

Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge

Christmas Newsletter 2023

Minister's Message

One truth I have learned over the years is that God opens doors of opportunities, service, and blessings for us to walk through. But the divine healer also closes doors...and if He closes one door, He will eventually open another one. As 2023 comes to an end, no doubt many doors have been swung open throughout the year and doors have also been closed.

Whether it be a door of opportunity, a door of service, a door of relationship, a door of fruitfulness, a door of usefulness, a door of friendship, a door of faith, or a door of a new beginning let us ask God to give us the wisdom to close the doors that need to be closed; to give us the courage to go through newly opened doors and the patience for new doors to open. While waiting for a new door to open, being patient is the key. Prying a new door open often leads to miscommunication, frustration and hurt. As the New Year approaches, let us pray for the wisdom to know the difference. God's will is unfathomable. Only God knows the reason doors open and close. Some doors are not meant to stay open forever, others, but only for a season.

As the New Year rises like the sun on a new morning, may God show each of us new opportunities which will bring us new and fresh blessings, new beginnings, and new starts to be effective servants for Christ. And if God closes a certain door, let us not be disheartened, but wait patiently, looking for a new door to open. We can push and shove as hard as we can against a door God has closed, hoping it will open again for us, and in the process miss the new open door that awaits us. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, once stated, "When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."

Revelation 3:8 reads, "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." My prayer is that you will walk so close to God in 2024 that your spiritual eyes will recognize such doors and that you'll have the courage to walk through them.

Blessings in the New Year!

Rev. Valerie Vande Wiele

Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge News

Thank You Reverend Valerie

On behalf of the Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge Ministry Personnel Committee, I would like to express my deepest Thankfulness to Rev. Valerie who will be leaving our Congregation on December 20th. We would like to thank her for her leadership, her compassion and most importantly for her ministry. Reverend Valerie will be deeply missed in our churches and in our community, we wish her the very best in the next chapter of her life. And we hope she will keep us in her thoughts and prayers as we move to the next Chapter in our church life.

With love,

Jennifer Crewson, Chair of Ministry Personnel

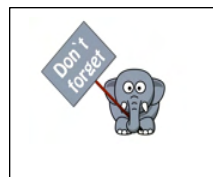


Please help our Pastoral Charge by donating toilet paper to support the Christmas Hampers.



Deadline for collection is Sunday, December 10th.

To have a contribution to your church Included in the 2023 fiscal year, please, ensure the treasurers have your contributions *before December 31st, 2023.*



Trinity United Church News

You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late---Ralph Waldo Emerson

Trinity United Church council meets on the second Tuesday of each month except for July and August. The Council met on Tuesday, September 12th and Tuesday, October 10th.

On Sunday, October 22 there was a Congregational meeting to discuss the request from Primrose United Church. Paula Cameron chaired the meeting. Karin Klouman and Sabine Rohner-Tensee from Primrose United Church attended the meeting to talk about what their vision was if the two churches amalgamated. After their presentation they left and there was discussion amongst the members in attendance and then a vote on whether or not to enter discussions on amalgamation with Primrose United Church. The results of the vote were heavily in favour of entering discussions to amalgamate. Amalgamation committees from Primrose and Trinity United Church will be formed to discuss an agreement. Paula Cameron, Shelley Doney-Sutcliffe and Ed Crewson will be the representatives from Trinity United Church on the amalgamation committee.

Sunday, November 26th will be the first Sunday of Advent at Trinity.

Sunday, December 3rd will be Communion.

Trinity United Church choir has taken the lead on planning the Christmas Eve Service. Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 24th. **There is no 11am service and the Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:30pm.**

The next few weeks will be a very busy time for many people. This is also a reflective time as we end one year and look forward to new beginnings in the New Year. This has never been truer for Trinity United Church as we say good-bye to 2023 and start an amalgamation process with Primrose United Church and work through the process of having a new minister. The Christmas season and all of these changes can also bring on much stress and anxiety of the unknown, so it is more important than ever to show patience and kindness to one another during a busy, exciting, stressful and joyous time of the year.

On behalf of the Trinity United Church Council, we wish everyone, Peace, Joy, and Love during the Holiday Season and into the New Year!

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Morrow

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible ---- The 14th Dalai Lama



Trinity is supporting the
2023 Christmas Hamper Program
by donating **toilet paper**.

Please bring your donations to the church and place them in the front pews. Donations can be made up until and including **Sunday, December 10th**.

The objective is to collect a mountain of donations for our fellow neighbours during this holiday season!

Bring on the toilet paper!
Best Wishes! Paula Cameron

Report from our Trinity Collaboration Committee

Shelley Doney and Ed Crewson are the appointed representatives of Trinity United Church, Shelburne, to a Collaboration Committee of the Shelburne-Primrose Pastoral Charge, whose mandate is to seek and explore opportunities to collaborate with other neighbouring congregations to chart a path forward for our congregation.

We held a congregational meeting in which we presented our current challenges and we sought and received input on what services provided currently by Trinity United Church are deemed essential as we seek collaboration opportunities with other congregations.

Our first outreach initiative was to invite representatives of Dundalk United Church to a meeting at Trinity and this meeting was orchestrated and facilitated by Rev. Ann Harbridge. The outcome did not prove fruitful since Dundalk has decided to continue in its current independent path.

Having been directed by Trinity Council to reach out to neighbouring congregations at High Country United Church in Camilla and Trinity Centennial United Church in Rosemont, emails outlining our mission were sent to each congregation. An immediate response was received from the congregation at High-Country and we met with their representatives on October 24th along with representatives from the Primrose United Church Collaboration Committee. The outcome of that meeting was very positive with the representatives of High-Country United Church asking us to submit to them a proposal of how we can collaborate with them. Specifically, we were asked to include in our submission our Ideal Vision of how that collaboration will take place. What is our most Feasible Vision and what is our Minimum Vision for collaboration? We now seek direction from Trinity Council on preparing our proposal based upon the parameters established by High Country United Church representatives.

To date we have received no response from Trinity Centennial United Church in Rosemont.

We have also received input from our congregation that we should reach out to Monticello United Church in our search for collaboration opportunities. We seek further approval from Trinity Council to contact the congregation at Monticello United Church to explore opportunities with them to collaborate for mutual benefit.

We seek to attend the next meeting of Trinity Council to help us prepare our proposal to High Country United Church and for authorization to contact Monticello United Church.

Thank you! Submitted by Edward Crewson

Trinity Treasurer's Report

Thank you for your generous support as all our fundraising activities for Trinity this year showed a profit of \$8,830.00.

However, as of October 31 there is a \$16,000.00 deficit in the operating budget. By October 31 our local food bank, Shepherds Cupboard, had received \$2900.00 and we had sent \$3395.00 to the M&S fund of the United Church of Canada.

Just a reminder to make sure you have your contributions to Trinity United Church to the church office by December 31st to be included on your 2023 tax receipt.

During the upcoming festive season Trinity will need your support to continue our outreach programs and decrease the present deficit.

Blessings!
Dave Hawthorne
Treasurer





**UCW and
WOWRC
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
Reports**

UCW Report

Our local Friendship group continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 12:30pm with our brown bag lunch. Our discussions are interesting and keep us informed. We welcome any ladies who would like to join us.

Region 8 UCW met on November 4 at St Jacobs in Calvary United Church. After registration we enjoyed our own brown bag lunch and then moved into the sanctuary for a hymn sing. A number of ladies now joined us via zoom.

We were welcomed by our president, Anne Reuber, who asked us to consider the blessings that we have such as safety, food, opportunities, freedom, fellowship, and the generosity of those around us. In our land acknowledgement she was thankful for Turtle Island (North American continent), and those who have cared for our land in the past and are now caring for it looking to the future.

Anne indicated the UCW ladies in 2022 contributed slightly more than \$2 million to M&S. Horseshoe Falls UCW is hosting an early November zoom meeting regarding Human Trafficking. This is an important topic considering their location with major highways giving easy access to the states.

Kathy Douglas, Faith Formation minister for our regions introduced the climate motivators. There were four selected from our region to meet with the other 12 from the regions cross Canada. They were fortunate enough to spend a week in BC meeting with the United Church Moderator, The Reverend Carmen Lansdowne. Each motivator spoke about what they were doing. Kyla, a young lady from Halifax, who goes to Wilfred Laurier University is encouraging her church in Halifax to consider updating the old heating system. Jackson was pushing for climate change and created the club in his school to understand how his school needs to change. He also had a club to study the needs of those with disabilities. Sifa, a young lady who is interested in saving the greenbelt, affordable housing, and organic foods spoke about how health is affected by these factors. Although the fourth motivator was unable to attend that day, their coordinator, Conor, told us how he was so impressed that these young people are passionate and talented spokesman for climate change.

Kathy Douglas did our worship, which was based upon Jeremiah 29:10 and 11. With the promises from God of justice and peace she wanted us to celebrate and to have hope. Hope brings action and anticipation for a better future; despair brings inaction.

She asked us to consider some good things that have come from climate change already. Concern about the ozone layer has created change. Better recycling is being promoted and embraced. DDT has been banned so that some of our birds are coming back from near extinction. She reminded us that praying changes lives and allows us to be grateful.

Our collection from that day went to the Healing Fund which is a native outreach program in Regina. It provides native newborns and mothers with welcome bags containing baby and mom supplies, a medicine pouch, and the opportunity for spiritual support and elder support. Thanks to the ladies who organized an informative day.

Check out "For the Love of Creation" on the WOW website (www.wowrucucc.ca) if you are looking for resource materials for climate change. Check out the latest newsletter on the website from the region for lots of interesting programs.

Submitted by Mary Hawthorne

Trinity WOW Rep Report

The monthly meetings of the Discipleship and Justice Commission are held via zoom on the last Tuesday of the month in the evening. I am now in my fifth year on this commission. At our next meeting we will be examining the grant requests that have been received. Hopefully we will be able to supply funds to various programs associated with right relations, camps, youth, faith formation and Chaplaincy. Your M&S dollars supply the funds for these priorities.

Submitted by Mary Hawthorne

Trinity United Church

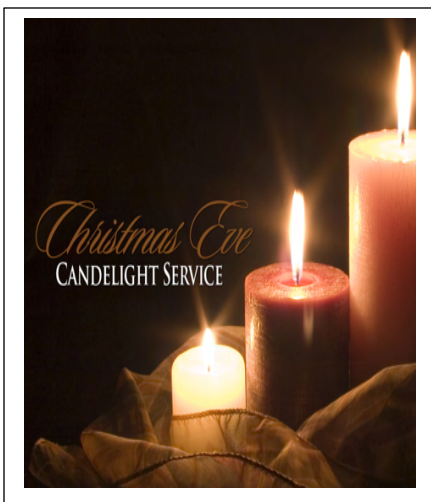
will host a

Blue Christmas Service

On **Wednesday, December 13th**,

at **3 pm.**

All are welcome!



Trinity United Church Choir will be leading
our Christmas Eve Service on
Sunday, December 24th at
7:30 pm.

All are welcome!

There will be no morning service on Dec. 24th.

Primrose United Church News

Greetings from Primrose! How time flies as we approach the end of 2023. I am writing this with mixed emotions, sadness regarding the end of our life at Primrose, but excitement about what the future might bring for us.

On November 5th, we had our Remembrance Day service. Wally Barr read In Flanders Fields, Ken McGhee read three poems, Joan Wallace read the names of Primrose members who served in the wars and the choir sang two numbers.

We are planning our Christmas Service for 3 pm on December 17th.

Shirley Farnell, Sabine Rohner Tensee, and Wally Barr will be the three representatives from Primrose to negotiate with Trinity the Amalgamation of our two churches.

Blessings to all as we approach the Christmas Season.

Shirley Farnell,
Co-Chair Primrose United Church



Primrose United
Church
Christmas
Service
Sunday,
December
17th, 2023
at 3 pm.



All are welcome!

News About the People in Our Congregations!

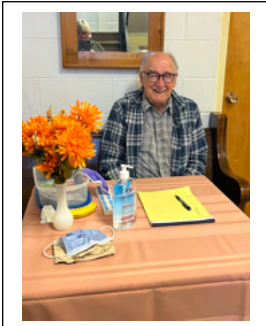
Before you read any further, I am begging forgiveness for any special occasions or people that I may have missed compiling these lists. For our next newsletter, please let Reverend Valerie, your Care Group Leader, or Irene in the church office know the details of your special day or event! communications@shelburneprimrose.com

Thank you in advance!

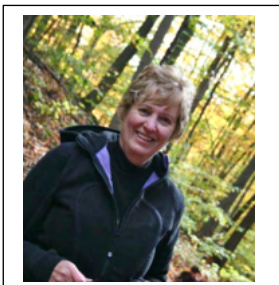
Warmly, Linda

**Congratulations to
Joe and Karen Bojin**
on their 48th Wedding Anniversary
on Thursday, November 9th.

Wishing you many more happy and healthy years ahead!

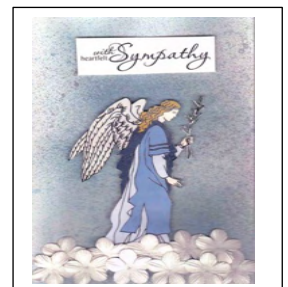


**Happy 84th Birthday
To
Al Widbur
On
December 11th!**



**Our Prayers and Sympathies to the
Cunningham's,
John, Tammy, Sharon & Families
For Your Loss.**

Bernice will be greatly missed by all of us!



New Home

**Congratulations to [Rose Lemcke](#) on her move to the
McKelvie-Burnside Wing.**



First Line for Syria Christmas Report

As Christmas is approaching, we unfortunately still have no news to report regarding our next two families who are still stuck in the Azraq refugee camp, in the desert of Jordan. They are stuck “in limbo” and this has been the situation for them - for over 10 years. There is no schooling for the children and no work for the adults. It is beyond a dismal existence, and we are at loss to explain to their relatives here why our families have still not been fully processed. It appears that our government does not prioritize the final screening in Jordan- and the back log is immense.

Our most recent family is doing well in Alliston. The younger children are enjoying school, speak fluent English and are making connection with other young people, in Alliston. The two older children; Dia’a and Fatima, are both working full time at Honda. The parents: Ahmad and Ruwaida, are continuing their ESL learning and have now reached level 4 and can easily hold a conversation in English. Ahmad is hoping that when he is completely fluent, he will be able to take on a well-paying welding job to support his family. Ruwaida is hoping to go to college eventually to get a practical nursing degree.

Otherwise, Ruwaida and Dia’a have both passed their driving tests and are now fully licensed to drive. Fatima has been signed up for a “Young Drivers” course in Alliston and we are hoping she will get her driving license in the next coming months. At school the children are active in sports, Alla’a being an integral part of the school soccer-team as a striker.

One of Ahmad’s younger brothers, Noor, who we had initially hoped to also sponsor with his family is now living near Cincinnati, US. He has recently come through heart valve surgery and our family has been anxiously waiting and praying for his full recovery – and it now appears the operation was a big success. That family has also had a new birth in the family- a little girl named after Ruwaida, so there has been much rejoicing for our families lately.

Our first sponsored family is still doing well in London Ontario. Helin goes to school full time besides working up to 20 hours per week. She will have her honours degree in business administration by the end of this school year. We are so very proud of her!

All our refugee friends are all deeply affected by the Israel/Gaza war. Traumatized, like they already are from the Syrian civil war. They are so very saddened by the recent turn of events. They are also horrified by the return of more bombing of their homeland, especially in the Idlib and Aleppo area, which already was devastated by the earthquakes this year. As their support network all we can do is listen and offer our love and caring.

This fall our group was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of Alex Carter. He was a much-valued member of our local interfaith community, and was the husband of Bella Carter. Wally and Karin represented First line for Syria at his memorial on October 6th.

We are so grateful for the continuing support of Shelburne Primrose Pastoral care. We are hoping that this co-operation will continue as our churches are moving towards full amalgamation. We are praying and hoping that our beloved church-community will still back our important outreach interfaith and refugee work. If anybody else wishes to join First Line for Syria we would also more than welcome new members!

Blessings and Peace to you all as we enter the Holy Christmas season.

Submitted by

Karin Klouman for First Line For Syria

ALEX (ISHAQ)
STEFAN CARTER



Dia’a and Fatima
are both
working
for Honda!



Shepherd's Cupboard Foodbank News

The foodbank continues to operate in less-than-ideal surroundings. Due to the tremendous increase in numbers, we serve clients outside in all-weather situations which is less than ideal. Please continue to pray that we find a resolution to our space constraints and a permanent location that we can work more effectively with. As the holidays approach, please take a moment to consider supporting the foodbank. Tax receipts are available through the church by writing the Shepherd's Cupboard Foodbank in the memo line of cheques directed to the church. We are totally funded by the generosity of our community and appreciate the faithful support of many of you!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Valerie for her leadership as board chair of the foodbank for the past two years as well as working on shift 2 every month as a bagger. We will miss you and wish you all the best in future endeavours!

Let's work together to ensure that everyone in our community will have food this Christmas!

Ardith Dunlop
Foodbank Coordinator



The 12 Days of Christmas Giving!!

A great idea for individuals or families to do for others! Grab a box and each day put one of our most needed items in it. At the end of the 12 days, bring your box to the Foodbank as your holiday donation!

Day 1- Canned tuna, salmon or whole ham

Day 2- Flour

Day 3 - Cooking Oil

Day 4 - Peanut Butter

Day 5 - Cookies

Day 6 - Pasta Sauce

Day 7 - Canned Fruit

Day 8 - Laundry or Dish Detergent

Day 9 - Cereal - hot or cold

Day 10- Condiments - Mayonnaise or Ketchup

Day 11- Canned Pasta

Day 12- Kraft Dinner

Financial donations are always helpful. E-transfers can be made at shelburnefoodbank@gmail.com. Tax receipts are available for donations made to Trinity United or Compass Community Churches by writing for Shepherd's Cupboard Foodbank in the memo line. All support is MOST appreciated!

Boxes can be dropped off at the Foodbank at the Mel Lloyd Center 167 Centre St. Door A downstairs Wednesdays 9:15 - 12:30 and Thursdays 6-7:30 pm.

Pastoral Charge Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 21st – 7 pm – *Primrose Council Meeting* – at the Church

Saturday, November 25th – 9:10 am – *Ladies Breakfast hosted by Trinity* - at Main Street Café. All are welcome!

Sunday, November 26th – *The First Sunday of Advent* – Celebrating Hope

Saturday, December 2nd – 8 am – *Men's Breakfast hosted by Trinity* – at Country Cabin – All are welcome!

Sunday, December 3rd – *The Second Sunday of Advent* – Celebrating Peace

Sunday, December 3rd – 11am - *Communion Service at Trinity*

Sunday, December 10th – *The Third Sunday of Advent* – Celebrating Joy

Sunday, December 10th – *Christmas Hamper Programme Final Collection Day* – Trinity and Primrose are collecting Toilet Paper for this community programme. Please bring in your donations and leave them on the front pews of the church.

Tuesday, December 12th – 12:30 pm – *Women's Fellowship Time* – All ladies are welcome. Bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy a time of social fellowship.

Tuesday, December 12th - 7:30 – *Trinity Council Meeting* – at the church.

Wednesday, December 13th – 3 pm – **Blue Christmas Service at Trinity.**

Sunday, December 17th – *The Forth Sunday of Advent* – Celebrating Love

Sunday, December 17th – *Potluck Lunch at Trinity in Honour of Rev. Valerie to wish her well in her future endeavours.* Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, December 17th – 3 pm – *Primrose Christmas Service* – at Primrose United Church – All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 20th – *Rev. Valerie's last day with us!* – We wish you well dear friend!

Sunday, December 24th – There will be no morning services today.

Sunday, December 24th – 7:30 pm – *Trinity Christmas Candlelight Service* – All are welcome!

Pastoral Charge Upcoming Events – Cont'd

Saturday, December 30th – 9:10 am – *Ladies Breakfast hosted by Trinity* – at Main Street Café. All are welcome!

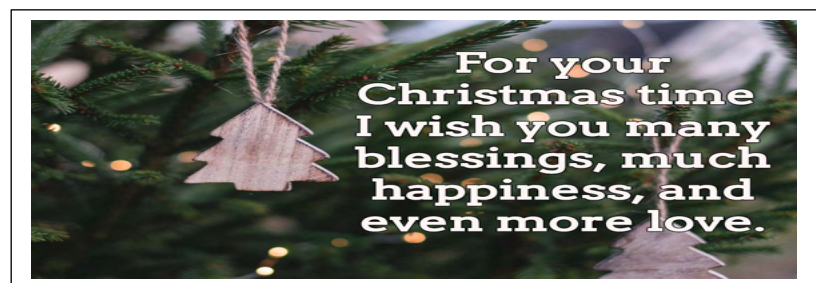
Sunday, December 31st – *Just a reminder to make sure you have your contributions to Trinity United Church to the church office by this date so it can be included on your 2023 tax receipt.*

Please watch your weekly emails for upcoming dates and information as we move forward with the Amalgamation Process for our two churches!

AMALGAMATION COMMITTEE

Members are Paula Cameron, Ed Crewson, Shelley Doney, Wally Barr, Shirley Farnell, Sabina Rohner-Tensee

What happens now: The committee meets and negotiates the terms of the amalgamation. When the committee has approved the terms of the amalgamation, the document will be presented to the congregations of Trinity and Primrose. It needs to be approved by both congregations before it can be executed.



Church Office

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Irene Chinyenze, communications tech coordinator

communications@shelburneprimrose.com

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