



Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge

Fall
Newsletter
2023

Greetings!

As most of you know, I handed out my resignation as minister of the Shelburne-Primrose Pastoral Charge last week. After much prayer and soul-searching, I realized God was calling me elsewhere. I will be with you until December 20th.

As we close on Thanksgiving, a time to acknowledge our blessings and thank God for the bounty bestowed upon us, I thank you all for helping me develop a clearer understanding of who I am as a minister, making me more focused and confident in my call and role as a servant of God.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. Don't forget to thank God, the source of our life and faith.

Rev. Valérie Vande Wiele

Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge News

As publisher I usually just copy and paste information shared with me. However, as we work through the many changes that our churches and congregations will be experiencing, I would just like to add some thoughts.

This hymn has always been one of my favourites, and may we move forward with *Gentle Words, Gentle Thoughts, Gentle Actions, and Gentle Acts of Kindness* to build an amazing new community for all of us in following our Christian values.

Warmly,
Linda Moore

Hymn # 291 – Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings."

2 You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded
with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes.

3 You sang in a stable,
you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city
you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind.

4 You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow
all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise.

There is nothing
stronger in the world
than gentleness.

- Han Suyin

Trinity United Church News

TUC (Trinity United Church) News----"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens....." Ecclesiastes 3:1

The TUC council meets once per month except for July and August. We did meet this July because of business that needed to be addressed. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month. We currently take turns chairing the meetings. We rotate the position of chair on a monthly basis. We are still seeking a permanent Chair so if you are interested in this position, please speak to a Council member.

We received the sad news at a Pastoral Charge meeting in the spring that Primrose United Church did not have enough money to continue after this year. This news affects TUC because Primrose pays a portion of the Minister's salary. Through discussion with Valerie, our Minister, and Ann Harbridge we had a Pastoral Charge meeting in June to discuss a new partnership with Primrose and Dundalk United Church. Each Church received the information, went back to their respective churches to discuss the possibility of a new Collaborative agreement.

Trinity United Church had a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 9th, chaired by Ann Harbridge to explain the process and respond to questions. We had a vote, and it was passed to move forward with this process. Each Church has 2 representatives to attend meetings to discuss a new Collaborative Agreement. We were pleased when Ed Crewson and Shelley Doney agreed to be Trinity United Church's representatives. We had a meeting on Sunday, September 24th led by Shelley Doney and Ed Crewson to discuss as a Congregation the priorities moving forward as a Congregation. The Council is very grateful to Shelley and Ed for taking on this project as we carve a path forward.

Minister Valerie Vande Wiele took 4 weeks of well-earned vacation this past summer. On July 9th we had a short service and Congregational meeting chaired by Ann Harbridge. July 16th, we had Reverend Joyce Kelly along with her son-in-law Gary Heaslip. August 27th, we had a hymn sing of 21 favorite hymns submitted by congregation members. September 3rd, we did not have a service as it was the long weekend.

On September 20th we received the sad news that Reverend Valerie Vande Wiele is resigning from the Shelburne-Primrose Pastoral Charge. Her last day will be December 21st. We have not met as a Council to discuss our next steps. Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, October 10th. We may be forming a search committee. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please speak to a council member.

On Wednesday, September 27th we received a request from Primrose United Church stating they would like to amalgamate with Trinity United Church. The next step is for Trinity United Church to have a congregational meeting to vote on this request. We plan to have a Congregational meeting on Sunday, October 22nd to vote. Please attend, your input is important.

There will be a Christmas Eve service on December 24th led by the Choir. If you would like to participate by reading some scripture, please speak to a choir member.

***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17***

Respectfully Submitted by Darlene Morrow

Trinity United Church Congregational Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2023 - 11:15 a.m.

Shelley Doney welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

An attendance sheet was circulated. A package was circulated containing questions to consider, the Trinity 2023 budget, the Pastoral Charge 2023 budget, and a summary of other Trinity expenses.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future of Trinity United Church.

Shelley asked the congregation for their input, knowledge, and ideas.

Trinity has three sources of income: rental income, fundraising income, and donations.

Shelley asked those present to think about how they can help. Can you help fundraise, can you give more, will you go on PAR?

According to the United Church of Canada, one church closes per week in Canada.

A church is more likely to thrive if the church has a full-time minister.

In our Western Ontario Waterways region, 40% of the churches do not have a full-time minister. What support can we give to our Church? What support can we give to our minister?

Shelley Doney and Ed Crewson met with Rev. Ann Harbridge, and representatives from Primrose United Church and Dundalk United Church to discuss ways of collaborating with each other.

The representatives from each church were sent back to their own churches to gain input from their congregations.

Shelley presented four questions to the congregation: What does it mean to be a church?

How important is this church to you?

What is essential for you as a congregational member? What can you give up?

The congregation was asked to provide answers to these questions, and the answers were recorded on chart paper. A summary of the answers will be included as an attachment to the minutes.

Ed Crewson spoke on finances. He referred everyone to the budget information in the handout. In 2023, the total Pastoral Charge budget is \$135420.00. Trinity has 94 members and Primrose has 32 members. Therefore, Trinity pays 74.6% of the total or \$101023.32 annually, and Primrose pays 25.4%, or \$34396.68 annually. Trinity also has other expenses such as region dues, building maintenance, utilities, insurance, and caretaker wages. In 2023, Trinity is running a budget deficit of \$24000.00. Primrose has announced that they can no longer pay their share of the Pastoral Charge expenses. Ed thought the solution would be simple. If Dundalk could contribute \$30000.00, Primrose could contribute \$15000.00 and Trinity could contribute the rest, our expenses would be met. In return, our minister would be shared with Dundalk. But with the resignation of Rev. Valerie Vande Wiele, this solution will no longer work. Trinity cannot support a full-time minister on their own. We must consider other options. What can we give up, who do we want to work with, can we give more? Do we want to work on our own or work with other churches?

In order to inform all members of our situation, these minutes will be circulated in the October 2023 newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Crewson

Notes from Trinity United Church Congregational Meeting – Sunday, September 24th

Together the congregation answered the following questions:

What does it mean to be a church?

purpose and spirit, friendship, community outreach and service, scriptural understanding and worship, music, commitment, grounding and tradition, sense of belonging, challenging

How important is this church to you?

100 percent important!, congregation and the building itself are very important, hub for community service, church is part of our lives, Question asked: why did some people's priorities change?

What is essential for you as a congregational member?

friendships, sermon of substance, music, support from church and congregation, acceptance, pastoral care, special events, Sunday school, janitorial service

What can you give up?

negative input and commentary, personal time, Sunday service regularity, administration, janitorial, time of service

Suggestion was made to add another question " Rather than focussing on what we can give up, what can we do to bring more people in to the church? What should we add?"

Respectfully Submitted by Shelley Doney

IPM Community Choir

On Sunday September 17th, a mass community choir, from many churches in Dufferin County, sang two songs together for the International Plowing Match Church service at 2:00 pm. There were 70 women and men in the choir under the leadership of Julia Breen. We sang "Love Lifted Me" and "Jesus, give Me a Word".

The music was uplifting and joyful to spread smiles throughout the huge crowd there to listen. A wonderful time was had by all.

Respectfully Submitted by April Cooper

Thank you to the members of our Pastoral Charge Choir for your dedication, talents, and participation in this wonderful event for the Dufferin County Community!



Primrose United Church News

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. I believe most of us living in this area of the world have a lot to be thankful for. I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Fall weather. We at Primrose are going through some difficult times and changes may be coming, but we are looking forward to a brighter future. We ask God's blessing on our little faith community as we move forward. Thank you to everyone at Primrose and the surrounding community who have helped with all our fundraising activities this past year. Once again, we had a very successful Fall Plant Sale. We are looking forward to having our 148th Anniversary, on October 1st.

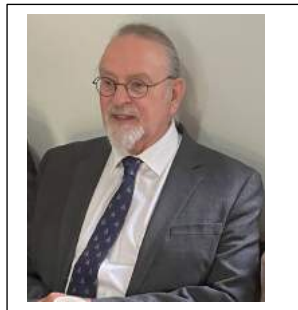
Sincerely!

Shirley Farnell

Co-chair of Primrose Council

Primrose United Church 148th Anniversary

Primrose held their 148th Anniversary on Sunday October 1st. Trinity congregation worshiped with Primrose at 10 am. Rev David Howes was the guest minister.





Primrose held a very successful plant sale on Friday, September 8th. Hot Dogs and Corn on the cob was served for a quick supper to those picking up their flowers. We realized a profit of \$1700.00



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!

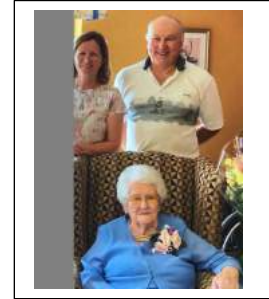
Warmly, Linda



Happy 100th Birthday to

Helen Lyon

On September 10th, this special lady turned 100 years young! Trinity is so blessed by her Support and Dedication for so many years!



Happy 90th Birthdays to

Eleanor Clark And

Jim Smith (Shelley Doney's Father)



Our Prayers and Sympathies to the Families of
Karen & Joe Bojin in the loss of Karen's mother,
Audrey Boyd, age 96, on July 14th.
Shirley Brown and the Besley families following her
passing on August 7th.
For Your Loss.



Congratulations to
Brooke Crewson and Jun Campbell
For their wedding on August 19th in Toronto.
Brooke is the daughter of Ed & Wendy Crewson.



Prayers to
Get Well Soon to
Al Widbur as he recovers from his surgery.
Susan Boon as she recovers from her knee replacement surgeries.



First Line for Syria Update

Our Al Diri family is doing well and adjusting to life in Canada, while hoping they will soon receive news that their extended family will be arriving here.

The 4 younger Al Diri children, (Alla'a, Fatina, Malak and Noor), are all doing well in school and the difficulties the high-school kids experienced when they first arrived seems to have subsided. Alla's is on the high school soccer team and enjoying this and Fatina is really enjoying grade 9. The 2 older children (Fatima and Dia'a) have graduated high school and are looking for full time work so as to eventually be able to afford starting college.

Summer has passed in the blink of an eye, and the Al Diri's were busy sharing a garden with Karin and Wally. They also slaughtered some meat-chickens, raised free-range by Wally, so that our family could be reassured the meat was Halal. It was an interesting experience for us to help them with this and we noticed the respect and prayer that went with each chicken, graciously giving thanks for each bird's life.

We also had some social visiting over the summer, spending Canada day with our Syrian friends and taking a day to be together at Canada's Wonderland, with the children enjoying the rides and the waterpark. Ruwaida has now passed her driver's license, which will make life easier for the family. Dia'a will take his next test this October.

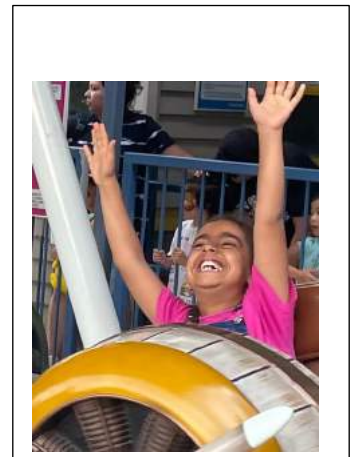
Otherwise, the parents are both studying ESL and making great strides. Ahmad worked at a steady job at a Halal butcher shop through the summer but is hoping to soon be so proficient in English that he can apply for a welding job, which was his profession in Syria. We have a volunteer from the Rosemont Church congregation who will start up soon to help them with their ESL homework. Rosemont United church also gave us a sizeable donation this summer, which we were very grateful for.

We are anxiously waiting for news regarding the arrival of the further members of the Al Diri's family. They have now been sitting in the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan for over 10 years and although they have technically been accepted to move forward with the final stages of the refugee processing there seems to be an enormous backlog.

We are so grateful for the continuing support of the church-community. Without you, we would not be able to do this rewarding work. If anybody else wishes to join First Line for Syria we could use more volunteers! The coming two years will be very busy with the hopeful arrival of our next two families.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karin Klouman on behalf of First Line for Syria.



News from the Foodbank

Hey, Trinity and Primrose United!!!

The Shepherd's Cupboard has had a VERY busy summer!!! We are thankful indeed for the Thanksgiving season as many food drives begin which will help fill the shelves and allow us to continue to serve the approximately 300 families we currently serve.

Did you know - we are in our 33rd year of operation?

- we are totally volunteer run and donation dependent?
- 68% of our clients are from the town of Shelburne with the remaining 32% from Melancthon, Mulmur, north Amaranth and north Mono?
- that we deliver to medically fragile seniors once a month?
- that we respond to emergency calls within 24 hrs?
- that every 4th Thursday we take a mobile Seniors Market to the four county run buildings in Shelburne with fresh produce, bread, milk, eggs, cereal, etc.?

- that we are open 51 weeks of the year – on Wednesdays and Thursdays?
- that 43% of who we serve at the foodbank are children, 20% are seniors?

- that neighbour is not a geographical term but a moral concept?
- that you can donate thru Trinity United and get a tax receipt?
- that we weekly do food rescue at No Frills, Foodland, Starbucks, and Cob's Bread?

We are neighbours helping neighbours!!!! Help us help our neighbours! Follow our Facebook page to find out our most needed items each month!

Consider volunteering! Right now, we are looking for a person or couple who could empty the collection bins weekly at Foodland and No Frills and bring it to the foodbank. We are also looking for someone to organize and post on our Facebook.

If you can help, please let Ardith Dunlop know! Thanks Neighbours!!

Respectfully Submitted by Ardith Dunlop

***THE SHEPHERD'S CUPBOARD,
the Shelburne Food Bank, is
in urgent need of:***

- ***school snacks and juice boxes***
- ***canned goods - soup, fruit, veggies***
- ***diapers size 3 & 6***
- ***women's pull-ups (like Depends)***



News from Wow

Discipleship and Justice Commission

On September 18, I attended an Orientation Day at Listowel United Church for WOW executive and Commission members in the morning. Each commission held their own meeting in the afternoon. It was great to see people in person.

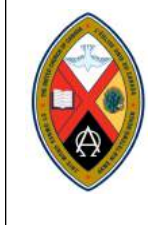
Our commission will soon be receiving applications for Mission Support Grants. We will have to discern our way through them and award monies to the groups. In the past, we awarded grants to many (but not all) applicants. WOWRC Mission Support Grants were awarded to the Grey Bruce Spiritual Care Council, the University of Guelph Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Camp Menesetung, Camp Bimini, Five Oaks, and the HUB Youth Network. As Mission Support funding from the national church has decreased, these deliberations are proving to be increasingly challenging.

We undertook, alongside D&J Commissions from Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls, to champion our regional council's engagement with the Remit process regarding space for an autonomous Indigenous Church within the UCC. Cathy Hird, one of our commissioners, has organized this effort, equipping a team of liaisons to connect with WOWRC pastoral charges. This work will continue until the March 2024 deadline for Remit votes. If a pastoral charge does not register a vote, it will be considered a NO vote.

With the changes coming to our church, I would suggest that you take the time to check out our region website - wowcucc.ca. If you look under Resources heading under "A" you will find an excellent resource on "Amalgamating- the steps to beginning well". Well worth a read!

I will be at the fall region meeting, via Zoom, September 28-30.

Submitted by Mary Hawthorne, Region 8 Rep



WOWRC
Western Ontario
Waterways
Regional Council

Pastoral Charge Upcoming Events

**Saturday, September 30th – Orange Shirt Day for National Day for Truth
And Reconciliation**



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

**Sunday, October 1st, 10 am – Anniversary Worship Service at Primrose United Church – Guest
Speaker – David Howes - Everyone is invited. No service at Trinity**

**Saturday, October 7th, 8 am – Men's Breakfast hosted by Trinity – at Country Cabin.
All are welcome!**

Pastoral Charge Upcoming Events – Cont'd

Sunday, October 8th – *Happy Thanksgiving*

Tuesday, October 10th, 12:30 pm – *Women Fellowship at Trinity* – Please bring your brown, bag lunch. Beverage is provided. All welcome!

Tuesday, October 10th, 7:30 pm – *Trinity Council Meeting* – at the church - Chair – Darlene Morrow

Wednesday, October 18th, 2 pm – *Primrose Council Meeting*

Sunday, October 22nd, *Special Congregational Meeting* – during worship

On September 26, the Primrose United Church congregation voted to seek amalgamation with Trinity United.

Amalgamation is like a marriage – two congregations commit to becoming one, with promises exchanged, sharing of assets, setting new goals, and learning how to blend their separate lives into a new shared existence. It is not a merger, or simply one congregation being blended into another. Instead, it is the birth of a new congregation, a new identity, formed by joining two communities of faith together. While communities of faith may decide to amalgamate for many reasons, often one or both has discerned that they simply cannot continue to carry out their ministry alone. It is time to do something new.

The Trinity Council is calling a congregational meeting to discuss and vote on the proposal.

We need a minimum of 10 members present.

To know more about what amalgamation is and means, Google - A to Z Resources - Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council - look for "Amalgamating - Steps For Beginning Well."

Saturday, October 28th, 9:10 am - *Ladies Breakfast hosted by Trinity* – at Main Street Café. All are welcome!

Saturday, November 4th, 8 am – *Men's Breakfast hosted by Trinity* – at Country Cabin. All are welcome!

Church Office

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Irene Chinyenze, Communications Tech Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 – 5 pm

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