

# *Fall 2017 Newsletter*

*Central United Church, 131 Main Street, Unionville*  
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## **FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK...**

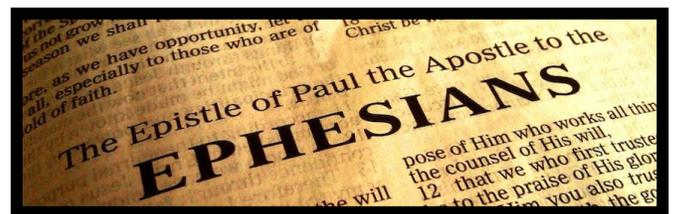
*I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*  
*(Ephesians 3:18-19)*

In the rhythm of life September marks a time when we return to routines. Routines are important. They can help us achieve and keep us focused on the important things of life. The routine of weekly worship is important. Weekly worship keeps us focused on what is essential for life; keeps us focused in the One who is ultimate.

In a sense the purpose of our worship is well stated in the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church. A prayer we would do well to take up for Central United: "... to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." The aim of our worship is, in part, aimed at comprehension of the magnitude of this love of Christ; the love on display at the cross when he will pour himself out completely for our sakes.

Over the course of the summer we have been exploring "the breadth and length and height and depth" of the love of Christ in our study of Paul's letter to the Romans. After Labour Day the focus of the sermons will probe the wonder of this love through the lens of Matthew's gospel. Following Thanksgiving we will turn our attention to the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesian church which will take us through to Advent.

The letter to the Ephesians will also be the focus of our fall small group study. The small group team has chosen a study on Ephesians by Rev. J.D. Greear titled "Unleashing the Church" for our church wide study. Greear said that the church does not measure their success by "seating capacity" but by "sending capacity." The focus is on helping us serve a world that God loves and will not give up on.



I remind you that "to know" in Paul's Hebrew thinking is an experiential word. To know is not merely ideation or "knowing about," though this is included. "To know the love of Christ" includes that we might experience his love.

May all the blessings of Christ's love be yours as we worship together.

REV. DR. JAMES CLUBINE

## ATTENTION SENIORS – NO MATTER HOW YOUNG YOU ARE!

Our annual seniors' luncheon will be held **at the church** on THURSDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> and we sincerely thank Mary Cullen for hosting this event. This is our way of honouring our own seniors from Central's congregation and we do hope you will be able to attend.

Mary will serve a home-cooked meal at 12:00 noon, with a travelogue of Russia and China by son Ben afterwards.

Please sign the list on Sally's bulletin board or send an email to [sally@centralunitedchurch.com](mailto:sally@centralunitedchurch.com) as soon as possible so we can plan appropriately.



We look forward to seeing lots of people with hearty appetites!!!

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS ON RALLY DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

The summer has been wetter than usual, but then again, the gardens look more abundant and lawns are greener than usual. As we approach September, we look forward to Rally Sunday as the start of the Sunday School year. So bring your kids out to start the new Sunday School year off with a bang.



The dedicated band of Sunday school teachers will once again be using crafts, games, videos, and cooking to help tell stories in the Bible and have fun while doing so. Tell your kids there are always treats every Sunday as well, and on Rally Day there is corn and hotdogs (for kids and adults too)!!

We are also looking for helpers to assist the teachers in the weekly activities. It does not have to be every week. Please speak with either Leanne Crosby or Mark Ono to find out how much fun Sunday morning is for the kids, and you could be a part of it.

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## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARKHAM PRAYER BREAKFAST



This event will be held on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> this year from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Hilton Suites Conference Centre and will feature Dr. Andy Bannister as the guest speaker and Quisha Wint providing the music. Tickets are \$35 each and can be reserved with Jim or Valerie Clubine.

## CHURCH-WIDE SMALL GROUP STUDY THIS FALL!

Small Groups Ministry at Central United Church is preparing for the launch of their annual small group study (see details in Jim's message on page 1).

On Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> our six-week church-wide study campaign begins. We will meet in small groups throughout the week and the Sunday sermons and scripture readings will complement what we study.

The Small Group Ministry Team will commence group sign up early September – we are inviting each to consider joining a group for the six week duration. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn together in a group setting and make some friendships along the way.



During the coming weeks, be sure to listen and look for announcements providing additional information as we finalize the exciting details!

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## SACRAMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS



On October 1st we will be celebrating **Worldwide Communion Sunday** joining with other churches in participation of the communion service. We will offer this Sacrament again on November 5<sup>th</sup> (Remembrance Sunday). In this special service, we pay tribute to all surviving war veterans from our congregation. Our list of those who served include: Bill Atkins, Jack Fortnum, Ken Ingraham, Selby Noel, Doug Patterson, Harvey Patterson, Al Saunders, Bert Taylor and Bob Woods. **If we have missed your name, please let us know so that we may appropriately pay honour to all who served.**



**The Sacrament of Baptism:** For those parents wishing to explore Baptism for their children, we ask that you contact Rev. Dr. James Clubine by early October. An information seminar to help parents prepare for this important step in their children's lives will be held on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> with Baptism Sunday scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX**



Filling shoeboxes with useful and fun things for needy children of the world has been an annual outreach event at “Central”. It’s the first one of the Christmas season. The response has always been positive and so generous. We would like to do it again this year and hope to have many participants. If you haven’t taken part in past years, perhaps this is the year that you will try it. It’s a fun and rewarding experience.

The kick-off date (tentatively Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>) and other details will be posted in the September weekly church bulletin. Please watch for this information

It’s never too early to start shopping. Buying the shoebox items gradually lessens the financial burden especially if several shoeboxes are being prepared. Shopping for one or two items weekly is a good idea. School supplies - pencils, pencil sharpeners, diaries, small notepads, scissors, solar calculators, markers, coloured pencils, crayons, erasers; Personal Hygiene items like a facecloth, toothbrush, soap, comb, hairbrush, dental floss, hair bands, hair barrettes; Clothing – underwear, socks, summer wear for small children, T-shirts, sunhat, sunglasses; Toys – small cars, small dolls, small puzzles, colouring books, yo-yo’s, small balls that bounce, stickers. Look for end-of-season bargains! NO CANDY is allowed. Avoid things that break, melt or leak. The age categories for both Girls and Boys are: 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. More detailed information will come later.

Please let family, friends and neighbours know about this outreach event.

Let’s have another successful shoebox drive! What a blessing it is to give! Let’s show our love for the children!!!

AGI WILLERDING

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## **SMN – SOCIAL MENTOR NETWORK**

This joint initiative of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada offers one-on-one mentorship opportunities for church ministries and helps build a strong community of social ministries across the country. Congregations are full of people from diverse work and life backgrounds. Help church ministries achieve their missions by becoming an SMN mentor!

SMN is seeking mentors with significant professional and/or volunteer experience, and expertise in areas such as marketing, fundraising, partnership development, administration, communications, strategic planning, board development, and more.



Whether you’re retired, working, volunteering, or a recent graduate, there is space for you! E-mail SMN ([socialmentornetwork@gmail.com](mailto:socialmentornetwork@gmail.com)) if you’d like to become a mentor. More information is available at [www.socialmentornetwork.ca](http://www.socialmentornetwork.ca)

## "A B C NEWS"



**Appreciation...**to Mark Ono for once again organizing our annual Golf & Dine event at Heather Glen Golf Course. This is a fun day for all and a great fundraiser for Sleeping Children Around the World. Thanks to the participants and hole sponsors, we were able to purchase 42 bedkits!

**Blessings...**and condolences to John Frotten whose wife Kathleen passed away recently after a long illness. We also extend sympathies to Shirley Thomson for the death of her brother Wilbur in PEI and to Nathan McLachlan for the death of his brother Nigel in Australia.

*With —  
Sympathy*



**Congratulations...**to Emma Cullen, daughter of Mark & Mary, who was married to Jon Dopson in England in May.

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## SOME HOLY HUMOUR

### SKIPPING CHURCH

Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So, he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away.

This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not." Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole.

IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Christmas is a few months away but as always will be here before we know it. We are asking you to mark your calendars for FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> as the date of the Unionville “Olde Tyme” Christmas Candlelight Parade. For the past few years, Central has not only participated in the parade but also hosted a carol sing and time of hot chocolate and fellowship back at the church. This is a great opportunity to reach out to our neighbours and showcase our church and congregation to the community!



For this event to be a success, we **need a good number from Central** to attend and help welcome families who join us for this very popular event. Please consider helping us show Unionville what a great place and congregation we are! More details will follow closer to the date.

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## OUR “OVER 80” BOARD

Here at Central, we like to pay tribute to our “special” seniors who have reached their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by honouring them during the month of their birthday and including their name on our “Over 80” board just inside the front doors of the church. If you would like to be added to this exclusive list, please let Sally know and she will arrange it for you!



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By Jeff KEANE

“The sermon was good, but I think you could’ve used a couple jokes to jazz it up a bit.”

*Central News is published quarterly by the church office for the congregation of Central United Church. The next issue will feature the season of Advent and Christmas. Email your announcements/articles to [sally@centralunitedchurch.com](mailto:sally@centralunitedchurch.com) by **November 1, 2017**. Thank you.*