

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 7

July 10, 2019

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FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Perspective is everything.

This past Sunday, we attended church with two of our grandsons. My heart and mind were heavy with concern about the climate crisis and wondering **what kind of world they would live in when they were our age?**

Walter Bruggeman has described our world as being created by consumerism, greed and convenience based on **'predatory economics'**. He notes that the prophets and Jesus in the Bible taught of an alternate world view of **'the economics of neighbourliness', an alternate community based on love.** Throughout the ages the power of love has been a **continuing threat to profit and power.** And today, the well being of the earth is seriously at risk. I recall Stan McKay, when he was Moderator of the United Church of Canada and a Cree native, saying that we need to make decisions which consider the next 7 generations.

Sitting beside our 2nd generation, I repeated to myself: 'we live in God's world - created for relationship with each other, with all of creation and with God'.

Rev Sarah Grady chose the inspiring topic of the **Power of Love** from Archbishop Michael Curry's barn burner sermon at Prince Harry and Megan Markle's wedding last year. **'Loving and being loved - there is something right about it. And there's a reason for it. The reason has to do with the source. We were made by a power of love, and our lives were meant - and are meant - to be lived in that love. That's why we are here. ...**

Ultimately the source of love is God himself: the source of all of our lives.....

There's power in love. There's power in love to help and heal when nothing else can.'¹

My feeling hopeless and scared is not unique to me. They are the subject of the Psalms - as are praise and thanksgiving. I was soundly reminded that I need **to discipline myself to keep the perspective of 'the economics of neighbourliness', and of the power of love being our source.**

This United Church had escaped damage 40 years ago when a tornado almost leveled the community of Oxford Centre. **It was humbling to recall that although the neighbouring Anglican church had been leveled on Tuesday, August 7th, the congregation gathered in their sanctuary for worship on the following Sunday.**

We do not live alone. We live in God's world. MM

1) <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-and-writing/sermons/power-love-bishop-michael-currys-sermon-wedding-prince-harry-and>



WHEN? JULY 26-28, 2019
WHERE? FIVE OAKS - Paris, ON
skylightfestival.ca
Congregations are welcome to worship, Sunday July 28 at 9:30am. No cost.

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SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 25 2019
6:00 pm, College Ave UC,
Woodstock

Friends of Oxford Presbytery
gather to eat, laugh,
worship and...?
Details to follow!

If you are willing to help,
please contact Lloyd Bennett
(pastorlloyd@collegeave.ca)

CONNECTIONS – News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Publication Date: 2nd Wed (Except August)

SUBMISSION DATE: noon of prior Monday.

email:

oxfconnections@exculink.com

Help us connect with each other.

You may share widely.

Submissions welcome.

To remove your name from this mailing list, email

oxfconnections@execulink.com

Feedback welcome.

Prior Issues of January, February, March, April, May, June 2019:

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AiDNGgSFiQOAKHtXnTBBOM-xnJP0?e=6JkAx7>



Rev. Mark Marshall & Lydia Marshall
Available to share their story
"Through the Keyhole: The Holy Land Today"
contact

revmarkconnexions@gmail.com or
(519) 533-8989.

GRANDMOTHERS' TEA

a time for building bridges between
indigenous & non-indigenous women

July 31, 2019



Wednesday, July 31, 2019: 12-2 PM

St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church
110 Francis Street, Cambridge

Please bring a potluck dish or dessert to share.

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Programs for Families

St Paul's UC 88 Bidwell St, Tillsonburg



July 20th – Messy Church from 10-12 noon.
THEME: Campfires and Critters. Crafts, games, music and fun! All are welcome. Hot lunch

provided no charge.

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

Norwich UC

Summer Camp brochures and registration forms available
www.norwichunitedchurch.ca

OPPORTUNITY

Due to the increase in polls from the last Federal Election, many more workers are needed.

Federal Election Oct. 21 2019 NEEDED:

Advance Polls:

- Oct. 11-14, 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

Regular Polls

- Oct. 21, 9:30 – 9:30

Poll worker, Paid positions, Training provided. Hiring from age 16 years old and up.

Also in need of a full time, (September and October), office worker who can speak French.

Apply at elections.ca/jobs
or Call Audrey Schultz 519 458-4990
or Sandra Stock 519 462-2643



Prayer cycles:

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

Congregations searching for Ministerial Leadership:

Avondale UC (Tillsonburg), Mt Elgin UC, Newark UC, Otterville UC, Hickson UC, Knox UC Embro, Trinity UC Ingersoll, Hebron UC, Curries Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge (Oct 1, 2019).

United Church of Canada – Antler River Watershed.

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

Former Oxford Presbytery – updated June 6 2019

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAIG6HFE9NkV4tEdfD?e=UjrqQn>

Pastoral Relations Trained Liaison Personnel (appointed) are:

Rev. Bonnie Pilkey

Mary Anne Silverthorn

A Trained Liaison person assists the Pastoral Charge in the Search process once the Pastoral Charge profiles have been approved by the Region. They train the Search Team and are a contact person until the completion of the Covenanting Service. The Trained Liaison is appointed by the region.

Note:

Pastoral Relations Liaison Training for Antler River Watershed Regional Council Thursday, August 1, 10 am - 2 pm Tecumseh United Church. Register with Diane Blanchard at dblanchard@united-church.ca

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A FUNNY THING HAPPENED...

It was the mid point in my 40 year ministry and since by that time I had officiated at well over 300 weddings, I



thought I had heard all of the requests from brides concerning wedding plans. I hadn't.

"I would like to have my ex-husband give me away." said the bride, almost casually. "Really?" I said. "Oh yeah," she said. "In fact, he's been wanting to give me away for years," she added, with a laugh. "It will be fine; my fiancé, my ex, we have all been friends for years," she added.

The wedding day arrived. I sat in the church office with the groom, the best man and the ex-husband waiting for the bride. The wedding was to be a 2:00 pm on a Saturday. **The 2:00 pm time arrived with no bride in sight.** Then 2:05, still no bride. The ex-husband says to the groom, "Not to worry, she's always about 10 minutes late. She will be here, I know." **Here was the ex-husband assuring the groom that all would be well.** How often does that happen? At precisely 2:10 the bride arrived, and the wedding went off as planned.

If I were to rate the wedding, I would give it a 7 or 8. **If I were to rate a couple getting through a divorce without bitterness and resentment, and successfully moving on, I would give the couple a resounding 10. GW**



from the ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGIONAL COUNCIL

Personnel from Oxford County elected at the May Annual Meeting are:

Executive:

Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

Covenant Commission:

Rev. Mark Marshall

Human Resources Commission:

Mary Anne Silverthorn

Mission and Discipleship Commission:

Dawn Jones

Mary Anne Silverthorn reports that the Resource Pools will be named in the Fall from the lists of those who submitted an 'expression of interest'.

The 1st Meeting of The Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive and the 3 Commissions was held on Wednesday June 12 at Camp Kenesserie.

The morning was spent with all 4 groups (Executive and 3 Commissions) working together, being brought up to date on current business and discussing topics of mutual concern. In the afternoon the groups met separately to discuss items of business pertaining to the Executive and/or each Commission.

Slowly but surely, our new structure is taking shape.

We offer our prayers and encouragement to those who are working tirelessly to nurture our relationships.

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CAMP TANNER

STILL ROOM

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

REGISTER ONLINE

Intermediate Co-ed#2

10-13 yrs. old - July 21-26, 2019

Junior Girls

7- 10 yrs. old - July 28-August 2, 2019

Senior Co-ed

12-15 yrs. old - August 4-9, 2019

Junior Co-ed #2

7-10 yrs. old. - August 11-16, 2019

OPPORTUNITY

For July 28 - August 7

CAMP TANNER

STILL NEEDS!

Life Guards

+

MALE COUNSELLORS

Please contact Megan Ross
(meganeliseross@gmail.com)

July 10 UPDATE STILL NEEDED!

FOOD DONATIONS for CAMP (staff and campers)

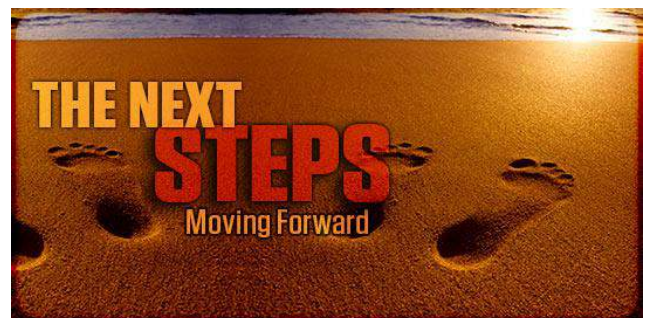
Pop (variety incl. iced tea 25 cases of 24 cans)
All Flavours Chips including Nachos ...30 bags
Chocolate Chips.....4-6 large bags
Popcorn Seasoning 12 shakers
Marshmallows12 large bags
.....6 bags of minis
Canned Apple Juice 60 cans
Cheese Bars (450 grams - Old)..... 40
Cheese Slices (pkg of 48)8 pkg.

FOOD DONATIONS

Check with Sandra Schurman (519-475-4833)

sandraschurman@execulink.com to
arrange delivery at CAMP TANNER

**Camp Tanner sincerely
appreciates our food donations.**



Rev Sarah Grady has accepted a call to Minister at St Paul's UC, Paris, effective October 1, 2019. She will be dearly missed by Curries and Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge and County of Oxford. We wish her God's blessings.

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CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING



June 30th, Rev Sarah Grady and Rev Derrick Perry conducted an ecumenical service at the ball diamond in Oxford Centre to celebrate Canada

Day with 7 congregations from Curries, Oxford Centre, Eastwood, Innerkip and Princeton joining together for a Pentecost worship which included a

heartfelt personal story of Margaret and Helen Alyea of the



tornado which destroyed 30 homes, Christ Anglican church and the community centre.

The day of this year's service, the winds blew gently. The resilience of this community is an inspiration.

Willis United Church, Drumbo 150 years! June 9th, 2019

It was an important day for Willis as they gathered to celebrate their 150th



Anniversary. Rev Mark Marshall was guest preacher. Pictures show him sharing with the children.



Folks gathered from near and far to celebrate. The celebration continued at the Drumbo Fair Hall where they enjoyed a delicious lunch and sharing memories amongst friends.

Also pictured is Church Secretary, Lorraine McLean with Rev Mark.



The woman in pink top is Jeanie Green, long time member and former Sunday school teacher.



**OXFORD PRESBYTERY
FACEBOOK PAGE**

<https://www.facebook.com/Oxford-Presbytery-690395957746547/>