

September Newsletter

Woodlawn United Church



WELCOME BACK!

From Ministry and Staff

With the temperatures cooling down in the evenings just slightly, and the morning routines back in place, it is a confirmation that we are nearing the end of summer. Like you, we're hoping for a bit of "normal" to return but also like you, we have no idea what these months ahead will hold. We know this is a time when people look forward to returning to Church, after a summer hiatus to their cottages, for inspiration and fellowship.

For the Ministry team and staff at Woodlawn United, this building has felt quite empty for the past 18 months. We have missed the sounds of praise in the Sanctuary, the voices of children and youth, the meetings of our own church groups and have missed our time together for fellowship. There's a saying we've heard over the past few months, and it's this; "we're in this together." The past year and a half has been quite trying, to say the least for all of us. So being in it together is a reminder that we are sharing in many of the same experiences and are still staying connected despite the pandemic. That's positive and hopeful.

This past month we have had several families return to in-person worship. We hope that you, too, will feel comfortable to return to worship this Fall so that we can once again rejoice together through scripture, hymns, and music, and through our time together in Fellowship. We look forward to welcoming you back when you're ready to return. For those who are not ready, we will continue to livestream from our Facebook page.

PRAYING FOR WOODLAWN

Woodlawn has entered a transition time. It will be a journey filled with listening for the Holy Spirit's guiding voice and prayerful discernment to help us determine the people needed and the ways we can fulfill Woodlawn's ministerial desires as presented in our Community of Faith Profile report. In your prayer time, either at home or work, please consider praying this prayer at least twice a week during our transition time. Prayer is a powerful tool, and even more so when we pray the same prayer together. We thank you for your time and support.

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 and honestly 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.

Transitional Ministry Message

Looking For Authenticity by Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner

Earlier in August I came across an article on relevantmagazine.com titled "Being Authentic Is More Than Just Being Honest." It was written by Stephen McAlpin, a minister in his 20's serving in California. He begins his article with the following:

Of all the things the millennial generation wants out of church, authenticity may be the most important... However, the quest for meaning isn't without its challenges. Authenticity itself is hard to define and—because of that—it's even harder to find in churches.

I believe McAlpin makes a good point, although I believe that it's not just millennials who are looking for authenticity. I believe there are people of all demographics who are looking for authenticity in this world -looking for what is real and true. This transitional time offers a chance for we of Woodlawn to see what is real and true about ourselves and hopefully become a more authentic church. A church where we can be true to others because we are true to ourselves, seek to be true before God and true to what we value both individually and as a community. It's about knowing who we are now and being so informed, work on the Transitional goals, be intentional in our decision making and the kinds of ministries and programs we find meaningful and important. It's the kind of work necessary to be an inside-out kind of church that offers the community around us an outward expression of our inward faith.

It's not always easy to name our authentic values. Sometimes we may name values we wish were true about ourselves, but those are often "aspirational values" and not "authentic" ones. It can take time to name those values that truly motivate our behaviour, inform our decision making and express who we truly are before others. They are the values revealed in the choices we make. Knowing our core values help us to establish our starting place and locate "who" we are and the "why" of our actions. As one expert I read puts it, "You really are who you really are" and this Transitional time offers us some time to discover who we really are as a church.

Earlier this summer as an important initial task of this transitional work, members of Woodlawn were asked by the Transition Team to name some personally held values that connect to the life of the church.

The Transition Team also appreciates that discerning these values can take time, "that authenticity can be hard to define," and wants you to know there is still time to send in your list of three or four values either via email or in writing.

For those who would rather do this work as a part of a larger group, there will also be some online and in person group events that will also seek further input from our Woodlawn family beginning in September.

The Transition Team wishes to thank those individuals who have already completed the exercise that has allowed us to hear from you and share some of the values you hold. So far we have heard about values such as empathy, growth, community, compassion, outreach, justice, kindness and so on. As we hear from more of you, we expect there will be other values to add to the list. We also know that some values are connected. Values like compassion, empathy and kindness, or community and relationship, or justice and fairness. Hopefully as our list grows the Transition Team and Woodlawn United Church will be even better equipped to do the important work of this Transitional time.

KINDRED SPIRITS

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

For widows looking to connect with others in similar circumstances, these groups were created to help you make that first step of making new friends an easy one. We are here to understand this journey together, talk, share, dream, and embrace life positively and live our best life. Have you lost a loved one and not sure how to navigate your new world without them? Join us and find comfort in knowing you are not alone. Kindred Spirits meets monthly in Room B at the Church. For more information, contact Shelley or Ruth in the office.(902) 434-8302. They will connect you with this group.



The Transition Team "Save the Dates"

Saturday, September 18th: 8:30AM-

10:00AM, "Prayer Walk and Talk" This will be a time when we will gather at the church for a coffee and muffin, re-connect, walk our church property together, consider our shared ministry and express our gratitude and hope for the work we have done and the work we get to do together as Woodlawn United Church. Please RSVP through the Church Office by email: office@woodlawnunited.ca or call (902) 434-8302.

Friday morning coffee time with Rev. Dale 10:30am-12:00pm via Zoom on **September 10, 17 and 24**. The number of participants will be limited to 15 each week. Please email Rev. Dale your preferred date and he will send you the Zoom invitation.

Sunday, October 17TH: Following Worship, "Open Space" This is a time when people are invited together to share, to learn and dream a little. A time to discover our passions and how we can support one another in ministry we share at Woodlawn United Church.

Further details regarding these events will be provided when we have a better idea as to what Covid-19 protocols will be in place as we move through the end of summer and into the fall. The Transition Team does not expect you to attend every event, but does seek to provide different ways for members of WUC to participate as we journey through this time together.

ANIMAL POLICY

Did you know that Woodlawn United Church has an Animal Policy? Woodlawn United Church accepts that God created animals and they are an invaluable part of our created world. We acknowledge the importance of pets in the lives of many people. Woodlawn United is also required to adhere to health and safety standards regarding animals and the presence of food service, as well as recognizing that many are sensitive and/or allergic to pet fur, dander, etc., and that some people have fear of some animals which may prevent the enjoyment that animals offer. Therefore, it is only under certain circumstances that animals are permitted in the church buildings. Service animals fall into this exception. As well as during a special worship service that is for the blessing of animals. All other exceptions will require the approval of council and/or the Ministerial team.

RENTAL GROUP RETURN

Woodlawn United would like to welcome their groups back for the Fall and Winter of 2021/2022. The past year and a half had taken a big bite out of our community group's time together. We are pleased to welcome them back to Woodlawn United Church. Starting in September are the following groups:

- Scouts Canada
- Girl Guides of Canada
- NS Woodcarvers Association
- Mayflower Quilter's Guild (NEW)
- New Horizon's Band
- AA Sunrise Group

Coming Soon: Pending Covid 19 outcome, the following groups will rejoin us in 2022.

- Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism (Tai Chi)
- Al Anon

ADVERTISING POLICY

Do you have a business you would like to advertise? In May of 2021, Woodlawn United Church Council approved the *Woodlawn United Church Monthly Newsletter Advertising Policy*.

The purpose of this policy is to allow for external advertising in the monthly newsletter, by way of paid advertising. This is to ensure that any and all submissions, including advertising, meets with the Values, Ethos, and Guidelines of Woodlawn United Church. The policy was developed using a priority scale to ensure that advertising opportunities would be used to fill space, and that they do not oppose our ethos or values.

For instance, the current advertisement on the last page of the newsletter is that of our Office Administrator's husband's real estate business. Real Estate is not in opposition to our Ethos or Values, and has been an accepted category of advertising of the United Church of Canada.

We welcome hearing from our congregants and friends. If you are a small business, and would like to propose an advertisement in our newsletter, please contact Shelley in the Office.



Volunteers are still needed in the following areas:

Tech Support: Woodlawn United is looking for tech savvy individuals to help with Sunday worship (and a few other services through the year). It's one of the best places in the church for people with more technical minds and skills to put their time and talent to good use! This individual would have a comfort level around software, hardware, and Audio/Visual equipment (run the sound board and screen projection for video, etc) as well as computer files. This role is typically not demanding, with a need of just a few hours per week (on average). Because this is a shared role, our tech team members take turns running the show. If you're tech savvy (or willing to learn), creative, and organized, please reach out to Paul Whyte at epaul.whyte@gmail.com

Sunday School: Do you have a little free time to offer? Woodlawn United Church is seeking a volunteer Sunday School Superintendent. The role of the SS Superintendent is to plan for the general administrative, curriculum, and ministry needs and goals of Sunday School programs. This role will work closely with the Sunday School and Youth ministry teams, and will require a minimal weekly/monthly time commitment. Lisa Allen invites all those may be interested to contact her at (902) 292-1382 or lisa.allen@dal.ca so that she can share more details about this important role. Thank you.



DUN-GEN CLOTHING DEPOT

Second Hand and sometimes New! The Dun-Gen is very pleased to announce it will officially re-open on Thursday September 9th. We are fully stocked with gently loved clothing and other household goods, for your browsing enjoyment. Join us

in our new location (lower level of the Heritage Centre - formerly the youth space) on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 am—12:00 pm. We look forward to serving you, with all of the Covid 19 guidelines in place for your protection and ours. We welcome your donation of gently used clothing. (Clothing only at this time).

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH CLEAN-UP PARTY

There will be a Clean-up party at Woodlawn United Church on **Friday, September 10th from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.**
Lunch will be provided.

We hope that you all will be able to come and lend a hand to the various jobs.

Please email or call Teri Giannou to let us know if you are available so that we can plan for lunch numbers and allocate jobs.

Thanks, Jim & Teri
On Behalf of the Trustees
tgiannou@herculesslrc.com



Woodlawn United Church's FALL CRAFT AND VENDOR SALE

The Tabitha Unit of Woodlawn UCW is pleased to announce that The Fall Craft and Vendor Sale will take place on October 23rd. 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Admission is \$2. We have many new and returning vendors.

We are keeping a very close eye on the COVID regulations and all regulations will be followed.

This is a great way to kick off your Christmas shopping! Grab a friend, and come on down. If you have any questions please contact Beth Udby at 902-434-4565.

WOODLAWN IS HIRING

Woodlawn United Church is currently looking to hire a Youth Coordinator. The Youth Coordinator plans and implements elements of a ministry that seeks to help youth of Woodlawn United make steps on their journey in faith. This person organizes and oversees the implementation of program activities that are designed to guide youth through various life and spiritual issues facing them, establishes and fosters relationships with young people in the congregation as well as between young people and the rest of the congregation. They provide a safe, nurturing and fun place for young people to grow in self, friendship, faith and community. They work as part of the Ministry Team in the development of the pastoral charge with a focus on Youth and Young Adults. For more information or if you know someone who may be interested please contact Lisa Allen (lisa.allen@dal.ca). Thank you.



UCW ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

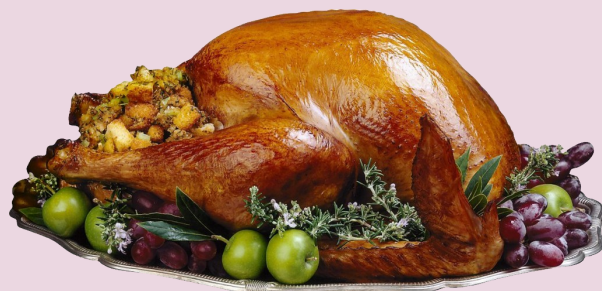
Woodlawn United Church UCW Take out
Turkey Dinner on

Saturday, November 13, 2021.

Tickets will be on sale late September.

Stay tuned for more information.

to come soon!



FRIENDS OF ACCESSIBILITY NEWS

We are approaching the fall with cautious optimism beginning with a takeout only chowder (see details below). We want to make this event as safe, simple and speedy as possible. To that end we will be following all covid protocols in place at the time. By mid-September we will advise how orders may be placed, picked up and paid for. We know that the cost of most of our ingredients have advanced. For this chowder we will hold the \$10.00 price and then decide on the future price after we determine our new cost.

This will be a sad time for our team as we have lost several members and customers since our last chowder. Malcolm Morash and Bert Dickey are the team members lost recently and our greatest supporter, Wayne Harrett of Seaside fm passed away recently.

We hope to return to our Country Classic shows in October. We look forward to a return to fun, food and most importantly - fellowship. - Ralph Sams



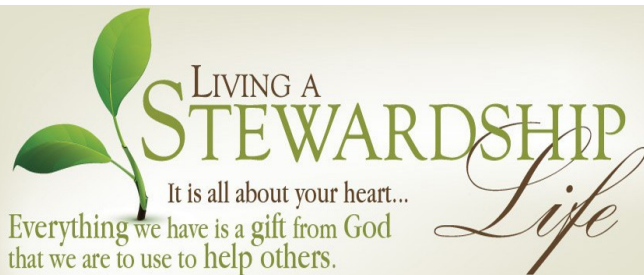
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
It's Back!!! By Popular Demand!

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

WOODLAWN'S FAMOUS CHOWDER LUNCHEON \$10.00

Will be served **TAKE OUT STYLE ONLY**

Woodlawn United knows Chowder!! Hosted by Friends of Accessibility.



TIME, TALENT, TREASURE

There are so many ways and opportunities to be involved and engaged in your Church community. You probably won't be able to do all of these, nor should you. Therefore, if one ministry doesn't suit you well, there may be others you would like to try where you can excel in service.

With Fall right around the corner, this is a great time to think about getting involved, being busy, spending time with friends, getting to know new people, and helping out your church where it is needed most. Here are some ways you can offer your time, talent and treasure in the ministries of Woodlawn United Church.

Be a Sunday Greeter or Usher
Pastoral Care

Widows and Widowers Clubs
Card Ministry or Gardening
Cook for Those in Need
Trustees / Maintenance
A/V (Tech Team)

Can you carry a note? Join the Choir
Dartmouth East Christian Food Bank
Teach or help at Sunday School

Can you peel a potato? Chowders could use you!
Youth (This is important work)

Couples Club or Committee Work
(Ministry and Personnel, Admin and Mgmt, Outreach,
Trustees, Stewardship, etc)

United Church Mission & Service
UCW, UCM (United Church Men and Women)
AND MORE!!! There is something for everyone!
Interested? Start here: 902-434-8302

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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



MISSION & SERVICE

Transforming Lives 96 Years On:

TRUE OR FALSE? The United Church of Canada was formed in 1925 in part so the founding denominations – Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational – could combine their finances to do more mission work in Canada and around the world?

If you guessed true, you are right. From the very beginning, our United Church was formed out of a desire to come together and serve others like Jesus did. Through M & S, we have been helping to save and transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world for 96 years. Today we are as committed as ever. Together, we turn compassion into action every day. How? To put it simply, we help.

In Canada, we help people in need by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens, and refugee programs. We reach out to young people on campuses and through camping. We care for people who are sick or at the end of life by supporting addiction, mental health, and counselling services and hospice care.

Globally, we help people access clean water, food, and medical care. We support skills training and economic development. We help with peace-making and sustainable agriculture efforts. We provide disaster relief and advocate for the rights of those who all too often don't get a way, like children and migrant workers. We also support opportunities for people to grow spiritually in all kinds of ways.

Locally, we subsidize theological schools and education/retreat centres. We support events that promote spiritual development and personal reflection. We inspire new and innovative ministries, and sustain communities of faith that are remote or in need. Globally, we support church organizations that work with theological schools, offering practical training in agriculture and health.

It is a win-win. We trust that when people are in tune with their meaning and purpose, they will naturally want to help change lives and make the world a better place for all.

Thank you for your gifts through
MISSION & SERVICE.
Your support makes a world of difference.

Submitted by Mary Osborne,
Mission and Service Coordinator, WUC