



Shelburne-Primrose Pastoral Charge

2017 Christmas Newsletter

**Here is the line up for the week of Christmas in
the Shelburne/Primrose Pastoral Charge.
We hope that for one gathering or another you can
be part of the season's central story of hope and possibility.**

December 19th at 7:30 pm. A Dickens of an Evening!
The Re-telling and Re-Creation of the Timeless Charles Dickens' Classic
'A Christmas Carol'.
Trinity United Church. Tickets \$15.

December 19th 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Souphaus Christmas Week Supper
Come and enjoy a complimentary dinner before the Dickens' Show.
<http://souphaus.ca>

December 21st at 7:30 pm. Solstice Service:
A Gentle Reflection on the Light and the Darkness
in a Sometimes not so Celebratory Season
Trinity United Church

December 24th at 9 am. Catholic Sunday Morning Mass.
Trinity United Church

*******December 24th at 9:30 am Primrose United Church
Christmas Eve Morning Service and Breakfast.
Once every seven years we have Christmas Eve on Sunday,
so this year you can have your Christmas Eve Service in the morning
at the quaint Primrose United Church.
9:30 gathering followed by Christmas morning breakfast.
*****No 11 am service at Trinity*******

December 24th at 7 pm. Traditional Family Christmas Eve Service.
Trinity United Church

**December 24th at 9:00 pm. Christmas Eve Contemplative Candlelight
Communion Service.** Trinity United Church.

December 24th at 11 pm. Catholic Christmas Evening Mass.
Trinity United Church

Please Note: Trinity United Church will have their usual Sunday morning service on
December 31st at 11:00 a.m. **There will be no service at Primrose that morning.**



**A message from Rev. Candice Bist,
Congregational Appointed Minister**

For breadth of beauty and imaginative storytelling, it is hard to find a more wondrous piece of literature than our traditional Christmas tale. Somehow, it speaks to us in a language all its own.

At the heart of this dramatic, mystical narrative is a baby, with its unknown life ready to unfold. The shepherds, the angels, the animals, the parents all gather around the baby in wonder and joy and celebration, in awe of the possibilities that may yet unfold. The child is embraced by an atmosphere of hope, of expectation, of delight, of love. Each Christmas season, the Christ child calls to the precious, unborn child within us to whisper dreams of hope and love and wonder unknown. But to hear that still, small voice, we must empty ourselves of our own knowledge and come into the day empty of expectations.

Give yourself over to the quiet pace of Advent. Ask God for a new birthing in your heart. You will not be disappointed by the lavish gifts that will descend upon you this Christmas season.

With gratitude and affection for all you do, and all that will be done,

Candice

**A message from Ann Harbridge,
Pastoral Charge Supervisor**

It has been my pleasure over the past two years to work along side Rev. Candice and your church councils in a part time appointment. We have set in place a number of policies, and revised the governance structure of the pastoral charge. We have updated the membership lists and updated powerchurch, the program used to track membership and contributions. Partnership and rental agreements have been signed with First Line for Syria, Partera Peacebuilders, Seventh Day Adventists and the Dundalk Parish of the Catholic Church.

As with many main line churches, the struggle to be relevant and financially sound continues. But I believe that your churches are up to the challenge. The recent work in expanding your outreach through partnerships is a promising way forward.

The future looks good for the Shelburne/Primrose pastoral charge. I will continue working with your congregations as the pastoral charge supervisor and I look forward to seeing where your ministry will take you in the future.

I offer my most sincere congratulations to Rev. Candice as she has passed her conference interview, and is now eligible for an appointment as your full time minister. The Toronto Conference has deemed Candice as suitable for ministry in the United Church, and eligible for an appointment. Candice has been serving you well for the past two years, and I know she looks forward to continuing the good work you have begun together. Her mandate will expand beyond worship and pastoral care, to include all the responsibilities of a full time minister, many of which she has already taken on. I know you will join me in congratulating her and offering her your full support.

As we head into this Advent season, I wish for you a season of joy and peace. May your anticipation of the birth of Christ fill you with a sense of wonder and hope.

Blessings, Ann

Ann Harbridge



**A message from Ann McAlpine,
Chair of Council,
Trinity United Church**

Hope, peace, joy and love; these are the gifts of the season. Those are big packages to open on Christmas Day! Are they under the tree? Where do we find them?

I feel that Trinity United Church is a blessed and rich congregation. Rich in talent, rich in circumstance and privilege.

Many in our Shelburne community however, do not share this experience. At Christmas time, especially, let us open our hearts to all. Let us learn from one another and receive gifts from one another. Gifts to share include the gift of listening and the gift of willingness to learn from others who are different. The gift to be challenged to include and disciple to all is a gift to give. Isn't this how Jesus worked? Isn't this His gift - an example for all of us?

Let us discover in ourselves the people we need to be. Let us give ourselves to God by serving others and meeting their needs.

Hope, peace, joy and love; let us open these gifts in our hearts and share with others.

In love and service,
Ann

**A message from Glen Thompson,
Clerk of Session
Primrose United Church**

The holiday season is upon us once again and it seems to get more hectic every year. Kids are writing letters to Santa with their toy wish list and adults are busy planning family gatherings along with shopping for gifts etc. I heard on the radio today that a municipality near Toronto is considering allowing merchants to remain open for business 364 days a year. Is the bottom line more important than Christian values? During this advent season let us try, if we can, to slow down and take the time to think about what the birth of Christ really means.

I wish you all a safe and memorable Christmas season and a very Happy New Year.

Glen





Divine Reading in the Season of Advent

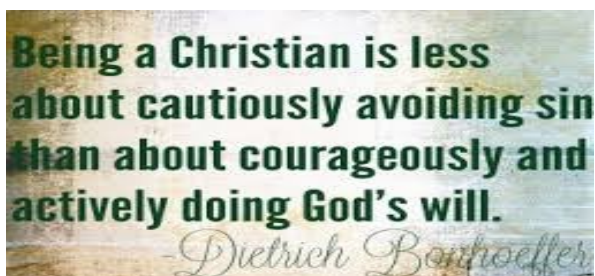
As Advent is a time of contemplating our faith and the way we are living that faith out, I will be offering a short, weekly advent gathering around chosen scriptures from our Christmas story. We will be using the simple, quiet practice of lectio divina, or divine reading. In this contemplative practice, we read the chosen scripture three times, with quiet time in between, and respond to three questions: What word or phrase speaks to me in the text? Where do I see a connection with the text crossing over in my life? What do I feel the text is calling me to do or reevaluate or consider? It is Bible Study with the study part removed. It is your own wisdom that does the teaching, and it teaches each individual person according to their own spiritual journey and the particulars of that journey.

Divine reading: simple and restful, yet deeply illuminating.

Ministers' Office
Trinity United Church.

**Wednesday November 29 @ 7:00 pm,
December 6, 13**

**Thursday November 30 @10 am,
December 7, 14**



Christmas Greenery Workshops

You may remember that under the direction of Whitney Hoffman and the worship group, the sanctuary was transformed into a wonder of greenery and twinkling lights. The gift of beauty is one of the things we give our community at Christmas time. And this year, with our newly finished front entrance, we will want everything to look especially lovely to greet our Christmas guests.

Whitney has organized a series of workshops to ready the church for the Christmas season. If you can pitch in, show up in your work clothes, and help out. The finished product will mean more when you know you were part of putting it together.

**Workshop # 1: December 3rd,
after Sunday Service
@ 12:30 p.m.**

Making and Hanging the Wreaths.

**Workshop # 2: December 10th
after Sunday Service
@ 12:30 p.m.**

**Making and Hanging the garland, placing the
wooden tree and stars.**

**Workshop #3: December 17th
after Sunday Service
@ 12:30 p.m.**

Finishing touches, candles, flowers, window sills,

For further information please contact Whitney
Hofman : whitneyhofmanrmt@hotmail.com



Step Up: Trinity United Church renovation and beautification project of the eastside of our building is almost complete.

The Visioning Committee and Property Committee along with many volunteers have been working tirelessly to complete our stair replacement project this year. A lot of work has gone into the stairs and gardens this summer and I want to personally thank the many congregants who have taken the time out of their busy schedules to lend a hand when they could, and for those that could not lend a hand, for the financial contributions that was made.

Many of you are not aware that we were quoted \$80,000 and \$100,000 by two reputable contractors in our area to complete this project on our behalf. The received quotations simply did not align with Trinity's budget of \$50,000. A decision was made by the Visioning Committee to undertake the project ourselves utilizing skilled resources within our church, volunteers from throughout our community and contractors work we could not complete ourselves.

Given the volunteer hours and our fiscal prudence throughout the project, the Visioning Committee is pleased to tell Trinity that the stairway project is currently on budget and on schedule. It is amazing that our hard work as a congregation has resulted in a savings of \$40,000 - \$60,000.



There are a few people that I want to specifically thank, and I encourage you to thank these people personally when you see them:

Garth Wilson - designed and prepared drawings for our stairway project at a drastically reduced design fee.

Ken Byham , close friend of mine and a resident of Shelburne who provided his labour free of charge for the masonry and stonework tasks.

David Montgomery: for not reporting your skid steer stolen while it was "borrowed" for the summer.

We thank everyone for their patience and understanding while the stair reconstruction occurred. You can expect both the eastern entrances to be useable for our Christmas week celebrations.

We are still \$2,500 short in our original goal to reach \$10,000 for individual contributions with our Step Up Campaign and we have one last fundraiser planned for the winter to reach our original budget of \$50,000. We have ahead of us the important work of reinstating the bell to a place of prominence on the south side of the church. The Visioning Committee and the Property Committee will be organizing this over the winter for an early spring placement.

All the best during this joyous season,
Michael Hofman,
Property Committee Chair



SOUPHAUS



Souphaus at Trinity Every Tuesday 6 – 8 pm.

Souphaus opened their loving embrace to the community this November and Trinity United Church is so glad they did. Souphaus cooks and serves nutritious, complimentary dinners for whomever would enjoy an evening out. Thick soups, delicious appetizers, fresh bread or scones, and yummy desserts are all to be enjoyed and served by Soyhala Smith, Josh Oatman and their young volunteers. In an atmosphere of joy and beauty Souphaus is making a little oasis of warmth throughout the cold months of the year in the downstairs of the Trinity United Church.

So, if you wish to enjoy a lovely supper in the company of others, don't hesitate to come around on Tuesday evenings – there is always lots for sharing – and Soyhala also brings things along to take home for the week as well. It is easiest if Soyhala and Josh have a heads up of your arrival, so go to their website for information on making a reservation and find out what's for supper <http://souphaus.ca/>. Or visit them on Facebook.





KAIROS Dufferin

If you are looking for a lively group of people devoted to social justice and all matters environmental, look no further than the KAIROS group that meets at Trinity United Church once a month. Rooted in theological reflection, KAIROS pursues ecological justice and human rights through research, education, partnership and advocacy. In our Dufferin chapter there is a strong focus on ecological justice, which naturally “includes social justice—participation in decision making and sustainable use of natural resources—and requires putting the economy in its place as a subsystem within society and the wider natural world. In an ecological economy, production and consumption are determined by social needs and ecological balance.” <https://www.kairoscanada.org> Kairos Dufferin is currently focused on the importance of our waterways and keeping our drinking water clean.



Also of utmost importance is KAIROS’ commitment to “truth, healing, and reconciliation for the past, and Indigenous justice for the present. KAIROS supports an active process of decolonization—for ourselves, our communities, our churches, and our country—building just and respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and contributing towards the recognition of Indigenous peoples as distinct peoples and nations, with rights to land and self-determination.” (see website)

Dufferin Kairos meets on the third Thursday of each month at Trinity United Church at 9:30 am. Please note: In December, due to Christmas week services, Kairos will meet on Thursday December 14th.

Note: Penny Lewis penned an article for the Shelburne Free Press last spring that is worth a read. You may find yourself in the midst of her reflection. <http://shelburnefreepress.ca/?p=19317>

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TLC: Trinity Loves Children

Falon Wilton is a Child and Youth Care student with a passion for compassion, creativity, and community! These three C's are the core of the church's new program, Trinity Loves Children.

Using her years of varied experience, Falon facilitates arts-based activities for youngsters while their families attend Sunday service. These crafts, games, and other sorts of fun are inspired by the childrens’ personal interests!

With God's love in her heart, she seeks to form strong, caring bonds with all kids who walk through the doors of Trinity United Church.

If you would like to volunteer to assist Falon with TLC, please contact her at falon.wilton@gmail.com or (647) 500-6382

Hugs!





**Seasons Greetings from the
St. John the Evangelist Parish Dundalk**

St John the Evangelist Parish Dundalk and the Catholic community in Shelburne is very grateful to Trinity United Church for welcoming us into their sanctuary. Masses the last two weeks went very well. We greatly appreciate and thank Ann Harbridge, Candice Bist, the Ministers, and the entire United Church Congregation for your loving care and generous assistance.

May this Christmas be a time of greater joy and peace for all of us. May we work together to create the Kingdom Christ came to establish. Through our thoughts and actions let us make our neighbour's life meaningful and worth living. The poor, the marginalised and the helpless may always find hope in the Lord, in the world and in us. The birth of the Divine child is a reason for a dignified life for all.

Every Sunday the Catholic Community has Mass at 9:00 AM at Trinity United Church in Shelburne: There will be a Special Christmas Mass at 11:00 PM on December 24, 2018. All are welcome.

Father Paul Matthew, Priest,
St. John The Evangelist Parish Dundalk
stjohndundalk@hamiltondiocese.com
(519) 923-2042



**Season Greetings from the Seventh-day
Adventist Church, Shelburne**

To the pastors and members of the Shelburne -Primrose Pastoral Charge(and the Shelburne community at large, we express our warmest season's greetings.

During this season of giving, let us take time to slow down and enjoy the simple things in life. May this wonderful time of the year touch your heart. May you leave a lasting impression of faith and kindness to every individual you come in contact with now and forever. We pray that God continues to provide you with many blessings and happiness today and throughout the New Year.
Blessings,

Aundrea Thompson , Pastor
SDA, Shelburne
Email: athompson@adventistontario.org
Cell: (705) 338-7169



First Line for Syria Update

First Line for Syria continues to care for refugees living in our community. Driving to ESL classes, arranging medical and dental appointments, taking part in family gatherings and embracing in every way a welcoming spirit so needed if we are to come to understand humanity as a collective, intertwined tapestry where all are valued. First Line has also continued to keep the Shelburne/Primrose Pastoral Charge connected with the Jamiat-ul-Ansar (Great Lakes Mosque) of Brampton - which is a place of worship for many of our local refugee families.



Our friends at Jamiat-ul-Ansar have extended an invitation to us for the evening of December 9th at 5 pm. The invitation reads:

“In December 2017, Christians around the world will gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him). Muslims will also gather this month to celebrate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) according to the Islamic calendar.

To commemorate these events, we have been invited for an evening of prayer, speeches, exchange of ideas, dinner, and socializing.

Saturday, December 9, 2017, at 5:00pm
Jamiat-ul-Ansar of Brampton (Great Lakes Mosque) 291 Great Lakes Drive, Brampton, ON, L6R2Z4 “

If you would like to attend this gathering, or know more about the wonderful work that is being done by First Line for Syria in association with the Trinity and Primrose churches, please contact Karin or Wally at kklouan@kyonkennels.com



Rev. LeeAnn McKenna and Partera in Kenya

The Shelburne/Primrose Pastoral Charge recently partnered with Partera International, a local peacekeeping initiative with a vision of a “world where peace and non-violence are considered first in the related tasks of repairing breaches, personal, corporate and social, and restoring streets and towns and countries in which we can all live.” (<http://www.partera.ca>) In turn, Partera has partnered with Turning the Tides and headed off to Kenya – not the most stable place in the world at the moment. (<https://turningtide.org.uk>)

TTT has its genesis in the Quaker tradition. Its goal is to help create a strong non-violent movement that challenges social injustice and holds leaders accountable at all levels, and to build momentum for a peaceful, transparent and just society. TTT is developing the capacity and courage in communities across Kenya to address nonviolently the latent conflicts at the root of violence. And it is working.

Partera is partnering with TTT as leaders and learners. Partera will be bringing its many years of experience in Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda into a rich collaboration in what is a new area of work. As observer and participant, there will be much to learn. LeeAnn McKenna, an adherent of Primrose United Church, will be joined by Partera partner, Lancelot Muteyo, the Zimbabwean founder of the Pan-Africa Peace Network.





Annual General Meetings

The Trinity United Church Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday February 25, 2018. There will be a pot luck lunch after service followed by the meeting.

Primrose United Church's Annual meeting will be in the spring. Date TBA.



Contact us at:

Shelburne.primrose.uc@gmail.com
(519) 925-223

Website:

shelburneprimroseunited@weebly.com

Follow us on Facebook

Office Christmas Hours

December 27, 28, 29 9:00—12:00

Enclosed Envelope

You will notice that we have enclosed what is called within our reform church tradition a 'Christmas Giving Envelopes.' Please do not feel you are obligated in any way to fill it in response to this newsletter. The newsletter is something we do four times a year so that those in and around the Shelburne/Primrose Pastoral Charge will know what we are doing. In particular, at Christmas we wish you to know about the extra services and events that are taking place in and around the season. But if you wish to support any or all of the events and ministries that we are currently undertaking, we would be grateful for your contribution. A full tax receipt is issued if you give us your name and address. May every blessing be yours this Christmas season.

Fellow church members,

Michael Hofman has updated the finances of the stairs project.

Here is an update on our finances without the stairs project.

Total estimated revenue to Nov 30 is \$110,587 verses expenses of \$105,500 leaving us with a positive balance of approx \$ 5,000 year to date.

Successful fundraising and other income (church rental & Farmers Market) have had a positive effect on income.

As well, expenses have been kept in check leaving us with a net monthly income of \$ 462 or \$5,082 year to date.

One area of concern is Mission & Service which was budgeted at \$ 9,800 but to date is significantly lower at \$7,400.

Your continued support of our church will enhance our work throughout the year.

Finance committee,
Dave Hawthorne

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

A Dickens of an Evening!

Charles' Dickens' timeless story *A Christmas Carol* is coming to Trinity United Church in Shelburne this Christmas. There will be one performance only ... so get your tickets quickly! The performance will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday December 19. This is a familiar story to many but this presentation will be unique in that it is a 'telling and re-creation' of the classic tale, not just a reading. Jeffrey Cottam will play on stage by giving voice and characterisation to all the characters. His costumes and costume changes, though, will be focusing on the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge.

There will be a full multi-media presentation with sound effects, fog, lights, bells, dragging chains. You only need bring your imagination along to be part of the theatrics. And we encourage you to come out in Dicken's dress! Yes, dig up an old bonnet, or tie a ratty looking scarf around your neck and bring authenticity to our production by being part of the production yourself.

For it is good to be
children sometimes,
and never better
than at Christmas,
when its mighty Founder
was a child himself.

Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

Come as an urchin, come as Scrooge, come as a Christmas ghost! All imaginative costumes welcome! Prizes for the best costume!

We will be looking at the economic and social conditions of life in London, England in 1843 when Dickens penned his famous story in response to the inequalities and suffering of the social economic culture of his time. All proceeds from this wonderful evening go to supporting the social justice work that the Shelburne/Primrose Pastoral Charge continues to do through the international peacebuilding organization Partera.

So, come out for an evening that will be illuminating and fun at the same time it supports the on-going work of peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

I will honour Christmas
in my heart, and try
to keep it all the year.
I will live in the Past,
the Present,
and the Future.
The Spirits of all Three
shall strive within me.
I will not shut out the
lessons that they teach.

SHELBURNE
READS #Charles Dickens