

# CONNECTIONS

## News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Special Issue 8

August 2, 2019

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### THE ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGIONAL COUNCIL

## What is Ministry Sharing? and How Can Your Congregation Benefit?

**Part-time ministry, difficulty finding staff, high cost of office supplies and equipment, low number of participants for programs and events, declining United Church presence – are you concerned about one or more of these challenges?** We are all familiar with the pressures of declining finances and dwindling membership, but **the good news is we can find solutions by working together.**

The idea of congregations sharing resources and ministry personnel goes back to the days of the **Methodist circuit rider, when neighbouring congregations worked together to maintain a church presence throughout the area.** In the same way, ministry sharing invites congregations to explore ways they can work together to support our shared commitment to United Church ministries.

Antler River Watershed Regional Council will be hosting an information session on Ministry Sharing Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 PM at College Ave United Church in Woodstock. **Lynne Allin, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission will provide an overview of ways congregations can work together to share ministry personnel, staff and other resources, while remaining separate pastoral charges.** There will be time for discussion and sharing of ideas. **Diane Blanchard, Minister, Pastoral Relations will also be available to answer questions.**

This is for **small congregations** seeking part-time ministers, **larger congregations** seeking more income, congregations curious **about ways to be more effective and save costs**, people **already participating in ministry sharing** and **those who want to learn about it.** Most of all this is an opportunity for everyone who is **interested in exploring ways to support our United Churches and their ministries to come and learn more.**

**Everyone is welcome – September 10, 7 pm College Ave United Church**

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# **Ministry Sharing Information Evening**

## **Learn about:**

- ❖ How congregations can share staff, ministers and resources
- ❖ Ministry Personnel options for smaller congregations
- ❖ Creating a more attractive position description

## **Discuss:**

- ❖ Ways to strengthen and maintain a United Church presence
- ❖ Options and Possibilities

## **Imagine:**

- ❖ Healthier congregations
- ❖ New Opportunities

**College Ave United Church**

Woodstock

**September 10, 2019**

**7-8:30 PM**

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### Grandmothers' Tea August 28



#### Hosting for August 2019

**Burgessville United Church 24  
Church St. W, Burgessville,  
519-424- 9938**

**Time: Noon - 2:00pm**

*Everyone Welcome*  
Potluck luncheon,  
bring your favorite dish and share in  
the fun and laughter.

### Save the Date! Wed. Sept 25

### Friends of Oxford Presbytery

**Come early. Visit. Browse books  
Eat 6:00 pm, College Ave UC,  
Woodstock**

**Eat, laugh, visit, sing, and...?**

**Let us know you are coming.  
The sooner, the better.**

**Email Lloyd Bennett (note  
special dietary restrictions)  
[pastorlloyd@collegeave.ca](mailto:pastorlloyd@collegeave.ca)**

**Deadline: Wed. Sept 18.**

### OXFORD PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE

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

### Federal Election 2019

June 19, the Federal Government declared a climate emergency in Canada. **Sign Petitions to have CBC host a Climate Debate among leaders.**

#### **Shaping the Canada that we want.**

Visit the Citizens for Public Justice for upto date information on the Oct 21 Federal Election. Public justice is the 'political dimension of loving our neighbour'.

<https://cpj.ca/2019-federal-election/?fbclid=IwAR3DIcyEuk8r4BxAzT75W-XCqLoztXVzoEjE2CH3rSdxvdYoswfxptkaChU>

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**Publication Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed (Except August)**

**SUBMISSION DATE: noon of prior Monday.**

**email:**

[oxfconnections@exculink.com](mailto:oxfconnections@exculink.com)

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**You may share widely.**

**Submissions welcome.**

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**Feedback welcome.**

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

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

**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=UjrgQn>

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## Christian Theology After Christendom

Engaging the Thought of Douglas John Hall

**Save the Date: November 1-3, 2019, McGill University, Montreal**

*Papers, panels and conversations will explore and build upon DJH's thought on the demise of Christendom and the possibilities for Christianity today and into the future. Featured presenters include leading and emerging scholars*

Douglas John Hall in conversation with: Walter Brueggemann, Harris Athanasiadis, Nick Athanasiadis, Michael Bourgeois, Gary Gaudin, Adolfo Ham, Allen Jorgenson, Patricia Kirkpatrick, David Lott, Pam McCarroll, Andrew Root, Deanna Thompson, Brian Thorpe, Harold Wells, and others

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