

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 1 of 8

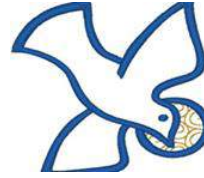
INDEX OF OUR STORIES OF THE TRANSFORMING SPIRIT

There is a generous spirit connecting us to our stories this month and to the faith of our ancestors. Thought-provoking that generous and generate come from the same root. We are all interconnected not only with each other but also with creation.

- Food for the Soul – connecting the tables of World Wide Communion and Thanksgiving.
- Friends of Oxford – pictures and future plans.
- The comings and goings at our churches as Nancy Vandenberg from Dundas St. UC enters Designated Lay Ministry, Kintore UC dedicates a new lift for accessibility and the Summer Camp Counsellors at Norwich UC pull off an amazing surprise.
- Coats for Kids of Operation Sharing
- Note of Thanks from our Oxford United Refugee Support Committee!
- An unexpected thing happened at Climate Rallies – a report from Waterloo and opportunity to join rallies here in Woodstock.
- Resources to review for preparing for the Federal Election.
- Annual Meeting of Camp Tanner, November 27 and their annual Dinner and Auction, February 8, 2020.
- Updated Lists for Oxford Prayer Cycle, Retired Clergy and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, and a church closing.
- Waste Reduction Week here in Oxford and find out more about OPAL (Oxford People Against Landfill).
- Grandmother's Tea.
- Events and Programs for Families
- Confirmation Weekend at Pearce Williams Camp on February 21-23.
- Resources on Palestine-Israel conflict.

• FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Extending the tables



Next Monday is thanksgiving. For some who still have dining room tables and families arriving it may be time to extend the table. Last Sunday was World Wide Communion Sunday. That table too might be extended.

The genesis of communion, as we know, comes from the Exodus. It was a meal to celebrate **the freedom of the Hebrews from the power of Pharaoh:** blood of a lamb was smudged on doorways; manna was collected daily during the slow march to the promised land. **When Jesus celebrated the feast with his disciples 1300 years later,** Egypt's Pharaoh had become Rome and the Jewish authorities who had colluded with Rome. Jesus, by speaking of his own blood shed and his body being broken became the lamb. **The table just got extended and updated.** He had just outlined the cost of confrontation; the cost of transformation; the cost of discipleship.

Although World Wide Communion Sunday is past, we can extend the table by **identifying the Pharaohs of our time and asking what is it that God is calling us to do in order to move the world toward greater neighbourliness.** This work is not new, we have done it for years. This transforming trajectory comes from Jesus: identify the oppressed, who or what is oppressing, support the victims, confront the oppressor and live in hope.

The opportunities have never been greater. Helping the marginalized, rescuing the refugee, being companions to those who are hurting, confronting those, ourselves included, who add to

(continued page 2)

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 2 of 8

changing the climate of this precious earth are some examples. As comic book character Pogo once said, "I have met the enemy and he is us." Timely for **World Wide Communion Sunday is the youth protest against climate change and the youth and adults who took to the streets as agents of change.** The Spirit is on the move.

Two tables. Are they connected? Well Jesus "took bread and gave thanks" as we did last Sunday and as we will do at Thanksgiving. So, Happy Thanksgiving! **In your receiving and in your giving may you be blessed.**

GW



FRIENDS OF OXFORD PRESBYTERY

September 25 was a meaningful gathering of eating (meal prepared by Bullwinkles), 'getting to know each other', around a memory from childhood in the church.

Glen Wright led a short worship on the Kingdom Here in Oxford (Luke 4:16-21) with



some questions. Lynne Dunlop accompanied our singing of "We are Pilgrims".



YES! We agreed to gather about four (4) times a year:

September, January, March/April(?) and June.

We're pleased that **Lynne Allin**, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission of Antler River Watershed Region **will attend January 15, 2020. Details to follow** Lynne led a discussion on Shared Ministry on September 10.

. ALL WELCOME MM



CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 3 of 8

COMMINGS AND GOINGS...

At Dundas Street United Church, Woodstock

Congratulations to Nancy Vandenberghe of DSUC on completion of her year of discernment for ministry. Many will know her through her Wings of Hope program of pastoral care.



Thank you for inviting me to share my journey toward Designated Lay Ministry! The DLM Diploma Program is comprised of several components based on Learning Circles that are 10 days in length, twice yearly, over a period of three years. I must attend these Learning Circles, as part of the program.

I have received **conditional acceptance into the Designated Lay Ministry Program, at St. Andrew's College, in Saskatoon.** In order to attend St. Andrew's College, I am required **to find a church that will employ me, as a student minister, for a minimum of 20 hours per week.** I must continue, in a student position, for three years, at a church or churches. The church must be a designated learning site. I will also be appointed a supervisor, as part of my Supervised Ministry Education.

In early September, I began **weekly reading assignments, on-line discussion assignments and written assignments.** If all goes as planned, I hope to attend my first Learning Circle, October 28th.

Submitted by Nancy Vandenberghe

**OXFORD PRESBYTERY
FACEBOOK PAGE**

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

At Chalmers United, Kintore



Tanner Wills, Rev. Doug Peck and the congregation of Chalmers United are very excited to announce that their **new lift is now operational.**

Ribbon Cutting

Ceremony took place on Sept. 14, 2019. Come by and enjoy a ride!

At Norwich United Church

SURPRISE!

TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES INTO COMMUNITY

Children have been playing and learning at Norwich United Church summer camps for over a decade. In the past, this important aspect of our mission (Open Doors, Open Hearts Celebrating God's Love) had been generously supported, not just by our community, but by government agencies.

This year though, things didn't go entirely according to our plans. One week before camp, we found out that our application to the federal government was unsuccessful leaving **us with a shortfall of \$15,000.**

How could we possibly fill the gap, especially with the beginning of camp just one week away?

Luckily, we had a dedicated group of youth leaders who weren't willing to let a bit of bad news ruin our plans. The young people we had hired to run the camp didn't waste any time finding their own solutions to our challenging situation. *(continued page 4)*

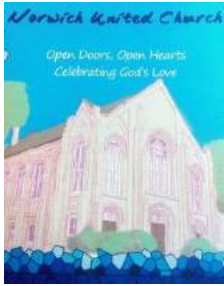
CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 4 of 8



They leapt into action, dedicating the week before camp to raising money however they could. From car washes and odd jobs, to a bottle drive and bake sale, this small group of determined young people were able to bring in nearly \$13,000 in just a week!

Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of local residents and businesses, the camps were able to go ahead, with nearly 300 camping places filled over the course of seven weeks. Each week, the children explored some aspect of our church's 200-year history. Children created a time capsule, made a movie, designed celebratory stained glass and enjoyed trips to local historic sites, parks, and attractions.

What began as a challenge, quickly became an affirming experience, for community members, campers, and most of all, our youth leaders. We came together, built connections, and offered our campers a first-hand experience of the wonderful things that can happen when we connect with the people around us.

And maybe that's the lesson in all of this. Our minister, Reverend Sydney Elias, often invites us to let God surprise us. While there were moments of worry, our campers and church members were also presented with this wonderful gift: not only the funds we needed to carry on, but the opportunity to appreciate the support for us that exists in our community plus the joy and confidence to step forward into the future that awaits us.

*submitted by Karen McSpadden and Jo-Ellen McKay,
Program Committee NUC*

FROM OXFORD UNITED REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE (OURS)

CONGRATULATIONS and THANKS

As of Sunday, September 29, donations from Oxford United Churches totals \$7,867.51 on our way to the goal of \$8,800.

Thanks to the Choralaires for the wonderful concert at St. David's UC, September 29th which generated an additional \$750 donation to the refugee fund!

CAMP TANNER

Camp Tanner Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, November 27, 2019, 7:30 pm at Knox United Church in Embro
Camp Tanner couldn't operate without the support of the Oxford Community:
Current and prospective general members are invited for a yearly review with light refreshments.

Do you have a few hours each month to volunteer for our cause? Consider joining our board (monthly meetings Sept - June) or a committee (between one and four meetings per year).

Camp Tanner Annual Fundraising Dinner Auction

Annual dinner auction will be held on February 8, 2020 at the Embro Zorra Community Centre.

Funds raised help to support programs and keep registration costs low; tickets will be available in late 2019.



CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 5 of 8



OPERATION SHARING

<https://www.operationsharing.ca/>

Coats for kids program

Nov 22 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Nov 23 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Donations are great appreciated:

Drop off at Collage Ave Church
Monday November 18th,
Wednesday November 20th and
Friday November 22nd between 9
a.m. and 12 p.m.

Local Oxford Group – October FridaysForFuture

This Facebook group is for **youth and adults in Oxford County** and surrounding area interested in joining the **global**



FridaysForFuture movement. We need climate action now. We are interested in pairing up with other groups, supporting other movements or groups in Oxford and generally getting people together to demand climate action.

GRANDMOTHER'S TEA

Next Grandmother's Tea is 12
noon till 2 pm,

October 30, at St
Mark's Anglican

Church, 155 Memorial
Drive, Brantford.



*Email the editors if you would
like to go.*

AN UNEXPECTED THING HAPPENED...

Climate Strikes are growing across the globe. Friday, September 25, I, with almost 5000 others, attended the Rally in Waterloo. I was there because **I wanted to stand with our grandsons who live close by.** There were varied signs: '**So Bad Even the Introverts Were Here**'; Climate is Changing – Why aren't You?; Sacred Earth; My Mom Taught Me to Clean Up My Mess – Did Yours?; **Why Should we Go to School When You Won't Listen to the Educated?**; 'The End is Nigh – Listen to the Science Guys'.

The Rally was challenging the corporate greed manifesto which has no morality, putting shareholder interests ahead of public good, and pouring money into developing every last bit of precious oil in the ground instead of developing alternative energy sources. **The Rally was connecting the dots between social justice issues and the climate crisis.** They are all interconnected.

It was emotional for me with the drumming, the music, the chanting. We were asked **to speak to someone we didn't know about why we came.** I spoke to the woman beside me holding her child. Well, I tried to speak. But I was overwhelmed. **Tears rolled down my face as I pointed to our grandsons and her young child** and said, '**because of them**'. Tears rolled down her face as well.

As a child, I loved playing in the woods and poking in creeks. **As an engineer,** I believe the science behind the United Nations Report. **As a Christian minister,** I study scriptures to fuel action **to make the world a place that not only my grandchildren can enjoy but the next 7 generations as well.** MM

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 6 of 8

**People of faith are called
to live out the responsibilities
of citizenship and of
discipleship!**

**VOTE and encourage others
to VOTE in the FEDERAL
ELECTION OCTOBER 21**

Valuable Election Resources:

United Church of Canada (requires
Adobe Connect)

<https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings/278-your-vote-our-future-recording>,

**Kairos + Canadian Council of
Churches.**

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/resources/federal-election-2019>

**Citizens For Public Justice
2019 Election Bulletin**

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

EVENTS

Norwich UC

Norwich UC UCW, Fall Fair

Saturday, October 26

8:00am till noon

Penny table, silent auction, bake table and cookie walk, Farmer's Market, Christmas Pudding, Craft Table. Coffee/tea/goodies.

St Paul's UC 88 Bidwell St, Tillsonburg

Community Kitchen Luncheons from
11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Hot meal and dessert provided free.

Meet weekly beginning October 19.

**St. Paul's UC UCW, Frosty Fair Bazaar
Saturday November 16th**

9 a.m. until noon

Come do some Christmas shopping! \$2 admission includes the tearoom, vendor's market, knitting, deli, bake table, crafts, jams and jellies and much more!

Programs for Families

**November 5 at 4:30 pm, Norwich
UC Messy Church:**

Norwich UC MOMS and TOTS

each Wednesday morning in Parlour at
9:00 – 10:30 am

St Paul's UC 88 Bidwell St, Tillsonburg

October 19: Messy Church from 10
a.m. to 12 noon. **THEME is "It is a small
world after all."** Crafts, music, story and
free lunch. **Children are welcome
accompanied by an adult.**

October 25: P.A. Day - GospelTopia
Crafts, snacks, games, music, skits &
more. Bring your lunch. Call to register
519-688-0011

Dinner and/or Concert

featuring
Pleasant Ridge

**Church Roof
Fundraiser**

From folk to funny, from
ballads to bluesy, from
pop to peppy, Pleasant
Ridge sings a variety of
music in a relaxed and
amiable style. We are
Pam Bray, David Jones,
Everill Muir, Vern Payne,
and Kim Tomkins.



at Dundas Street United Church
285 Dundas St. Woodstock, ON

Saturday, November 30th, 2019

5:30 p.m. Supper (Chicken Parmesan)
7:00 p.m. Concert

Tickets: Dinner & Concert - \$30.00
Dinner or Concert - \$15.00 ea.

 Dinner tickets need to be purchased in
advance. For info or tickets call (519)
537-7935 or (519) 537-5109

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 7 of 8

MUSIC UNITED CONCERT

14 choirs - Norwich United

OLD WINDHAM UC,

30 Glendale Crescent Simcoe

Saturday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.

Free will offering

PROGRAM FOR YOUTH – Confirmation Weekend



RE CLIMATE CRISIS: POSSIBIIITY, OPPORTUNITY, ACTION and EMPOWERMENT

The most effective ways to curb climate change might surprise you

Try ranking the solutions in the following link. While you won't get them all, you will learn and help change the discussion.
[https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/04/specials/climate-change-solutions-quiz/?fbclid=IwAR3hEkA21PJdnjQ7EmvFWALhIb-](https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/04/specials/climate-change-solutions-quiz/?fbclid=IwAR3hEkA21PJdnjQ7EmvFWALhIb-AAMJprUBsVSToCChW36N2hT5rlzqdlw)

[AAMJprUBsVSToCChW36N2hT5rlzqdlw](https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/04/specials/climate-change-solutions-quiz/?fbclid=IwAR3hEkA21PJdnjQ7EmvFWALhIb-AAMJprUBsVSToCChW36N2hT5rlzqdlw)

Project Drawdown is one of the World's leading resource for Climate Solutions. Brought together by environmentalist Paul Hawkin, this non-profit group of scientists measure and model the most substantive solutions to stop global warming.

WASTE REDUCTION WEEK

Oct. 21 - 27, 2019.

<https://wrwcanada.com/en>

Waste Reduction Week in Canada is a national year-round program that kicks-off in October and **focuses on the circular economy, resource efficiency, and waste reduction.** The purpose is to promote individual and collective environmental efforts and achievements while encouraging new innovative ideas and solutions.

This is your opportunity to take action.

Also here in Oxford. Bryan Smith of **OPAL (Oxford People Against Landfill)** was interviewed on CBC **Afternoon Drive** with **Chris dela Torre** about the protest against the Proposed Walker's Dump in the Beachville quarry.

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-80-afternoon-drive/clip/15739729-oxford-landfill-protest?fbclid=IwAR0tFJwzUkpblbke7sVK7kNyg8m6IENhRvmt64pcpD78CInCQGLOR56ZgpE>

List of Retired Clergy and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AiDNGgSFiQOAqBvL7jV2ELKExkJg?e=uMefFw>

CHURCH CLOSING:

Prayers for Eastwood UC.

**Anniversary Service October 20
11:00 a.m. Closing service and
celebration at a later date.**

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 10

October 9, 2019

Page 8 of 8



OCTOBER Newsletter: If you haven't received it

<https://mailchi.mp/4ec8f96f0096/october-newsletter?e=0878d108a5>

Autumn Gathering of the ARW

Regional Council, Saturday, November 2 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

<https://mailchi.mp/04b4ec86879d/arw-autumn-gathering-november-347817?e=0878d108a5>

Rev. Mark Marshall & Lydia Marshall

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

revmarkconnexions@gmail.com

or (519) 533-8989.



Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East.

(CJPME) are producing a series of videos, Oppression 101. Watch this 45 second video, Segregation, with parallels between oppression and suffering of Palestinians to prior historic tragedies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7jqRljon7Q>

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, Oxford Centre-Curries Pastoral Charge

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>

CONNECTIONS – News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Next Publication: Wed. Nov. 13

SUBMISSIONS DUE:

noon Mon, Nov. 11

NEW email:

oxfconnections@execulink.com

. Please share widely to help us connect with each other

Submissions welcome.

Feedback welcome.

To remove your name from this mailing list, email

oxfconnections@execulink.com

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

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