



# Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge November Newsletter



*Let all  
that you do  
BE DONE in love.*

+ 1 CORINTHIANS  
16:14



Peace be with you, yes, even  
as we enter  
the colder, darker months.  
Peace be with you, yes, even  
as we live in uncertainty.  
Peace be with you, yes, even  
as the pandemic continues to  
expand its reach, disrupting  
daily routines, separating us  
physically from one another.  
Peace be with you is an  
ancient Christian greeting,  
both a blessing and  
a statement of surety. Peace be  
with you.  
Peace be with us all.  
Deep breathe.  
We do not walk alone.

## Greetings from Gail Brown, Clerk of Council, Primrose United Church

Dear Primrose Friends,

As I sit down to write this message, I am overwhelmed by the beauty of the bright sun, glowing through the gorgeous, coloured leaves surrounding me. Although we are in such a world of uncertainty and worry, we have so much to be thankful for! I look around and see the bounty of wonderful crops on the farms around us; I see the cows and calves in one field, and horses in paddocks in other fields, enjoying the heat of the sun on their backs and the green grass beneath their feet; I see my family busy doing what they need to do, and enjoying the things they are doing. We have our health, a wonderful home, loving family, and friends who care—-we are so thankful! Each of you can think of countless reasons to be thankful as well. It is a time of quiet thinking and enjoying those thoughts.

After our last council meeting, there was a sense of worry and unease about what lies ahead for our church. Last year about this time, we all completed surveys, and took time to have group discussions, laying out all our ideas, thoughts and possibilities for our future, both as a church community and the physical needs of our little white church. We continue to look into the needs of the church, as we would with our own homes, but we are continuing on as usual, with no immediate changes in site. We have our property and visioning committees who will gather information and keep us all informed, as well as get input from everyone on what you think we should do, as we have always done in the past. We are so thankful for our little white church, but even more for those

who join together, whether it be in the church itself or beyond its walls.

While we are apart, keep thinking of ideas that will keep us together. We are trying to come up with some unique ideas, outside the box, whether it be bible or book studies virtually, or maybe some virtual craft nights or movie reviews? What are your thoughts or ideas? Also, let us know any exciting news you have in your own lives, any surprises you encounter—anything that has brought a smile to your face, that you can share so it may do so for someone else. This is a different time and a challenging time, but let's make it a unique time, too.

My daughter was talking to a young girl the other day who was too young to remember 9/11. Brianna said it is a funny feeling being old enough to be “part of history” that others won't know in person. Here, again, we are part of history in the making, whether it be good or bad, but let's try to do things that will make the “best stories” we can for retelling in years to come.

Stay well, stay safe, stay strong. Reach out to help each other. Until we can physically meet together again, “virtual hugs” from my family to each of you.  
Gail



## Greetings from Ann McAlpine, Clerk of Council, Trinity United Church

It seems that we're back into the throws of practicing isolation and distancing. In this one way, we can make a significant difference and look after one another. With that thought, I can hear Bruce playing Hymn #374, with his gentle country lilt, *Come and Find the Quiet Centre*. It's an invitation to find peace, quiet, and calm. It's a lesson I felt we were called to learn during the first COVID wave. So, now we have another opportunity to answer the invitation.

*"Come and find the quiet centre  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are free:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we may see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace and simply be."*

As a church, we continue to care for another even though our doors are closed. Members of Pastoral Care Groups are connected through their leaders, and although we're maintaining physical distancing, we are socially connected via phone calls, notes, cards, emails, the website, zoom meetings, newsletters and some visits. Jamie and I certainly have missed our church family, and love seeing some (or part of them due- to wearing masks) in the church parking lot once a month. Church council meets regularly and committees continue their roles on a regular basis. Thank you to these wonderful, wonderful volunteers!

Now, daylight hours decline quickly, and we understand cool temperatures and the beautiful Fall weather will turn to winter very soon. Let us give thanks for such a

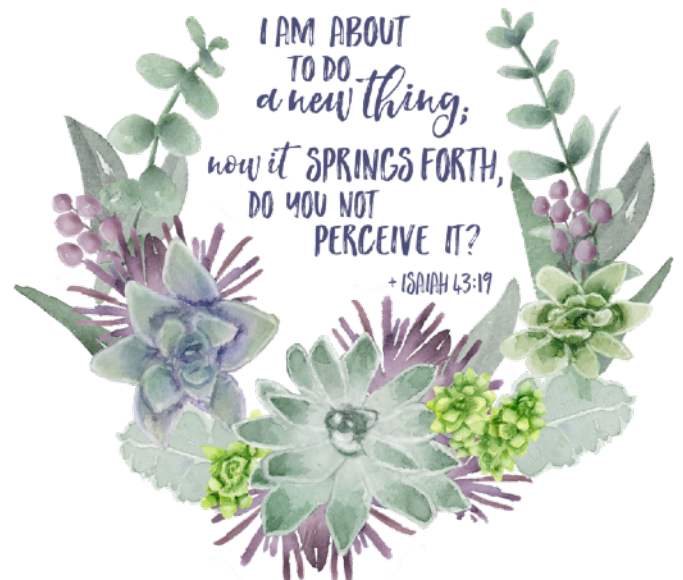
beautiful season and welcome the quiet of winter.

*Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being face to face,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.*

Let our spirits be lifted to God. We have the mystery of the unknown yet to encounter . Take courage, have faith, and please share your thoughtful ideas for our future. Let us continue to look after, and love one another!

*In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a space for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare.*

Blessings to you all.  
Ann



**Prayer from the Right Rev. Richard Bott,  
Moderator of the United Church of Canada**

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:  
When we aren't sure, God,  
help us be calm;  
when information comes  
from all sides, correct and not,  
help us to discern;  
when fear makes it hard to breathe,  
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,  
slow us down, God;  
help us to reach out with our hearts,  
when we can't touch with our hands;  
help us to be socially connected,  
when we have to be socially distant;  
help us to love as perfectly as we can,  
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."  
For the doctors, we pray,  
for the nurses, we pray,  
for the technicians and the janitors and the  
aides and the caregivers, we pray,  
for the researchers and theorists,  
the epidemiologists and investigators,  
for those who are sick,  
and those who are grieving, we pray,  
for all who are affected,  
all around the world...  
we pray  
for safety,  
for health, for wholeness.  
May we feed the hungry,  
give drink to the thirsty,  
clothe the naked and house those without  
homes;  
may we walk with those who feel they are  
alone,  
and may we do all that we can to heal  
the sick—  
in spite of the epidemic,  
in spite of the fear.  
Help us, O God,  
that we might help each other.  
In the love of the Creator,

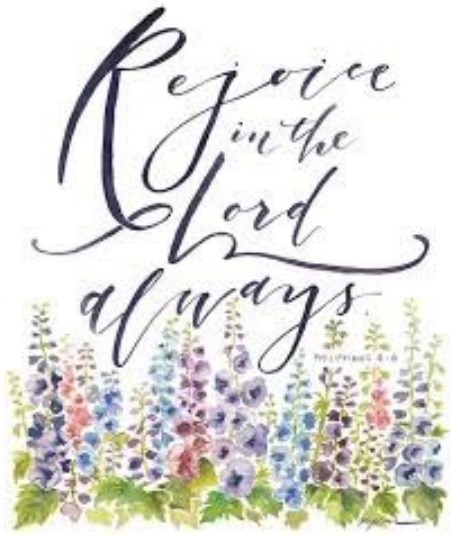
in the name of the Healer,  
in the life of the Holy Spirit  
that is in all and with all,  
we pray. May it be so.



**Reflection, Philippians 4:4  
-8, from Thanksgiving  
Podcast, October 22th**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,  
Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to  
everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry  
about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your  
requests be made known to God. And the  
peace of God, which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and  
your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever  
is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is  
pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is  
commendable, if there is any excellence and if*



*there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

So, here is Paul, sitting in prison – and they were pretty dank cells back then, nothing cushy about them at all – and he writes to a small emerging group of people, men and women, who are trying as very best they can to make sense of what is going on in the world and to follow the teachings of Jesus.

Think of the context.

Jesus has been crucified. The disciples are working as itinerant preachers, mendicants – beggars. They are trying to tell the story of what it meant to them to live and work and learn from this person, Jesus, who was from Nazareth of all places. Nazareth was a place scoundrels gathered, a place that did not have a high standing in the culture of that time, a back water. What good could come from Nazareth the people of the day asked? What indeed!

But here is Paul, encouraging this little group of people to do what in the middle of the grave uncertainty. Be joyful? He is living in the uncertainty of his life and death. The uncertainty of theirs – for Christians and Jews alike were being punished, crucified, vilified, shoved about, mocked, disparaged. They were the outcasts of society. They had no place in society. No fancy buildings. No scriptures. No doctrine.

They were simply a group of people who had decided to follow Jesus and his way of love that included everyone. That extended grace to everyone. That embraced everyone. That forgave everything.

Paul's words to the church in Philippi in the early first century are the same words that I offer to you in the year 2020, when things are unsettled yes, but certainly not any more unsettled than they were to those of the emerging Christian faith so



long ago. Paul knew what he was asking. And he asked with the certainty that it would bring contentment to people. And so, it does, and so it will.

*I Know Who Holds Tomorrow,*  
**Music/Lyrics:** Ira F. Stanphill

I don't know about tomorrow  
I just live for day to day  
I don't borrow from the sunshine  
For it's skies may turn to grey  
I don't worry o'er the future  
For I know what Jesus said  
And today I'll walk beside Him  
For He knows what lies ahead

Many things about tomorrow  
I don't seem to understand  
But I know who holds tomorrow  
And I know who holds my hand

Ev'ry step is getting brighter  
As the golden stairs I climb  
Ev'ry burden's getting lighter  
Ev'ry cloud is silver lined  
There the sun is always shining  
There no tear will dim the eye  
At the ending of the rainbow  
Where the mountains touch the sky

Many things about tomorrow  
I don't seem to understand  
But I know who holds tomorrow  
And I know who holds my hand



## **Partnerships**

Over the last few years, we have formed numerous partnerships with others whose work reflects the ethics of the Christian faith. It is the call of the United Church and their leaders to reach out into our neighbourhoods and beyond and learn who we might work along side, sharing what resources and skills we have, making friendships and offering help to one another. But through this time of the pandemic, with our churches closed, we have been unable for the most part to work alongside them. This has no doubt been difficult for them, as many use our church buildings as places to meet.

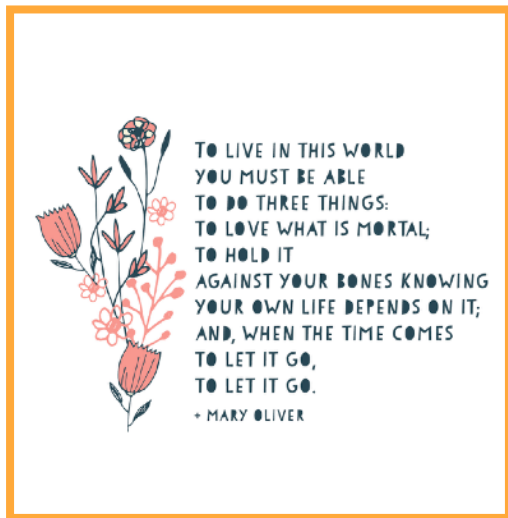
In particular, we think about our Catholic and Seven Day Adventist friends who, like us, decided not to meet at the church, though they were offered the opportunity to do so. They also felt it was unwise to gather.

Please keep whatever groups you are drawn to in your prayers. If there is anything you feel you can do to support them, please do it. [You can read about some of our partnerships on our website](#), or contact your minister or clerks of session for details.

## **Search Committee**

Our search committee has been meeting regularly, scouring through hundreds of applications to find new leadership for the pastoral charge. With the additional complication of the pandemic, it has not been an easy task. Interviews on zoom have proved helpful. But it is still a daunting task to find someone suitable who is both capable of leading traditional worship and managing the ongoing vision to a collected commons - the model that the United Church is proposing to churches who wish to continue to serve their neighbourhoods in all their complexity. Our search committee includes: Karin Klouman (chair), LeeAnn McKenna, Diane Irwin, Jennifer

Crewson, Whitney Hofman, Faye Ferguson. If you have any questions, you can contact Karin. We wish them all continued energy and inspiration.



## Visioning

You may recall that the pastoral charge visioning group received a grant from Embracing the Spirit last year. Embracing the Spirit is a branch of the United Church that is supporting churches trying to reimagine their future. We received the grant for the purpose of upgrading our technology, developing a proper, comprehensive website, experimenting with various initiatives that were local to the church, upgrading and modernizing the office space, and getting guidance with our technological capabilities. (IT)

Shortly after we had put several initiatives in place, COVID arrived and they were cancelled, though we did offer some things to the community on line. As the churches appear to be closed for some time, we are moving those initiatives into resources on line. They should be in place by the end of the year, offering on line help for everyone in the community, as well as a wealth of information for new leadership.

Both churches continue to ponder the challenge of buildings requiring numerous upgrades and upkeep. At Primrose the visioning group is working with the the property committee exploring a wide range of possibilities. Trinity recently received an environmental grant to replace the boilers, though we are still fundraising to complete the project. (See Fundraising)

## Website/Social Media

A new website has been developed by Colin Simmons that includes a calendar, weekly blogs with a podcast, items to read, links to pursue. For those without immediate access to technology, this is a great loss as it is hard to keep informed about what is going on in and around the church without that central website connection.

The newsletter does touch on most items of importance, but it is still challenging. If you are reading this newsletter and do not work on a computer, you may have a child or grandchild you would be willing to show you the website from time to time when they visit. It is easily found. There are several people in our church who listen to the podcasts when their families visit. They can be heard on any smart phone or portable computer. So next time you have a visitor, you might explore this possibility.

## Financials

May thanks to all those holding steady with tithes and offerings. It is so very appreciated. And a special thank you for the additional generosity in our Thanksgiving Gifts. Both churches are holding steady financially, though understandably it is a challenging time for our pastoral charge. Without weekly gatherings, there is a decline in revenue. At Trinity there is the additional challenge of the loss of our steady rentals. Our pastoral charge treasurer, Jamie McAlpine, has been able to access some

financial assistance to offset these losses. Primrose has done some creative fundraising to help balance the books as well. Gord Gallagher is now looking after our digital accounting. And Fran Braiden continues to keep things running smoothly at Primrose.

But as we head into the year end, with the Christmas season in front of us, there is certainly a need to consider our giving. Our Mission and Service offering from the pastoral charge is a long way off from its budgeted goal. And you will note under fundraising, that Trinity requires \$12,000 to complete the environmental upgrades that are needed to ensure the \$30,000 grant from Faithful Footprints. As you consider your year end giving, consider your home church. [Visit our Support Page to find out the ways you may give to the church.](#)

### **Fundraisers**

Primrose has a little country Christmas market on the afternoon of November 28th - see the back page of the newsletter for the flyer. Come out and support the little church in the country while you pick up some sweet gifts for friends.

Last winter the boilers at Trinity needed replacing. Michael Hofman and the visioning group worked hard to secure a \$30,000 grant for the boilers, but it required that we ourselves invested \$15,000 in up grading our building to decrease our carbon footprint. We have new front doors on order, with this in mind. If you would like to give a gift to Trinity this Christmas season, we suggest that you consider a gift to our Environmental Upgrades Fund.

[Visit the support page on our website](#) to find out different ways to financially support the church, or speak to the minister or clerks of session.

## **Report from Mary Hawthorne, Western Ontario Waterways Presbytery Representative**

The fall regional meeting of [Western Ontario Waterways](#) opened on Thursday, October 15th via zoom.

A financial session was held earlier on Tuesday evening, October 13. Each of our sessions had an inspirational worship time based on the theme "Honey From the Rock". The Rock being the pandemic and the Honey the blessings we have gained. We covenanted with UCW as they had not been recognized previously on the regional council. Throughout the course of our meetings Thursday through Saturday The Mission and Discipleship Commission, the Covenant Commission and the Human Resources Commission each presented a video outlining the their work. Dave Jagger gave insights on Stewardship. We were also addressed by the Moderator, Reverend Richard Bott, with an inspiring message. We had breakout groups to meet others and discuss items. Sometimes technology was challenging but we all learned to cope with the changes required. Per session numbers ranged from 150-175 people at the zoom meetings.

We recognized: 3 new Candidates for ministry, 5 Retirees, 10 Jubilants who have served 50 years or more in ministry, 6 In Memoriam, and 4 Communities of Faith that have disbanded. All who had expressed interest in serving on commissions were acclaimed to those positions. Rev. Mark Laird was acclaimed as president elect for the Western Ontario Waterways Region.

Motions that were passed by the Regional Council;



1. That all procedural matters on the agenda be looked after

2. A remit – “The Order of Ministry shall be open to both men and women” to be changed to “The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities”

This Remit will be voted on by all 16 Regional Councils across Canada before Dec.31, 2020. It requires a 2/3 majority before it proceeds to General Council.

3. That Regional Council adopt the Affirm Action Plan and ask the Executive and Commissions to report on how the Action Plan impacted their work at the fall 2021 meeting of regional council.

4. That we receive the financial statements for 2019 and 2020 year to date.

The Auditors report for 2019 has not yet been completed as it is very complicated dealing with 3 presbyteries becoming one region. When the Auditors report has been finished it is to be sent out after it has been approved.

5. That we adopt the 2021 budget as presented.

6. That we name PWC ( Price Waterhouse Coopers) as the auditors for 2020.

7. That we allow the executive to deal with all upcoming work as required and to close off the meeting following celebration service on Sunday.

Sunday morning worship was at Avondale United Church in Stratford with Rev Keith Reynolds giving the message. As well the three Ordinates: Rekekah Duncan, Gail Fricker and Kellie McComb were welcomed into the Church.

There are lots of resources available on the UCC website. Take a look!! <https://www.united-church.ca>

There will be a regional meeting more than likely by zoom in May of 2021. Thanks to Rev. Gary Clark, our president, and his technical staff for arranging an interesting conference.

### **Closing Note From the Minister**

So much seems uncertain these days. We do not know when our church buildings will open again. We do not know how long the COVID 19 pandemic will continue. Nor do we know - nor does anyone know - the long term affects of isolating from one another. The world wide economics are in upheaval.

And yet, some important justice issues have come to our collective consciousness for examination. We have had time to consider the importance of simple pleasure that are now forbidden us - a hug, a hand shake, gathering with our extended families for a shared meal, travelling freely. It is a good reminder to be grateful for all that we have just in this moment.

But mostly it is a time to stand steady in our faith, to know that *God with us* is who we gather around. We may not know much. But we know who we follow. Jesus kept his eyes on God and his heart pulsing with love. So shall we. Every blessing, Candice



# Christmas in the Country



*A little Christmas market  
in the historic Primrose United Church  
Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1 - 3  
You are invited!*

Homemade gifts for special people  
Preserves. Sweets. Seasonal arrangements  
Prices range from \$2 to \$25. Cash, cheque or email transfer  
Items wrapped and decorated, ready for giving

**All proceeds in support of the Shepherds Cupboard Food Bank**  
All current health requirements in effect

Primrose United Church, Mono  
486281 30th Sideroad at Hwy 10



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