

SHUC NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back and Welcome Forward

It must be summertime. I say that because of the number of people who have asked me “what will you be doing this summer?” I love the question, actually. Because it suggests that summer is not just a time to chill out. That summer is also a time to do new things, to try new things. And as you know, I’m a big fan of action. I would be happy to tell you what I did this summer. But as you may have figured out, I had to write these words before I went on holidays. So, I have to guess what I’m going to do. Will I have some fantastic cycling trips? Absolutely! Will I learn to cook some new Palestinian vegan dishes? Of course! But I need a new challenge too.

So, I have decided to learn to use a “drone” - which is basically a flying camera. I’ve enjoyed learning about video production since covid began. So, learning how to get the best from a flying camera seems like a way to elevate our video production skills. Pun intended. And I’ll be happy to share my new skills with anyone who is interested (at least until I crash it!). I expect that the flying part will be the easy part. The challenge will be creating drama through composition, lighting, mood, etc. Wish me luck! In any case, you can expect to see the church from some new perspectives.



When we gather again in Sept, I look forward to hearing what you did over the summer. At the same time, I also want to hear what you want to do this fall. What activities do you want to be part of at the church this fall? I am so inspired that Terry started a knitting group – based on her love of knitting. Verna and outreach were passionate to make sandwiches for Roger Boyd’s ministry - so they are doing that. I love cycling, so I organize congregational bike rides. What do YOU like to do? And how can the church help you share your passion with others? All of us have interests and passions that others would like to learn about. SHUC is a place that you can bring your ideas to life. Just follow your passion. If you don’t know how to start, reach out to me or someone else and we’ll help you get started.

I look forward to a wonderful fall of “being church” with you, whatever that looks like. Welcome back. And welcome forward!

Rev. Paul

Outreach / Stewardship Committee

Upcoming Events:

September 11th after Sunday worship:

"Welcome Fall BBQ" There will be a BBQ lunch. Congregants are asked to bring salads. Drinks will be provided. Free will offering going to the Food Bank. At our last Foodgrains BBQ lunch we raised and donated \$531.00 to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



ONTARIO
SECURITIES
COMMISSION

September 29th at 2:00 pm

Fraud & ID Theft presentation by Christine Allum, Ontario Securities Commission. Common Frauds and Scams / Warning signs / What to do if you suspect fraud / Tips to protect yourself.

Also a **Senior Safety** presentation by Alex Townsend, VON, Safety at Home Coordinator. Safety at Home; Staying Safe, Strong & Independent.

Organized by the SHUC Stewardship Committee.

October 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Tia McGraff concert.

Tia McGraff is a multi-talented, award-winning singer, songwriter, performer, author, and podcast host from Southern Ontario. Accompanying Tia on her musical journey is her husband and co-writer Tommy Parham.

Tickets now available: \$20.00 in advance (or \$25.00 at the door).



Music Ministry

We have had a very successful summer with special musical performances from our hard-working members of the congregation. Thank you very much to all who have showcased their talents in our time hosting services for the United churches of Brantford!



In our upcoming fall season, we are planning another "virtual choir collage collaboration" with a fellow

united church in Oakville, in addition to other unique and fun anthems including a solo from our own Bob MacMillan, as our choir resumes practices **Thursday September 8th!** Please let our music director (Trevor) know if you have any requests for upcoming prelude/postludes.

Lastly, we are looking for new members to join our wonderful choir this fall! No resume is required - all you need is a voice and a desire to have fun!

What's New?

SHUC Crafty Friends: Knitters, crocheters and crafters of all things fun. We are back to regular meetings on Tuesdays starting **SEPTEMBER 6th** - afternoon group meets from 1:00 - 3:00 pm and evening group meets 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Come check out what our Crafty Friends have been doing this summer and help us with our projects of love! We'd love to see you. No experience necessary!!!

If you love to knit, crochet, quilt, craft and would like to be part of a club of similarly interested crafters, please email me at tmatheson49@gmail.com and let me know where your interest lies and where your talents are.



Projects we're currently working on include knitted or crocheted blankets (48" x 64" or larger), knitted or crocheted 8 x 8 blocks for **Blankets for Canada**, small lap afghans, and small 3D projects for fridge magnets.

At the time of publishing this edition we will have delivered 3 full size blankets and 109 multi-colored and multi-patterned 8x8 squares to **Blankets for Canada** and 5 lap blankets each to **Fox Ridge Lodge LTC** and **Brierwood LTC**. All summer long small 'gifts of love' have been left around town with messages of love &

hope affiliating ourselves with **Random Acts of Crochet Kindness** (Facebook group). We've also been researching some fun projects to add to this year's Christmas Bazaar and other projects of love for shelters and those who might require a little warmth and love this winter. We even have quilters looking to finish up some long-forgotten projects and crafters looking for new ideas and inspiration. If you love to craft and love to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Friday Friends: Calling all ladies! Friday Friends meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 10:00 am for shared conversation, and light refreshments. Each meeting is hosted by a different member and the host's name and meeting details are posted in the Church website calendar.

September Friday Friends meetings:

September 9th meeting is hosted by Verna Timpener

September 23rd meeting is hosted by Janet Smith

For more information call the office, check the Church website or watch for dates in our weekly SNIPPETS emails.



New Church Photo DIRECTORY:

We are planning a new photo directory for the SHUC Congregation.

Photo dates are tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 7th, 2:30-8:30 pm, Tuesday, November 8th, 2:30-8:30 pm and Friday, December 2nd, 2:30- 8:30 pm and Saturday, December 3rd, 9:30am -3:30pm. An information flyer has been included in this newsletter edition. More information on booking your photo session will be provided soon. Watch for more info!

Honour children who attended Residential Schools



(*article taken from The United Church of Canada website*)

On September 30, people all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions.

This year, Indigenous communities across the country continue to share the truth they have always known: that many of the children who never returned home remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites. These communities are now seeking to honour the missing children.

On Orange Shirt Day we also observe the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

Why Orange?

Phyllis Jack Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation went to St. Joseph Mission Residential School. On her first day of school, Phyllis wore an orange shirt that her grandmother had given her. It was immediately taken away, and that marked the beginning of Phyllis's long separation from her family and community, a separation caused by actions of the church and federal government. Orange Shirt Day is a time for us all to remember those events and their ongoing impact. Indigenous Ministries and Justice has prepared a week of activities for all in the church to take part in.

From your Communications Team

You probably already know that SHUC has a website that is updated and kept current by Anne Walker and yes, Terry Matheson and Rev. Paul send out weekly SNIPPETS emails with links to happenings and events and announcements that can be found on our website page and the UCC website page but....Did you know we are on other Social Media Platforms too?

Are you a **Facebook** user? Do you follow **TWITTER**? Do you check out **YouTube**?

Did you know that you can find Sydenham-Heritage United Church on all these social media platforms?

Jean Maich populates our Facebook page with uplifting messages and funny memes.

Terry Matheson updates Facebook with events and special dates

Rev. Paul uploads videos to YouTube and updates Twitter.

CALLING ALL RECYCLERS:

DID YOU KNOW that the outer bag on a 3 litre bag of milk can be made into a mat for someone to sleep on? Well, they can and we have found a contact that will take them and do just that.

DID YOU KNOW that your empty pill bottles with the labels removed can be reused? Well, they can and we have also found a place that will refill them and send them to places that need them.

So, bring your milk bags and your pill bottles to the church and put them in the bin by the office, and we will get them to people who will make very good use of them.

General Council 44 Report – by Yvonne Wright

Mark 8: 27-30

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “**Who do people say I am?**” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “**Who do you say I am?**” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Deep Spirituality – Bold Disciple -- Daring Justice



GC44 gathered from February 13th to August 7th, considered to be the longest GC in the history of the United Church. 256 Commissioners, 30 Global and Ecumenical Partners, invited guests, Observers and visitors gathered on Zoom to worship, listened, learned, discussed, and decide the way forward for this United Church of ours.

The Council was guided by the question; “**Who do you say I am?**” This passage was read at each session in various languages. It a question that we as a church must ask ourselves as we do church in such a time like this.

We were also reminded of The Call to the Church to explore the strategic plan of **Deep Spirituality – Bold Disciple -- Daring Justice** as we wrestle the question “Who do you say that I am.

The council was presented with many proposals from across the church. We met in Learning Sessions where we were invited to raise questions for clarification around the Proposals. This lasted for about six weeks (every Wednesday) followed by a weekend of Discussion Sessions of which I was honoured to be a facilitator. We then gathered for another weekend to vote on each of the Proposals. We were fortunate to vote in favour of many of the Proposals and those where time did not allow, were sent back to the General Council Executive for action.

To highlight a few of the Proposals that were deemed high priority were GCE05: Living, into the Strategic Plan, NIC01: National Indigenous Circle- Restricting of the Indigenous Church, GS10: Living into Reconciliation, NEW03 Supporting Immigration Process for Ministry Personnel to name a few. During this GC44 session we were called to be mindful of who is missing from the discussions. In an effort to do this, we were reminded to these attributes: An Equity Team helped us to uphold these attributes.

Question biases / Challenge Assumptions / Notice who is missing
Value all voices / Aim for equity / Live out our commitments.

At the end of each session, we heard reflections from our Global Partners, our Indigenous Leaders as well as our Ecumenical Partners. It was sad to learn that our Moderator Richard Bolt came down with Covid, but nonetheless was still able to facilitate the meeting of GC44.

GC44 closed with the Installation Worship Service of the new moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne which was live streamed as well as in person. I invite you to watch this service on the United Church YouTube channel. (Sydenham-Heritage Choir participated in this worship). What an amazing event it was. This is my 3rd General Council and the most rewarding. Though, we did not meet in person, the learning and the discussion group experience is unforgettable.

Please feel free to explore the United Church of Canada website under GC44
<https://generalcouncil44.ca/> for more highlights of the Gathering.

REMEMBERING Nick & Kay Balog

by B.J. Leighton

“The most romantic love story isn’t Romeo and Juliet who died together ... But Grandpa and Grandma who grew old together.” This is what Sherisa Balog, a member of Sydenham-Heritage posted about her grandparents: Nick and Kay Balog.



Kay passed away August 7th, 2021 and Nick joined her on September 24, 2021. They were both 93 and had been married 73 years. Sherisa shared that her Grandpa had some minor health issues, but she never thought he was going to die. She believes that he was so heart-broken over the loss of his beloved wife, that he willed himself to death.

Family was important to Kay and Nick. They had to rent the Church Hall to accommodate their 5 children, 18 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and recently great great grandchildren for their many family events.

Church was a big part of their lives. They were life time members of Colborne Street United. Kay sang in the choir, belonged to the UCW, and later the Women of Heritage, and a long time Elder. We called her “The Hat Lady”, as she wore hats to Church. In fact at the recent “Celebration of Life”, the Balog women all wore one of Kay’s many hats to honour her.

Nick enjoyed volunteering at the Church. He was a long time Board Member, representing the Property Committee. Nick had worked at Domtar for 47 years. He enjoyed woodworking as a hobby. Nick was our “Mr. Fix It” at Heritage United. He saved us thousands of dollars in repairs, especially with his expertise with boilers, and kept our hot water furnace in top notch shape. Nick even helped out the new owner after we sold the Heritage Church building.

Both Nick and Kay loved summers at their Long Point cottage for over 50 years. They both loved hiking and were founding members of the Brantford Walking Club. They were also long time members of the Beckett Building Seniors Group. Not only did Sherisa lose her grandparents during the pandemic, but her Dad (Shawn Balog) died May 20, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sherisa and her family, as we remember her Dad and Grandparents.

Lovingly Submitted by: BJ Leighton

"In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:16

Why do you give of yourselves, time, talent, and treasure to the church?

Why I Give by Bob & Heather MacMillan



I was brought up in a family in which my father's family was Catholic and my mother's family was Anglican. I was Baptised as a baby at Brant Avenue United Church and went there for the first five years of my life. I later was exposed to both the Catholic and Anglican faiths. My friend asked me to join the Brant Avenue Church choir and immediately I knew it was the religion for me and that is why I participate and tithe.

By Heather MacMillan

Why do I participate in the United Church of Canada in general and Sydenham-Heritage United Church in particular? Part of it I suppose is family tradition. My grandparents on my mother's side attended this church when it was Wesleyan. My grandparents on my father's side attended the Crieff Presbyterian church in Puslinch Township. These two strands came together in the United Church of Canada.

The other and more important part was my vision of Jesus changed. I now see him less as a 'Saviour' through which I enter heaven and more as a mentor who shows us all how we can bring "the Kingdom of God" to our beleaguered planet. I remember his teaching that because the "Kingdom" is within us, we ourselves can make this a better world. It seems to me that our church is the best instrument through which to make this happen.

By Bob MacMillan

Staying Connected

Worship services are always available to view online Sunday mornings. Just click on the link in the church calendar. But did you know that you can watch them at your convenience too? There are 3 options for finding our services online after Sunday service.

1. The online calendar at sydenham-heritage.ca includes links to past services (as well as future ones).
2. If you go to youtube.com and search for "**Sydenham-Heritage United Church**" you will find everything there. Click on our channel to see only our content.
3. If you go to paulshepherd.ca and click on "**reflections**", you get links to our services. You also get links to the sermons. They are now available in 3 formats: pdf (great for printing), eBooks (great for reading at a comfortable font size), and video.

Wherever we are – online or in-person –
we are
Sydenham-Heritage United Church!

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Sydenham-Heritage United Church ALL are welcome in this place



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