

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches.

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A Colouring Book for Lent and Beyond.

"My Love Colours Outside the Lines", was one of the hymns we sang during the **Epiphany** season at St. David's. It fit the excellent "Side Trips" series designed to widen our faith horizons. **Colouring outside the lines could be a theme for Lent.**

When we look at Jesus' journey of faith in and around Galilee then a journey south to Jerusalem, we see **the boundless love of God that pushed old boundaries and overflowed across long established lines**; lines intended, ironically, to keep religion strong and safe.

Jesus lived the hymn "My Love Colours Outside the Lines". Rabbis had boundaries. **No Rabbi** at the time, except Jesus, would have chosen illiterate fishermen as disciples, healed on the Sabbath, had dinner with a tax collector, healed the daughter of a Roman platoon leader and preferred, at least on one occasion, the light chatter of children to the heavy discourse of adults. **No Rabbi** would have taken the shortcut through Samaria and told a story about a "good" Samaritan. **No Rabbi** would have asked help from a Samaritan woman, especially "that woman" at Jacob's well, or even considered tipping revenue temple tables that were part of balancing the annual budget.

In every narrative someone was either being lifted up or put down, or both. It is what love does. A hard act to follow? Of course. You have your own examples from your own faith journey.

The season of Lent is upon us; a good time to reach for the crayons. **GW**



Euchre & Games Night

Friday, March 22, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Etonia United Church
101 Hwy. 2, Etonia

Fun here!

DICE CARDS
& BOARD
GAMES

Refreshments and
snacks provided

Bring a friend!

Take Out Available

CORNER BEEF Supper

Dundas St. United Church
285 Dundas St. Woodstock

Wednesday
March 27, 2019
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Adults—\$18.00
Children 5-10—\$5.00
Under 5 free

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

For more information call
(519) 537-7935 or (519) 539-6923

Norwich UC

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Wed. March 27 11:30-1:00
pm, Lower Hall. \$8 for
Adults/ \$5 Child/
JK & SK- Free.

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FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Isaiah 58: 6-8.

Giving up something for Lent has always been one way of stepping into the experience of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. It may even be a reminder that there are **many both in our community and in the wider world that experience a kind of wilderness, not by choice but by circumstance.** The links which follow may help you step into their world.

https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAKV_OescvwubAxIhGN

Clicking on the above link will get you the bi-monthly news letter of Operation Sharing.

Suggestions: Subscribe to the news letter of Operation Sharing and print a few copies for your congregation. Have lunch at Bullwinkle's Tuesday or Thursday. Shop at grocery stores that support Food for Friends and add a quarter to your bill whether they ask for it or not.

The link below is **to the Camp Profile of the Adi-Harush refugee camp in Ethiopia** where Sara Temnewu (pronounced tem-new-ah) and her 15-year-old son Naod are staying.

https://1drv.ms/b/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAKV_Z-1wHDZHDU-KiK

This data sheet comes from the United Nations Refugee Committee. **Note that each person is allotted 16 L per day of potable water.** Compare this with the amount you use from one of your own recent water bills. At the bottom of the page is the food menu. **Imagine putting together a meal using wheat, split peas and beans.** How about that for a week, or a month or for 2 or 3 years? We have just learned that Sara and Naod will be moved to Addis Ababa after 45 days: a Lent they will long remember.

And last but not least, pray. Religious persecution is a reality. GW

CLIMATE REFUGEES



The 2019 Winter Edition of Mandate – United for God's Mission of UCC has an excellent article on the growing crisis in Climate Refugees.

Extreme weather may be inconvenient for us here in Oxford, but in Kenya the displacement of thousands of people has been triggered by increasing drought. **MM**

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- **March 20, 2019 Oxford UCW Annual Meeting.** Dundas St UC, Woodstock, Registration 8:45 am Theme: "Days for Girls", Speakers: Carol Ward & Pat Bruvelaitis
- **April 13, 2019, Siloam UC, London 57th Annual Gathering Region 7,** Advance registration cherylpriverside@yahoo.ca or call 226-927-5729, Registration & Refreshments 9:00 a. m., \$20, **Theme: "Here I Am Lord"**, Speaker: Dr. Eileen Antone, Emeritus, Bible Study Leader: Rev. Mark Bellamy, Noon Dinner \$20, Supper \$10
- **April 15, 2019 Oxford UCW Spring Event,** Westminster UC, Thamesford, Registration 6:00 pm
- **May 3-5, 2019 Westminster weekend.** Details in Feb issue.



On March 7th, Five Oaks celebrated the Grand Re-opening of the Upper Room. An amazing new look! **Visit in person or on Facebook to see!**

<https://www.facebook.com/fiveoakscentre/>

Membership Renewal:

<http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca/RGMember.htm#/event/2796/purchase-membership-2019>

General Annual Meeting: Sunday May 5, 2019 1:00pm-4:00pm

Five Oaks is seeking candidates for various Board of Director positions. Check out details on Facebook.

CAMP TANNER

Camp Registration now open

See <http://www.camptanner.ca/>

(STILL) HIRING for staff

positions: Camper Director, Program Director, Lifeguards (NLS Required), Craft Leader, Counsellors, Counsellors in Training (Volunteers), First Aid Staff, Kitchen Support Workers (Part Time)

Details at

<http://www.camptanner.ca/staff.html>

Deadline extended to Friday

March 29 at 9:00 am. Submit to

camptannercoordinator@outlook.com

Oxford Climate Response Team



Reminder

Turn out your lights

March 30, for Earth Hour

8:30-9:30 pm

Resources noted in Feb CONNECTIONS (hotlink on back page)

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GRANDMOTHERS TEA

**Wed March 27
noon – 2:00 pm**

Mount Pleasant UC

669 Mt. Pleasant Rd. Mt.
Pleasant, ON N0E 1K0
Contact # 519-484-2521

Potluck luncheon
Bring your favorite dish
or dessert and share in
the fun and laughter

<http://www.nationsuniting.com/>

Eastwood United Church Annual Ham Supper



Saturday March 30, 2019

Take Out: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sit Down: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$ 17.00/adult & \$ 7.00/child

For tickets please contact:

Wendy: 519-424-3147 & Chris 519-469-3838

"Local food, lovingly made"

Avondale United Church Roast Beef Supper

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Serving from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

**Tickets: \$17 for adults, \$8 for
children ages 5-10, free for under
5 years old.**

Take Out available.

60 Harvey St, Tillsonburg

519-842-5532

avondaleuc@gmail.com

Murder Mystery Dinner "This Is The Criminal Truth"

Trinity UC, INGERSOLL

(Corner of Church St. + King St.)

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Social Time: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

3 course Roast Beef Dinner catered
by

"our own" Tina Neilands.

Tickets \$40

Call 519-485-0820 between the hours
of 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to arrange to
purchase tickets. Seating limited
Don't delay!

Easter Treasures

Craft/Vendor Sale & Café



Local artisans, bakers,
crafters, vendors and
more! What treasure
will you find?



Saturday April 6, 2019

Norwich United Church

Sale: 9am-2pm

Café: 11am-1pm

Vendor Inquiries Welcome
contact Norwich United Church Office
519-863-3637 or nuc@execulink.com

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Good News from OURS

(Oxford United Refugee Committee)

We've received the good news that Freweini Mebrahtu has been asked by Canadian representatives in Rome to appear for an interview in Khartoum March 25th. This interview along with a medical is the last step before clearance is granted for the family's emigration to Canada. When that will happen depends on the policy in Sudan.



More good news that Sara Temnewu and her 15-year-old son, Naod did make it across the border from Eritrea to the refugee camp Adi-Harush in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, the camp is two days by bus away from the camp in Addis Ababa where Sara's older daughter Selam and son Fithawi are. Sara and Naod would not be able to join them for three months **unless they received a fax stating that they had a sponsor**. So, the race was on to fax the authorities in the camp of 10,599 people, one of 25 camps in Ethiopia!

After two weeks of failed attempts to fax, e-mail and phone, we received the **welcome news that Sara and Naod would be boarding a bus for Addis this Sunday (March 17th)!**

Another request has come from Maryam Jafari of Woodstock, asking us

to sponsor her mother from Iran, now a refugee in Turkey. The Jafari family will supply the necessary funding. With the application completed, it will take approximately three years before Maryam's mother arrives in Canada.

Thanks to Jim Harrison (fax attempts) and Isabella Gordy (hours of work), to Janice Landers and Marjory Martin on the committee for filling out application forms. We're grateful to Chairperson Carol Ewing for her guidance while away. We look forward to her return. In the meantime, we carry on.

Glen Wright – the OURS Committee

Programs for Younger Folk

St Paul's UC, Tillsonburg

April 5 P.A. Day kids program from 8:30 – 4:00 p.m. \$10 per child. Bring lunch. Games, crafts, singing and fun. Snacks provided - please register at 519 688-0011.

April 20 Messy Church Program from 10-12 noon. Hot lunch provided no charge. Crafts, games, music and fun! All are welcome.

Come out and see what the program is about! Children accompanied by adults welcome.

Norwich United Church:

Messy Church is first Tuesday of every month. April 2nd 4:30 pm, supper @ 6:00 pm

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Links for Prayer cycles:

As communities of faith we are encouraged to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

United Church of Canada – Antler River Watershed.

<https://www.prayercycles.ca/antler-river-watershed26c697c9>

Former Oxford Presbytery – updated Feb 13, 2019

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAkQEba-8QXKUNMT01>

Congregations Searching for new Ministerial Leadership.

We hold in prayer: Avondale UC (Tillsonburg), Mt Elgin UC, Newark UC, Otterville UC, Hickson UC, Knox UC Embro (as of April 1), Trinity UC Ingersoll and Hebron UC (as of July 1).

Nations Uniting Coming Together for Reconciliation

Nations Uniting, together with a group of Residential School Survivors is offering a series of workshops to follow up on Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #59.

Starting March 27th.

Deadline to Register March 25, 2019

Please note that the program is a 5 Session commitment. At Oshwegan Details at

<http://www.nationsuniting.com/>

MOVING FORWARD ...



Mt Elgin UC held an Open House to honour Rev Lynne Allin as she begins her new work with the Region, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission. Many memories were evoked as people (young and old) mingled. Pictured here with Lynne and her husband Jim is Fred Heeney, an old Presbytery friend.

On March 10, Hickson UC held a decommissioning service after having made the difficult decision to sell. Lillian Rowe, lay worship leader, led a wonderful service of members speaking and singing their good-byes to the building. Rev Susan Cole did the decommissioning. In the words of the hymn 'The church is wherever God's people are praising', the congregation will now worship at nearby Christ Church (Anglican Church), Huntingford. Below: the congregation circled the church to sing Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



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GOOD NEWS from Hyuk Cho (formerly at Brownsville + Delmer UC)

Hyuk's congregation, West Point Grey UC, in Vancouver, B.C. has fifteen new members since September, mostly young. The music director has about 20 members from 7 to 70 in a ukulele band. Hyuk has a workshop - woodworking- in one of the two church buildings on their property.

His children are living together in Hamilton. Luke is enrolled in the Architecture course at Mohawk College. Saepom graduates in May and hopes to get a position with Public Health where she was a student. Hyuk will be here for the graduation May 21st and hopes to visit here.

He has a teaching position at University of British Columbia to teach The Theology of the United Church, beginning Jan 2020. He has written one of the chapters in a new book just published, The Theology of the United Church.

Lots of good news!

GW

Reuseapaloozaha!

Two great free swap events:

1. Embro Community Centre,
Saturday, April 27
2. Woodstock Agricultural
Fairgrounds, May 11

Meet neighbours, declutter, stop the dump, reuse, recycle, rethink, repurpose, renew...

Open 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Don't miss out.

CONNECTIONS—Prior Editions:

January 2019:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAJzk1Ak4uvbn6aZYS>

February 2019:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAKHtXnTBBOM-xnJP0>

Co-editors: Marg Murray (MM) and Glen Wright (GW).

Additional members are invited to join our Communication Team.

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News and Views of Oxford County U. C.

**PUBLICATION DATE: 2ND
WED**

**+
SUBMISSION DUE DATE:
MON. PRIOR**

Email:

oxfconnections@gmail.com

Please circulate widely to church secretaries and other interested parties.

You are receiving this email as a member of former Oxford Presbytery.

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To share your important links, email the editors.

Feedback welcome.