

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

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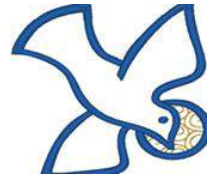
Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost

We are in Creation Time (the 5 Sundays following Labour Day ending with Thanksgiving), a time of harvest and changing seasons. As the colours burst forth around us in blessing and the Pentecost Spirit challenges our perceptions of the world around us. No longer can we continue with Business as Usual. Wendall Berry says **'We used to think that what was good for us was good for the world. We were wrong. We should be thinking about what is good for the world. That will be good for us.'**

Our stories connect us: to each other, to God, and to Creation and indeed to that which is deepest within. **Deep in our hearts there is a common story, telling Creation that we are one. (More Voices 154)** Stories across the world, in our own community and country.

- **Coming together. Sept 18th deadline** to order meal (\$10) for the former Oxford Presbytery Sept 25th.
- **Food for the Soul** story of Freweini's faith and gratitude in the face of extreme deprivation while waiting in a refugee camp in Khartoum.
- **Stories of the goings and comings** at **Trinity UC, Ingersoll** – retirement of Bill Mayoros and the call of Tracy Crick-Butler
- **Celebrating and Remembering** Operation Sharing
- **Climate Crisis** – Personal story by Doug Richards, resources on internet and the Federal Election.
- Thank you from Camp Tanner
- Updated Prayer List
- Blasting churches to move them.
- Throwing out waste is costly. Check out ReUseAPloozza
- A story of a Grandmother's Tea
- Events in the County of Oxford

FOOD FOR THE SOUL



Freweini Mebrahtu and Family- Refugee Application Rejected

On March 28th Freweini was interviewed, which is **one of the final procedures before getting permission to come to Canada. The interview, conducted through an interpreter, did not go well for various reasons.** Toronto was mentioned as her place of residence in Canada, though Freweini denies saying that. She did not identify Woodstock as the home of her sponsoring group. She had filled out her forms in English as required and had put an "s" on the word father when she said the father was not a responsible person. She had no proof that she had owned and operated a coffee house in Eritrea. The certificate giving her refugee status was judged to be a copy and not an original.

We had 60 days to respond. Freweini was instructed to apply for another refugee certificate. **In spite of all of our efforts and submissions, in August we received notice that the interviewer had not changed her mind. The application was not approved.**

Our only option, barring a further appeal, is to re-apply through the United Church of Canada, which does not require proof of refugee status. Originally, we applied directly through the government because the number of applications has resulted in a one year waiting period with the church.

Through all this, Freweini writes a letter of thanks to us for all our efforts.

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It is a letter filled with faith that God will continue to be there for her and her family.

Her children have been without school for 3 years; her 18-year-old son cannot work. She worries every day that someone will abduct one of her children and demand a ransom, a common occurrence. In the first part of August, during the revolution in Khartoum, it was not safe for her to be in the streets. For a time, the only food in the house was flour and cooking oil yet her life is one of deep faith and hope. **She will never get a mother-of-the-year award, but her courage, faith and hope make her one many times over. She is nothing less than an inspiration for us all. I believe that we have no choice but to continue to keep Freweini and her family in our prayers and in our resolve to continue to work faithfully on their behalf.**

Glen Wright, on behalf of the OURS Committee

Congratulations!

As of August 25th, the Refugee Fund total is \$7,042.51. This includes the \$1600.00 that we had on hand. We are well on our way to the \$8,800.00 goal.

**Fundraiser Concert of
Woodstock Choralaires
Sept 29 2019 @ 2:30 pm
St David's UC, Woodstock**

Come out and support our families.

Free will offering

(poster inside)

a KITA announcement for Friends of Former Oxford Presbytery

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

In response to an expressed interest in gathering face-to-face, we are planning an event for Wednesday, September 25 at College Avenue U.C., Woodstock.

Time is 6:00 pm. Cost of meal is \$10. To order meal (note diet restrictions), **please email Lloyd Bennett (pastorlloyd@collegeave.ca) before September 18th.** The meal is being catered by Bullwinkles of Operation Sharing.

Visit, browse books, eat, laugh, sing and plan for future gatherings?

Come early and help set up. Stay late and help clean up.

ALL WELCOME

**Rev. Mark Marshall & Lydia
Marshall**

**Available to share their story
"Through the Keyhole: The Holy
Land Today"**

revmarkconnexions@gmail.com

or (519) 533-8989.



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Personal Letter of Doug Richards (St David's U.C.) re Climate Crisis and a presentation (August 15) to City of Woodstock Council

Many of you have grandchildren or are aunts and uncles of babies and toddlers. Kathie and I also have a grandchild, now 18 months old. **Alice will have to live on an Earth that is reeling under the effects of climate change that I have helped to cause.** It has hit me hard to realize that if this sweet little girl lives as long as I have, she will be present at the arrival of the 22nd century! **I can never again look her in the eye without asking myself, what have I done to make this world a place where she can live a life without fear of climate catastrophe** (see her picture to the right). Will she look back with disgust at what her grandpa's generation has left her?



The United Nations says that Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and this is the defining moment. Secretary-General António Guterres is calling for global action on climate change from politicians, businesses, scientists and the general public to do all we can to prevent an impending climate catastrophe.

Woodstock City Council approved in principle the recommendation to ban the Single-Use, Plastic Handled Shopping Bag ban. It was referred to staff (Engineering) for a report.

OPERATION SHARING CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING

One of the Founders Dies



Harry Parrott played an instrumental role in the founding of Operation Sharing. **Rev Austin Snyder (1928-2013) shared his concerns**

about the needy at a dinner meeting of the Chalmer's United Church Men's Club at the Food Rite. As the men were about to leave, Dr. Harry Parrott issued a challenge: **"Men, this meeting isn't over. It has just begun."** With the support of the entire community and **the Creative Spirit of God, Operation Sharing continues 37 years later.**

Parrott died this summer in Clinton.

<https://lfpress.remembering.ca/obituary/harry-parrott-1075665153>

Operation Sharing website is <https://www.operationsharing.ca/>

Operation Sharing September Newsletter 'Helping In Unity'

is posted at

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAqBdTzZvFdjy2qjov?e=0V4Cn7>



Operation Sharing's Food for Friends site in Ingersoll

recently relocated to Trinity United Church. Bonnie Cannell-Eby heads up the unique "Food For Friends"

program there on Monday and Wednesday mornings. More information available. Call 519-539-3361.

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Rev. Bill Mayoros Retires after 21 wonderful years at Trinity United Church Ingersoll

A committee of six prepared for Rev. Bill Mayoros' **surprise farewell Sunday, June 9, 2019**. Current and former members of Trinity United Church gathered for a service honouring Rev. Bill followed by **a picnic lunch and music on the front lawn**. The service included messages from his **friend Moderator Richard Bott** and past and present members sharing stories and well wishes for retirement. **Special music performances and a slideshow of pictures highlighting Bill's career across Canada were included**. The children of the congregation brought forward symbols of Bill's gifts to thank him for the gifts he shared with Trinity over his ministry in Ingersoll. Finally, **Rev. Bill and his wife Mary received a gift to support their retirement hobby of kayaking**. His final service was June 30, 2019.



When asked for a quote, Bill replied, "I'm off the clock now!"

Trinity United Church Looking Forward to New Minister

Trinity United Ingersoll welcomes a new minister, **Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler, beginning October 1, 2019**.

The Reverend Tracy Crick-Butler grew up in London, graduated from King's College with a Bachelor of Social Work, received her Master of Divinity and Master in Pastoral Studies at Emmanuel College and was ordained in 1996. She is currently working on her Doctor of Ministry in Preaching and looks forward to graduating in May 2020.

She has served widely including the Thamesford Pastoral Charge, and Wesley-Knox United Church. In Tracy's own words, "After more than 23 years of ministry, I continue to feel called to serve God's Church. **I am excited to have this opportunity to learn and grow with you. I love leading worship, wrestling with scripture and spending time with young people. I am honoured when I have the privilege of sharing in the lives of my congregation and look forward to getting to know everyone at Trinity United.**"

How timely for Trinity Ingersoll to celebrate its 215th Anniversary with a new chapter in its long history.

OXFORD PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE

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

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CAMP TANNER

Another successful camping summer this year with enthusiastic and qualified staff providing a loving and supportive family atmosphere for campers.

The Board of Directors deeply appreciates the help of the United Church Women who donated both money as well as time cooking and cleaning up; the churches and folks who donated food, money to sponsor campers; those who offered prayers and moral support.



Check out pictures on Camp Tanner Facebook.



from the
**ANTLER
RIVER
WATERSHED REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

Check out September newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/c60e8ba6305c/september-newsletter?e=0878d108a5>

The Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler has been called to Trinity UC, Ingersoll and will begin October 1.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED...

In a day when we hear conversations about the United Church being a **"church on the move."** Or if you have ever said either under your breath or out loud, **"What would it take to get this church to move?"** Here is a story, strange but true, of a church and a winery in BC's Okanagan valley. The winery is called **"Blasted Church."** From their web site, this is how the name came about.

"On a cool spring morning in 1929, a small crew from Okanagan Falls set off to a **deserted mining camp** some 16 miles away from home.

Their mission: to dismantle an old wooden church and bring it back to Okanagan Falls. The plan called for a **controlled blast of four dynamite sticks inside the church in order to "loosen the nails."** Odd as it may seem, the explosion spared the wood from damage during dismantling. Save for losing the steeple, the plan succeeded. Now the 103-year-old wooden church stands proudly in its second home of Okanagan Falls and is **still an operating United Church.** In keeping with its rather remarkable history, the church has since withstood the threat of two major floods, including the disastrous burst of the Okanagan Falls Dam in the early 1950s. In naming our VQA wines "Blasted Church" we celebrate the ingenuity of the initiative to move the church and honor those pioneers for their vision."



GW

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GRANDMOTHER'S TEA

24 women gathered at Burgessville U.C. to eat and learn about each other's cultures. We shared stories about a piece of important clothing in our lives as we passed the stone of speaking around the tables. Our stories varied from delight to embarrassment but evoking a deep sense of connection. One step of Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.



There are many things to learn as we challenge 'Business as usual' - the meanings of the colours on this stone. MM



The next Grandmother's Tea is 12 noon till 2 pm, September 25, at St Paul's Anglican Church, 1187 Second Line (Sour Springs Road), Six Nations, Ontario. *Email the editors if you would like to go.*

RESOURCE LIST FOR CLIMATE CRISIS:

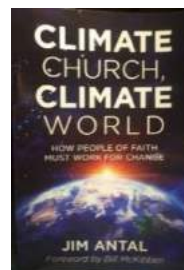
KAAIROS Canada

Indigenous Rights Week - Climate

Action Month 'Indigenous rights are central to Climate Action Month because Indigenous people have long been at the forefront of the environmental movement in Canada and around the world.'

<https://secure.kairosCanada.org/index.php?q=civicrm/mailling/view&reset=1&id=519>

How people of faith must work for



change. A challenging but important read from the national spokesperson on climate change for the United Church of Christ. From personal salvation to collective salvation.

CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE

<https://cpj.ca/category/ecological-justice/>

Prayer for Creation:

<https://cpj.ca/prayer-care-creation/>

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE, September 20-27 <https://globalclimatesstrike.net/>

- Adults called to join Greta Thunberg and leading youth strikers from across the world in a global climate strike

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 23

'The world is in a race to limit climate change..... a race that we must win.'

https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/?utm_source=justicENEWS&utm_campaign=9746c48300-JEN_CAMPAIGN_2018_05-01_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_00b7fceacb-9746c48300-131453945

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Federal Election October 21

People of faith must ask questions of those running in the Federal Election. All of the social justice issues become more difficult in a climate changed world.

CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 2019 Election Bulletin

<https://cpj.ca/2019-federal-election/>

EVENTS

St Paul's UC 88 Bidwell St, Tillsonburg

September 14: Sunday School Yard/Garage Sale, Saturday, September 14th from 9 am – 1 pm. Craft supplies, books, toys, furniture pieces, plants, baked goods and lots more, including a BBQ! Come and find your new treasures!

September 15: AOTS Chicken BBQ, Sunday, September 15 from 5 – 6:30 pm. Cost is \$16 for a half chicken, including delicious homemade pies! Children 12 and under \$9, 5 years and under – free. Tickets are available at Coward Pharmacy in Tillsonburg or the Church Office 519-688-0011.

Programs for Families

St Paul's UC 88 Bidwell St, Tillsonburg

September 21: Messy Church from 10-12 noon. 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.

INNERKIP UNITED CHURCH

FISH FRY

Innerkip Community
Centre

Thursday, September 26, 2019

4:30 - 7:00 PM

Ticket Prices

Adults: \$18

Children 6 - 12 years : \$7

Children Under 6 FREE



For Tickets, call:

Ken 469-3866 or Pat 469-3332

Church Office 519-602-6692

TAKEOUT AVAILABLE



Mt Elgin United Church Invites Teams of 6 for a TRIVIA AFTERNOON

Sunday, October 6 @ 2:00 pm

Mt Elgin Community Centre

333204 Plank Line

Cost is \$20.00 per person
(Light lunch included)

Registration by October 6

Proceeds divided between Mt Elgin
U.C. for ministry of the church and
Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

To attend, you must be a member of a
Registered Team.

Further information call
Joanne 519-485-1988 or
Jannie 519-317-8078

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REUSEAPALOOZAHA

**SEPTEMBER 14, 8 AM TO 2 PM
SWEABURG LIONS' PAVILION**

WANTED:

Good stuff – Kitchenware, books, tools, toys, clothes, metal, garden equipment, electronics, vintage, décor, hardware, wooden furniture, auto accessories...

Good folks – teen and adult volunteers, pickers, shoppers, charities, downsizers, upcyclers, hobbyists, friends, family...

What is a Reuseapaloozaha?

A giant free swap meet! Free stuff! Drop by with contributions or take what you want.

Please no hazardous wastes, no upholstered furniture, no unsanitary items, yucky stuff

For more information visit -
www.reuseapaloozaha.ca

Reuseapaloozaha volunteers reserve the right to refuse hazardous, unsanitary, unusable, trashy, disgusting or dilapidated stuff.

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, Hebron UC, Curries Oxford Centre-Curries Pastoral Charge (Oct 1, 2019).

United Church of Canada – Antler River Watershed.

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

Former Oxford Presbytery – updated September 10 2019

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AiDNGgSFiQOAqBxZMAfveutUyYov?e=EJkqM4>

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**Next Publication: Wed. October 9
SUBMISSION DUE: noon Monday, October 7.**

NEW email:

oxfconnections@execulink.com

**Help us connect with each other.
Share widely.**

Submissions welcome.

To remove your name from this mailing list, email

oxfconnections@execulink.com

Feedback welcome.

Past Issues of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, Special August 2019:

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

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WOODSTOCK'S AMBASSADORS OF SONG

THE WOODSTOCK CHORALAIRES

Invite You To Celebrate our
Summer Travels

IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

2:30PM

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

190 SPRINGBANK AVE, WOODSTOCK

Following the concert,
please join us for a
"Taste of France"
in Kirk Hall

*A free will offering will be collected and shared with
Oxford United Refugee Sponsorship*