost most of my ability. Technology has allowed me to reconnect with my Bolivian family a lot more and I am tired of not being able to have more than a VERY superficial conversation with them. So that is a goal!

### ***What will you miss the most about Woodlawn United?***

My Woodlawn family. For 11 years I had a covenant (holy promise) with you to be your minister. I was welcomed into your families and your lives. At the end of June, that covenant will end and I will no longer be your minister. I am not gonna lie, those words hurt my heart! But it is important that we acknowledge that change to free you to welcome, and get to know and love your new ministers. I will not be able to provide pastoral care for you, but I will hold you in my prayers. I will not be able to preside over your weddings, funerals, baptisms, but I will celebrate your milestones in my heart. I will not be leading you in worship, youth group, writing our Sunday School curriculum or running the mystery friends program... but I will rejoice as you journey on in your faith. But I will miss you. I will miss the laughter, the tears, the hugs, the handshakes, the cups of tea, the homemade drawings you made for me, the paint nights and prayer centers we shared together. I will miss our ministry. I will miss worshipping with you. You ALL hold a place in my heart.

It will be different to not be working with a ministry team, I have enjoyed working with Phillip over these past 11 years. He is a big part of my journey to expecting a call to ordained ministry. He is my mentor and I feel blessed every day to call him friend (*and of course Valerie too*). Mary Lynne and I got to know each other a little while at AST and then working together these last years. I think we have skills and gifts that complement each other and working with her has been a joy! When we look at the whole staff team at Woodlawn, I feel blessed. Ruth and I have gone through a lot of changes at Woodlawn, working together to keep the office up and running when we didn't have a permanent office administrator. Through it all Ruth kept her amazing outlook on life – I have learned so much about how to view the world from Ruth. When Shelley joined our team, she has worked to redefine the role and responsibilities of Office Administrator. She brings a skill set that any church should envy! And this past year adding Gus and Marlene to the worship team has been a gift to all who experience their ministry of music. I am going to miss you all so much! Keep being awesome. Thank you for leaving footprints on my heart.



*"Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same." ~Flavia Weedn~*

## IN MEMORIUM

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

Christian Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of the late Carl Armsworthy.

Christian Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of the late Jean Reage.

Christian Sympathies are expressed to the family and friends of the late Maude Welsh.

Christian Sympathies are extended to the family and friends of the late Bill Parker.

### GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

A Gift has been given to the Prayer Shawl Ministry in loving memory of Gail Smith, from Joan Mikkelsen.

A Gift has been given to the Accessibility Fund in memory of Kelly Watson-Schutz from Don & Vivian Hill.

A Gift has been given to the M&S Fund in memory of Hester Suppanz from Don & Vivian Hill.

A Gift has been given to the General Fund in memory of Elaine and Margie Prier from the Prier Family.

## REGULAR PROGRAMMING

All internal and external group programming remains suspended until further notice. We will keep you up to date when programming will resume.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us on Facebook Thursday through Sunday for Worship Moments.

Share in hymns, scripture, sermons, and prayer with Rev Phillip, Rev Mary Lynne, Shannon MacLean, Gus Webb & Marlene Nolet.  
[www.facebook.com/woodlawnunitedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/woodlawnunitedchurch)

## REVISED MINISTRY TEAMS PLANS IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC

Follow us on Facebook May 18 – June 21<sup>st</sup>:  
[www.facebook.com/woodlawnunitedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/woodlawnunitedchurch)

### DAILY WORSHIP:

Thursday: Musical Offering with Gus and Marlene

Friday: Story Time with Shannon

Saturday: Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer with the United Churches for Dartmouth, led by Rev. Phillip or Rev. Mary Lynne

Sunday: Scripture, Sermon, New Creed & Benediction with Rev. Phillip or Rev. Mary Lynne

### SPECIAL SERVICES:

May 31<sup>st</sup> is Pentecost, so please have something to eat and drink ready for our communion 10:00 AM worship moment.

June 7<sup>th</sup> will be a Youth & Sunday School led worship moment at 10:00 am on Facebook Live.

**June 21<sup>st</sup> is Phillip & Shannon's last day of Ministry at Woodlawn United so join us as we "Dream God's Dream."**

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sun. May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30 AM

Youth Group - Zoom with Shannon!

Sun. May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 1:00 PM

SS Zoom with Shannon

Wed. June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 PM

SS Circle & Story Time  
(Last of the season)

Sun. June 7<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 AM

YG Zoom with Shannon  
(Last of the season)

Sun. June 7<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM

SS Zoom with Shannon  
(Last of the season)

### MORE MUSIC:

Wednesdays @ 4:00 PM: Preludes with Gus

Fridays @ 4:00 PM: Virtual Sings with Gus

Note: the Mon-Wed Worship moments will not continue at this time as we prepare to move into summer.



# A CONVERSATION WITH REV. PHILLIP KENNEDY

*You are eligible for retirement. How has Ministry, or life in general, influenced you to continue your work?*

When I was younger, I always expected that when I hit 65 I would retire as other persons in my family did. However, a year ago during my Sabbatical, I spent quite a bit of time thinking about retirement and what I would do in it to give my life meaning in this last leg of my life and faith journey. (Everyone would like to think that their lives made a difference, at least in some small way, and as one gets older that little voice in your head gets louder). As I thought about what my skills and interests are, and where they intersected with the world's needs, I realized that for me, there was nothing I could do that was better than what I was already doing. I realized that unlike so many other folks that work to live and then enjoy their life outside of work, I really have been so fortunate in what called me for employment.



I love what I do. I find it meaningful and fulfilling. Ordered ministry is not only what I do, it's who I am. I get to live my life intentionally deepening relationships with God and with people and I really think that is what life is all about for any of us.

So., I decided that, as long as Valerie and I have our health, not to retire. My daughter reminded me of my own words "There is no such thing as part time ministry, only part time

pay", so I decided to begin discernment as to where God was calling me next.-. full time if possible or if not, at least part time.

I begin in the United Churches of Old Barns and Hilden, July 1<sup>st</sup> in the Truro area. At the time of writing, however, I'm not sure what "beginning" will mean!

*What are you most looking forward to at your new charge?*

Meeting and getting to know the people of the church and communities; developing a solid pastoral relationship; assessing my predecessors work and the pastoral charge's current needs and then empowering them as best I can for the mission and ministry to which we are all called by God in Christ.

*What successes have you experienced at Woodlawn that has helped to shape your journey in Ministry?*

Working collaboratively in team ministry (clergy and lay); thinking theologically about stewardship in all its aspects; not being a afraid to try things and fail; being a small part of the success of accessibility, solar panels, same sex marriage, home church and TGIT. Overall, providing caring, steady leadership which allowed other things to flourish around me.

*What skills come most naturally to you (in relation to Ministry)?*

I love people and naturally care about everybody, even those who don't resonate with me or my personality. I love to learn and help others learn, especially things that can help in reconciliation with God and others. I usually see the bigger picture and have passion for social justice as an essential component of the Kingdom. I'm a pretty good listener.



***What would you say are lessons you have learned about ministry from all of your experiences?***

I have been a minister in the United Church of Canada for 35 years and am constantly learning new things, mostly through my mistakes and reflecting on how to do things differently. Both respecting and questioning the traditions received are important. Listening to what people are really saying, thinking and feeling is important. Pacing oneself and realizing that one will never please everyone is important. And lots more....

***How do you stay current with new materials and new ideas in ministry?***

Listening to colleagues and seriously considering their excitements, reading and attending continuing education events; trusting mentors and listening to what they say and what they do; Trying to be open to new things

***You've spent a long time responding to the needs of others. Ministers spend a lot of time less focused on themselves as a person, and more focused on being a minister, counsellor, educator, etc., often at the expense of their own emotional or spiritual well-being. Where are you on that journey?***

Overall and over time, I keep a pretty good balance of JOY in my life; J- Jesus, O- Others Y- Yourself, not forgetting the Y. I find regular exercise a spiritual discipline and fun in Basketball. I am lucky to have God, colleagues and family to talk to who listen to my thoughts and feelings; chiro and massage are a regular part of my life. I have a regular morning spiritual discipline of reading the Bible, prayer and on line meditations.

***You read books for the joy of reading, and you teach what you have learned, effectively, through worship, bible study, relationships. Can you tell us about a book that has had great impact on you as a Minister? Do you have a favourite author?***

Over the years, I can track my own spiritual growth and development through the words and actions of particular mentors. In my undergraduate days, it was Dr. Perkin at Acadia in the department of Religious Studies and Dr. Roger Forsman. In Seminary, Dr. David Jobling and Dr. Ben Smiley helped stoke my passion for social justice. After Seminary, I have found Dr. Marcus Borg particularly helpful and clear when I was trying to understand my faith in a reasonable way and now Ched Myers is the one who is pushing me to deepen my discipleship. Ched's life of activism also is something I seek to emulate. I also have learned so much from the life and work of Shannon MacLean, who lives a life of justice and inclusive, compassionate discipleship for all people, including youth. Dorothy Day's Catholic worker communities also come to mind.

Particular books include "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time" and "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time", both by Marcus Borg and two by Ched Myers. The first one is on the Gospel of Mark and entitled, "Binding the Strong Man". The second is "Who will roll away the Stone?".

***How do you live out your faith in Christ? What are some of your daily faith practices?***

Bible study and prayer; reading and listening to the news and reflecting theologically on it; Acts of service and generosity; challenging religious and political ideas that keep the kingdom of God from coming. Resisting things that distract me from my purpose. And confession when I fail in these things.

***What has been truly life giving to you about your Ministry?***

Relationships with people who are trying to transform themselves and the world and the privilege of walking with them at special moments of joy and sorrow; a deep sense of meaning and purpose and that what I do contributes to something much bigger than me and is ongoing after I'm gone. Preaching-relating our story to the story of faith. Teaching- helping others see things differently.

***What is it that you deeply value about your faith and yourself?***

I am so thankful to have had a life changing first- hand experience of divine healing and a call to spread the good news of God's love professionally. This doesn't happen to everyone. I'm also fortunate to have had the means and ability to seek to understand this faith in a progressive way that makes sense. Not everyone has either the ability or means to do this. I have had great privilege and feel a great responsibility.

***When you think back over your time here, what do you think was your greatest success?***

Making at least some people think with discernment about their life and faith and removing for them barriers to the love of God; modeling collegial leadership; providing, for most of the time, a time of harmony and peace that allowed important projects like accessibility to advance because of it. The focus on the Kingdom of God.

***What will you miss the most about Woodlawn United?***

That's easy. I will miss so many people (staff and congregation) that I love and care about

and have had the privilege of walking with for over 12 years. You have changed me. I will never forget you.



***What's on your bucket list?***

That's a difficult one. I have lived the good and happy life for the most part. I could die now with few regrets about what I haven't seen or done. My only desire is to be a more faithful disciple of Jesus in word and deed.

Although, as I think more about it, I might like to go to Scandinavia- Norway or Sweden to see how their society is different from ours. I have always wanted to live more communally.

I also hope to build more relationships with First Nation folks and leave the world in a better situation than I found it. Not much else.

***Is there anything you would like to add that I haven't asked, above?***

Just that I wish you happiness and faithfulness in the years to come with your new staff complement. May Woodlawn United continue to make a difference in the lives of its members, the community and the larger world. May God bless you all!

## Endings and Beginnings

Dear Shannon and Phillip,

First, congratulations to each of you on your call to new ministry in the Truro area. And a separate congratulation to Shannon on your upcoming Ordination, whenever Covid-19 will allow it to take place. However, right now, our time as a ministry team is fast coming to a close. I'm sure there is a mixture of sadness and excitement for you both as this time at Woodlawn ends and your new ministries begin. For me, it's a time of sadness, for what we had as a team will be most difficult to replace, and as well, we can't celebrate you both as you deserve; with hugs, food, and wonderful fellowship, though we hope you will come back when Covid-19 allows, so we can do exactly that. It's a well-known fact that God calls us to different places and ministries and that is the most important factor in all of this. Listening for God's voice is the inspiration and guidance we need to continue what we've been called to do in Christ's name. And that's exactly what you're doing. May your time and individual ministries be blessed as you minister to others in your new Faith Community. And may you remember our work together as a wonderful experience, for we were a great team which got even better when we became friends. Thank you for three wonderful years as a ministry team at Woodlawn United Church.

Love and Blessings to you both, ~ Mary Lynne

Phillip and Shannon ~ it is difficult to say "*Au Revoir*" to both of you. You have been my spiritual leaders, leaders of our Woodlawn family and for me, personally, dear friends and colleagues. I wish you God's Blessings as your lives and those of your loved ones follow new paths and will always appreciate and never forget your love and friendship in my life and the lives of my family. ~ Love and God Bless, Ruth Boutilier



Phillip, it is with gratitude, we thank you for your many years of faithful ministry here at Woodlawn United.

Your commitment and support for Outreach projects was always welcomed and appreciated. May God continue to bless you in your ministry as you lead and guide your new congregations. ~ Yours in fellowship from the Outreach Committee

Phillip: On behalf of the Youth Committee, we want to thank you for being an example of how to be a peaceful, loving leader in the world. We thank you for the support of youth programming over the years. We appreciate every time you participated in Youth-led services and events with enthusiasm, and the way you've gotten to know the families, youth, and children in the church. We admire how you "draw the circle wide" in your life and teachings, and model the commitment to social justice we see in the Youth Programs. We are all better for your presence at Woodlawn and grateful for your call to be with us. We will miss you.



Shannon,  
The members of the Youth Committee would like to express our sincere gratitude to Shannon for her work with children and youth over the past 10+ years. It has become very clear that now, more than ever, we need to be the light of Christ shining in our own communities and beyond. Our world is hurting, but the love of Christ offers hope. The future of the United Church lies in the hands of our young people. Shannon has led a whole generation of Woodlawn youth in their faith journey. She has taught them about the power of God's love, the importance of inclusion, and how to be active participants in social justice. Shannon's strengths lie in her passion and in her ability to connect, inspire, and have fun with youth. Lives have been touched and forever changed because of this ministry. We are grateful for all of the ways in which this was done, through retreats, guest speakers, JLOW, trips to L'Arche, trips to Cuba, youth led worship services, mystery friends, youth group, tweens, etc. You have been a blessing to our youth and families, Shannon! Thank you!

Shannon and Phillip:

Where did the time go? This past year flew by so quickly. This is such an exciting opportunity for you, but I still can't believe you're leaving. It has truly been a privilege working with you these past few years, and has been the highlight of my time here. It's been an honour working with colleagues that really respect and care about each other. I am deeply grateful for the many kindnesses and unwavering support you've shown me over the past 4 years. But especially, thank you for the memories that we shared together. Your new colleagues are lucky to have you. Keep doing great things.

With love and admiration, ~ Shelley



DID YOU KNOW THAT your gifts to MISSION & SERVICE transform lives? You have made so many good things possible through your gifts: clean water projects in the Congo, Nicaragua, and Zambia; education and safe spaces for children around the world; food for people who are homeless in Canada; grocery gift cards and warm clothing for remote Indigenous communities; food, shelter, and education for displaced persons in Kenya, the Philippines, Colombia, and Jordan; a culture of peace in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East; and projects in reconciliation and Indigenous reclaiming of language and traditions – just to name a few!

Through your support of Mission & Service and "*Gifts with Vision*", you provide hope, both here in Canada and across the world. -- THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! If you have questions about Mission and Service, please contact Mary Osborne.



## UPDATE FROM CAMP KIDSTON

Because we at Camp Kidston put the safety of our campers foremost, we have decided NOT to offer our traditional overnight camps this summer. We know this will be sad and disappointing news for many of our campers, as it is for our Board and our summer staff. It is a decision we have made in close consultation with our church leaders and colleagues across Canada, based on the best information available from our Public Health officials.

At the same time, we know that the magic of camp is not about where we are, but about how we connect with each other in play, adventure, celebration, and song. For this reason, **we are very happy to tell you that Camp Kidston and 3 other UCC camps in the Maritimes (Sherbrooke Lake, TaWaSi and Abegweit) have joined together to offer faith-based recreational programming online:** a new way for us to join together, from the safety of home (see below for more information).

This is an exciting and challenging project which is being supported through funding from the United Church of Canada Foundation, Region 15, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, and the Outdoor Recreational Ministries group.

We know that many of our families have been very hard hit by the COvid-19 restrictions and for some, any fee may be a barrier. Our United Church community has been generous in the past in supporting our sponsorship fund and we invite any who are able to consider making a donation at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/3563>.

We continue to hold you and your congregation in our thoughts as we look forward to better days.

Yours in faith and camping ~ Kidston's Board of Directors

### **THIS SUMMER Join the Kidston CONNECTS Adventure!**

Kidston CONNECTS will allow campers from anywhere in the world to join together in the spirit of faith and community! Our trained staff will lead campers through interactive activities designed to help them stretch their imaginations, celebrate who they are, and share in some new adventures.

As an optional "add-on" to our Kidston CONNECTS activities, campers can sign up for an activity box, to be delivered to their home, with a week's worth of hands-on materials to keep them busy through the week.

**Kidston CONNECTS runs July 6-Aug 14. Registration opens June 1.**

Find more information at [www.campkidston.com](http://www.campkidston.com).

## FROM WOODLAWN UNITED STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Two years ago, nearly to the day, we talked about PAR during a Minute for Mission. This was the opening paragraph “Although you may not know it from the weather today, we have officially entered the season of summer vacations and cottage getaways. But I want to remind everyone that while we may be away from our regular ‘church-on-Sunday’ routine, the church is still here. And, it still needs our weekly offerings.” Things have changed in those two years, and many people now find themselves unable to visit their cottages this summer or are cancelling summer plans. As disappointing as that is, let us not lose site of the main message which is still very true: **the church is still here.**

With the efforts from the Woodlawn Ministry team and staff, we all learned that despite COVID-19 shutting down ‘business as usual’, Woodlawn is indeed still here for us. Through frequent videos and posts on Facebook, email communications, and Zoom and Facebook Live worship services, we have lived the words from Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” We are very blessed to have been able to continue our faith journey through worship, song, and prayers. While times are tough financially for a lot of people, now is the time to remember that for those who are able, financial givings are a joyful response to all our church has given us. There are still folks who can and want to give, and as stewards of the church, we want to give those people an opportunity to do so.

Here are the ways in which you can prayerfully and joyfully give back:

- PAR: This is an easy and convenient way to ensure your givings are received each month, through automatic withdrawals from your account. And remember, this is not a commitment that can’t be adjusted if your financial situation changes. Our Records Steward, Joan Mikkelsen, will add you to PAR, and can make any changes you need in the future, whether that means decreasing, cancelling, or increasing your givings. You can contact Joan at 902-435-6296 or [info@joanmikkelsen.com](mailto:info@joanmikkelsen.com).
- Drop-off: You can still give by dropping of an envelope into the large brown mail box by the front door of the church. Just lift the lid, and there is a large slot for your envelope. If you have any questions about how to drop off a cheque or cash, you can always call the office at 902-434-8302 and Shelley will be happy to help.
- Don’t forget your Lenten Bottle! If you collected change, or were planning to donate by cash or cheque, you can still drop off your bottle to the church by calling Shelley ahead of time and arranging a drop-off at the door.
- You can also give online at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) and search for Woodlawn United Church.

Phillip has been instrumental in teaching the committee and the congregation what Stewardship really means. We have given from our hearts, as both Phillip and Shannon have put their whole hearts into making Woodlawn what it is today. For that, we are so grateful and blessed. Words cannot describe how much we will miss them. Now it is our duty to keep their legacy alive and continuously grow our faith journey with our programs, services, and everything Woodlawn has offered and will offer. We cannot thank them enough for their unwavering leadership, guidance, and mentorship, and we wish them nothing but the best in the future.



## FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rev Phillip and Shannon:

As your ministry moves forward into other congregations I want say what joy it was to have shared the last seven years with you as Chair of Programme at WUC .

I am grateful for your faithful attendance, after a long day, at meetings of Worship, Outreach and CD committees always bringing guidance and creative answers to the many situations we faced. When, over the years, leadership didn't step forward in these committees, you quietly filled those positions and kept the wheels rolling forward.

I want to share gratitude for the interesting and creative programs you started at WUC that showed the breadth of Christ's call to us which includes Home Church, TGIT, Prayer Circles, Phil In The Blanks and Secret Pal Letters at Christmas to name just a few. How could one forget the Blanket Exercise or the Muslim lady who told us about her faith.

I want to share gratitude for your teaching and sharing "The Word" with us not only during sermons but in children's moments as well. We will never forget the youth teaching us about plastic bottles or making us face the "facts" about how we take care of our lawns. All great memories.

Lastly, I want to share my personal gratitude for your friendship, helping hand and advice when it was needed, and great discussions we have shared. They have enriched my life.

With Gratitude,

Brian Moors  
Chair of Programme Committee



*This is the last newsletter until September. Once the Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted, and we have an idea of what the fall calendar will look like, I will send out an email that includes all dates that are confirmed for activities and/or events including any start up dates for groups. In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the office. Our office hours remain the same.*

***Have a great summer. Stay Safe.***

## FROM WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL



To Shannon and Phillip:

As co-chairs of Council we would like to, on behalf of Council, extend our heartfelt congratulations to you both as you are soon about to move into a new phase of your professional careers. While we are happy for you both as you take on new and exciting opportunities and ventures, we are sad that your formal time with Woodlawn United Church is coming to a close.

We have shared many experiences together over the past decade and more. We have shared sad times as well as many, many happy times together and for that we are grateful and they will live on forever in our collective memories.

Since both of you first joined our congregation we have seen an evolution into a more Accessible facility as well as more Welcoming and Inclusive opportunities to worship together.

We will each have personal opportunities to convey our own unique congratulations and best wishes to both of you. We know that we speak, not only for Council, but indeed all of the congregation as we wish you both God Speed in your new journeys. We hope you know that you are both always welcome at Woodlawn United Church.

At this challenging time of a pandemic, it is, and will be, difficult we know to share a hug and more traditional expressions of love and friendship but we hope that such an opportunity will present itself to do so in the future as we ease into a new normal for us all.

Peace and blessings go with you both and your families.

Kathy Dean and Peter Woods,  
Co-chairs of Council

