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# **PEACE UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE**

# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Opening Pages

From the Minister's Desk	1
In Loving Memory	2
Celebrations ~ Baptisms & Wedding	3
2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes	4
2023 Annual Meeting Agenda	7
2023 Officers and Committees	8

## Committee/Team Reports

Audio/Video Team	9
Catering Committee	10
Community Outreach	11
Fundraising	12
Dinner Theatre	13
Manse Committee	14
Ministry and Personnel Committee	15
Mission and Community Outreach	16
Music Director's	17
Peace Kids	18
Peace Prayer Blankets	18
Property	19
ReconciliAction	20
Sunday Coffee Hour	20
Trustees	21
Unified Board	21
Worship Committee	22

## Financials

Please contact us.

*Let Us Celebrate!*



# From the Minister's Desk

## A Message from The Reverend Murray Rounding

Another year in your life together has come to an end and another has begun. What follows in this report is not just a summary of your financial position. Instead, it is part of your story; a year of your life as Peace United Church.



Our stories are more important than most of us think. I have been asked to write my story, my autobiography, and usually just react to that with a statement like: “there isn’t much worth writing about.” Or “who wants to read about my boring life?” Too often our life story doesn’t seem interesting or important enough to write about and we can’t imagine that anyone would care to read about it. BUT, I have had the opportunity to read lots of annual reports and even whole collections of annual reports from one congregation. And I have read some individual autobiographies from people who probably thought that their lives were pretty unremarkable. We are fortunate to have autobiographies from these unremarkable people because they help us to see from where we have come. If the autobiography is written by one of your ancestors, it is very likely that you will find more than one piece of interesting and maybe even important information that helps you to understand something in the present day; an explanation for why your life is what it is. Without your story, there may be some unanswered questions in the lives of your descendants.

The same is true for a congregation. I urge you to read this whole report, not just for the summary value that it has for the year just past, but for the questions it answers and the questions it brings to your mind. In this report you might see something that causes you to ask: “I wonder where that came from?” or, “what happened to that event or person or program?” Of course, that is when you need to get to last year’s annual report or one from ten years ago. These documents are part of a wonderful collection of your life as a congregation. I have read annual reports from 100 years ago and I am always thrilled and amused at learning what congregations were doing and what congregational life was like back then. Did you know that there was probably a time in the life of this congregation when there were no women on the decision-making Board of the church except the women’s groups like the Ladies Aid and the WMS and then the UCW? Look it up.

A couple of Sundays back I talked about something I called the Action Reflection model of doing things. This report can serve as a good tool for reflection. You can see what you have done in the past year, and you can ask the questions of good reflection: Why did we do it? Did it make life better for anyone? Did it cause harm or create unwanted barriers for anyone? Should we do it again? Should we change it a little and then do it again? And the really important question that this time of year raises: What is God calling us to do NOW? Don’t let



this report be only a recording of your past because it is more than that. This report is the starting line of planning where you go next and what you do.

The Covid Pandemic is no longer an excuse for being in a holding pattern. We have come beyond that. There is no good reason for holding back. Wait and See is not the position of a congregation that is alive, but only one that is planning its death. That is not Peace United Church.

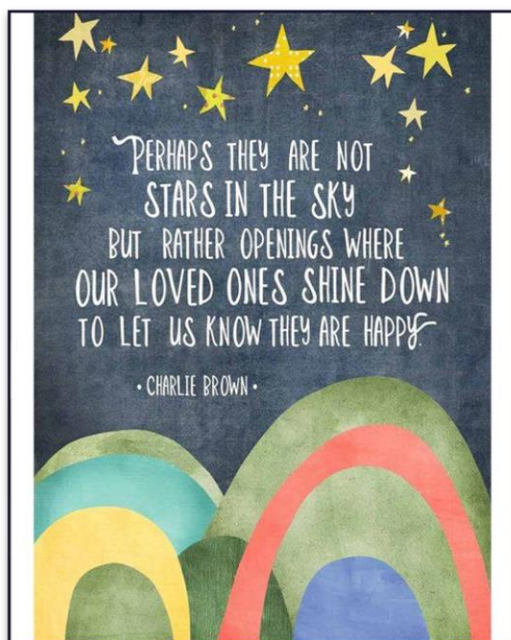
Be Bold. Look back for just a moment to see where you came from and what you have done. Then turn your heads and your hearts and your faith to the future with only one question: "What does God want us to do NOW!" I look forward to beginning that journey with you for the next few months.

Blessings, Murray

## *In Lo♥ing Memory*



**Elmer Baer**  
**June 19, 2023**



**Max Lass**  
**September 23, 2023**

# Celebrate

**The Sacrament of Baptism**  
**Sunday, June 18, 2023 at the Johnston Farm**



**Andi Margaret Black**  
Daughter of  
Steve & Kristi Black



**Rev. Jennifer Canning**



**Frazer Alexander Johnston**  
Son of  
Graham & Amanda Johnston



**The Sacrament of Marriage**  
**Saturday, August 5, 2023**

**Katie Lucinda Hawes &  
Delan Richard Miller**

# 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Sunday, February 26, 2023, 10:00 am**

The Annual General Meeting was planned to blend in with the worship service and communion.

Forty-five (45) attended in person and six (6)

online: Present: Rev. Jennifer Canning, Meghan Bunce, Lisa Connolly, Carol & Cliff Connolly, Sheila & Ian Boltz, Connie Simpson, Fay Capling, Gail Fulton, Kathy & Ross Bell, Barbara Richmond, Denise Tew, Debbie Baer, Nancy Olenio, Richard & Carol Hewitt, Maggie & Bill Alderson, Ferne Woolcott, Jack & Paulette Hamilton, Ed & Maribeth Bird, Frances & James Johnston, Shirley & Ron Berge, Kay Baer, Marion Czech, Cathy

Davidson, Darlene Koebel, Donna Vermaak, Karen Connor, Violet Mercer, Gary Hofstetter, Shelley Jeary, Marg Haskett, Kathy Robinson, Pat House, Maryann Irwin, Cathy Hofstetter, Ken & Marie McNabb.



Rev. Jennifer Canning opened the combined service and meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle and native land acknowledgement. She welcomed everyone attending, both in person and virtually, and prayed for guidance as we review a successful year and plan for the future.

Frances Johnston nominated Ken McNabb to Chair the meeting. Frances Johnston was nominated by Denise Tew to record the minutes.

Maggie Alderson moved, and Ferne Woolcott seconded the motion that everyone present and signed in online be allowed to vote. **CARRIED**

The agenda was approved with the addition of the Memorial List on the motion of Kathy Robinson, seconded by Marion Czech. **CARRIED**

Ken McNabb asked for a moment of silence to recognize Doris Currah, Isobel Hastings, Robert Coldham, Larry House, Gwen Parker, Bev Poll and Eva Hofstetter who passed away during 2022. Their lifelong contributions to the community and church life will be remembered.

The minutes of the 2021 AGM that was held on March 6, 2022 were circulated in the Annual Report. There were no errors or omissions noted and Shelley Jeary moved they be approved. Gary Hofstetter seconded the motion. **CARRIED**

## **ELECTIONS**

The Unified Board is currently composed of nine (9) members and one (1) representative from the Ministry and Personnel Committee. The Unified Board approved reducing the membership to eight (8) elected and one (1) representative from Ministry & Personnel. Ken McNabb moved; Denise Tew seconded that we approve the proposed change. **CARRIED**

The following were nominated:

3 years: Marion Czech, Doug Hofstetter

2 years: One vacancy to be filled

1 year: Ferne Woolcott

Ken McNabb asked for further nominations or volunteers to fill the committee. Lisa Connolly moved, and Dick Hewitt seconded the motion to approve the nominated members. **CARRIED**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee report was presented by Ferne Woolcott. She nominated Maribeth Bird for a 3-year term and Karen Connors for a 1-year term. Maggie Alderson seconded the motion. **CARRIED**

Board of Trustees Chair, Gary Hofstetter reported that Pat House agreed to stay 1 more year so he moved, Karen Connors seconded that the committee members remain the same. **CARRIED**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ken opened the floor to questions regarding the committee reports printed in the Annual Report. Ferne Woolcott moved the approval of all Committee Reports, Marion Czech seconded the motion. **CARRIED**

Ken thanked all the committee members who have contributed so much to the church.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Treasurer, Marie McNabb began her reports by reviewing the Balance Sheet for 2022. She offered to answer any questions regarding the Financial Reports and some combined bookkeeping columns. Maintenance costs decreased compared to 2021 when renovations were made at the manse. The 2022 United Church of Canada assessment was \$5,335. Denise Tew moved, and Gail Fulton seconded that we approve the Financial Report as presented. **CARRIED**

### **Proposed Budget 2023**

Marie reviewed the proposed budget. Mission & Service donations are not shown in the budget because the entire amount goes in and out. Salaries were increased by an equal percentage for all paid staff. In 2023 the United Church of Canada Assessment is \$5,500. Karen Connors moved, and Ross Bell seconded that the budget be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

### **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

The Board of Trustees manages funds for capital expenses and in 2022 contributed \$5229 for eavestroughs on the Church. Gary Hofstetter thanked his committee and Treasurer Marie McNabb for managing their banking. Shelley Jeary moved, and Jack Hamilton seconded approval of the report. **CARRIED**

Kathy Robinson moved that we maintain our goal of \$12,500 for Mission and Service. Maribeth Bird seconded the motion. **CARRIED**

Nancy Olenio and Marg Haskett were nominated to be the financial reviewers for 2023 by Ferne Woolcott, and Dick Hewitt seconded that nominations be closed. **CARRIED**



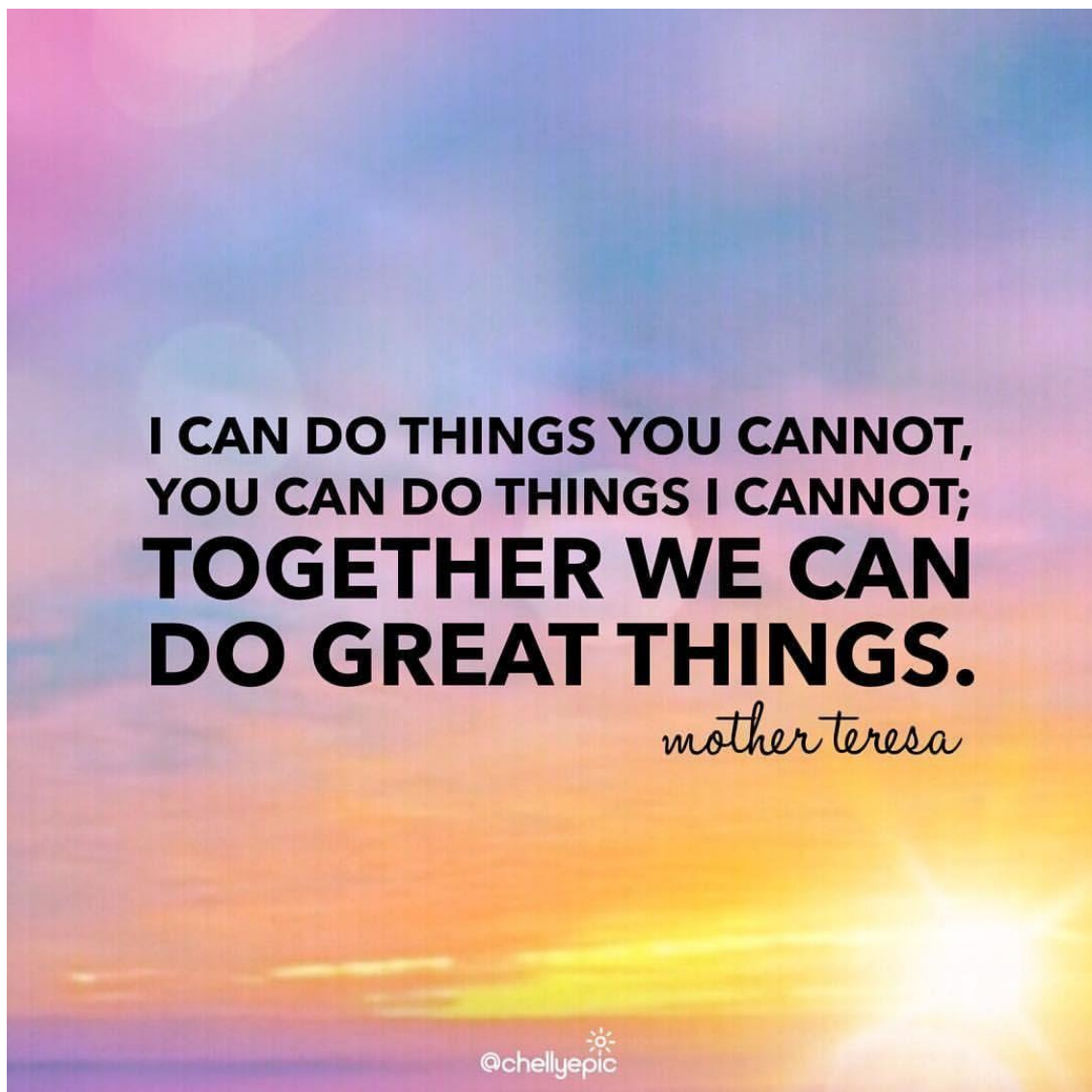
## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Official Board met online to approve the appointment of a half-time position in our congregation from September 2023 to June 2024 during Rev. Jennifer's maternity leave. Ferne Woolcott, Marion Czech, and Ken McNabb have offered to participate on a search committee. Contact Ken if you would also like to be involved. Ian Boltz moved, and Karen Connors seconded that they form the search committee. **CARRIED**

Ken thanked everyone for their interest and commitment to a successful year at Peace United. He commented that January 2024 revenue was larger than the budget for the first time since he has been Chair. A generous, giving community and a great group to work with.

Gary Hofstetter moved, and Kathy Robinson seconded the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED**

Minutes Recorded by Frances Johnston



**2023 Annual General Meeting  
Sunday, February 25, 2024 @ 10 am**



Call to Order and Opening Prayer ~ Rev. Murray Rounding

Nomination of Chairperson and Secretary

Motion for all those present to have voting rights

Revisions to Agenda ~ Motion to accept

Moment of Silence

Minutes of Annual Meeting Minutes February 26, 2023 ~ Motion to accept

Approval of Reports ~ Motion to accept

Financial Report ~ Marie McNabb. Motion to accept

Trustee's Report ~ Gary Hofstetter. Motion to accept

Appointment of financial reviewers for 2024 ~ Motion to accept

Elections

Unified Board ~ Ministry & Personnel ~ Board of Trustees

Mission & Service Goal for 2024

New Business

1. Revised Board and Committee Structure

Closing Prayer ~ Rev. Murray Rounding

Adjournment

Potluck to Follow

# 2023 Officers and Committees

All terms begin and end at the Annual General Meeting

Elected ~ Unified Church Board			Elected ~ Ministry and Personnel		
2020-2023	Ken McNabb	Debbie Baer	2019-2023	Shirley Berge	Nancy Olenio
2023	Ferne Woolcott		2022-2024	Ian Boltz	Cathy Hofstetter
2022-2024	Frances Johnston	Maryann Irwin	2023-2025	Maribeth Bird	
2023-2025	Marion Czech	Doug Hofstetter	2023	Karen Connors	
	Maribeth Bird (2023 M&P Rep)				
Elected ~ Board of Trustees			Worship Committee		
2020-2023	Marie McNabb	Pat House	2020-2024	Kathy Robinson	
2022-2024	Gary Hofstetter	Ross Bell	2022-2025	Debbie Baer	Maggie Alderson
2023-2025	James Johnston			Maribeth Bird	

**Audio/Video Team** – Sheila Boltz and Cathy Hofstetter

**Broadview** – Denise Tew

## Children, Youth and Family Ministry

- Sunday School – Debbie Baer, Lisa Connolly
- Nursery – Volunteers

## Congregational & Community Building Leads

- Peace Catering – Maggie Alderson, Doris Glendinning, Faye Capling, Pat House
- Coffee Hours (Sundays & Tuesdays) – Doris Glendinning, Maggie Alderson
- Mission & Community Outreach – Maggie Alderson, Kathy Robinson, Denise Tew, Rev. Jennifer
- Dinner Theatres – Shelley Jeary, Sheila Boltz
- Prayer Afghans & Patches – Denise Tew, Cathy Davidson
- Peace Café at the Plattsville Arena – Darlene Koebel
- Tyler Quilt Group – Bev Todd, Darlene Koebel (on pause)

**Manse Committee** – Cathy Hofstetter, Karen Connors, Ross Bell

**Property Committee** – Gary Bender, Bill Alderson, Ed Bird

**ReconciliAction** - Lisa Connolly, Nancy Birss, Maggie Alderson, Rev. Jennifer

# Committee/Team Reports

## Audio/Video Team Report

Audio and Video: Cathy Hofstetter, Sheila Boltz

Live-stream Setup and Operation: Cathy Hofstetter, Sheila Boltz



Weekly on-screen bulletins were prepared by Cathy Hofstetter and Sheila Boltz, with a change made in how duties were assigned. Cathy prepared slides for even-numbered service dates, and Sheila for odd-numbered service dates.

Since announcements are delivered through the Peace News, and because it was a very time-consuming job to put all those same announcements on-screen, it

was decided to stop running announcement loops before Sunday services. There were no negative comments (at least not to Cathy and Sheila 😊) regarding this change.

ProPresenter 7 was used to prepare and present our slides, as well as to livestream our services to Peace's YouTube channel. We continued to learn new ways to use the application, and it worked quite well for us.

Through our subscription to StoryBlocks, images were (legally) downloaded for use on screens.

Peace's 2019 iMac was used to run ProPresenter 7, and the 2014 MacBook Pro managed the PTZ camera control.

Open-Source software (Open Core Legacy Patcher) was used (by Sheila) to update the operating system to macOS Ventura on the now obsolete (according to Apple) 2014 MacBook Pro. This means that as long as its hardware keeps working, our aging laptop remains useful!

Many thanks to Cathy for preparing ALL of the service slides, and to Shelley Jeary and Denise Tew for helping with audio and camera control while Sheila was in New Zealand!

Submitted by Sheila Boltz



## Catering Committee Report

Members: Pat House, Fay Capling, Maggie Alderson, Doris Glendinning

Another busy year for our committee. The following is a month by month look at our year.

January	1 Funeral Lunch
February	2 North Blenheim Dinners
	1 Funeral Lunch
March	Seniors Luncheon for 33
	1 Funeral Lunch
April	Farm Forum Dinner for 57
	1 North Blenheim Dinner
May	1 North Blenheim Dinner
June	1 North Blenheim Dinner
	2 Funeral Lunches
July	1 North Blenheim Dinner
August	1 North Blenheim Dinner
September	2 North Blenheim Dinners
October	2 Funeral Lunches
	1 North Blenheim Dinner
November	1 North Blenheim Dinner
	1 Funeral Lunch
December	80s Christmas Dinner for 22 + helpers
	1 North Blenheim Dinner



A BIG thank you to everyone who helped our committee in any way during this past year. Through our work we were able to donate **\$7000** to the Peace General Fund. Thank you all!

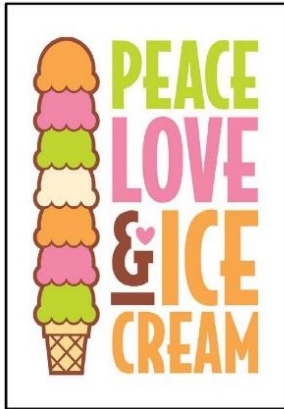
Submitted by Doris Glendinning



## Community Outreach

2023 Community Outreach for Peace took the form of two programs: our Sundaes on Wednesdays and Darlene and her group of volunteers at the arena that ran Peace Café in the arena booth.

### Sundaes on Wednesdays



**Join us for  
ice cream on  
Wednesdays in  
July and August  
6:30 to 8:00 pm**

**PEACE UNITED  
20 Samuel Street  
Plattsville**

**EVERYONE WELCOME  
Donations Accepted**

Once again, Sundaes on Wednesdays ran through the summer months of 2023 and even though some of those evenings did not have the best weather summer has to offer, Peace could claim to operate a successful approach to extending a welcome to our larger community.

A substantial number of the people who attend our free ice cream event are not members or attendees of Peace. They are neighbours of the church, families out for a walk and an ice cream cone, kids out biking and stopping for a treat, and even the volunteer fire fighters stopping in for ice cream. Offering free ice cream (and gratefully receiving donations for this treat) has been a way for Peace to welcome community members through our doors. A church

may not seem so intimidating to those not used to attending church and our building may even feel welcoming and inviting by the time they leave, ice cream in hand. Thank you to all those volunteer scoopers who signed up to serve and to all those from our Peace family who came to enjoy some cold treats and more importantly, fellowship during our summer “slowdown”.

We were able to come out, financially, ahead of the game with a profit, after expenses, of **\$1330.71**. And a big thank you to an anonymous member of the church for donating \$500 to the initial ice cream supplies purchase!! 😊

Submitted by Maggie Alderson

### Plattsville Arena Food Booth ~ Peace Café



The Food Booth at the arena opened in mid October 2023. There was a concern, brought forth, that the Booth did not fall within the guidelines regarding the assumption of liability both by the United Church of Canada and by Peace United.

To eliminate any liability, a decision was made to remove the name of Peace United Church and Peace Cafe from the Booth. The Township has been

advised that Peace United will no longer continue the booth and dances. They have allowed me to personally continue to have the booth at the arena open and to collaborate with them to host youth dances until the end of the 2024.

I am still looking for volunteers if anyone is interested.

Submitted by Darlene Koebel

# Fundraising Committee Report

Committee: Maggie Alderson, Shirley Berge, Doris Glendinning, Shelley Jeary, Sheila Boltz, Denise Tew, Cathy Hofstetter

The Fundraising committee was resurrected in 2023. It had been somewhat disbanded when Covid hit, although fundraising efforts tend to be under this umbrella and the people who end up looking after fundraising efforts are all past members of this committee.



Thanks to everyone who helped make the Beef Stew Fundraiser such a success - we couldn't do it without so many helping hands!! Profit was **\$2,781.40**.

The newest fund-raising effort....and reason for the committee's resurrection....is the use of Fundscrip at Peace. The idea behind Fundscrip is to buy gift cards through this organization and each

**Fundscrip™**

company that offers gift cards (that people normally purchase anyway), donate back to Peace, a percentage of the card-amount sold. The program was started in December 2023 with a very sizable number of cards ordered. We hope to carry on this effort as it is not a lot of effort on the part of Peace with a monetary return several times over the year. The committee will re-evaluate the program in the Spring and see if it lives up to its promise. Thank you to those who support this fundraising effort by purchasing gift cards.

Events that bring money into the church are our annual bake sale in May, dinner theatre (report below) and the drive-thru dinner held in May.

Thanks to everyone who baked and who bought! We raised **\$1749.50** at the bake sale on May 13.

Beef Stew Takeout Dinner with Drive-Thru  
**Saturday, May 6, 2023**  
4:30 to 6:00 pm  
PEACE UNITED CHURCH  
Drive-Thru (enter off Mill St. and exit to Samuel St.)  
20 Samuel Street, Plattsville

Menu: Beef stew, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, home made dinner roll, carrot cake and a beverage

Only 150 tickets available!  
Adults ~ \$25 and 10 and under ~ \$12

For tickets, please contact:  
Shelley Jeary 519.572.3168 | [saj@execulink.com](mailto:saj@execulink.com)  
Marion Czech 519.404.9913 | [czechers@netflash.net](mailto:czechers@netflash.net)  
Darlene Koebel 519.404.7022 | [fifthtraditionpeace@gmail.com](mailto:fifthtraditionpeace@gmail.com)

Submitted by Maggie Alderson, Chair





## Dinner Theatre Report



This year two hundred and ninety-six (296) guests enjoyed five (5) performances of **“1, 2, 3 and Flush”**, by playwright Roger Cosgrove, over the first two weekends of November. This play was the 3rd and final adventure of our favourite Canadian bungling burglars – Larry & Bob.

Shepherd's Pie, Carrot Cake, Sheila's buns and Fay's famous coleslaw were on the dinner menu. Net profits for this fund-raiser were **\$7,588.41**. A big thank-you goes out to everyone who helped make this happen cooks, bakers, table setters, chair cleaners, kitchen helpers, ticket printing, tickets selling, all cast members, Peace choir, Shakespeare Presbyterian Church for loaning us choir gowns, Meghan and of course those who attended the theatre. Hope to see everyone at our 2024 production!

Submitted by Shelley Jeary





# Manse Committee Report

Committee: Ross Bell, Karen Connors, and Cathy Hofstetter



In January 2023 we purchased a new furnace and air conditioner for the manse, Reliance installed them.

In June there was an issue with the water heater; there was a pin hole leak in the pipe entering the tank. The tank was replaced but was still under warranty as it was replaced in 2019 by Generations.

One of the upstairs bathroom sinks was reported leaking. Upon inspection it was noted the drain/overflow area was rusted. The other sink was also rusted but not yet leaking. Both sinks were replaced along with new faucets and drains.

When the new furnace and air conditioner were installed, a Google nest thermostat was also installed. In October there was an error message on the thermostat and the Wi-Fi was also not working. Some wires needed to be hooked up but that did not seem to solve the issue in the long run. After multiple calls with Reliance and service calls it was decided to remove the Nest thermostat and replace it with a Honeywell programmable thermostat. There was no charge for any of this work done by Reliance. The Nest thermostat remains at the manse since it was paid for during the furnace installation but is not currently being used.

In November, North Blenheim Insurance requested an inspection of the manse. Two issues were found. A piece of flashing had come off the garage that needed to be replaced and one gutter extension was missing. Danny Wilkinson replaced the flashing for us free of charge and a gutter extension was purchased at Home Hardware and installed on the front south gutter. The cement trough at the back north gutter was moved closer to the house so the water would properly flow away from the foundation in that location.

In December, it was reported that the dishwasher was leaking. Upon investigation the problem was the door seal. We were able to repair this without any new parts or expense.

There was also another leak around the water heater, Generations was called again to look at it. There was a new part installed, again under warranty. This hopefully will solve future problems. The warranty work done by Generations in both instances did incur labour charges.

From our list of things to do over the next five years which was created a few years ago, the one item that remains is a railing at the front door. Added to the list, is the replacement of the appliances at the manse, they are all original appliances. We need to be prepared for these appliances to fail.

Submitted by Cathy Hofstetter

# Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

Committee: Shirley Berge, Ian Boltz, Cathy Hofstetter, Nancy Olenio, Maribeth Bird, Karen Connors

For 2023 the committee set quarterly meetings to review the activities of our church personnel. We also set up a private email account to ensure all our communications remained confidential. Prior to our November meetings with our contract personnel, we asked for feedback from the congregation as well as our contract employees.

Kelsie Knechtel indicated to us in October that she did not plan to renew her contract for 2024 so the hunt was on for a new Custodian. We were able to secure Carly Tilley to take on this position for 2024. Many thanks to Kelsie for doing an excellent job for us over the years of her tender, and we welcome Carly.

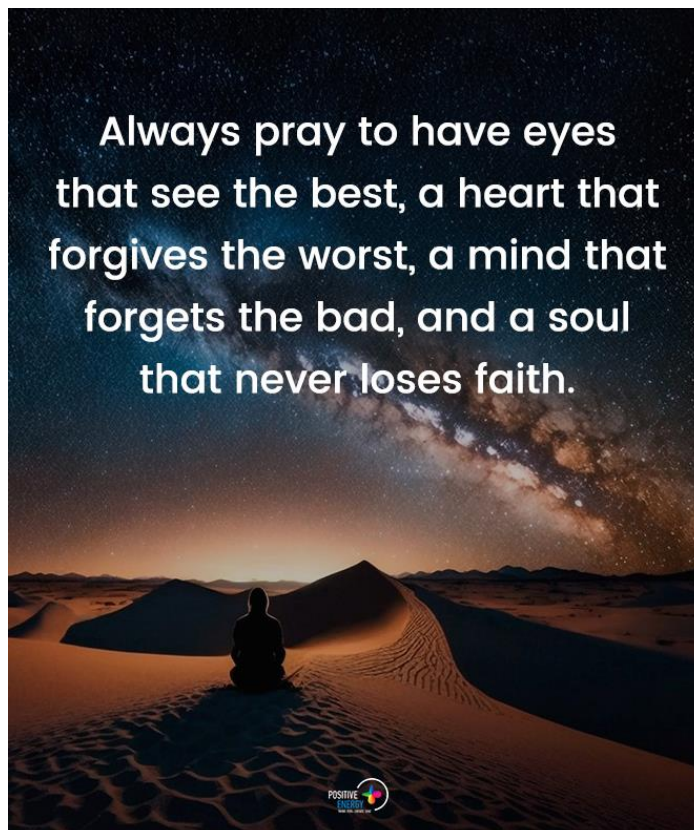


Denise, Meghan and Marie continue to work diligently to fulfil the expectations set out for them, going above and beyond many times throughout the year.

Work was done to transition Jennifer into her parental leave, and we welcomed Murray into the fold in September.

Thanks goes out to our all employees, contract personnel and members for continuing to provide open and honest communication.

Submitted by Cathy Hofstetter, Chair



# Mission and Community Outreach Committee Report

Committee: Kathy Robinson, Denise Tew, Maggie Alderson, Jennifer Canning

2023 was another successful year. The Peace congregation is always generous and giving when asked to donate to our different charities.

**Toastie Toes** ~ We collected new or gently used hats, mitts, socks and winter coats for both adults and children throughout the winter. Donations were shared between Oxford and Waterloo Region.



**Blandford-Blenheim Helping Hands Foodbank** ~ We have an ongoing bin to collect food items and supplies all year.

**Paint Night for Kids** ~ We hosted a paint night in the spring with a good turnout. The money raised helped send a child to Camp Tanner. Unfortunately, Camp Tanner has decided to close because the property they rented was sold and they needed more people on board. Camp Tanner was a real blessing for children throughout the years.

**Peace Helper Award** ~ This award was presented to Hailey Matthews at Waterloo-Oxford Secondary School at their spring commencement.



**Granola Bar Collection** ~ We collected cereal bars in June for Camp Tanner to be used for snacks during summer camps.

**White Gifts** ~ We collected gifts for the Christmas Place run by Operation Sharing. This year the Christmas Place was held at the Huron Park Baptist Church and helped over 700 families

in Oxford County.



**Angel Basket** ~ We collected gift cards for a local family with five children who needed support this Christmas. Over \$1000 was collected.



**Christmas Eve** ~ Our special offering went to DASO (Domestic Assault Services Oxford); the Blandford-Blenheim Helping Hands Food Bank; and the Peace Helper Award.

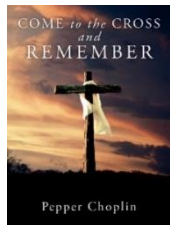
Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity throughout the year.

Submitted by Kathy Robinson



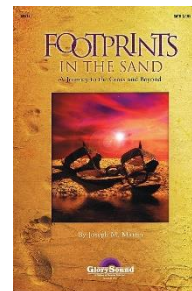
## Music Director's Report

The choir was especially busy in 2023 bringing joyous sounds to many occasions at Peace United.



We presented a new cantata, ***Come to the Cross and Remember***, on Good Friday. We sang for our supper on Holy Thursday and at the break of dawn on Easter Morning. The choir had a starring role in Peace Player's dinner theatre production of 1,2,3 and Flush. Once again, Peace United participated in Wesley United's Carols and Choirs event in Cambridge to begin the season of Advent. Even at the busiest of times, on Christmas Eve we had the choir for both services. Music at Peace United would not be the same without this dedicated group of ladies!

I am so glad that we have such a committed group of singers. I would like to give a special thank you to all of our guest musicians: Maiya and Cheyenne Hofstetter for performing on Christmas Eve, Paul Schmidt for coming out on many special occasions to sing with "mic" to form our men's section and Gary Hofstetter for bringing his low notes when the ground is wet or frozen. We welcomed back guest singers Wendy Colcuc and Carol Cowen on alto, Bob Horvath on tenor and Ken Anderson on bass for the 2024 Good Friday cantata, ***Footprints in the Sand***.



Thank you, Rev. Murray, for your leadership and insights. Thank you, Worship Team, for bringing together the details and particularly for coordinating recordings and leading singing when I was ill with COVID. Thank you to Cathy and Sheila for all your work to make sure we can be heard (even in the Johnston's barn!) people can sing-along (even in Hebrew!) and of course bringing Peace United to so many people that cannot attend in person.

Submitted by Meghan Bunce, Music Director



Wesley United's Carols and Choirs, Cambridge ~ December 3, 2023



## Peace Kids Report



We have a dedicated teaching staff: Barb Richmond, Maryann Irwin, Lisa Connolly, Frances Johnston and Debbie Baer.

We have had several children join our Sunday school time this past year.....with our highest number at one time being 9. We would love to see more kids! I know that family schedules are busy and there are lots of sports on the weekend, but we are always happy when you can find the time to come out.

We provide Bible stories and crafts for kids of All ages (and playtime for the preschoolers).

We also try to provide alternate times when kids can join in for some fun. Last year we had a campfire evening in June (which was held indoors due to a dry weather fire ban), with games, songs, hot dogs and s'mores! Hoping to do things like this again this year.

Submitted by Debbie Baer

## Peace Prayer Blankets Report

Committee Members: Denise Tew, Cathy Davidson

Thank you to everyone from our church family and outside our church family who continue to supply crocheted and knitted squares for our Peace Prayer Afghans. A special thank you to Carmine Lemire who drops off many afghans upon her return to Canada each Spring.

Thirty-eight blankets were blessed in 2023 and given to members, friends and family.

Special thanks to Cathy Davidson for supplying our Prayer Patches; and Doris Glendinning and Maggie Alderson who help to layout the afghans.

Submitted by Denise Tew



# Property Committee Report

Committee Members: Bill Alderson, Ed Bird, Gary Bender



To lead off we want to say a huge thank you to all those that help with keeping our facility and place of worship in good order.

Fire prevention equipment was checked and re-certified for another year. Elevator quarterly inspections and required replacement of hardware was completed and certificate posted. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have been maintained as required. A doorbell was added (left of front door) for when someone is working in the church and locking the door for safety concerns and would be able to hear it upstairs or in basement.

Thank you to the cleaning contractors for doing the weekly requirements in the church as well as those that do lawns and clear snow when needed. Fallen tree and leaves were removed from the lawn areas again this year. Flowerbeds have been kept looking excellent by volunteers in the church.

The one furnace for the sanctuary needed repairs this past year, so we are hoping the three furnaces that serve the sanctuary and basement will keep working but note that they are getting older and are not as efficient as newer ones at this time.

Carpet repairs or replacement are on our agenda this coming year, as well as cleaning up a few light fixtures. If anyone has a concern about the property, please pass it onto the church board or us on the property committee. Remember our place of worship is also used for community programs and social events, so we hope that is well received as well.

Submitted by Gary Bender

## **“ReconciliAction” Report**

Members: Maggie Alderson, Nancy Birss, Lisa Connolly



The work of this committee is in direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #59 - for congregations to learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary. All our activities are focussed on education.

At Peace we started an Indigenous Author Lending Library. Each of the books has been highlighted in the Peace News. In June 2023, committee members and Rev Jennifer conducted the worship service in recognition of

National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Events and activities hosted by other community groups were posted in the Peace News. The committee represented Peace at the following:

- Film screenings hosted by The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Relationships
- Dibaagimowin Stories from this Land, exhibit at Ken Seiling/Waterloo Region Museum
- Crow Shield Lodge, Kitchener site Open House
- ISAN-Oxford (Indigenous Solidarity Awareness Network) Orange Shirt Day March in Ingersoll

Our next project is to collaborate with Indigenous partners to develop a ceremony for the cedar arbour that Ken McNabb constructed to acknowledge that Peace is situated on traditional territory.

The committee appreciates any feedback from church members regarding what we have done and welcomes suggestions for what we could do to further educate our members.

Submitted by Lisa Connolly

## **Sunday Coffee Hour**



Once again, over the course of 2023, coffee hour after church was held every “first Sunday of the month”. This time of fellowship and treats is also a time when people can offer a donation to our Mission & Service budget by adding whatever amount they wish to the donation basket, as they serve themselves coffee.

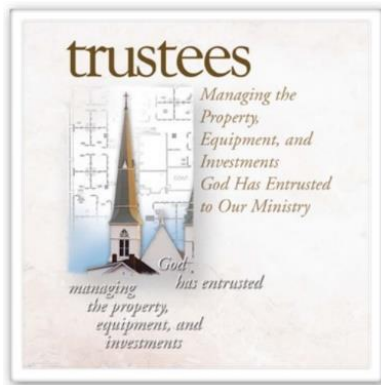
Thanks to all who add to our Mission & Service fund this way and to those members who sign up to bring the treats for these Sundays. Everyone's efforts come together to produce a positive result at Peace. Thank you!

Submitted by Maggie Alderson



## Trustees Report

Members: Gary Hofstetter, Pat House, Marie McNabb, Bill Alderson, James Johnston



This past year both the Manse and Church were inspected by North Blenheim Insurance. They only found a couple of minor issues on the buildings that will be resolved.

The Trustees paid for the replacement of the furnace at the Manse last January.

We continue with low-risk investments at Kindred Credit Union. Interest rates remain better than they have been which helps our rate of return.

Submitted by Gary Hofstetter, Chair

## Unified Board Report

Members: Ken McNabb, Debbie Baer, Doug Hofstetter, Frances Johnston, Maryann Irwin, Marion Czech, Maribeth Bird (M&P Rep)

I would like to thank our Unified Board for the thoughtful, effective and congenial way the business was conducted. They were a very positive group to work with.

Year after year, we have fewer people in our pews and the Board is continually looking for ways to be effective with fewer volunteers.



This was the year when fundraising was a champion at Peace. The strength of our financials was due in part to all the volunteer groups and work putting on successful events.

Our Property Committee has been busy as our maintenance increases with age. Thanks to Gary Bender and his team for their diligence. We have tried to make small changes around the church to streamline the yardwork. The same can be said for the Manse Committee. Cathy Hofstetter and members were able to have a furnace replaced and they also saw several smaller projects that were needed. The Manse Committee is keeping the appliances in mind as they may need replacing soon.

Our online services continue to be popular. Thanks to Sheila Boltz and Cathy Hofstetter for their dedication in making our services look professional. We are also grateful that they can help with funerals. It is much appreciated.

Peace welcomed Jasper Canning to our family this year. It has been an exciting time with Rev Jennifer starting her family in Plattsville. We look forward to following Jasper's progress in the future.

We were very fortunate to have Rev Murray Rounding for a 10-month contract. His experience in several churches previously allows him a balanced outlook on church life. We are happy to welcome Murray and Anne each Sunday.

A big note of thanks must go to our Worship Committee. They helped plan every Sunday and our summer services when we were without a full-time minister.

We had a great year at Peace. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and those who support our community.

Respectfully submitted, Ken McNabb, Chair of the Unified Board



# Worship Committee Report

Committee Members: Kathy Robinson, Debbie Baer, Maribeth Bird, Maggie Alderson, Meghan Bunce (Music Director), Sheila Boltz (A/V Rep)

2023 was an active year for the Worship Committee under the expert guidance and leadership of Rev Jennifer until the end of June, and Rev Murray from September onward. The Committee met five times during the year to plan worship services, special events and to arrange for Worship Leaders as needed. A special thanks to Linda Humphrey, Meghan Bunce, and Shelley Jeary for their leadership in Worship during July and August. Thanks also to Sheila Boltz and Cathy Hofstetter for their valued Audio Video skills and commitment to Peace every Sunday.



As a committee, we are thankful and privileged to have Meghan Bunce as our Director of Music. Her beautiful voice and musical expertise continue to enhance our Worship Services.

The Sacrament of Communion was celebrated on five occasions: Annual Meeting Service, Easter Sunday, Anniversary service, World Communion Day, First Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve service.

Special Services in 2023 included:

- Raw Carrot Soup presentation during service February 19
- Maundy Thursday Service with Soup Potluck April 6
- Good Friday Cantata April 7
- Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 9, hosted by Ken and Marie McNabb, followed by Easter Breakfast at the church, and Easter Worship Service with Communion
- Holy Humour Sunday, April 16
- Father's Day and Baptism Service at Heritage Hill Farms on June 18, hosted by James and Frances Johnston
- Anniversary Service and celebration of Rev Jennifer's last Sunday (before Parental Leave), followed by Potluck Lunch on June 25
- Music Sunday lead by Meghan Bunce
- Two Drama Sundays lead by Shelley Jeary
- Welcome to Rev Murray Rounding on September 10 with Potluck Lunch following the service
- Peace Choir attended Choirs and Carols at Wesley United Church, December 3

Submitted by Maribeth Bird, Chair

# WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN



**Kids Paint Night**



**Easter Sunrise Service at the McNabb's**



**Father's Day & Baptisms  
at the Johnston Farm**



**Baby Shower for  
Rev. Jennifer**



**Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday Peace United!**



**Welcome Jasper**



**Welcome  
Rev. Murray**



**White Gifts & Over 80s Xmas**

