

Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge Christmas Newsletter December, 2018



Here is the lineup for the Advent Season in the Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge. Come and be part of the season's story of radical hospitality and unimagined possibility.

Sunday December 2nd – Advent 1 Hope

Sunday December 9th – Advent 2 Peace

Friday December 14th – A Dickens of an Evening!

The Re-telling and Re-Creation of the Timeless Charles Dickens' Classic
'A Christmas Carol'

Trinity United Church 7:30 pm. Tickets \$20

Sunday December 16th – Advent 3 Joy

Friday December 21st – Solstice Service at 7:00 pm

Sunday December 23rd – Advent 4 Love

Primrose Christmas Service at 9:10 am.

Service at Trinity at 11:00 am.

Monday December 24th at 5 pm

Catholic Christmas Evening Mass

Monday December 24th

Family Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm

Trinity United Church



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

The Christmas story is a rich tale of tragedy and marvel, music and mayhem, delight and desolation. It is, in fact, the story of humanity and divinity, and the conversation between the two. And, it is the story of the church. For within Christmas's well known story line are all the elements that would come to be found in the life, and death, of Jesus of Nazareth, and Jesus the Christ, who emerged in the days after the crucifixion. A true church is not a private Christian club. It is a place of radical inclusion and stunning grace. I offer you here two concurrent visions of what that true church embodies. May we all come to live it in to being.

Rev. Dr. Candice Bist, Congregational Appointed Minister



The church of Jesus Christ, is
the church of what is happening now.

It provides sanctuary for everyone.

It practices radical hospitality,
and active compassion.

It offers endless grace
enlightened education.
and spiritual wellness.

It teaches contemplative practices.

It is the embodiment of creative possibilities yet
unknown.

So, scatter joy and ring the bells.

It's Christmas Time.
And, we are Christ's hands and feet and ears
and eyes.

Imagine that.

The Church of Jesus Christ
is a place of becoming
love, grace and compassion,
where we see the sacred in one another,
in the natural world,
and in all situations.

The Church of Jesus Christ provides
sanctuary for body and soul
through contemplative practices,
compassionate care,
and creative nourishment.

Scatter
Joy
And
Ring the
Bells

MESSAGE FROM ANN MCALPINE Christmas Greetings from Church Council

Christmas, often referred to as the 'The Season of Giving' brings forth many questions:

What do I give?

To whom do I give?

How much shall I spend?

What will I get?

The questions go on and on. But let us remember this. Jesus was God's gift to the world; Hope, for Peace on Earth. That's an enormous gift and pretty hard to beat! In over 2000 years it's been THE best gift of all.

So, very simply, all we have to do is follow Jesus by doing His work. This means giving care and compassion to others in our family, our church and our community.

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers them into the presence of the great.

Proverbs 18:16



MESSAGE FROM GAIL BROWN Clerk of Session, Primrose United Church

As our little white church is gently surrounded by a fluffy covering of snow, we prepare for a wonderful Christmas season ahead. We enter Advent with the hope of what is ahead –hope for each person's health and happiness, for friendship and respect of one another, and for the future of our church family.

We look forward to the joy of the season, through wonderful Advent gatherings and services, with the singing of our traditional carols, and enjoying the talents of our friends in special Christmas theatre and shows. Finally, we find our lives filled with love, shown in so many ways – endless givings to make the lives of others better. That is what we are called to do, and this is what makes our church and everyone in it, so special.

Love is not only shown by material givings, but by a quick hug, a wave or a smile. It can be a card, or a sympathy card, a bowl of homemade soup or a box of cookies. I know there are many in our midst who will have a harder time enjoying the joy of the season this year, but know you are in our thoughts, and take a minute to think about this message: "Life takes you to unexpected places: love always brings you home."

May you find hope, peace, joy and love throughout your Christmas season, and may the New Year bring you more of the same.

At Trinity United Church we share our sanctuary worship space with St. John's Catholic Parish on Sunday mornings and with the Shelburne Seventh Day Adventists on Saturday. We are happy to be able to provide a place for others to worship in a way that is different than that of the United Church of Canada, but never the less holds to the ethics of Jesus and brings people into an understanding of the golden rule around which all Christian denominations can cluster, and for that matter, all people.



**MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL
MATTHEWS
St John's Catholic Parish, Dundalk**

The Sage and the disciple are discussing:

Disciple: "How does one seek union with God?"

Sage: "The harder you seek, the more distance you create between God and you."

Disciple: "So what does one do about the distance?"

Sage: "Understand that it isn't there."

Disciple: "Does that mean that God and I are one?"

Sage: "Not one. Not two."

Disciple: "How is that possible?"

Sage: "The sun and its light, the ocean and the wave, the singer and her/his song - not one. Not two."

Taken from - One Minute Wisdom

May we recognize and discover the Divine in our inner self. May the spirit of Christmas lead us to a fuller and happier life. May the New Year 2019 bring us success and boundless happiness.

Fr Paul Mathew

**MESSAGE FROM PASTOR
AUNDREA THOMPSON
Shelburne Seventh-day Adventist
Church**

As the year comes to a close, I stand in awe of God's amazing grace. Throughout the year we were able to achieve tremendous feats, such as, inauguration into the sisterhood of Seventh-day Adventist Churches, conduct our first evangelistic series, and host or partnered in a number of community outreach events. Kudos to the wonderful partnership between us and the pastoral team and members of the Trinity United Church—we simply couldn't have done it alone. Our next great feat, by God's grace is the baptism of three precious souls; schedule for December 2018—what better way to celebrate Christmas and the end of another year.

Let's all use this time of year to bring cheer; with the wonderful message of Isaiah 9:6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Season Greetings to all, and may you prosper and be in good health for the New Year.

God Blessed!

Pastor Andrea Thompson, M.Div.

UNDER OUR UMBRELLA



It may be that you are unaware of the vast number of ministries, initiatives and goodwill adventures that are under the umbrella of our pastoral charge.

Within the church, and within the community, there is a lot of giving going on. And all of it is supported by your donations and gifts to the church.

KAIROS

ecological rights and human justice

Shelburne Farmer's Market

local and organic growers in support of environmental sustainability

Shepherd's Cupboard Food Bank

emergency food supply

Soup Haus

offering hospitality for everyone

First Line for Syria

welcoming and supporting refugees

Partera International

training in conflict transformation

Meals on Wheels

delivering dinners for the elderly or infirm

Quiet Garden Movement

sharing our outer space for the inner journey

UCC Mission and Service

world wide emergency aid

On an ongoing basis we offer

crisis intervention

interfaith dialogue

palliative support

spiritual directions

rite of passage services

emergency response



MESSAGE FROM KARIN KLUMAN

First Line for Syria

First Line for Syria- with the help from some members of our congregations -are continuing to drive our newcomers to and from ESL in Alliston, where they are continuing to strive towards learning English. We are still in a rather desperate need of some more driving volunteers, however. Anybody wanting to help out please contact Karin at kklouman@kyonkennels.com or call Karin/ Wally at 519-925-9930.

We are looking forward to the Christmas season and having gatherings with our local families. Currently Trinity is also planning to show off Khaleel's various marvellous creations- lit up over the Christmas season – it should be a magical display!

Otherwise we have made great strides lately towards filling out the endless paperwork required for bringing over Ahmad Al Diri and his wife and children who are languishing in a crowded refugee camp in Jordan. Karin and Sabine have been spending lots of time with the Al Diri family in Alliston and getting to know the family in the refugee camp in Jordan via 'snap-chat' , hearing their voices and seeing their photos has made this all so much more real.

Wally also represented First Line for Syria at a Syrian gathering in Alliston- put on by Mohammed and Rana Al Diri, who are settling in very well in their new neighbourhood. The food was wonderful and it was great connecting with the many newcomers to our area. The Aldiri children are also doing remarkably well- all of them now appear to be fluent in English.

We have a new Syrian refugee family in Shelburne! Hassan, Dalia and their 4 children are currently living in the same house that Mohammed and Rana used to occupy. However, that house is rather too large for their needs - and they are finding it to be quite a financial stretch - so they are currently looking for a smaller place in Shelburne. **If anybody knows of a place to rent in town please contact Karin and Wally.** Dalia and Hassan already speak English and are well educated. We are sure that they will adjust to our community with ease.

Finally First Line for Syria and members of our congregations were invited to "Intro to Muslims of Dufferin" event and dinner at the Tony Rose memorial centre in Orangeville on November 18th. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, delicious food and good conversation with our Muslim brothers and sisters in this area. We look forward to getting to know them better at future events.



MESSAGE FROM REV. LEEANN MCKENNA
Partera Peacebuilders International

This summer Partera invited the neighbours to a Barn Dance and Silent Auction as a fundraiser for our work in conflict zones. The Campfire Poets entertained, we danced, shared good food and drink, hosted by friends, Sabine and Jeff Rohner-Tensee. The Silent Auction items attracted a lot of interest – to the benefit of so many people with whom we work. Amongst those beneficiaries are the 83 women with whom I worked in September in two locations in North East India. They are all members of Christian churches and denominations and are struggling to find their own voices in a situation of protracted violent conflict. Women are central to a community or society's ability to make their way out of a warrior culture and the permanent underdevelopment that goes with it. I have written stories about the trip which you can find at www.partera.ca We are committed to the project until 2022. Stay tuned!

LeeAnn McKenna, Executive Director, Partera International. 1 – 416 436 3257



Rev. LeeAnn McKenna was in very fine company indeed at the Lester Randall Fellowship Preaching Fellowship at Yorkminster Baptist Church in Toronto this last week. The topic this year was Reaching and Preaching for Peace, and both Rev. McKenna and Rev. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury and key note speaker, spoke and taught with passion and intelligence.

Rev. McKenna, representing our partner Partera Peacebuilders International led a worship entitled: *Our Violent Scriptures: What's a Christian Peacemaker to do?* as well as leading an interactive story telling as part of one of the evenings beautiful worship services that was open to the public to a full house. If you would like to see Rev. McKenna speak about her work - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrGuABqGAYc>

MESSAGE FROM RUTH CRUIKSHANK KAIROS

Dufferin KAIROS group is one of more than 100 national groups. We meet at Trinity Church monthly to learn about “social justice issues” that affect us locally and globally. By trying to understand issues, we hope to share opportunities for learning and to promote positive action. We believe in a God of Love and Justice. We work with many people with many other beliefs based on the fundamental value of all human beings and their right to food, shelter, safety and freedom.

We are a group of many church denominations. We want to work ecumenically to promote the mission work of participating denominations.

Water, food, Indigenous concerns, poverty, refugees, migrant workers and nanny programs etc. need continuing action locally and globally.

The KAIROS Blanket exercise is an example of a ‘national action’. Trained leader’s help groups participate in learning our First Nation History so we can ‘do the right thing’ and all move on to healthier relations.

Please join our little group on the 3rd Wed. morning each month @ 9:30 downstairs at Trinity....coffee/tea, muffins and tea biscuits and a warm welcome will be waiting for you.

www.kairoscanada.org or contact Ruth @ (519) 925-6631 for local information



“Through KAIROS, 10 churches and religious organizations work together in faithful action for ecological rights and human justice. Through KAIROS, ordinary Canadians of faith and conscience work together for extraordinary change.’ If you want to know more about their wonderful work, have a look at their newsletters.

**[https://
www.kairoscanada.org/](https://www.kairoscanada.org/)**



MESSAGE FROM WENDY CREWSON
Meals on Wheels Coordinator for Trinity United Church

Meals on Wheels is a program, run by the County of Dufferin Community Support Services, where volunteers deliver hot meals to seniors living in their own home. In Shelburne, the meals are



prepared at the Dufferin Oaks kitchen and are delivered three times a week by Service Club members or community groups. At Trinity, we have a very dedicated group of eight people who volunteer their time for this worthwhile program. Trinity's turn comes up every eight weeks, and we deliver Monday, Wednesday and Friday when it is our turn. There are approximately 20 meals to be delivered on each day, so each delivery day requires two volunteers to complete the deliveries. Thank you to my team at Trinity for your help and support of this service to our community. If you are interested in joining the Meals on Wheels Team at Trinity please contact Wendy Crewson or call the Church office 519 925 2233.

MESSAGE FROM SOUP HAUS

Troupe-Adore's Soup Haus celebrated its 1 year anniversary on Tuesday November 6th, 2018, along with numerous volunteers, co-chef Josh Oatman,



Gold Sponsor Brenda Haines of the Shelburne Transporter, Kinettes Club of Shelburne - the anniversary meal sponsor, and a full house of dinner guests. Supper was a Persian palatial feast served up as a cultural celebratory

contribution from the chef, Sohayla Smith. Soup Haus would like to thank Trinity United Church for providing a location for us to serve the community over the past year, and we look forward to continuing to serve wholesome and delicious food made with love every Tuesday evening.

Read about this wonderful evening at: <http://shelburnefreepress.ca/?p=22090> and visit the Soup Haus website <http://www.souphaus.ca/> or catch them on Facebook. Thank you, thank you Josh and Sohayla and all your delightful volunteers of your constant generosity.



Space and Spirit, one step at a time

Our space and spirit campaign to rebuild the east entrance to the Trinity United Church is almost finished, though for the final touches we will have to wait until the weather breaks in the spring. Michael Hoffman - with a little help from his friends - has continued to work on the pad on the south side of the building for placement of our special bell. If we get a little break in the weather, it may be mounted, and the pedestal faced in stone. But if not the spring weather will bring about the completion of the work. Several benches and plantings are to be installed as well come the spring. Hill n'Dale will be doing the garden design

And a couple of quick notes.

The UCW, along with their continued support in way of funeral and event catering for both churches, have decided this year to support Shelburne School Breakfast Fund which provides breakfast for children arriving early to school.

The Shepherd's Cupboard is always in need of canned fruit, school snacks, feminine hygiene products and toiletry items if this is something you would like to support directly. They can be reached through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/shelburneontario/>

The wonderful yoga instructor, Alex Leikermoser, continues to offer wonderful classes at 6:30 on Wednesdays through until December 19th. Please feel free to attend these relaxing, focusing classes. You can contact Alex directly at alex@yogagurl.com.



The Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Choir is singing up a storm for our extra seasonal services this year.
You won't want to miss them.





We are called to be the Church...to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope...



'Embracing the Spirit is a new learning network and innovation fund. It aims to spur innovation, pilot new programs, support successful initiatives, create a learning network for faith communities, and support both new and renewing faith communities across the United Church of Canada.'

Trinity recently received a \$2,500 grant to help upgrade our downstairs hospitality room where Soup Haus takes place.

Both Trinity and Primrose United Churches have formed visioning groups in order to prepare grant applications for upgrading our properties and initiating new adventures in church ministries. If this is something that interests you, speak to Candice

The New Creed of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and
risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond
death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

A New Creed is a brief and well-loved affirmation of faith used widely in our worship (1968; rev. 1980, 1995).



A Dickens of an Evening!

A Re-Telling and Re-Creation of
Charles Dickens' Christmas Classic
'A Christmas Carol'



A Dickens of an Evening!

With a combination of visuals, creaking stairs and doors, rattling chains, ghostly graveyard, the haunting words of Charles Dickens as performed by Jeffrey Cottam and the mood-enhancing organ and piano music of Bruce Ley, the audience is transported back to 19th England.

Charles Dickens was a social justice activist. The imprisonment of his father in the Marshalsea, a debtor's prison in London, forced Charles into child labour in a blacking factory and was the driving force behind his commitment to document injustice and poverty in Victorian England.

Inequity, disparities ignored or created by governments, continue to ignite conflict around the world. Partera is there, in many of those places, where people in despair have fallen into the grip of violent conflict. This work is changing the lives of people and communities around the

Friday December 14, 2018

7:30

Trinity United Church

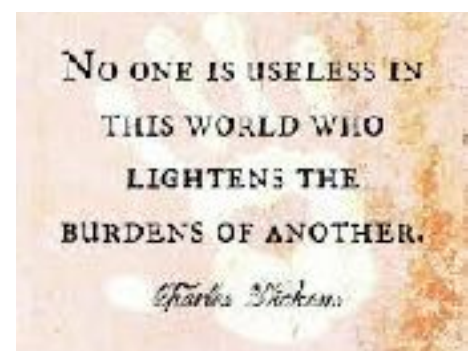
A Beautiful, Thoughtful Presentation
of the classic tale of redemption - and
plum pudding will be served as well.

Special prizes for coming dressed in
Dickens attire. Tickets \$20

"I wear the chain I
forged in life....I made
it link by link, and yard
by yard; I girded it on
of my own free will,
and of my own free will

I wore it." —

Charles Dickens,
A Christmas Carol



At long last our donate button is up and running on our website.

You can click here and donate from our website:

[DONATE](#)

Or you can click on any of the buttons below and they will take you directly to the fund you wish to support.

Either way you are able to give to the church through your credit card, PayPal account, or your Debit/Visa.

This is done through [CanadaHelps](#). It is a user friendly platform. It is just another kind of envelope. Without the paper.

The
Season
of
Giving



[DONATE SHELBURNE PRIMROSE PASTORAL CHARGE](#)

[DONATE TRINITY UNITED CHURCH](#)

[DONATE PRIMROSE UNITED CHURCH](#)

[DONATE PARTERA PEACEBUILDERS INT.](#)

[DONATE FIRST LINE FOR SYRIA](#)

Annunciation

Hail O favored one!
But Mary was greatly troubled
At the angel's erupting, interrupting greeting.

No wonder;
The annunciation of heaven
Splitting earth
Is always troubling
Trembling
Tremulous
Mountains shake
Hearts quiver
At the sound of God's rousing.

No wonder;
Such announcements stir dangerous memory;
The crumbling of ambition
Quakes rending high places
Saviors emerging from mangers
To subvert palace and princes and priests.

Hail, O favored one!
Heaven's comedy breaks with a grin;
Into the womb of a teenage peasant,
To shepherds standing in dung-filled fields,
To goyim-refuse of creation-from distant lands
Who decipher God's signature in the very stars.

With Mary, Nerod also shoulders,
Gripped with fear
At the sound of this heavenly Hail!
His heart, too, is troubled
Trembling
Tremulous,
But Nerod hearts
Cast slaughtered innocents
In their wake.

Only those with wombs of welcome
To heaven's Annunciation
Can magnify God and heal the earth.

Ken Sehested <http://www.prayerandpolitiks.org/>

The Shelburne Primrose
Pastoral Charge wishes you
every joy this Christmas
season.

May peace once again find a
place in your heart,
may calmness descend upon
your home, and may
you know that the gentle
fierceness of the Christ spirit
as it settles in your heart.

Offer grace to all you meet.
And allow grace to be given
to you also. For in the giving
and receiving of grace, the
world is healed.



Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge

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