

THIS WEEK IN ACTIVITIES

- Sunday **Worship Service at 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.**
Prayer Time between services
Lenten Series at St. Philip's at 7 p.m.
- Monday Israel Information Evening at 7:30 p.m.
Alanon at 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday UCW Meeting at 12:30 p.m.
Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday **Lenten Bible Study with Dinner at 6 p.m.**
- Thursday Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

FOR THE CHILDREN...We welcome children of all ages to



worship with us. We offer Sunday School for children and youth, from age 2 ½ through High School, following Children's Time in the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Younger children are welcome to remain with their parents during the service, or families may use the unstaffed nursery (toy room) found on the main floor, which includes audio for hearing the service. A change table is also available (in the main floor washroom).

PRAYER FOR OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR CHURCH...

The Bible tells us that we are to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) and has many examples of the Church gathering together in prayer (Acts 2:42). This Biblical instruction was highlighted at our recent Town Hall



meeting and the idea to proceed with prayer meetings met with a positive response. You are therefore invited to join with others from our congregation in a regular time of prayer. The main goal of this time of prayer is to discern where God would lead us here at Central United Church. We will be gathering in the **Choir Room downstairs** on Sundays between services at 10:45 a.m. Please join us.

WELCOME...to those from the Scouting and Guiding groups of Unionville who have joined us for worship. Central is the sponsor for 1st Unionville Scouts and host their group committee meetings (as well as their Beaver group from time to time). We also host the weekly meetings for the 3rd Unionville Girl Guides.



BUYING BEDKITS FOR OUR LENTEN PROJECT...Our Lenten Challenge this year is to buy bedkits for Sleeping Children Around the World to distribute to children in Sri Lanka this summer. Katie Sandiford, a member of the Canadian distribution team, would be delighted to personally



deliver any bedkits donated by our congregation. We have already received enough funds this year for over 100 kits – thank you! Can we make it 150?, 175? Each bedkit costs \$35 (with 100% of funds used

for the bedkit) and you can designate offerings by marking your offering envelope SCAW and/or by depositing loose change in the coin drop found in the narthex. Bedkits will be labeled from Central United Church or, if you prefer, you can specify a personalized label (such as an in memoriam, in honour of someone's birthday, birth of a baby, wedding, anniversary, Christmas, etc. Many grandparents like making donations as gifts for their grandchildren.) Photos are taken of all recipients with their bed kits and then forwarded to the donor as a keepsake. Sally would be happy to provide you with more details. (For those wanting a personalized label, please pick up a special form from the display in the narthex.)

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH THIS MORNING... have been placed by Susan Innes and family in loving memory of her parents, Mel and Bev Innes.



SUNDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES... The fifth service



of this series will be this evening at 7:00 p.m. at St. Philip's on-the-hill Anglican Church, 9400 Kennedy Road, Unionville with guest speaker Father Greg Bailey. All are welcome to attend these services and enjoy worship and fellowship with

members of other area churches.

TOUR ISRAEL & JORDAN IN SEPTEMBER... If you would like to know more about the trip to the **HOLY LAND** being led by Jim and Valerie Clubine this fall, there are two opportunities coming up. On Monday, April 7th at 7:30, please join us in our home, 28 Williams Street, Unionville. There will also be another information session on Tuesday, April 29th at 7:30 pm at the church with Scott McWilliams from Rostad Tours. We have worked with Rostad Tours to create a personalized tour for a great travel experience. The \$300 discount has been extended, so if you are considering this pilgrimage to the Holy Land, there is still an opportunity to take advantage of these significant savings. (There is no obligation in attending these info sessions.) For more, please call Valerie Clubine 647-403-4924. This is sure to be an amazing adventure and we hope you will be able to join us!



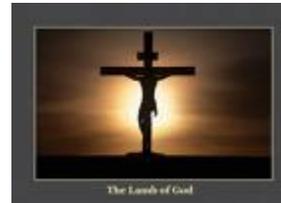
FROM OUR "OVER 80 BOARD"...

Congratulations to Marein Newnham, Shirley Alton, Ginny Ramsay, Mary Taylor and Norma Barnett, all who celebrate a birthday this month!

THE NEXT U.C.W. MEETING... will be held on TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH at 12:30 p.m. in the Main Hall. Ken Ackles will speak about how to research our family history. All ladies are welcome – bring a sandwich; coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.



HOLY WEEK... begins with Palm Sunday and moves forward to Easter Sunday. At Central our objective is to make this time a week of worship when we as Christians deliberately draw aside to contemplate that week when our Lord gave his life for us. Worship opportunities include:



Sunday, April 13th: 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. Palm Sunday worship services with Palm Parade (for the children) and the Sacrament of Communion. Then at 7:00 p.m. we will host the final service in the Sunday Evening Lenten Series with Rev. Peter Ma (of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church)

Thursday, April 17th: 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service with praise music and the Sacrament of Communion

Friday, April 18th: Good Friday service at 10:00 a.m. with organ and piano.

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Day beginning with a sunrise service at 8:00 a.m. followed by a light breakfast, and Celebration Services (with organ and piano) at 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. All services include the Sacrament of Communion.

19TH ANNUAL PRIME RIB ROAST BEEF DINNER...will be held on SATURDAY, MAY 3RD. This popular community event and major fundraiser for the church is typically sold-out so be sure to **get your tickets** early, now available from the church office (\$20 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12).



Many volunteers are also needed and we ask you to consider how you can serve while at the same time having some fun with your church family. Check out the many opportunities on Sally's bulletin board and sign up today! Thank you for your support.

EASTER FLOWERS...Thanks to the efforts of Maureen



Dudley and our Decorating Committee, Easter plants will be delivered again this year to our shut-ins during Holy Week. Donations in support of this project are appreciated; just mark your offering envelope "flowers". If you wish to make your donation in memory of a

loved one – just email or give a handwritten note to Sally by April 13th with the wording you wish used for the Easter Sunday bulletin.

CALL FOR LAY VISITORS...Many years ago, elders fulfilled an important role by visiting our members several times each year. Since we no longer have elders, any visitation has been done by the ministers, and a small group of Lay Visitors who visit shut-ins. With a view to expanding our pastoral support, we require more Lay Visitors. If you would be interested in participating in this important work, contact Rev. Karl Burden (kburden@centralunitedchurch.com).



COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED... during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. Please sign up at Sally's desk. Thank you.

TOWN HALL MEETING...Thanks to everyone who participated in the Town Hall a few weeks ago. We had a great turn out and lots of good discussion and ideas to consider. Your church council is encouraged by the passion and energy of the congregation on these important issues. In summary, there were 4 main themes of discussion:

1. **Family orientated services/activities** – planning to have a Family service with participation from our children and youth. Try it on a Sunday in May hopefully and may lead to more regular family services and other family activities
2. **Become a welcoming Church** – need to walk the talk a lot more and do some things differently to welcome people into our Church, including engaging with groups that use our church facilities and engaging with the community
3. Develop and execute an **effective communication** strategy – communicate more broadly using social media etc. to advertise what we have to offer
4. **Prayer/Bible study programs** - interest in expanding our existing programs to include more prayer and family and/or Youth Bible study programs

We are asking for help in any one of these areas – not asking people to sit on a committee but rather helping us to lead and organize any of these initiatives. Please speak to Jim Wright, Scott Wetmore, Helen Wright or Jim Clubine.



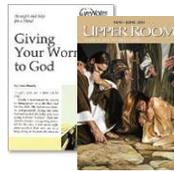
In the meantime please continue to provide us with your input and ideas. We have the old fashioned suggestion box on Sally's desk or we have set up a special email for those who would like to send us your suggestions electronically. suggestionbox@centralunitedchurch.com Thank you for your input

YOUR PRAYER CHAIN...Since the earliest days of the Christian Church, one of the most important functions of congregations has been prayer (Acts 2:42). Research has shown that prayer promotes healing even when recipients are unaware of the prayers offered in their name. It is also well-known that congregations that engage in regular and faithful prayer grow in strength and numbers. For many years, our



congregation has had Prayer Chain volunteers who regularly pray for individuals who have special needs (illness, bereavement, job challenges, etc.). We are in need of additional members so that we can continue to provide spiritual support for our congregation. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Karl Burden at 905-471-2116 or kburden@centralunitedchurch.com

UPPER ROOM & CARE NOTES...Check out our literature table for the latest issue of the Upper Room daily devotional guide and a selection of Care Notes. Help yourselves!



UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER...To initiate or renew an annual subscription to this monthly United Church of Canada magazine, please pick up an "Observer" envelope from Sally's desk and return same to her directly with your \$20 by April 27th. (If paying by cheque, please make it payable to Central United Church.) Thank you.



THE NEXT CHURCH NEWSLETTER...will be published in mid May for the summer season. Announcements and/or articles are welcome – just email Sally by May 1st sally@centralunitedchurch.com



YOUR CHURCH FINANCES...A summary of our receipts and expenditures relating to the operations of the church are as follows as of March 31, 2014:

	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>	Year to Date <u>Last Year</u>
Receipts	\$ 61,821	\$ 66,653	\$ 64,032
Expenditures	\$ 68,376	\$ 73,681	\$ 78,075
(Deficit)	(\$ 6,555)	(\$ 7,028)	(\$ 14,043)

Thank you for your prayerful and continued support to the life and work of your church.

"PAR" (PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE)...is available to help you contribute to your church on a regular basis. It also helps the church maintain a regular and dependable flow of contributions to support its ongoing commitments. If you are not already on PAR, please consider making your offering in this way. Speak to Sally for more information.



GIVE TO THE FOOD BANK...We encourage you to donate non-perishable food items throughout the year. You may deliver food to any local fire hall, many grocery stores and to our donation basket here at the church.

NAME TAGS...So that we may be a welcoming congregation we remind you to wear your name tag on Sunday mornings. For those of you who don't yet have one, just let Sally know and she will make one up for you for next Sunday. (Name tags can be found in the file boxes in the display cabinet in the narthex.)



PASTORAL CARE... Should you become aware of any illness, bereavement, hospitalization, etc., among people of our church; please notify the minister and/or church office by email or phone (905-474-0183) as soon as possible so that we may respond with pastoral care, and, if desired, Sunday prayers and placement on the Prayer Chain. (Should you have a confidential request and wish to inform the Prayer Chain directly, please contact Sandra Ackles by email or phone 905-474-1172.)

