

The *Wesleyan*

September 2021

From the minister's desk..... *We are not alone. We live in God's world.*

As I am writing this, final touches are being done to the one hundred and fifty six slides for our worship service on this coming Sunday, September 19th. It will be a special worship as we will finally be covenanting. I have been asked a number of times what is meant by that because not only are we *covenanting* but we are *decovenanting* and *re-covenanting*!

Covenanting is an act of making a promise with God. Our scriptures tell us many stories of covenants made; the rainbow being the most recognized sign of God's covenant with creation. Jesus speaks of being the new covenant which we most often hear during our celebrations of holy communion.

When couples choose to get married in a church, they usually covenant by making promises or vows to one another and to God. Some couples will renew their vows or *re-covenant* after a certain number of years and it is good and right to do so.

It is also good and right for us to renew our promises to God in the various ministries we are engaged in and through our community of faith; whether those ministries are making turkey pies or leading Sunday School or preaching! And when we *decovenant*, we are releasing one another from the promises made and ask for God's blessings, such as is the case with Linda and Brandon who will be released from their promises to serve Wesley.

"We are not alone" says our creed and when we make these promises in the context of a community of faith, we are reminded that we are able to make these promises knowing God is with us; we are not alone. By that very statement, we can live into hope in the ministries within which we will participate and thereby live out our faith. The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council has a presence in this celebration to remind us again that we are not alone.

The promises we make annually reflect our God-given gifts and sharing these gifts within the community takes time. An hourglass will represent the value of your time and talent along with your offering of treasures for the life and work of this community of faith. It is to be expected that as Wesley engages in this intentional interim ministry, working towards finding a new spiritual leader, shifts will naturally occur. Vacancies are created and then filled again as people choose to exercise different gifts and skills and live into their ministry in a new way. *(Please read the news from the Transition Team)*

I made promises to serve Wesley in faith as spiritual leader by the grace of God. It is my fervent hope that if you were unable to attend or if you missed the online worship, that you set aside a moment to make a promise to God to serve as you are able and by so doing, shed Christ's light into this corner of God's creation.

Peace,

Christina

Rev. Christina Paradela (she/her) wesleyinterimminister@gmail.com 905-869-5409

Intentional Interim Ministry Q&A

It is my understanding that Wesley United has not ever had an Intentional Interim Minister before and so that questions are coming to mind makes perfect sense. You have been served by called ministers such as Rev. Kim Wright and you have been served by supply ministers Ogwen Glyn Jones, who served temporarily until another permanent minister was called.

Intentional Interim Ministry differs from Supply Ministry in purpose; supply is covering the needs of the community of faith until such time as a search committee finds another minister. An Intentional Interim Minister serves a community for a specified time period for the purpose of transitioning from one clergy to the next. It is temporary such as the Supply Ministry but with very clear goals.

In the case of Wesley United, the goal is to transition from a very long term minister to a new one. Twenty three years is a very long time for a clergy to serve in one community of faith. Things that were once new when Kim arrived became *"the way we've always done it"* and that *"normal way"* of doing things can seem like the only proper way of doing things and so doing things differently can be jarring. **Neither way is better nor worse; just different!!!** To be sure, a **new** spiritual leader is going to do things in a **new** way, whilst honouring the purpose of the various traditions within the community of faith. But as you well know, change can be difficult and the greater the change, the greater the chance that the difficulties will be greater!

Intentional Interim Ministry is a process-oriented ministry that helps a community of faith discern what their vision is and what ministry they are called to for the purpose of calling a new leader who has the gifts and skills to lead in the direction of that vision. Wesley cannot start looking for a new minister until it decides what kind of minister you are looking for.

So, my job as an intentional interim minister is to work with the transition team and lead you through that discernment. It requires time and effort and so while I am overseeing the governance, leading worship, providing emergency pastoral care and attending the committees/ council meetings, I am also doing this interim work. This does not afford me the time to visit you individually and get to know you one on one. It is a lament for me as I very much enjoy and am skilled at that aspect of congregational ministry. There just isn't time.

Please be sure that if you have a pastoral need, I am there for you. I simply cannot contact and visit with everyone individually. With Covid restrictions I have had very little opportunity to meet you "in the hallways" but please know you may reach me anytime by phone or email should you have the need. Please send me any questions you might have in regards to this ministry and I will endeavor to answer them either directly or publicly in worship because maybe others have the same question. It is my hope that this community of faith will be strong in its vision before long and ready to call another leader. Until then, I will do all I can to contribute to the health and well-being of this body of Christ in the world!

Peace,

Christina

Rev. Christina Paradela (she/her) wesleyinterimminister@gmail.com 905-869-5409

What Time Is It -- Advent or Advent'ure?

"In this climate emergency, our traditional stories from the Hebrew-Christian Bible and the new story from modern science make for powerful dance partners, stronger and more relevant together than apart." Carol Kilby, Evolutionary Dancer, Out, In, and On the Fringe of the Church

It is with great excitement that the Christian Development and the Worship and Music committees, in collaboration with the Transition Team, announce that they are bringing Rev. Dr. Carol Kilby to Wesley United!

The author of Evolutionary Dance, Out, In, and On the Fringe of the Church will lead us in worship and in a learning circle. The event is called What time is it? Advent or Advent'ure? and it will take place on November 14th, just prior to the beginning of Advent. Advent, she suggests, is an invitation to engage in a celebration of anticipation with a 21stC. Cosmology/framework. She believes we are living through an evolutionary moment for

humanity and Christianity. There is no denying that we are experiencing an ecological crisis and there is no better time to turn to our faith for wisdom on next steps.

The worship will begin at 10am with the learning circle following.

Lots more details to come soon!

Carol's book will be made available for borrowing from our library; or you can purchase them from Dan Barrett, who has nine copies for sale at \$27.29 each; or you can purchase the book also through Amazon. *Evolutionary Dancer: Out, In, and on the Fringe of the Church*

Carol has been invited to lead at the Parliament of World Religions this October.

Evolutionary Rituals: Compassion's Answer to Planet Abuse Out, In, and on the Fringe of the Church has been scheduled to stream on October 18th, 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM EST



BIO: Rev. Dr. Carol Kilby, author, retired United Church of Canada clergy, founder of the Gaia Centre for Eco-Spirituality and Sustainable Work, ritualist, storyteller, grandma, quilter and evolutionary, is a student of life. Our guest for Advent and Epiphany, she is passionate that we recognize the planetary emergency for what it can be.

A call for the evolution of religion, rituals, and mission and an opportunity to ground our faith in the newest science and oldest wisdom of creation itself. "In this climate emergency, our traditional stories from the Hebrew-Christian Bible and the new story from modern science make for powerful dance partners, stronger and more relevant together than apart." www.carolkilby.com

HOSPICE NIAGARA UPDATE

Wesley has participated in and supported the work of Hospice Niagara in the past so I thought I would like to share some GOOD NEWS with you at this time.

When I first began volunteering at Hospice, we were informed of the hope that within 10 years, there would be a Hospice located in Welland. That was early in 2014. Shortly after, a Palliative Care Outreach Team was developed and set up working out of the new Welland Office at 555 Prince Charles Drive. Not long after that a Day Hospice program began in Welland, first held at the Knox Presbyterian Church and then later at the Centre de Sante on Main Street.

Hospice Palliative Care helps people live well and stay connected from the time of diagnosis with a terminal illness, at the end of life and while grieving a death. No one needs to do this alone. Hospice Niagara provides this specialized care with compassion and dignity for people, caregivers and family members at home and in our Hospice residence free of cost.

Niagara does not have enough hospice beds or community palliative care services to ensure people and families receive all the care they need and deserve. With just 10 hospice beds at the Stabler Centre in St.Catharines, our region is far below provincial standards (30-40), especially with our large population of seniors. The need is clear and the time is now! Hospice Niagara has embarked on an ambitious plan to add 20 new Hospice Beds and two new Hospice Palliative Care Centres of Excellence in Niagara.

The two HPC Centres will be operated by Hospice Niagara and co-located alongside two long-term care facilities - Foyer Richelieu, a bilingual long-term care home in Welland, and Gilmore Lodge, a long-term care home in Fort Erie.

Co-locating with long-term care will help to:

- Expand hospice care across the region
- Create a campus of care in one location
- Improve care experiences
- Decrease capital build & infrastructure costs.

The goal is that the doors of the Welland Hospice will open in the spring of 2024 and the doors in Fort Erie will follow in the fall of 2024.

I hope that Wesleyans will support the upcoming CLOSE TO HOME campaign and should you want more information, please check the website www.hospiceniagara.ca

Betty Lane

WESLEY UNITED PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to put your name on the Prayer Chain, or someone else, please submit the information to Bonnie Barrett, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at bdriver1@cogeco.ca. Please include your name and phone number.

If you are submitting for someone else you must have their permission. Also, please give me their contact information (phone number), which I need in order to put their name on the list so I can reach them.

Thank you.

Bonnie Barrett
Prayer Chain Coordinator

"Nothing in nature lives for itself
Rivers don't drink their own water
Trees don't eat their own fruit
The sun doesn't shine for itself
A flowers fragrance is not for itself
LIVING FOR EACH OTHER is the rule of nature "
- Anonymous

Submitted by Betty Lane

DANCING WITH GOD

When I meditated on the word "Guidance", I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if to become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word GUIDANCE. When I saw "G", I thought of God, followed by "U" and "I". "God", "U", and "I" dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessing and mercies be upon you on this day and every day. May you abide in God as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life. I HOPE YOU DANCE.

Thank you,

Kathy Young

Ministry & Personnel Update

The M&P Committee has been very busy these last few weeks. As you all are aware, Linda Moore our Office Administrator is retiring at the end of September. On behalf of the M&P Committee and the members of Wesley United, we would like to thank Linda for her many years as Office Administrator and we wish her all the best in her retirement. Enjoy Linda!

Shawn McCart has now joined the staff at Wesley United as our new Office Administrator and we welcome him back into our Wesley Community and look forward to working with him. Shawn grew up in the Wesley Community so many of you may know him and his family. When you get a chance, please introduce yourself to Shawn in order that he may get to know all of us in the Wesley Community as well.

We take this opportunity to thank Brandon Winnicki for all his service as the Sunday School Youth Coordinator. Brandon we wish you well in your future endeavours. Avery Turner will now take over as the Sunday School Youth Coordinator.

Due to health reasons, Carol Sernasie has resigned from the M&P Committee and we would like to express our many thanks for all her hard work, service and dedication as the Chair of the Committee for the past few years.

Heather Denoncourt
Acting Chair
M&P Committee

Thanksgiving Food Drive for the HOPE CENTER

Drive up, Drop off on Saturday, October 2 - 10:00 a.m. – Noon

OR

Bring your donations if you will be attending church on September 26 or October 3

Requested by the HOPE CENTER: Pasta sauce; canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned pasta or canned meats; side dishes; snacks; crackers; rice; hygiene items; toilet paper; baby supplies.

****Cash donations always welcomed****

Submitted by Mary Van Loon

Knitters and Crocheters of Wesley

The Knitters and Crocheters of Wesley have been busy this summer creating 20 plus red scarves for Living Positively Niagara in St. Catharines.



The scarves will be distributed in November as a reminder of people who are living with AIDS here in Niagara.

Calling all “secret” Knitters or Crocheters, please join us. Our group hopes to meet sometime soon, possibly outside.

If you prefer to work at home, we would appreciate your time and talents in making baby blankets or lap robes. Please contact me if you need yarn. We have lots!

Auriol Rapin
905-788-0715

WOW Meeting

Our next WOW "Women of Wesley" meeting will be on Monday, October 4th at 1:30 p.m. We will meet In Person in Wesley's Sanctuary with all COVID-19 restrictions in place. We have a devotional, a short business meeting and time to catch up with each other.

We continue to support the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. All our Wesley sisters are more than welcome to join us.

Blessings to all,

Wendy Reed

BIBLE STUDY BY E-MAIL

IT IS TOTALLY FREEEE!

**PLEASE E-MAIL TO ME
IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE!**

**BIBLE STUDY TOPICS E-MAILED TO YOU,
ONE PAGE EACH WEEK. STUDY IN YOUR
OWN HOME AT YOUR OWN SPEED**

**EACH PAGE CONTAINS STUDY TOPICS,
BIBLE REFERENCES TO LOOK UP WITH
QUESTIONS AND SPACES FOR YOU TO
WRITE YOUR ANSWERS.
AND IT'S TOTALLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS
TO PARTICIPATE
E-MAIL TO: barrettdan@cogeco.ca**

TURKEY PIE TIME AGAIN



Yes! We are making some TURKEY PIES again. Because of COVID-19 and wanting to keep everyone safe, we will be working with a much smaller work crew and therefore making fewer pies. The good news is we will make 300 TURKEY PIES twice.

Once for pickup on Saturday, November 6th and then again on Saturday, November 27th.

Maximum number of individual pies to order will be 20 per Wesley household.

Everyone who orders will be given a phone call to let them know what date and time to pick them up. We will stagger the pickup times to keep everyone safe and you will pick up your pies right at the front door. All orders need to be paid for at pickup time by cheque or exact change....please and thanks.

The price will remain at \$4 each. I checked my records and this price has been in effect since 2012.

This year we would like to give back to our community as well as helping Wesley, therefore half of all our proceeds will be given to **HOSPICE NIAGARA WELLAND** for their new building that is to be built in our city.

Order forms will be out shortly in the Narthex or you can call the church office to place your order.

Thank you so much for your support!

Wendy Reed, on behalf of the Fundraising Committee

WESLEY'S CONNOR JOLLIFFE WINS NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARD



Connor Jolliffe, a former student-athlete and graduate of Niagara College, has recently been named a recipient of the 2020-2021 Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) National Scholar Award.

The CCAA National Scholar Award recognizes the outstanding academic accomplishments of CCAA student-athletes. To be recognized, individuals must achieve honours standing at their respective institution in the current academic year, while competing as a member of their institution's intercollegiate sport program.

Connor graduated in June from Niagara College's School of Hospitality and Tourism, Sport Management program with a 95% average. He also received the Niagara College President's Award for having the highest Grade Point Average of all Niagara College male athletes and the Dean's Award.

Connor is now attending Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York to pursue his Sport Management degree. He was fortunate to receive an academic transfer scholarship from NU that will pay for his tuition.

Congratulations, Connor!

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

To the end of August, the Local Ministry Fund had a **deficit** of \$36,697 compared to a **surplus** of \$1,063 at the same time last year.

To the end of August, the congregation & WOW have donated a total of \$4,432 to the United Church of Canada M&S Fund, compared to \$5,360 at the same time last year.

The Endowment Fund had a “book value” gain of \$116,313 to the end of August with a balance of \$838,313. This Fund, which is invested with “The United Church of Canada Foundation”, has performed exceptionally well, and continues to assist Wesley’s bottom line.

As of the end of August, the Local Ministry Fund had received \$28,016 in wage subsidies from the Federal Government. **Note, the wage subsidy program has been extended to October 23, 2021.**

We will be making a \$10,000 CEBA loan payment in October. This will be our final payment in 2021 and will leave \$20,000 to be paid in 2022.

In October, the Finance Committee will begin discussions on the 2022 Budget.

Submitted by Dave Reed, on behalf of the Finance Committee

MEN’S GROUP REPORT

The Men’s Group will be resuming Men’s Breakfasts when it is deemed “safe to do so”. Stay tuned.

The Fall Garage sale has been cancelled. It is likely that our next Garage Sale will be in May of 2022. Some donated items have been stored on the Robin’s Hall stage.

Mike Carreau continues to sell our garage sale items on Kijiji (\$662, to the end of August). Thanks Mike!

Submitted by Dave Reed on behalf of the Wesley United Church’s Men’s Group

SUNDAY SCHOOL TO BEGIN AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 26



Wesley United Church is pleased to announce that Sunday School and Nursery will begin on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. with all applicable COVID-19 protocols in place.

Covid Screening Form Wesley United Church Sunday School

Students and children must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school or child care. Parents/guardians can fill this out on behalf of a child. Date: ___-__-____(mm-dd-yyyy)

Screening questions

1. Is the student/child currently experiencing any of these symptoms?

The symptoms listed here are the symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19. Our guidelines for children and adults continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how it affects people in different ways. Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions they already have.

Fever and/or chills Yes No
Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and/or chills

Cough or barking cough (croup) Yes No
Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Shortness of breath Yes No
Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Covid Screening Form Continued

Decrease or loss of taste or smell Yes No

Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions they already have

Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea Yes No

Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions they already have

2. Did the student/child receive their final (or second in a two-dose series) COVID-19 vaccination dose more than 14 days ago, or have they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared? If YES, skip questions 3, 4, 5.

Yes No

3. Is someone that the student/child lives with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select "No." Yes No

4. In the last 10 days, has the student/child been identified as a "close contact" of someone who currently has COVID-19? If public health has advised you that you do not need to self-isolate, select "No." Yes No

5. In the last 10 days, has the student/child received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone? If they already went for a test and got a negative result, select "No."

Yes No

6. In the last 14 days, has the student/child travelled outside of Canada AND: • been advised to quarantine as per the federal quarantine requirements AND/OR • is the student/child under the age of 12 and not fully vaccinated? If travel was solely due to a cross border custody arrangement, select "No." Yes No

7. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that the student/child should currently be isolating (staying at home)? This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.

Yes No

8. In the last 10 days, has the student/child tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit? If the student/child has since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select "No."

Yes No