

The Harcourt Herald

The life and work of the Harcourt Memorial United Church

October, 2016

**Five Easy Steps to Bible
Literacy (sort of)**

**Check out our Cool
Programs Coming Up**

FALL IS HERE!!



Harcourt Memorial United Church

An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

Seek / Connect / Act

Our Mission:

Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate, and non-violent relationships

Our Vision Statement:

To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service

Our Core Values:

Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

Our Purpose:

To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

Harcourt Memorial United Church

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1L3

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am-noon; 1pm-4pm

Phone: 519-824-4177

Fax: 519-824-9448

Email: office@harcourtuc.ca

Web: www.harcourtuc.ca

Ministers: The People with

Reverend Miriam Flynn (ext. 222)

Miriam@harcourtuc.ca

Reverend Jim Ball (ext. 223)

Jim@harcourtuc.ca

Director of Music Ministry:

Alison MacNeil (ext. 225)

alison@harcourtuc.ca

Church Administrator:

Anne Purkis

Technical and Office Support:

Nick Swan

Custodian:

Darko Cikovic

The **Harcourt Herald**

Published 10 times each year

by the

Communications Committee

Your contributions are welcome!

Deadline: 20th of each month

Sept-June

Editor: Gillian Joseph

herald@harcourtuc.ca

Printer: Anne Purkis



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR MINISTERS...BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!

Rev. Jim Ball has served in Toronto and Hamilton Conferences since his ordination in 1981. He has worked alongside the people of four faith communities, located in Richmond Hill, Caledon East, Halton Hills, and finally, Guelph. In each, he found urban, rural, team, and public dimensions and a willingness to serve the wider world.



Jim has served the United Church of Canada in many roles: in committee work at regional levels and in representational roles and writing tasks at the national level. His work and learning has included travel to the Middle East, to India and Nepal, Europe, New York and California, and across Canada.

His adult life journey has been shared with Anne, his wife and best friend. Their children, Michael and Sarah, now young adults, are their deepest joy.

Rev. Miriam Flynn is a second-career minister who has followed a strong sense of call into congregational ministry. She brings an enthusiasm for inclusive community, heartfelt faith and the journey of discovery within the church as we live into the “new thing” that God is doing through us here and now.



Miriam has a B.A. from Queen’s University (1979), an LL.B. from York University (1982) and an M.Div. from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto (2016).

She lives in Waterdown with her husband, Rick, and is mother to two grown children, Rachel and Peter.

Alison MacNeil is a graduate of the University of Guelph and of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. Born in Guelph, she returned to live and work following her graduate work at the University of Western Ontario. She is the Director of Music Ministries here at Harcourt, a position she has held since 1988. Alison also maintains a large teaching studio in Guelph and is a busy freelance accompanist and chamber musician. Through the years, she has been a pianist for the University of Guelph Choir, the Elora Festival Singers, Guelph Youth Singers and the Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo-Wellington. She has been the accompanist for the Guelph Chamber Choir for twenty years and performs and tours with them frequently. Alison is featured on two of the choir’s CDs.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 2	5th Sunday in Creation - Cosmos Sunday (World Wide Communion).
October 9	6th Sunday in Creation - Harvest Sunday.
October 16	7th Sunday in Creation - Sabbath Sunday.

Season of Remembrance 2016

October 23	Remembrance 1 - First Nations
October 30	Remembrance 2 - All Saints Sunday - Book of Remembrance

Strengthening Youth Ministry Webinar Series

Six webinars, October 2016 - May 2017

Join experienced youth and young adult ministry leaders from across the United Church for a special series that will provide youth ministry leaders (volunteers and ministry personnel) with a wealth of practical tips and tools to reach the young people in your midst. All of these leaders have also been trained as Youth and Young Adult Ministry Consultants and are available to provide workshops in your ministry context. You may register for each webinar or for the whole series.

<https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/youth-ministry-series>

By Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

Council's September 21st meeting brought us together, following a busy summer, to reflect on our favourite aspects of the fall season. Sights, sounds, smells, work, recreation and conversations indicate that a new season has arrived.

We focused half of our meeting on Harcourt 20/20, especially the three narratives that summarize our June Conversations (included in the September *Herald*). Through sharing our personal stories, we talked about how we keep balance while living the three narratives of: feeling a sense of loss; feeling revitalized; trying something totally different or brand new (a sense of 'new life').



Our next question was: **How do our personal stories help us to understand Harcourt's three narratives of Slow Death, Revitalization, and Radical Change?** Council members offered many key thoughts. Here's a short list of what I heard and now share with you, the Harcourt Congregation:

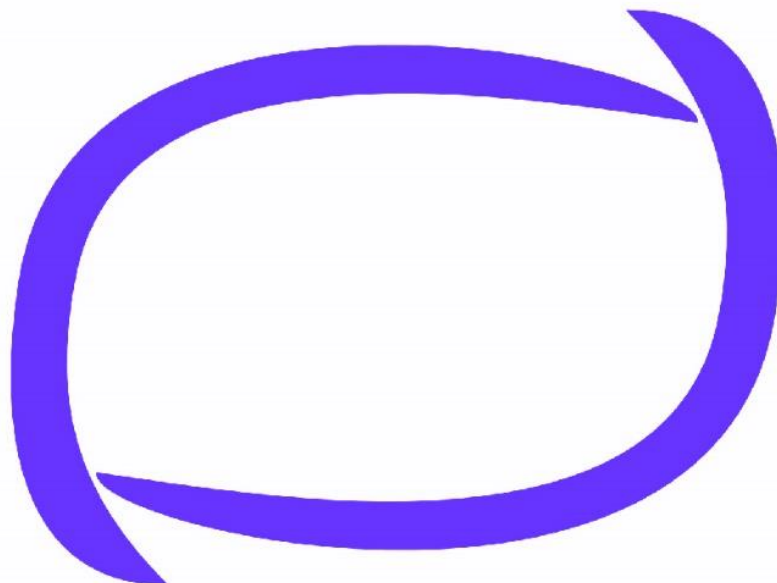
- We are working through a highly complex time and process.
- We are each living the three narratives at the same time, in different ways – sometimes as sequential steps, and sometimes concurrently (all at once).
- We want to ensure that all are comfortable, and feel accepted, in whatever ways each of us individually lives the three narratives at this point in time.
- Communication with others, in small groups and larger discussions as a Congregation, is most important.
- We need patience to acknowledge our differences.
- We need to accept uncertainty, a 'new normal', and opportunities for new growth and ideas ... without fear. Do we commit to going in a different direction?
- When we feel grief, we need a plan to help us do what needs to be done. Balance the sense of loss with recognition of what is positive.
- Distinguish between tradition and habit. Distinguish between church/institution and 'grace'. Where is God calling us as a ministry in this community?

So what happens next on our Harcourt 20/20 journey? We want and need your participation in October and November! **Our October 22nd Congregational Joint Needs Assessment workshop** (actually called a Congregational Meeting by Presbytery) is an important time for you to provide input. What kind of congregation do we want to become? What are the predominant leadership style and skills needed for the next few years in paid, accountable staff? Possible examples named in the Summary of June Conversations include: a pastoral style with traditional worship skills; a pacesetting, top-down style with marketing skills; a relational, empowering style with innovation skills.

Please register through the office for October 22, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Rev. Paul Miller, Waterloo Presbytery Support Minister, will be our facilitator and two other Presbytery representatives will work with us. **Child care will be provided.**

Council also discussed the issue of **hospitality at Harcourt on Sunday mornings**. We applaud those who step into the **Greeter** role spontaneously. Do we miss that welcome when it's not there? How do newcomers and visitors feel? **We invite a volunteer** to pick up this opportunity to coordinate and monitor this important task. If this task calls to you, please let me or any member of Council know as soon as possible.

With faith and hope.



New to Harcourt? Welcome!

You may want to know that there are three Sunday services:

Chapel service (9 am)

The Chapel service features prayers, readings, singing, and a message. It is quiet and meditative. There is no choir or special children's program. Tea and coffee are served following the service, and some participants gather for additional guided reflection.

Sanctuary service (10:30 am)

The Sanctuary service closely follows the Chapel service, but also includes the Harcourt choir with piano and guitar accompaniment, and occasionally the handbell choir and flutes.

Nursery support is provided in the nursery from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Tea and coffee are served in the gym after the service.

MANNA (10:30 am)

Is a new, friendly, all-ages, interactive, alternative worship experience that involves hands-on activities and sharing. It takes place in the Friendship Room, also at 10:30 a.m.

Special schedules

Summer schedule: Summer services begin the last Sunday in June and continue through to include the first Sunday in September. Nursery care is available.

Special events: There are also some special Sundays during the year, such as Easter Sunday, when the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services are held together at 10 a.m.

Midweek services: There are other times and opportunities to come together in worship at Harcourt. These events take place seasonally.

Visit our webpage at www.harcourtuc.ca or **call the Church office at 519-824-4177**



People are Talking About...



- **United Church of Canada Calls for Feedback on *Honouring the Divine in Each Other: United Church-Hindu Relations Today***

The United Church's Theology, Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee (TICIF) invites your participation in and responses to this next step in interfaith understanding. Your feedback will contribute to a proposed General Council statement on United Church-Hindu relations. The deadline has been extended to **December 31, 2016**. For more information visit: <http://www.united-church.ca/news/seeking-responses-study-united-church-hindu-relations>.

- **Church Seeks Understanding Through "Let's Keep Talking" Resources**

The "Let's Keep Talking" resources invite members of United Church faith communities to engage in "courageous conversations" about just peace in Palestine and Israel. These resources are designed to help participants move beyond some of the myths, barriers, and questions that hold many of us back from fully engaging in the Unsettling Goods campaign. <http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/lets-keep-talking>

- **Laws on 'Unfair' Church Edicts Ruled Upon in Alberta Appeal Court**

Alberta courts are venturing into a highly controversial area associated with jurisdiction over religious organizations after the Alberta Court of Appeal decided to allow the Court of Queen's Bench to hear an application relating to the expulsion of a Jehovah's Witness. <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/religion/alberta-appeal-court-rules-judges-can-overturn-unfair-church-edicts>

COMMITTEE & GROUP CATCH-UP



My Five Easy Steps to Bible Literacy (sort of)

by Andre Auger, Adult Faith Formation

Most of us would probably agree with Marcus Borg's statement that, as liberal (or better, “progressive”) Christians, we take the Bible seriously, but not literally. That's all very fine as far as it goes. But what does it mean to take the Bible seriously? Reading the Bible cover-to-cover is probably not a bad thing, but it sure won't help us make sense of the narrative. We need some kind of help from biblical scholars to help us sort out historical and socio-economic conditions, literary genres, and a chronology of authorship. They can also provide some sound speculation as to why certain texts were written and why they were considered authoritative (while others were not.)

I confess that I would not consider myself overly familiar with all the “begets” and the killings and the marital machinations of some of our sacred texts... For a while I was ready to decide that the Bible was an interesting artifact of our history, but contained too many errors and inaccuracies to be useful to anyone anymore...

Fortunately, we live in an age when the world's best biblical scholars write not only for each other, but for laypeople! Never before in the history of publishing have interested readers had at their disposal so much quality material. And I love reading. And so...

I want to talk a bit about five books which have given me so much to think about and provided me with sound guidelines through the complexities of contemporary biblical scholarship. All five are eminently readable!

John Shelby Spong's Re-Claiming the Bible for a Nonreligious World (2011) walked me, book by book, through the Bible and, with the aid of the best scholarship, helped me see the jewels each contained. Reading this book is like having a scholar right there by your side, helping you uncover the treasures contained in all the key stories of our sacred text. This will remain my “go to” reference book whenever I am once more puzzled by something in my reading of scripture.

Harvey Cox's How to Read the Bible (2015) walked me through key texts of our sacred scriptures and introduced me the best scholarship methods for understanding each. Cox writes with the simplicity of a man who has nothing to prove, and everything to share.

With the help of such scholarly approaches as source analysis, biblical archaeology, narrative theory, literary theory, form analysis, redaction history, empire studies, and “canonization” studies, he uncovers rich meaning wherever possible. In the end, his wise advice to us is to explore the Bible from multiple points of view, never to expect to land on a single indisputable interpretation, and to let the “living word” affect us personally.

John W Miller's How the Bible Came to Be (2004) helped me develop a proper chronology of authorship of the various books of both the Jewish and the Christian Scriptures, showing that, in the proper chronological sequence – different from the order in our Bibles - the text makes even more sense. Written by a scholar from Conrad Grebel College, this book complemented my other readings by placing all the books of the Bible in their chronological order according to their authorship, and helping me to understand why they were written, and why they were retained.

John Dominic Crossan's How to Read the Bible and Still be a Christian (2015) helped me sort out the role and place of violence in scripture, noting that the violent texts tend to be a human reaction to the non-violent world which the prophets – and Jesus - believed is God's Dream for humanity. I have always been shocked by the number of violent passages throughout our sacred texts, and wondered, short of dismissing the Bible – which I did not want to do - how I could honestly maintain my core belief in a God who loves unconditionally when there is so much talk of a vengeful, judging divinity. Crossan sorts this out to my entire satisfaction, and reminds me that the Jesus portrayed by each of the Gospels and by Paul speaks far more often about a loving “Abba” than about a punishing God. His theory is that the vengeful images are a human response to the more inspired images of an unbelievably loving God, as if we couldn't stand the awesome truth, and so we fall back on what we know best - violence.

Finally, Israel Finkelstein and Neil Asher Silberman's The Bible Unearthed (2001), based on the latest archaeological findings, helped me place the sacred story in its proper historical perspective. This book was to me a breath of fresh air. With no particular axe to grind, they simply review the archaeological evidence to date as well as the most popular theories surrounding the creation of our sacred text. The book confirmed what I long suspected: there is little to no archaeological evidence of anything prior to the 7th century BCE (that includes Moses, Joshua, David and Solomon!), and much of the material said to have been written well before is in fact the product of the rich and stressful time in the life of the Kingdom of Judah and during the Exile (7th and 6th centuries BCE). Far from making me dismiss scripture as a mere literary creation, these two Jewish scholars approach the history of the Hebrews and their writings with such reverence and high regard that my appreciation for the value of the Jewish scripture increased, as I slowly figured out what it was trying to accomplish.

There you have it! Want to take the Bible seriously without taking it literally? Want to really savor the rich human and spiritual truths it contains? There are certainly many ways to do so, but these five books have made a huge difference in how I approach the sacred texts that provide such an important layer of meaning to my own life.

Book That Date!

by Peter Jackson

On **November 28**, Spiritual Life Committee will be hosting a discussion evening from 7 to 9 PM in the Friendship Room. This is a follow-up to the successful 'Walrus Talks Spirituality' session held this past spring. It will also be a kickoff to your Advent observance.

The focus on November 28 will be on the Jesus movement. We will watch a short (45 minute) video (Portrait of a Radical) and then discuss it. The video uses powerful images and music to move us out of the intellect and into a space where the dynamic nature of Jesus can be experienced. It features three engaging scholars - Huston Smith, Richard Rohr and Allen Dwight Callahan - and a variety of paintings, mosaics and scenes shot in Palestine. It is definitely not a 'talking head' video.

Watch the November issue of the Herald for more information. And mark the date in your calendar now!

Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship Learns About Change

by Jean Hume

The Caroline Harcourt Fellowship October meeting will be a week later due to the second Monday being Thanksgiving. Therefore, the next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 17th**. Our Speaker will be our own interim minister, Miriam Flynn. Miriam will be speaking on Accepting Changes both in our personal lives and in the ever ongoing changes that affect our lives. She will speak about the coping strategies that she has had to implement. We welcome all women and look forward to having you join us. Bring your bag lunch and treats and tea will be served. Those women who asked for copies of a publication list for our last speaker, Gillian Joseph, will find it in a folder by the Harcourt Herald on the table in the Narthex or in the Church office.

Stress, Struggles and Success: Harcourt's Men's Group

by Ross McKenzie

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be Wednesday, October 12, 2016. Murray Woods will be leading this meeting. Peter Gill will speak about the "Stress, Struggles and Success of the Chalmers Community Services Centre". All men are welcome to attend and we invite you to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this meeting. Coffee will be ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m..

Property Committee Sends 'Clipped' Messages

by Ben Fear

Our gardens are going to be prepared for winter and we need some more volunteers! Our loyal members who have maintained them all summer long can use some help to get them ready for the long hard winter. Accuweather says it starts in mid-November. The Farmer's Almanac says "Snow and cold in mid-November", Weather trends says, "It's Snowmageddon for the East"

The date: **SAT .OCT 29.** The Time: Right after breakfast and we'll get you home for lunch. Bring your clippers, leaf rakes, wheel barrows etc. and suitable clothing.

Last chance for 2016 to say "WE have a beautiful garden at Harcourt Memorial United Church!

A Call To Dig Deep: August Financial Results

by Kent Hoag

The life of Harcourt is full of activity, with many small groups, committees and various ministries.

We are proud of the work that we do and thankful for the many volunteers and our dedicated staff. To achieve our success takes funds. Unfortunately we have found ourselves in a significant shortfall after August results....



Our expenses have been almost \$20,000 more than the income that we have received. This is double the shortfall that we experienced last year at this time. We do great work at Harcourt. We appreciate all that you give and have faith that we will see our givings increase.

Pocket Photo by Nathan O'Nions - Bum, CC BY 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=39911714>

The Pipes, The Pipes! An Update on Washrooms

by Dave Hume, Chair of the Building Committee

The architect, Unto Kihlanki, took detailed plans to City Hall and applied for a Building Permit. While the documents were being reviewed, a city engineer e-mailed Mr. Kihlanki, saying he thought there was a waste-water connection at Dean Avenue on the east side of the church. Because a hookup to a city sewer line costs about \$10,000, Mr Kihlanki was authorized to get the existence of the hookup checked out. He is currently working on getting that done. The Building Committee opted to get a Building Permit first before the architect sends the drafted plans out for tender. Usually, having a Building Permit in place means there will be less likelihood of changes during construction and therefore lower tenders.



I anticipate the call for tenders will go out in October. Fortunately, most of the construction will be indoors so fall or winter construction should not be a problem except there will need to be a trench dug out to Dean Avenue to hook into the sewer line there.

The process has taken longer than we anticipated but things are moving ahead.

I Have a Spine but no Bones. Have a Back and a Front but no Face – Who Am I? A BOOK!!

by Mary-Lou Funston

FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN, OR ALREADY INVOLVED IN, CONGREGATIONAL REFORM:

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase 250 SCH

In which he outlines and explores the five practices of Radical hospitality; Passionate worship; Intentional faith development; Risk-taking; mission and service; Extravagant Generosity.

This is a book for groups to use. Each section ends with some conversation questions and, sometimes, a group activity. (e.g. in section 2 – have group members sit in the choir loft during the service to notice the practice of worship in the congregation.)

The Practicing Congregation Imagining a New Old Church by Diana Butler Bass 250.9 BAS

In which she identifies emerging forms of congregational life that display an unexpected vitality, adaptability, and faithfulness.

FOR THOSE WHO SEARCH FOR FAITH:

God Is. My Search for Faith in a Secular World by David Adams Richards 248 RIC

“Questions of faith and morality have been central to the fiction of David Adams Richards. Now he addresses what these questions have meant to him in his own life, and what he has come firmly to believe”.

Praying with the Earth: A Prayer book for Peace by J. Philip Newell 248 NEW

Each morning and evening, the author provides prayers, short scripture thoughts to begin and end your day with prayer and meditation. This would be particularly useful if you have little time for meditation, but would like to do something.

FOR THOSE WITH A LOVED ONE WHO HAS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE:

Measure of the Heart: Caring for a Parent with Alzheimer’s by Mary Ellen Geist 259 GEI

From her own experience with her father, the author gives suggestions and ideas for caring not only for a loved one with Alzheimer’s Disease, but also for other family members.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE STORIES:

At Home in Mitford by Jan Karon FIC Kar

This is first in a series about the world of Mitford, Father Tim (bachelor rector) and life in which mysteries and miracles abound. Highly recommended.

FOR THE YOUNGER CROWD:

Sunwing by Kenneth Oppel J OPP

Winner of many awards, 'Sunwing will keep young readers glued to the page''

A Dog of My Own Chicken Soup for Little Souls by Lisa McCourt J McC

'Nuff said...''

Grandad's Prayers of the Earth by Douglas Wood J WOO

Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud P McC

A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids.



Our Community

An Invitation to FUNEver!!



Wonder why so many people smile when they

mention *All Things Christmas?*

The answer: because it is so rewarding - a time of laughter, sharing and enjoyment as we put this event together.

Although the sale raised over \$5,000 last year, the greater legacy was the fun we had. If you wish to be a part of the group, in whatever way, or want to learn more, please join us at our planning meeting **Thursday, October 13** in the

friendship room at 7 p.m. *All Things Christmas* needs your ideas, energy and willing hands. You could cut greenery, arrange decorations, assist with the luncheon, advertise, bake/package yummy edibles, build birch reindeer, assist the buying public, and.... oh so many ways to contribute. You do not need to be a master florist, we have

people willing to share their skills. We learn from each other. And of course, we welcome new innovative ideas. Join this enthusiastic group. For more information contact any of the following Jean Julian, Ann Middleton, Lisa McTaggart, Janet Webster through the Harcourt Church Office.

Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of your jack-o-lantern by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin Pi..

Harcourt's Small Groups for the Fall 2016 - Everyone is Welcome, all Sessions are Free

by Andre Auger

Some new groups, and some change of dates:

1. **Starts Sep 19, Monday evenings** 6:30-8:30, Room 301.

“Draw the Circle Wide” - Loving in a blended family

Many of us live in extended families where our children have children from different partners. Relationships get strained, fraught with challenges, and you as grandparent may sometimes feel caught in the middle. Earlla Vickers, a retired therapist, will facilitate a small group (maximum 8 participants) where these issues can be explored in safety. Earlla is planning 6 sessions, every two weeks.

2. **Continues October 4**, 10:30am-Noon:

Senior Transitions

Tuesday, October 4 in the Friendship Room “Stay or Go ...What to do with my Stuff?”
“Unpacking” different approaches to dis-connect with your possessions when necessary, and turn it into something positive.

Tuesday, October 11 in the Friendship Room “Making Sense of the Financials”
Hear from an Estate/Financial Planner, an Estate Lawyer, and other professionals about the financial aspects of your different options.

Tuesday, October 18 in the Chapel “Proactivity and Process for Best Transition”
Answering the tough questions on when to begin, where to begin, and how to make a seamless transition.

3. **Starts Oct 8 NOTE NEW DATE, Saturday mornings**, 10am-Noon, Room 201/3.

Exploring Progressive Christianity

A time together to explore our faith through the lens of recent theologians and biblical scholars. We watch a 20-40 minute segment from a DVD (Richard Rohr – An Alternative Orthodoxy, and John Dominic Crossan – Divine Violence, or How to Read the Bible and Still be Christian), afterwards we share in two Rounds our doubts, insights, and beliefs without

fear of being negatively judged. In this safe environment everyone's journey is honoured and respected. The facilitator is Andre Auger.

4. Starts Oct 5, Wednesday Evenings 7:00 pm to 9:00, Chapel and room 202/3

Thanksgiving Meditations

Join Joanne Hill, Personal and corporate life coach, yoga and meditation teacher for four sessions in October to practice peace and noble silence in four ways; Mindful Movement; silence and stillness; yoga nidra for sleeping; and sacred creativity. This series is designed for deep relaxation, and is sure to nurture and nourish mind, body and soul. To register jlifevita@gmail.com or 519 823-5737. There will be 4 sessions.

5. Starts Oct 13, Thursdays, 10:30 to 12:00, in the Chapel

Aging as a Spiritual Practice! "Let's Talk":

What are the Gifts of Years? Are you noticing the joys as well as the sorrows and losses? Let's explore our perceptions, beliefs and the changes we are experiencing. Is it possible to normalize aging and death, and create a new perspective? This small (up to 10) group will be led by Marnie Allen (Workshop and Group Facilitator, Hospice trained volunteer, specializing in Training, and Grief and Bereavement. Kripalu trained in Meditation) and Stan Bunston (retired Minister, Spiritual Companion, Grief and Bereavement Facilitator). 4-6 sessions are planned.

Please register with Marnie (marnieallen47@gmail.com; 519-824-1814) or Marion Auger.

6. Starts Oct 4, every First Tuesday of the Month, 7pm to 9pm

Creative Intentions:

The Group will meet one evening per month (first Tuesday of the month), from 7 to 9pm. Each month will have a different focus, in regard to different aspects of creativity. If you are interested in being part of this (regularly or sporadically), please email Lisa at lisa@onethousandtrees.com.

7. **Starts Oct 6, on the first Thursday of the month**, from 7 to 9pm, through the Fall and Winter.

Sharing Evenings:

An opportunity to listen and interact with authors and specialists in various fields. These evenings are the fruit of the work of Lisa Browning and her “One Thousand Trees” publication network. Lisa will host one evening a month

October 6 Topic: Empowering our Girls

Speakers: Danielle Jowski, Author, The Athena Prodigies; Danielle Betts, high school student and coordinator of On Butterfly Wings (a monthly newsletter aimed at empowering girls through creativity and self-expression)

November 3 Topic: Healing Modalities, Speakers: TBA

December 1 Topic: Grief, Speakers: TBA

Harcourt's Small Groups Fall 2016

Title	Starting	Day of the Week	Times	Place	# of Sessions	Facilitators
Contemplating the Last Move	Sep 11*/13	Tuesdays	10:30 - noon	Friendship room	1*, +6	Julie Ashley Glas
“Drawing the Circle Wide” : Love in Blended Families	Sep 19	Mondays	6:30 pm – 8:30	Room 301	6	Earlla Vickers
Exploring Progressive Christianity	Oct 8	Saturdays	10:00 am – 12:00	Room 202/3	6	Andre Auger
Thanksgiving Meditations	Oct 5	Wednesdays	7:00 pm – 9:00	Chapel	4	Joanne Hill
Aging as a Spiritual Practice	Oct 13	Thursdays	10:30 am – noon	Chapel	4 - 6	Marnie Allen/ Stan Bunston
Creative Intentions	Oct 4	first Tuesdays	7pm – 9pm		monthly	Lisa Browning
Sharing Evenings	Oct 6	first Thursdays	7pm - 9pm		monthly	Lisa Browning

Outreach Opportunities this Fall: Hand in Hand with our Community

by Arlene Davies-Fuhr, Chair, Justice and Outreach

We need people...and here's how you can help:

U of G supper at Raithby House 5:30-7 pm on **Wed, Oct. 5 & Nov. 16**

Make a dessert

Provide a large crock pot meal (1 vegetarian, 1 meat based)

Have supper and socialize with some U of G students

Park'n Dance at Harcourt 1:30-3 pm every **Thursday**

Bake two dozen cookies for participants

Provide a fruit tray for participants

Assist people taking part in the program

Three Willows Harvest Bowls Oct. 26 (4:30-7 pm) A fundraiser for Chalmers

There are a variety of opportunities to help with this soup supper

Contact Mary Elliott at Three Willows if you are interested

Walk a Mile in Our Moccasins 7-9 pm **Oct. 5, 12.**

Attend a free series with Indigenous presenters

Held at Dublin Street UC

To volunteer for any of the above opportunities, or for more information, contact Arlene Davies-Fuhr (abfuhr@teksavvy.com) or Edna Miller (edna.miller@sympatico.ca)



Why Is There a Shopping Cart in the Cloak Room?

by Peter Gill

Some of you may not be aware that Harcourt has a shopping cart, usually located in the greeting area, which takes any and all donations to Chalmers. The greeting area has been revamped for the foreseeable future and so the cart is now in the cloak room inside the main entrance.

Up to the end of August donations have totaled 1407lbs, in addition to the 367lbs of produce from the garden so far this season. Thank you to all those who give those in-kind

donations. You may wonder about the exact nature of those figures. Well, all food donations (and purchases) are weighed in order to give the organization a very clear picture of the amount of food we receive and distribute. These statistics are critical in grant applications.

So now that everyone knows where the shopping cart is, we would love to see it overflowing with food every week. Please remember when you do your weekly shopping to include an item for the Chalmers cart.

Minutes for Mission



Overwhelmed with Gratitude!

by Rev. Melody Duncanson Hales, Mission & Service Animator for Manitou Conference

“My name is Melody, and I am your minister.” This is the way I introduce myself in Manitou Conference. I serve The United Church of Canada in northeastern Ontario and northwestern Quebec in the area of Mission and Stewardship animation. I am a minister for 60 pastoral charges, from Hornepayne, Ontario, to Val d’Or, Quebec, from Kapuskasing to Manitoulin Island.

On paper, my “job description” seems detailed and overwhelming. In any given week, I might lead worship and learn with a congregation about stewardship, meet with church leaders to plan their annual giving program, facilitate a conversation about refugee sponsorship and overseas partnership, resource a group concerned about environmental protection, share the stories of our Mission & Service, and pray with a youth group on retreat.

I love this church, this place, and these people. I am the churches’ cheerleader: listening, encouraging, and telling their stories of hope and generosity wherever and whenever I can. Good Friday moments in saying goodbye to ministries, resurrection moments in celebrating new ministries—these are part of it all, and what a privilege to be a witness!

We are thankful for our generous gifts for Mission & Service, allowing those in ministry to see the gospel being made real all over Manitou and across the church.

Please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith.


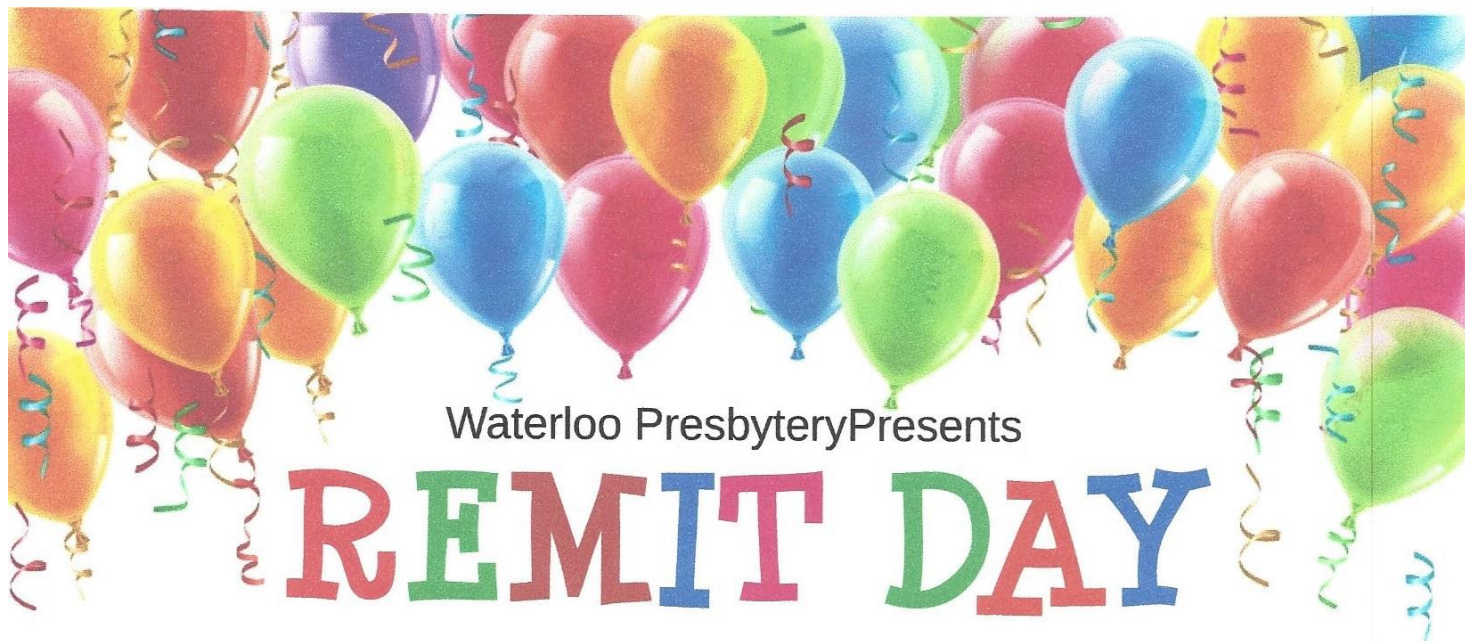


Photo: Anne Lyle

**Deadline
Oct. 30
2016**

Call for 2018 Bulletin Photos

- \$100 for each photo used. <http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/call-for-2018-bulletin-photos.pdf>



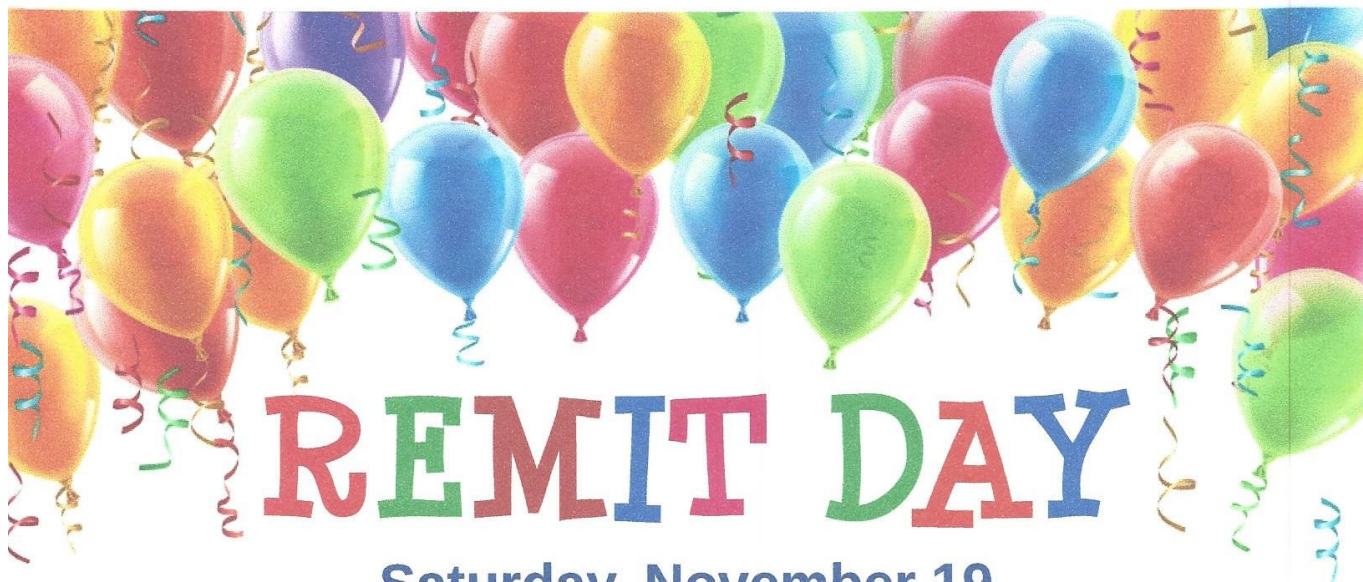
for Presbytery members
for congregational Board, Council and Session members
for Anyone Who is Interested

Learn about and Discuss
The Three Council Model
Eliminating Transfer & Settlement
The Office of Vocation
Funding a New Model
and
One Order of Ministry

Saturday, November 19
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Three Willows United Church
577 Willow Rd, Guelph

Cost: \$12 for Lunch
Please RSVP by November 5
waterloopresbytery@gmail.com



This is an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and have conversation about the 5 remits that the Presbytery and each Pastoral Charge's governing body are being asked to consider.

#1: Changing to a **Three-Council** model (National, Regional, Local)

#2: Ending the **Transfer/Settlement** process

#3: Setting up a national **Office of Vocation**

#4: **Funding** for the new model

#6: Moving to **One Order of Ministry**

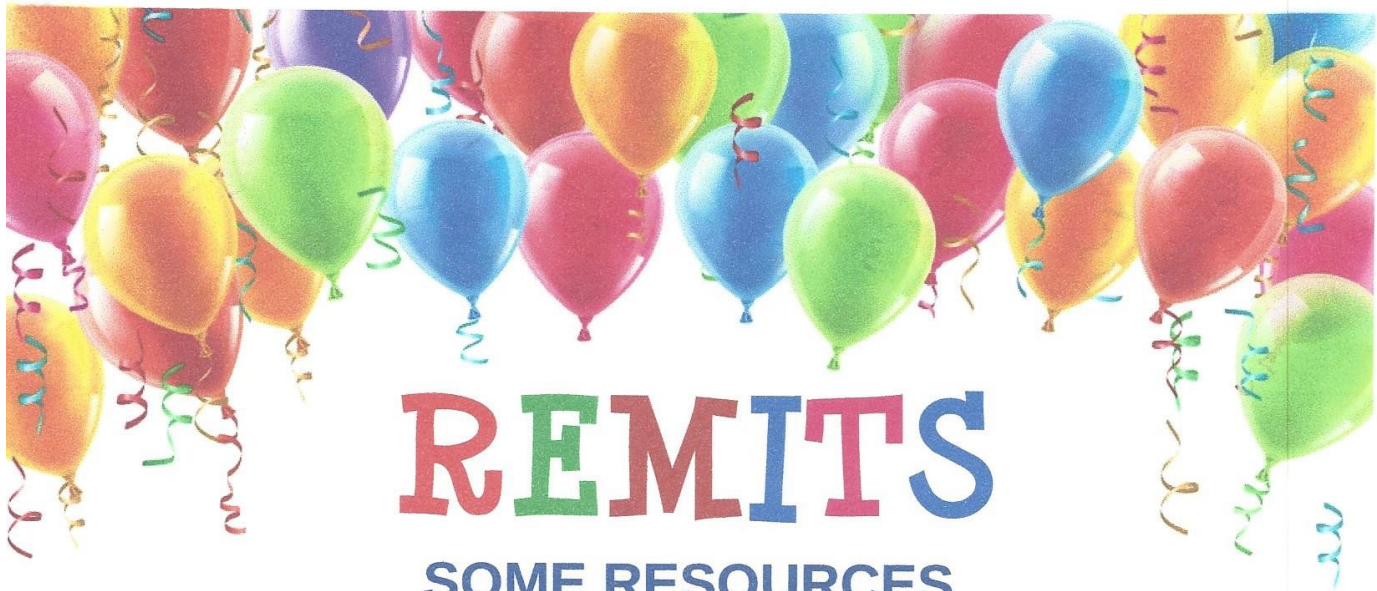
(There are 3 other remits, concerning ministry partners, a candidacy pathway, and rules for adherents voting. These are for presbytery consideration only, and won't be "on the agenda" for the remit day.)

What is a remit? It is a proposed change to the United Church's foundational policies ("Basis of Union"). The General Council agrees to the change, and then every presbytery (and for really important changes, each pastoral charge) gets to vote on the change

We will not be making decisions today. The Presbytery will be setting aside time at future meetings for debate and decision-making about its vote on each remit. Each pastoral charge's governing body (session, council, board) will decide its own process.

We hope this Remit Day will help you as you prepare to vote. For each remit, after a brief presentation we will be able to ask questions, talk in small groups, and hear the wisdom of each other.

Before you come, please have a look at the Remit documents. The next page of this announcement includes links to resources.



Remits 1-4

Brad Morrison, who serves with Grace UC in Sarnia, has prepared summary pages for the 4 remits about restructuring the United Church.

For each, you'll find (if available) the study guide, intro video, a recording of a webinar on that remit, questions/answers, and frequently asked questions.

You can download the summary pages by clicking on the following links. Each will open a pdf file, which you can save and/or print

Remit 1: The Three Council Model

Remit 2: Eliminate Transfer & Settlement

Remit 3: Office of Vocation

Remit 4: Funding New Model

Remit 6

Touchstone Journal has been posting reflections on the One Order of Ministry proposal. They come from a variety of perspectives. You can find these on Touchstone's blog here: <http://touchstonecanada.ca/blog/>

(The link will open you to the most recent reflection. There are 30 of them (so far)! To go to earlier ones, use the "Older Posts" button at the bottom of the page, and keep going back. The first one is by Harold Wells.)

If you have trouble downloading these documents, please contact Greg Smith-Young (revgreg@bellnet.ca) and he'll try to help you.

Announcements

- Trinity's Fall Garage Sale - Saturday, September 24, 7- 12 pm at Trinity United Church, 400 Stevenson St N, Guelph. Books, toys, household items, china, glassware, kitchenware, games, sports equipment, garden utensils, linens, pictures, frames, giftware, collectibles, small furniture, small appliances and much more!

- Because of the many gifts that Hospice Wellington provides, I wanted to do something special, as a token of my gratitude. And so, as a publisher, the idea of putting together an anthology of “stories of hope” came to mind. I am so very grateful to have 52 writers, who have generously given of their time and talents to be a part of this book. I am covering all pre-press and printing costs, and am donating 500 copies of the anthology to Hospice Wellington to sell and retain 100% of proceeds. **An official book launch is being held at Hospice Wellington on Sunday, October 2 from 2-4pm.** Books will be available for purchase at the launch, or at Hospice Wellington any time after the launch. For anyone out of town who would like a book, it can also be ordered on my website at www.ottbookstore.com. Lisa Browning.



*"A house of prayer
for all peoples"*

—Isaiah 56:7

Canadian Church Calendar | Calendrier des Églises canadiennes **2017**

*A house
of prayer for
all peoples*

—Isaiah 56:7

*Maison
de prière pour
tous les peuples*

—Ésaïe 56,7

**Order
your copies
today!**



Photo: Richard Lamoureux, Sheffield United Church, Sheffield, NB



This calendar is made possible by
Mission & Service and people like you.

Available at UCRDstore.ca

Behind the Scenes

This month we hear from one of our own, Ben Fear. Ben, a former pharmacist, and his wife Norma, a teacher, stopped working in the mid-1990s and headed to Guyana and Grenada to do volunteer work. In 1999, they joined friends on a two-month trip to Uganda to help build a school. That led to work with a local youth group on three more buildings, for educational training and a daycare. The Fears soon discovered that many people in the youth group struggled to afford school and the couple decided to do something. They began funding a scholarship program, starting with two students and eventually growing into the NorBen Student Sponsorship Program, supporting more than 50 young people. Soon family and friends, including the congregation of Harcourt Memorial United Church, started donating money - but most of the funding came from the Fears' investments. Many of the sponsored students have gone on to university, with three pursuing postgraduate studies. Others have become teachers or work in tourism, forestry and other sectors. The following essay is one of many important perspectives at Harcourt shared as we struggle together to find our way.

Green Bananas

by Ben Fear

(Used with Permission)

You know Norma and I still buy green bananas but we don't feel that our optimism should be interpreted as a sign that we have any insight into the future of the United Church in general or Harcourt Memorial United Church in particular. To be honest those who did the planning twenty years ago did an excellent job in our opinion and we wish you success in your endeavours to decide how things should be done in the future.

Before choosing and transferring our memberships from a 200 year old plus congregation, we visited all the Guelph United Churches and settled on Harcourt primarily because of the welcoming friendship extended, the quality of the music in the service and the message conveyed to us from the pulpit. Whether the components of the service are called Readings or Scripture Lessons or the minister delivers a message or a sermon, or the choir sings songs or anthems really matters not. What does matter to us is the manner and substance of delivery.

It has been our experience that in these components of worship at Harcourt you excel. The music selection and presentation are outstanding. The sermons, now called messages, are thoughtful, topical, interesting, and very importantly, concise. All the cushions in the world cannot make a message interesting. By now you must know that we like things as they are. If changes are to be made, and they must be, they should be made

gradually in consideration of the gray-haired worshippers using their walkers and canes, and their hearing aids and accessible facilities. Younger members can read scripture, younger members can sing, younger members can take up the offering and learn the A/V technique, get them involved in planning services for the older members, get them involved in the upkeep of the gardens... but first you have to find them. There is great competition for the time and interest of today's youth. To get it and maintain it requires planning and leadership which requires more time than an individual can volunteer. Perhaps consideration should be given to the engagement of a youth director who can generate Christian program and activities for all the youth in the area, and a project similar to TCOW to broaden their knowledge of the world and its problems and encourage their cooperative help in solving them.



Yes we had wireless communication in my day...I've been praying for 70 years!

Some August 2016 webpage visitor statistics

- 713 Visitors to our webpage who looked at a total of 11,270 pages
- Most people spent between 0 to 30 seconds viewing our pages
- Most downloaded pages were the Harcourt Herald (current and past issues) and the Annual Report.
- Most visited pages – Main webpage (949 views), About Us and What's On

Don't forget to visit Harcourt Memorial United Church on Facebook and check us out on Twitter at Harcourttuc.

Giving is a placid kind of river

In which one bathes to exercise the heart.

Underneath the smile of the giver

Lies deep an unsuspected sunken treasure

In channels far too changeable to chart.

(author unknown)

Harcourt Calendar – October 2016

Updated September 20, 2016—www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Saturday October 1

Congregational Retreat

Sunday October 2

Congregational Retreat

9:00am Worship [C]

10:00am Worship [S]

10:00am “Manna” Service [G/F]

Monday October 3

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]

6:50 pm Communications Committee [L]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday October 4

10:30 am Senior’s Transition[F]

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings

6:45 Cubs [G]

7:00pm Creative Intentions [F]

7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday October 5

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]

6:30pm Guides [F]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Thanksgiving Meditations [C]

7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday October 6

8:45am Mindstretch [C]

9:30am Stroke Recovery Executive [F]

1:30pm Park’nDance [G/F]

7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday October 7

8:00pm Kitchener Waterloo Symphony [S]

Saturday October 8

9:30am Chancel Committee [S]

10:00am Explorations in Progressive
Christianity [202]

Sunday October 9

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am “Manna” Service [G/F]

Monday October 10

Thanksgiving Day

Church and Office Closed

Tuesday October 11

10:30am Senior Transitions [F]

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings

12:00 pm 20/20 Key Informants Meeting [F]

5:30 pm Pride and Prejudice [202]

6:45 Cubs [G]

7:00pm Worship Committee [C]

7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday October 12

7:00am Men’s Group [F]

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]

7:00pm Property Committee [C]

7:00pm Thanksgiving Meditations [202]

7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday October 13

8:45am Mindstretch [C]

10:30am Aging as a Spiritual Practice [C]

1:30pm Park’nDance [G/F]

6:00pm Scout’s Apple Days [G]

7:00pm All Things Christmas Meeting[F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday October 14

6:00pm Scout’s Apple Days [G]

6:30pm Guide’s Sleepover [F]

Saturday October 15

8:30am Scout's Apple Days [G]
10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday October 16

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday October 17

11:45am Carolyn Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F]
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday October 18

10:30am Senior Transitions [F]
11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]
11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday October 19

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]
7:00pm Thanksgiving Meditations [202]
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday October 20

8:45am Mindstretch [C]
10:30am Aging as a Spiritual Practice [C]
1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday October 22

9:00am 20/20 Joint Needs Assessment Workshop [G]
10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
1:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Sunday October 23

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]
7:30pm High School Youth Group [G]

Monday October 24

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday October 25

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
6:45pm Cubs [G]
1:30pm GUM Tech Meeting [S]
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday October 26

9:30am Lightshine Singers [F]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Thanksgiving Meditations [C]
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday October 27

8:45am Mindstretch [C]
10:30am Aging as a Spiritual Practice [C]
1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday October 29

9:00am Fall Cleanup of Memorial Gardens
10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday October 30

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday October 31

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
6:00pm ARCH Men's Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]