

Lenten 2018 Newsletter



Central United Church
www.centralunitedchurch.com

131 Main Street, Unionville
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ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



The season of Lent represents 40 days (plus Sundays) and begins with Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate that day, FEBRUARY 14TH, with a worship service at 7:30 p.m. This special service helps to prepare you for our Lenten journey to Easter and will include the Sacrament of Communion and imposition of ashes. (We will have Communion again on the first Sunday of Lent, February 18th.)

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 2018

Lenten Bible Study starts Thursday, February 22nd. Make plans to join other Church Members for five Thursdays through Lent as Rev. Dr. Jim Clubine leads us in a video based study of the three books of John. A light dinner will be available at 6 and the Study will commence at 7:15 with the evening concluding at 8:45. The study is by Tony Evans and is sourced from the Right Now Media website. Each week, together we will watch the video followed by discussion of some of the key points in a small group of 6 - 8 people. To ensure that we have enough food and seats for everyone who would like to attend in person, please sign up at Sally's Bulletin Board. With the use of Right Now Media, if someone needs to miss a week or if Thursday evenings do not work in your schedule, everyone is able to participate in the study on their own time. If you are not currently signed up for Right Now Media, please send an email to sally@centralunitedchurch.com for a link to an invitation to use this resource free to charge!



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK...

Jesus said: "They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."
John 14:21

Reflecting on our motivation for Lenten discipline ...



Thomas a Kempis was a German monk who lived in the Netherlands in the late 14th into the 15th Century. His most famous work is *The Imitation of Christ*, a devotional classic that has been translated into over 50 languages. Some may classify him as a Christian mystic and John Wesley was fond of the devotion of the mystics (while rejecting mysticism as a something that saves us.) As you read this citation from a Kempis note the theme of love.

THOMAS À KEMPIS: ON THE WINGS OF A BURNING LOVE
Differences of opinions and beliefs only too often give rise to quarrels among friends and neighbours, and even between religious and devout people. Old habits are hard to break, and no one is easily weaned from his own opinions; but if you rely on your own reasoning and ability rather than on the virtue of submission to Jesus Christ, you will but seldom and slowly

attain wisdom. For God wills that we become perfectly obedient to Himself, and that we transcend mere reason on the wings of a burning love for Him. (*Thomas à Kempis, The Imitation of Christ - Trans. Leo Shirley-Price (Penguin, 1952).*)

In a similar vein Thomas Chalmers, a nineteenth-century Church of Scotland minister, spoke often of "the expulsive power of a new affection." I appreciate what both a Kempis and Chalmers put their finger on. It is our love for Christ that makes any devotion work. Only a qualitatively new affection could expel the old affections and passions that haunt us and hurt others.

I think we often hear Biblical teaching as rules. Jesus calls us to keep his commandments and we think we are going to be hampered in some way. In a similar manner Biblical calls to repentance are heard as demand for better self-discipline. I am not meaning to say that discipline has no place but the power for such discipline or keeping commands is love for Christ. The cross of Christ shows us that his love for will hold nothing back for our sakes.

Lenten Blessings,

REV. DR. JAMES CLUBINE

LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT 2018

During the season of Lent, our congregation traditionally supports a specific Outreach project. This year the Outreach Committee has chosen our local **Evergreen Hospice** as its 2018 Lenten project.

This facility is for those who live in the catchment area, suffering from a life threatening illness, bereaved persons, people struggling with difficult treatment, like chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, people struggling with degenerative neurological conditions and people with chronic conditions wanting to take control of their own care (all chronic conditions including cancer).

Services are provided to clients at no charge. They include a 'Living Room' wellness programme, support group for women experiencing cancer, home visiting, complementary therapies, caregiver support, 'Powerful Tools for Caregivers' seminars, age specific bereavement programmes and 'Healthy Living Now' a Stanford University developed self-management programme for individuals with chronic illnesses, including cancer.

Evergreen receives Grants from the Ministry of Health (20%). 20% of funding comes from the Central Local Integration Network (LHIN) and 80% of funding from donations and local events.



On Sunday, March 4th, we will have Jan Pearce, Executive Director of Evergreen Hospice, speak to the congregation. We hope you will join us to learn more about this worthwhile organization.

Sincerely,

FELECITY MONACO
Outreach Committee Chair

P.S. To offer your financial support to this project, simply mark your envelope "Evergreen" and place it on the offering plate as usual. Our traditional "coin drop" will also be available in the narthex for both adults and children to deposit their change through the pipe.

FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

At Central our objective is to make Holy Week a week of worship - a time when we as Christians deliberately draw aside to contemplate that week when our Lord gave up his life for us. We hope you will join us for many of our worship opportunities, as follows:

Palm Sunday – March 25th

Morning worship services @ 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion
Congregational Soup Lunch!

Thursday – March 29th @ 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion and
a Tenebrae Service featuring our choir.

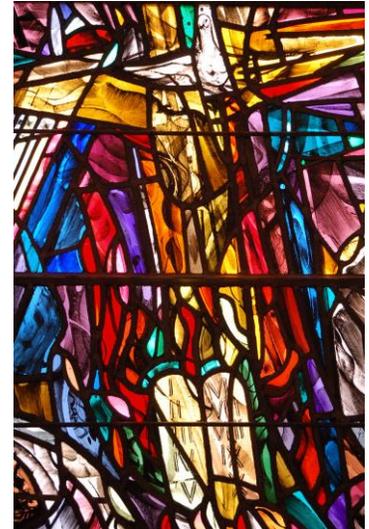
Friday – March 30th

Good Friday Worship service @ 10:00 a.m.

Easter Day – April 1st

Sunrise Worship service @ 8:00 a.m. with Holy Communion
followed by a light breakfast

Easter Worship service @ 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion



OUR ANNUAL PRIME RIB ROAST BEEF DINNER

will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 28th**. Set aside the date and watch for tickets to be available soon at the church. A delicious full course meal is served and continues to be very popular in our community. Lots of volunteers will be needed, so be sure to sign up and participate in on the fun!

SILENT AUCTION!

Sealed Bid Silent Auction is returning to the Roast Beef Dinner.

Funds raised will be directed to the continuing refurbishment of our historical building, including the restoration of the stained glass windows. Items that generate lots of interest include sports and event tickets and memorabilia, golf, gift certificates for restaurants or stores; services that you can provide (a themed dinner party, be a driver for a day to someone, provide baked goods or make a special meal), a cottage weekend, and new & unused items. Do you have something to donate? If so, please contact one of the committee members, Linda Patterson lindapatt@sympatico.ca; Scott Wetmore swetmore@rogers.com; Gary Crosby gary.crosby@tepp.ca; Mark Ono mpono@rogers.com; Ruth Duffield regduffield@gmail.com. With your support for donations and bidding, the auction will be a success again!

Silent Auction

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

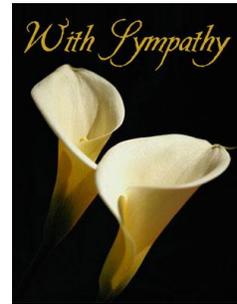
This schedule of church events was distributed at our Annual Congregational Meeting recently and for those of you who may have missed it you may want to take note of upcoming dates/events in the life of Central United Church. Further updates will be provided throughout the year via weekly announcements and quarterly newsletters.



Wednesday, February 14	Ash Wednesday and Communion
Sunday, February 18	1 st Sunday of Lent and Communion
Thursday, February 22	Lenten Bible Study begins (5 weeks)
Sunday, February 25	Sally's Retirement Celebration
March 25 – Apr 1	HOLY WEEK – a time for worship/reflection
Sunday, March 25	Palm Sunday, Communion & Soup Lunch
Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday & Communion
Friday, March 30	Good Friday
Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunday
Saturday, April 28	Roast Beef Dinner
Sunday, May 20	Pentecost & Communion; Lemonade on the Lawn begins
Saturday, June 2	Unionville Festival Day
Sunday, July 8	Communion
Sunday, August 5	SERVICE AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH (tentative)
Sunday, August 12	Communion
Sunday, September 9	Rally Day Outdoor Lunch
Sunday, September 16	Coffee Hour begins
Sunday, October 7	Thanksgiving & Worldwide Communion Day
October 14 – November 24	Small Groups Study
Sunday, November 11	Remembrance Sunday, Communion
Saturday, November 17	Turkey Dinner (tentative)
Sunday, November 25	Soup Lunch after Church, celebrating Small Groups
Sunday, December 2	Advent I & Communion; Comfort Service (tentative)
Friday, December 7	Christmas Parade Carols & Cookies (tentative)
Sunday, December 9	Advent II & White Gift Sunday
Sunday, December 16	Advent III with Christmas Musical
Sunday, December 23	Advent IV & Communion
Monday, December 24	Christmas Eve Evening Services and Communion

OUR SYMPATHIES

Blessings to many who have suffered the loss of a loved one in recent months. We extend our sincere sympathies to Roberta Ford for the death of her husband Bill and to Heather Keeling for the loss of her mother, Ruth Balmer. Additionally we mourn the loss of church member Jack Fortnum and those who worshipped with us in years past: Marjorie Mitchell, Virginia Taylor, Rod McLeod and Barb Skelton.



ONE FINAL WORD

As you know, I will be retiring as your church office administrator at the end of the month and I do hope many of you will help me celebrate on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH after the Sunday morning worship service here at the church. Although it will be a big change for me, and some of you as well, I look forward to new experiences as I begin this next chapter in my life.



I will speak further to this on the 25th but wanted to be sure to thank all of you for being part of the “best job ever”. You are a wonderful congregation and it has been my pleasure to work with so many of you and develop some great friendships along the way. I hope to retain some connection to Central in the years to come, albeit in a different role.

And finally, I know you will want to join me in extending a warm welcome to my successor, Heather Benjamin. Being a church office administrator is quite unique as “you just never know what a day will bring” but I’m confident that this congregation will enjoy having Heather on staff as she brings lots of new ideas and develops the ministry of office administrator into her own.

SALLY SANDIFORD
Church Office Administrator (1993-2018)

Central News is published quarterly for the congregation of Central United Church. Material for Central News is accepted anytime (the earlier the better). **The deadline for the Summer issue is May 1st.** Place material in Heather’s mail slot or send her an email at heather@centralunitedchurch.com Thank you.