

Streetsville United Church

Spring Tidings 2023



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www.streetsvilleunited.ca



CALENDAR

Sunday Services **10 am**

Services in person and streaming

April 2 **Palm Sunday**
Holy communion

April 6 (7:00 pm) **Maundy Thursday**

April 7 **Good Friday**

April 9 **Easter Sunday**
Easter Celebration Service

April 23 **Pathway Sunday**

May 7 **Holy Communion**
Volunteer Recognition

Sunday services listed above can be viewed on YouTube via the website at www.streetsvilleunited.ca under the Worship tab

Maundy Thursday – April 6 7:00 pm

A gathering in the Fellowship Lounge with Rev. Joe commemorating the Washing of the Feet and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.

Good Friday Breakfast – Friday April 7 8:30 - 9:45

in the auditorium before worship; in continuing support of Pathways. Good Friday service to follow at 10:00 am.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

What does the renewal of life look like? What images of renewed life come to your mind? Do you think of buds on trees or the short stems of crocuses in early spring? What about birds' nests with hatchlings or newborn fawns, cubs, and pups? Or maybe baseball players and other athletes taking to the outdoors again?

I am so glad that we in the northern hemisphere have these images of renewed life that accompany our holiest day in the Christian calendar—Easter! For many people Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday is hard to imagine let alone believe. After all, how many of us have loved ones who have died whom we long to see alive again? Why can't our loved be resurrected like Jesus all those years ago?

Those serious questions deserve serious theological answers, and I would be happy to discuss them with you if you wish. However, resurrection is more than simply the dead rising again, and Easter is more than just one Sunday! Easter is a season—*Easter tide*, as the church is wont to call it. Resurrection means that sin and death and corruption do not win; instead, love and justice and life have the victory! Can I get an *alleluia*?

I encourage you, therefore, to look for the renewal of life. Witness to the victory of love and justice and life through the ordinary things of the season and open yourself to the possibility of renewal of life in *extraordinary* ways, too! Throughout the season of *Easter tide* we will be worshiping with the theme of "Witnesses to Life Renewed." I hope and pray that as you worship with us, help us with garage sales, and simply enjoy life with us that you will experience a renewal of life for yourself, your loved ones, and our whole community.

Peace,

Rev. Joe



FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship at Streetsville United Church has maintained its strong commitment to growing our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our enthusiastic and engaging Minister, Rev. Joe Hopkins has inspired participation in Sunday Services and introduced powerful reflective elements of liturgy.

While looking ahead; in the spirit of "new Spring beginnings", we pause to offer gratitude to Anna Loughlin, retiring Chair of Worship, for the many years of leadership provided to this committee. Thank you, Anna, for your conscientious attention to the practical responsibilities of worship and our spiritual reverence of faith.

As a creative and collaborative faith leader, Reverend Hopkins is partnering with our "new" Music Director, Michelle Chung to coordinate thought provoking sermons and songs to honour and praise God in this holy season of Lent and Easter. If you have not yet attended a Maundy Thursday service, hold a place in your calendar for Thursday April 6th.

The Worship Committee is grateful for the formal and informal support of many members in our congregation to serve on the Welcome Team, assist with the Holy Sacraments and oversee the technical operations of our sound system and internet presence. If you want to enhance your spiritual and cognitive health, consider joining the Welcome Team or the Audio-Visual Team. Training is provided and flexible schedules are honoured. Please contact Antoinette Clarke macann@rogers.com or Wendy Dowling wlkw@sympatico.ca if you would like to know more about this genuine invitation.

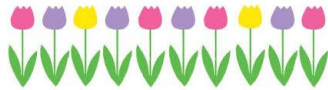
The members of the 2023 Worship Committee (Sheila Wilson, Katie Powell, Kim Perrin, Heather Drew, Megan Sweetman, Antoinette Clarke and Wendy Dowling) are thankful for your prayers and input in our service to the church community.

God Bless



Welcome Michelle Chung!

Streetsville United welcomed Michelle Chung as our new Music Director! Michelle is well versed in both piano and organ music, and is looking forward to supporting Rev Joe, the choir and the Worship Team in developing an exciting music program.



Streetsville United cares!



Whether by supporting team Streetsville United financially or fundraising and walking for the Coldest Night of the Year on Saturday Feb. 25th, Streetsville United proudly showed its support of The Dam Meadowvale, to the tune of \$4,740. Thank you. The generosity was outstanding!

Here is most of team Streetsville United gathering as we began our 5k walk.

Sew Powerful Purse Ministry

Several women in the congregation are sewing crossbody bags for this ministry that is aimed at keeping teenage girls in Zambia in school even when they have their periods. Local women sew reusable sanitary products that are put into these bags and given to the girls. Women around the world are sewing these bags using a pattern from the Sew Powerful ministry. Over 94,000 bags have been distributed since 2011. I have the pattern and instructions if anyone would like to participate. We would like to send a number of them (we already have about 20) by early October.



For more information see www.sewpowerful.org

Wendy Johnson - wendyejohnson@yahoo.com

Church Council

Council meets in the Fellowship Lounge on the second Tuesday of each month. Our discussions are open where all members of Council can participate and contribute to all discussions. Council extends an open invitation to **all members** of Streetsville United Church to attend and participate if desired. A request for an agenda can be made to me via email.

Neil Beattie, Church Council Chair

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUN. MAY 7 & BBQ LUNCH

In recognition of the many volunteers who keep our church alive, active, and viable, it has been suggested and approved by council that we have a special day to acknowledge these volunteers.

The service on Sunday May 7 will focus on "service" and its role in Christian life and the church. It will be followed by a barbeque lunch in appreciation for all the volunteers and their service to SUC.

We are thankful for the many individuals who work fervently to keep our church operating, not only for the many aspects that comprise a Sunday service but those that are busy throughout the week supporting our congregation, community, and our ageing building.

As this includes almost all our congregation, we invite everyone to join us on May 7 to celebrate together and acknowledge the importance and value of all volunteers.

Has Any of Your Contact Information changed?

If any of your information has changed (address, phone, email), please let Kelly in the office know. We need up to date information for tax receipts, Tidings, etc. Call the office 905-826-1542 or send an email to info@streetsvilleunited.ca



The Audio Team is **looking for help** to run the audio board Sunday mornings particularly over the upcoming months as both Ken Boulton and David Moase will be away for the summer as of early May. Training will be provided, and the team is developing a "Quick Guide" to help streamline the process and make it easier for one operator, while still maintaining an online presence for those who are unable to attend live worship. Please reach out to Ken Boulton, David Moase or Wally Bridel if you are able to help.



Appearances can be deceiving!



This photo may look like all is well, but recently the Fellowship Lounge experienced a major leak....and it was no small repair project.

A dedicated team of our volunteers worked for many hours on a solution, including fans to dry the carpet and installation of new piping.

This welcoming meeting spot is a treasured room, and we sincerely thank the following men for the expertise, time, and effort they provided: Peter Mara, Bill Powell, Ken Poulsen, Doug Hitchcock

UCW NEWS

It has been a busy few months for all of the UCW units. All 3 units continue to meet once a month and provide food for funeral receptions if needed. Joy Givers has changed their meeting time to the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm. The Friendship Circle continues to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month and the Sunshine Circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month, both at 1 pm.

SUC celebrated UCW Sunday during the worship service of January 22 and the executive for this year was inducted. The units provided displays at the coffee hour to demonstrate what our outreach projects are and who they help. The congregation was interested in what we have been doing this year. Cake was also served with the coffee and enjoyed by all.

The World Day of Prayer was held at our church on March 7th at 7:00 pm. It was well attended by other neighbouring churches as well. The service was provided by the Inter-Church Council of Canada and included a video and writings by the women of Taiwan, the featured country. Women from Taiwan introduced us to their culture and needs. Donations were collected to give to the Council of Canada which distributes the money raised to Taiwan and other countries in need. After the service there was a reception in the Heritage Hall which everyone enjoyed, especially the sorbet and tropical fruits. A picture show of Taiwan was shared from a trip there by Cathy and Doug Hitchcock. Many thanks to Nadean Harley for organizing the event and to Katie Powell for arranging the wonderful reception.

The Spring Dinner event will be held on Tuesday April 25th at 6:00 pm. The theme for the evening will be: "From Women With Love." Our guest speaker will be Kacie Hopkins who is working on her PhD at York University where she is studying socialization among women, women entrepreneurs and working with a variety of textiles. We welcome all women of the congregation to attend and bring a friend for what will be an interesting evening.

Finally, please **SAVE THE DATE for the next exciting Harvest of Crafts sale October 28**. We are planning another outstanding event so please plan to attend and until then, spread the word and invite friends and neighbours!



Fresh Start

The United Fresh Start program has been designed to support both ministers and congregations in a new calling. Because "change" can be difficult the program includes 24 modules or topics of discussion which can ease the transition which may take up to 2 years. SUC has been positive in its response to this program with over 30 participants at the first two sessions.

Session 1 – "Transition" – this module focused on understanding the difference between Change and Transition. Participants included both council members and non-council members who were in agreement that we have strong group relationships that can work together to build and nurture fundamental building blocks necessary to move forward. It was felt that non-council members wish to have a part in decision making.

Session 2 – The Art of Dialogue – this session discussed when and why dialogue should happen and its' purpose. The guidelines for effective dialogue were outlined and applied in a practice situation. The group summary concluded that more dialogue is needed, more listening is needed, decisions are not required as a part of dialogue, open mindedness and respect are required, disagreement is not a rejection of another's opinion and open-ended questions are an important component of dialogue.

Session 3 – Entering a New System – March 28 – this session is to help participants understand that communities of faith are living systems and that the way new people enter the system can have a substantial impact on their ministry.

The next sessions will continue in the fall. All are welcome!

Finance Report



The Annual General meeting was held in February and passed a budget for 2023 that has a deficit of almost \$35000. Fortunately, we had a surplus of \$27000 in 2022 which will help to fund the deficit this year but this is not sustainable long term. We are committed to supporting and maintaining our rental income while keeping expenses to a minimum. The church has been given the tools that the congregation has said are necessary to make us viable – a full time minister and a part-time music director. We now need your help!

1. Give as you are able – PAR, etransfers, Canada Helps, cheque or cash donations - have you increased your donations within the last year?
2. Help bring people back to church – encourage those who have not yet returned, invite new families and friends to join us.
3. Support fundraising activities – garage sale, Macgregor meats, craft sale and anything else that may come along.

We are ALL responsible for the church finances – the Finance Committee will keep you informed as to where we stand. Below you will see a chart showing the numbers to date. At this point we have a deficit of \$11000 after 2 months. The deficit should be \$3000/month to be in line with the budget. Reasons for the large discrepancy are due to low receipts, increased personnel expenses, and the pastoral charge fee which has been paid this quarter. The goal is now to increase receipts and other income while keeping expenses to a minimum, in order to reduce the deficit. What can you do to help?

Please see table below.

Streetsville United Church - Income Statement YTD Feb 2023 vs YTD Feb 2022 and Budget

| | Actual YTD February | | | 2-month Linear Budget | | Annual 2023 Budget |
|--|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | Variance | YTD | Variance | |
| REVENUE | | | | | | |
| Envelope Offerings - General, Initial, Special | \$ 22,595.30 | \$ 20,831.94 | \$ 1,763.36 | \$ 26,750 | \$ (4,155) | \$ 160,500 |
| Loose Offering, Canada Helps UCW | \$ 2,141.87 | \$ 1,524.13 | \$ 617.74 | \$ 3,100 | \$ (958) | \$ 18,600 |
| Facilities Rental - Total | \$ 8,130.00 | \$ 9,980.00 | \$ (1,850.00) | \$ 10,550 | \$ (2,420) | \$ 63,300 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$ 2,876.87 | \$ 1,314.26 | \$ 1,562.61 | \$ 1,750 | \$ 1,127 | \$ 10,500 |
| Total Operating Receipts | \$ 35,744.04 | \$ 33,650.33 | \$ 2,093.71 | \$ 42,150 | \$ (6,406) | \$ 252,900 |
| OPERATING EXPENSE | | | | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 26,041.36 | \$ 21,811.70 | \$ 4,229.66 | \$ 28,450 | \$ (2,409) | \$ 170,702 |
| Operating Church home | \$ 14,598.49 | \$ 13,738.21 | \$ 860.28 | \$ 13,997 | \$ 602 | \$ 83,980 |
| Other Operating Expenses | \$ 6,323.75 | \$ 2,911.76 | \$ 3,411.99 | \$ 5,531 | \$ 792 | \$ 33,188.00 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$ 46,963.60 | \$ 38,461.67 | \$ 8,501.93 | \$ 47,978 | \$ (1,015) | \$ 287,870 |
| NET INCOME - SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | \$ (11,219.56) | \$ (4,811.34) | \$ (6,408.22) | \$ (5,828) | \$ (5,391) | \$ (34,970) |
| OUTREACH / BENEVOLENT FUND | | | | | | |
| Outreach Receipts | \$ 3,343.36 | \$ 3,022.72 | \$ 320.64 | \$ 3,967 | \$ (623) | \$ 23,800 |
| Outreach Disbursements | \$ 4,554.11 | \$ 4,550.77 | \$ 3.34 | \$ 3,967 | \$ 587 | \$ 23,800 |