

The *Wesleyan*

October 2022

From the minister's desk...

I can't thank Shawn enough for establishing the weekly "newsletter" he so creatively calls "What's Up At Wesley?" (WUAW). He sends it out every Friday before he leaves the office each week. Mostly he sends it by email but he also arranges a paper copy to be hand delivered to those without email access. This WUAW has kept us all informed about the big things *and* the little things. Having said all that, it begs the question "What shall I put in the quarterly?"

Clergy are often referred to as the '*resident theologian*', so to that end, I offer these few thoughts. Being followers of Christ was never presented to us as a "fun thing to do". Naming oneself as Christian requires one to know Christ; all he stood for and stands for. The only way we can know Christ is to read our scriptures and come to know his stories. Being born of a woman, single and impoverished, Jesus sided with those oppressed by their socio-economic locations. He sat and ate at table with the segment of the society that were disregarded or ostracized, and he healed those tossed aside because of their physical ailments.

Being witness to the misuse of power, he spoke truth to power at great cost; indeed the ultimate cost. Being a man of faith, who knew his scriptures so well he lived them and gave us witness to the Divine, he inspires us to know our scriptures that we too, may live our faith in that same God.

As my mother used to always say, "No one said it would be easy". Truer words have never been said. She used to also say to me though, "life would be just so horrible if it were always easy".

Life is meant to be wrestled with, and to be sure, it is just a whole lot easier when we have our faith to give us strength. What more would we expect of our faith? What is the purpose of knowing Jesus' story and understanding Christ's resurrection if it doesn't remove our fear?

Fear can take away our strength and weaken us. Fear is the greatest detriment to our living; it impedes us from living life. It comes in all shapes and sizes, such as worry that occupies our minds and takes up the space we need for creative dreaming and hope. It can paralyze us, rendering us inactive, static and lifeless.

Faith in Christ Jesus requires nurture. This is why we receive sustenance at Christ's table so we might live our faith. Fear is a very real human emotion; it is our response to it that requires faith in a God who we know as love which is stronger than fear; a God who we know to be of peace which is stronger than hate; a God who we know to be just with a preferential for the oppressed.

Christ's table will be open for all who seek sustenance, together with all Christians around the world on the first Sunday in October. This Worldwide Communion Day is commemorated because we all know the strength required to be Christian and it is good to not only be sustained at Christ's table but to be reminded that we are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Peace,

Christina

Rev. Christina Paradela (she/her)

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NOMINATING TEAM COMMITTEE NEWS

As we enter the fall season, it is time for the work of the Nominating Committee to ramp up once again; to begin to build the list of committee members and chairs of committees, which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting next February/March.

Quick review – the Nominating Committee has the responsibility to work with you, the people of Wesley, to find your place in the life and ministry of the church; to answer your wants and wishes to participate; to satisfy the how's and where's of your engagement.

If you have an interest in being on a committee, or chairing a committee, or helping out with the work of a committee, please let us know. Maybe you don't have a particular committee or area in mind, but just want to help out somehow, please let us know.

At this writing, we do have a couple of important spots that we know we are going to have to fill. Actually, all roles are important, but we want to draw attention to these two for now.

After 16 years of dedicated service, Dave Reed is resigning as Treasurer of Wesley. He will remain in the position until the end of January and will take care of all of the year-end tasks. Wesley certainly appreciates everything that Dave has done in this position over the years. If you are interested in learning more about this role and possibly taking it on, please let us know. By the way, we don't think Dave had any idea of doing the job for 16 years, and we are not expecting the next person to match this feat.

The other position needed is that of Secretary for Council. Sharon Olesevich will complete her term as of the Annual General Meeting, having served for 6 years. Wesley appreciates all that Sharon has meant to the Council and the many Congregational meetings over those years. If you would like to be part of Council in the role of Secretary, please let us know.

Important fact regarding Council – in the bylaws which were approved by Wesley last Sunday, September 25 – Council is only mandated to meet 4 times per year, on a quarterly basis. If you have been reluctant to join in because you did not want to add monthly meetings to your schedule, that commitment of time has been reduced.

So think about it. How, where, when, what do you want to be involved? Please let us know.

You can reach me at hgraham@ubkool.com or call me at 905-892-1069. Thank you.

- Hugh Graham
Chair Nominating Committee

TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

The transition team is thrilled to know that the community of faith accepted the new Vision Statement and Bylaws last Sunday. It is the hope that this process has offered an opportunity to realign the ministry and mission of this community of faith. That is the overall purpose of the work of the Intentional Interim Minister (IIM) and the transition team (TT). Your mission IS *rooted in faith and still growing*. Your vision statement will guide your work as outlined in your bylaws. Sunday's work is a significant piece of the equation that culminates all the endeavours of the transition team and signals to the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council a readiness for the community of faith to begin the work of searching for the new minister.

As you will have noted during the Re-covenanting Liturgies during Sunday's worship service, the search team members covenanted with the community of faith and they have begun their work. You will begin receiving regular reports from the Search Team soon. They have met twice and have determined that Glen Moore, (*Bev's Glen*) will chair the team and Joan Simpson will keep notes. This work is highly confidential, yet transparent.

Other members are Dave Reed, Gloria Mannell, Cathy Joynt-Taylor (M&P and TT rep) and HFRC rep Rev. Gord Crossfield.

Believe me, the TT understands that all of this “*process stuff*” can come across as just some halla-baloo; that this is just time consuming nonsense that we can do without. And we know that there are some who are running out of patience in this regard and just want the new minister to come. It has been said that “it takes time to turn a tanker!”

Twenty-three years is a long time and the “way we’ve *always* done it” is deeply entrenched in the psyche of the Wesley system. It takes time to do things differently, to fill in the rut of that entrenchment. Nominations did a lot of work last year and will do more this year. We have new committee mandates with new personalities who will bring new ideas while holding onto valued traditions. Considering how seriously Covid inhibited the work of the TT, the church council on recommendation of the transition team, voted in favour of extending the Intentional Interim Minister’s contract for up to, but no later than, April 30, 2023.

This extension was voted on by the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council on September 28 and news will come officially shortly after. This timing will enable the TT to fulfil their final goals and examine the context within which you live out those committee mandates (aka bylaws) The transition team is also ready to offer support to the Search Team.

Please feel free to speak with any of the members of the Transition Team:

Ann Pinnegar (chair) Jane Koruna, Melissa Jones (secretary), Rev. Gord Crossfield (HFRC rep) or Rev. Christina Paradela, (IIM).

- Transition Team

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE **FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Last year had one of the best financial years in our history. We set money aside for the installation of a new electronic sign, and surplus money went to our Endowment Fund and saving accounts. However, this year is shaping up to be the exact opposite of last year’s financial performance.

To the end of August, our Local Ministry Fund expenses averaged \$4,152/week; our income averaged \$2,165, leaving us with a deficit of \$1,987/week for the first 34 weeks of the year.

It is not uncommon to start the year with a deficit, considering the high cost of snow plowing and heating during the cold winter months. It usually takes until the end of December to break even, but this year will be a very tough hill to climb.

What Happened? Well, last year by the end of August, we had received a total of about \$28,000 in wage subsidies from the Federal Government which we are not receiving this year. Donations to the Local Ministry Fund are down about \$6,000 compared to the same time last year.

Wesley's Endowment Fund investment with the United Church of Canada Foundation has not gained any value but has lost value, and is not likely to be able to contribute income to this year's Local Ministry Fund (This has only happened once before over a period of 16 years).

Is there any good news? Yes! Wesley has a dedicated and diligent staff and Church Council.

We have a lot of cash reserves from previous years of surpluses that will see us through this difficult year and get us off to a good start next year. We expect that next year the Endowment Fund will earn income once again, which will provide assistance to the Local Ministry Fund.

The United Church of Canada is launching a self-insurance program aimed at a significant reduction of insurance costs. General Council 44 approved the proposal, which is aimed at saving United Church ministries over \$1.5 million per year and Wesley will see premium reductions of 15–30%.

We are finally getting back to "normal", we held our first Garage & Bake Sale in 3 years, Turkey Pie Sales have recently happened, and rental income is starting to pick up. The Search Committee has been formed, and will find us a new Minister who will lead us forward with new energy. And above all else, "You've got to have Faith".

How can we help? Times are tough, but if you can donate more to the Local Ministry Fund, then please do so. However, your time and talents are equally important, it would be awesome if you are able to help Wesley out in any way. Please support our Fundraisers. There are currently three Fundraisers planned for this fall and winter seasons; The Commemorative Hymn Sing, The Food Faire, and the annual Christmas card campaign. The primary purpose of these fundraisers is to have Fun, so invite your friends and Neighbours and participate where you can!

The Finance Committee and Church Council thank you for your, past, current and future support!

Thanks for your consideration..... Wesley's Finance Committee

MEN'S GROUP REPORT

On September 14th, thirteen men attended the Men's BBQ at 114 Pinehurst Drive, where we ate: roast beef, sausages, potato & pasta salads, various pies for desert and a variety of refreshments. A good time was had by all.



A Men's Breakfast was held on Sunday, September 25 in Robins' Hall. The next breakfast will take place on Sunday, October 30 at 8:15 AM.





The stage in Robins Hall was cleared of the Spring Garage Sale items, with approximately half of the items going to Goodwill and half going to the Men's shed for next Spring's Garage Sale.

The men will not be having a Fall Garage Sale, but will be selling some tables of Christmas related Garage Sale items at the Food Faire in November.

The following motion was approved at the Men's BBQ:

Motion by Del Fraipont, seconded by Bob Marsh, to approve the following:

The purpose of Wesley's Men's Group is to further an understanding of, and commitment to, the work of the Church, promoting Christian fellowship through service within the church and community.

Furthermore, that the Men's Group develop their own set of bylaws to be approved at the next annual congregational meeting.

Carried.....

PRAYER CHAIN AT WESLEY

"Lord listen to your children praying
Lord send your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to your children praying
Send us love, send us power, send us grace"
- Hymn 400, VOICES UNITED

We have a group of 10 who make up the Wesley Prayer Chain. As requests for special prayers of the Wesley family reach us, confidentiality is respected and Prayer Chain members are asked to raise prayers to the Lord. Of course, God knows what we need before we ask. Prayer is really as much about listening to God as it is talking to God. Some of our best prayers can be prayers of silence.

If you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain and receive prayer requests every few weeks or whenever necessary, please contact me by phone (289-362-6086) or at elane6@cogeco.ca with your contact information. I would also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by Betty Lane

LIBRARY CORNER

The library committee has held only one meeting since re-opening the church but plan to start meeting again on a regular basis to being planning new programs and events.

Stay tuned!!!

In the meantime, please read the following book review written by Mary Cools. The book is currently on display on the library counter in the Narthex:

Book Review- A “Must Read” novel!

Well Aged – Making the Most of Your Platinum Years by Ralph Milton

In this case, Direct Quotes say it all:

“It takes me ten or fifteen minutes just to put on my support socks in the morning. It’s a struggle all right, for which we should get some kind of medal.”

“Wrinkles tell the story of my life. Any youngster can have a nice smooth face, but it takes a lifetime to earn a good set of wrinkles.”

“I’ve dropped all the detritus in the ditch along the road of life, and what’s left of me is the distilled essence of the finest Ralph.”

“babies can’t do anything either,’ she said.

I knew what she meant. Babies are useless, but they are precious. Old people are useless, but they are precious.”

“Old people and babies are useless but precious. But babies are precious because they are brand new and cute and their whole future is ahead of them.

But old people? Precious? We’ve run out of future. We can’t even remember our ‘best-before date. And ‘cute’ isn’t a word you’d use to describe us.”

“Why is it that when you get old, people talk to you as if you’re brain-dead? Or as if you’re in diapers. OK, I am in diapers. But I don’t need to be treated like a baby.”

“In church we are told that we are made in the image and likeness of God. That’s what it says in the very first chapter of the Bible. With that in mind, try standing in front of that big bathroom mirror, naked just before a shower, and tell yourself, ‘I am made in the image of God!’”

“... we can’t remember what we’ve told to whom or when. We never run out of things to talk about. (A friend) told me that he had run into an older friend in the supermarket recently. The man told him about the treatments he was undergoing for heart ailments. “Then I went down the next aisle and ran into him again. We had exactly the same conversation all over again.’ ”
“every senior needs a pubescent technical consultant.”

Although very funny, Ralph Milton’s main message is that we oldies are not finished yet and we need to keep living . . .

“Old age is not an illness, it is a timeless ascent. As power diminishes, we grow toward more light.”

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Back again by popular demand we will be having our **FOOD FAIRE AND BIZARRE** on
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th.

We will be featuring:

Our famous **Cookie Walk...** can't wait!

Our scrumptious **Bake Sale....** delicious!

Our **Deli Table,..**where wonderful home cooked items are ready to enjoy in your home.

Our **Silent Auction....**so many things to bid on.

Our **Knitting Area....**lots of cozy items to choose from.

New this year our **Christmas Area...what will I buy next?**

If you would like to get involved or help out in anyway that would be **Awesome.**

More information to come!

Thank you, Wendy Reed for the Fundraising Committee.

Turkey Pie Memories

This year was my last time for making 600 famous Wesley Turkey Pies. I have truly loved every minute of working with so many of you over the years. It is a great deal of work but you added the fun and friendship, bonds were formed.

Many years ago 35 to 40 years, I'm sorry I can't remember the exact year, Lois Wills came to me with a Turkey Pie recipe from her sister's church and asked, "Do you think we could make these and would you help me." Being young, in my late 20s or early 30s, full of energy and having Lois as my wonderful friend I said, "Sure, let's give it a try!" I loved to cook and so did Lois so we rounded up a crew of helpers and the fun began.

In earlier years the UCW to which I belonged, did pretty much most of the fundraising for Wesley. We had three strong groups of ladies that met monthly then all joined together for our yearly get together meeting. There were a few young women, like myself, who stayed home to raise their children, but most were 15 to 20 plus years older and wiser, who took us in with open arms. I loved everything one of them, as I now had so many new Moms to guide and care for me.

We also had a Congressional Life Committee, that did fun things like game nights, dances and pot luck dinners. Many events were fun times for the whole family. I was part of this committee. This group eventually evolved into the Fundraising Committee that we now have today. Many fundraising tasks that the UCW ladies had done for eons were now passed on to the Fundraising Committee as we needed more helpers.



Back to the Turkey Pies. We used to cook over 30 turkeys many of them weighing over 30 pounds and they were cooked in our own homes then brought back to the church, deboned along with a big pot of broth.

We would make close to 5,000 pies and sold them to Wesley folks and the Welland Community. Needless to say, we had LOTS of helpers and a great deal of FUN working together. We made and rolled out all our own dough for the pies. Can you imagine the time and effort this took! There was a great deal of laughter and happiness while working together and there still was this past Sept. Lifelong friendships have been formed for sure while making Turkey Pies.

It was decided that all the turkeys needed to be cooked the same way in accordance with the Public Health guidelines. This meant decreasing the number of pies that we could prepare at one time in the church kitchen. Plus, many of us were older and couldn't actually put a 30 pound + turkey in the oven by ourselves.

While Lois and I started organizing and buying all the supplies for making the turkey pies in the early years, others like Betty Lane and Barb Thompson and others took over this task. I returned after I retired working. So many wonderful helpers have been doing this for YEARS!

Remember Mae Tanner making dough with her warm hands, Marg Lewis counting literally thousands of pies, Harvey Weir and Harold Griffin cut up piles of onions, happily arguing back and forth all the time and Susie Nesbitt, washing all the dishes along with Connie Leuty, Selma Cyopik, Tom Peters, Betty McCart, Ivan Kelly, Bernice Bailey helping anywhere they were needed... just to name a few from yesteryear.

In the past few years many, many wonderful friends have helped Wesley and me with these task and I'm extremely grateful. Everyone's efforts, whether you were a bagger, a scooper, a dishwasher or chopper or whatever you volunteered to do really mattered and your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Why did I personally want to keep making Turkey Pies all these years, besides helping Wesley financially? This email sent to me last year from my 91year old friend says it all:

"Hi Wendy, Yes last eve, I warmed the Turkey pie and enjoyed every mouthful delicious, and am so happy I have three more in freezer for future. Wonderful comfort for shut-ins to have tucked away. All Wesley kitchen workers need thanks for all these good works and happy comfort it gives to have in Senior homes for days ahead."

Will we ever make Turkey Pies again? Perhaps, but it sure was fun while it lasted.

Thanks for the memories, Wendy Reed and thanks Lois for starting the whole process.



UPCOMING CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 10:00 A.M.

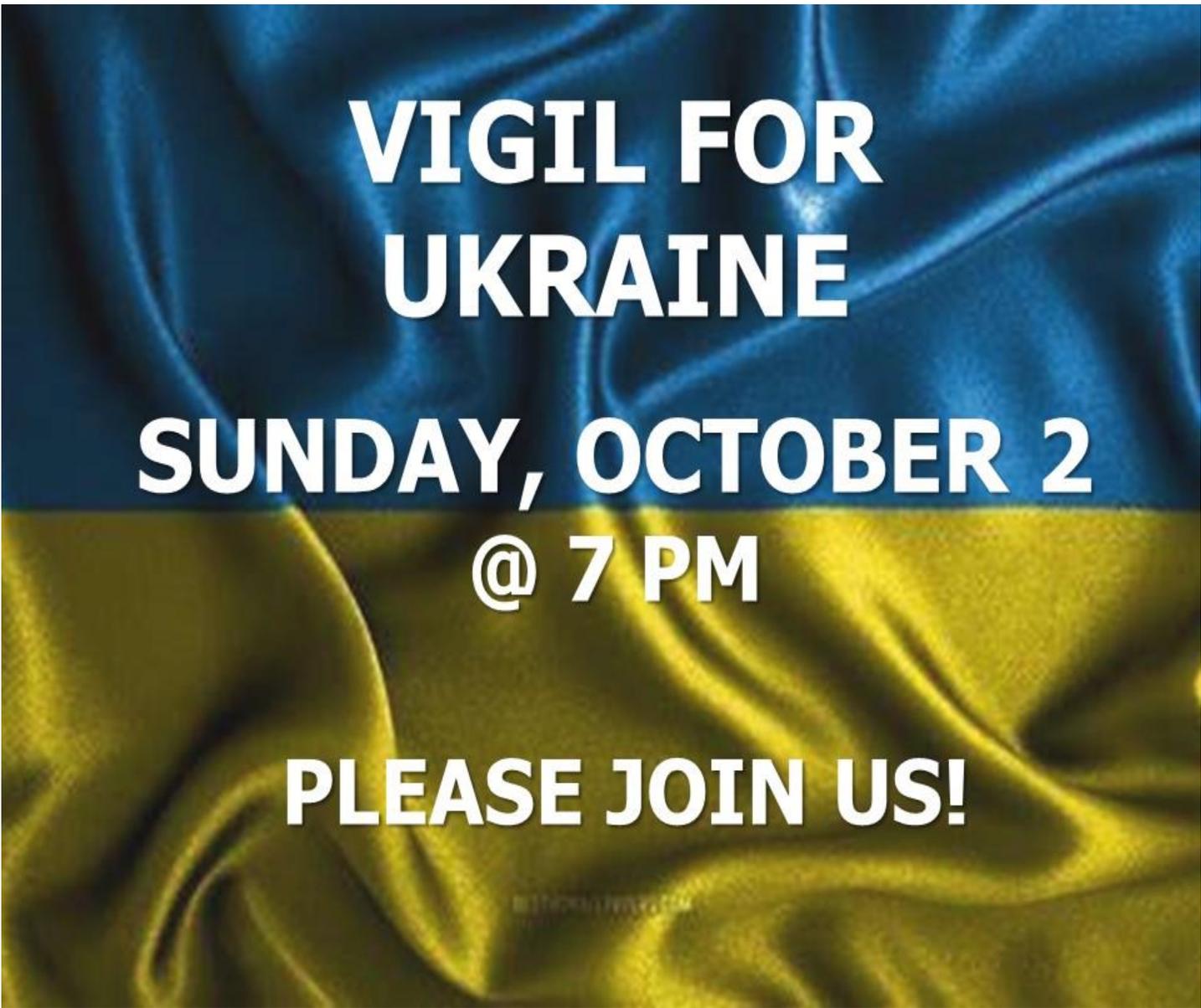
WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 10:00 A.M.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 10:00 A.M.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



VIGIL FOR UKRAINE

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2
@ 7 PM**

PLEASE JOIN US!

On the next page is a nice letter from Sarah Charters, Director of Philanthropy with the United Church of Canada thanking Dave Reed and the congregation of Wesley United Church for the support of the people of Ukraine.



Your gifts provide life-saving support in Ukraine.

Dear David,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to you for Wesley United Church of Welland's support of the people of Ukraine. Without your gift, we wouldn't be able to touch so many lives. Thank you!

Here's an update on some of the ways your generosity is helping to provide life-saving support through key partners working hard within and beyond Ukraine:

- With the freezing cold of winter looming, our partner ACT Alliance is working hard to ensure that those affected by the conflict have safe, warm, and dignified accommodation. As schools are being used to shelter refugees and internally displaced people, partners are making certain children can continue to access education.

- In the earliest days of the crisis, one of our partners—Hungarian Interchurch Aid—opened welcome points at borders for those driving and walking across the border and transitioned to support those arriving by train. They have now opened a centralized refugee hub in Budapest to make it easier to meet refugees’ needs.
- In Poland, our partner the Lutheran World Federation is hosting cash support centres, providing refugee families with money to meet their basic needs.
- Throughout affected regions, partners are helping people access essentials like food, water, and hygiene.

Church leaders are also on the ground providing spiritual comfort. Father Eugen Omu is a Romanian Orthodox priest who is staffing a refugee welcome centre in Sculeni, Romania. “It is important to have priests here,” he says. “When someone sees a priest, it reminds them of God and gives them courage to face what is to come.”

Our church partners are at the forefront of the emergency response in Ukraine with help from faithful supporters like you.

Your generosity serves as a reminder of the loving spirit of God, providing care and encouragement when and where it is most needed.

Again, thank you for your support.

In Christ,



Sarah Charters,
Director of Philanthropy

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Sunday, October 9 at 10:00 AM