



PEACE UNITED CHURCH

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Minister Rev. Jennifer Canning

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February 10, 2023

Friends,

For ten years, most of my graduating class gathered every year for a post-Christmas retreat at a church camp. We number about a dozen, spanning a wide variety of ages and life stages. It started as a means of keeping in intentional contact with each other and supporting ourselves through our first three years of ordained ministry, our retreat became an annual time of restoration and renewal.

We would bring in guest speakers and workshop leaders, we'd have a check-in time that allowed everyone as much time as they needed to update others on the joys and struggles of life, we would share ministry successes and challenges, we would eat together and just live together in an intentional community of support and deep friendship.

In January of 2020 we celebrated our tenth annual gathering with a wine and cheese reception back at Emmanuel with many of our professors (those who hadn't retired in the meantime 😊 at least) in attendance. This event has always proved to be a deeply restorative time for me.



Like so many elements of our collective lives, the Pandemic disrupted this annual tradition and, sadly, the decision was made this Fall to allow that tenth anniversary to close off that chapter of our lives together. We'll continue to be connected with occasional Zoom calls and through our group on Facebook, but our annual retreats have come to an end. I've grieved the loss of this retreat from my life and the energy and ideas it always brought to me. It was like an Epiphany gift at the beginning of January every year!

I don't know that I'd realized how much energy I gained from that retreat until I went through the Christmas season and started back in January this year without it. For the last two years I'd been completely online for Christmas and afterwards. Things were all kinds of abnormal, so missing the retreat was just one more thing. But this year, back to a more "normal" type approach to the season, I didn't take my "normal" restorative time. I jumped right into January and quickly realized my oversight. Between Christmas Eve falling on a Saturday and not taking the time off for the retreat, I didn't really have a perceptible break.

And so, after talking to M&P, I will be taking this next week off as an opportunity to catch my breath, to reorient myself and ground myself before jumping into the Season of Lent. I have worked with the Worship Committee to plan next week's service with our visitors from the Raw Carrot and any emergencies can be routed through Denise.

I hope you are having a good week and I'll see you Sunday!

Jennifer

KW CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Rev. Jennifer is playing in the KW Chamber Orchestra on Sunday, February 12th at 3:00 pm, at Knox Presbyterian Church in uptown Waterloo (50 Erb Street), tickets \$15 for seniors (60+), \$20 for adults, \$10 & \$5 for students; or streamed online (free) through a link on the orchestra's website: <https://kwchamberorchestra.ca>.

NO OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Rev Jennifer is on Study Leave this week, February 13-21. If there is a pastoral emergency, please contact Denise.



SENIORS LUNCHEON

The catering committee has decided to do a Seniors' luncheon on **Thursday, February 23rd at 12:30 pm.** There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can call Maggie at 519-684-7619 or email walders@outlook.com.



LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP



This year we'll be using *With Us Always: Daily Devotions Framed by the Movies* edited by Alydia Smith. Like last year's book, short daily readings will be offered with a weekly opportunity to discuss with the group. Last year we met on Sundays after the service, but I'm open to other

possibilities as suits those participating. **If you would like to take part, please let Denise know by February 12th so that we can order copies of the book.** We have four at the church already which will help lower the overall cost. Depending on how many people participate, I'm guessing books will work out to be \$10-\$12 per copy while a digital download version is \$7.95.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy belated birthday wishes to Donna Hunter last week and to Faye Capling on her 80th on February 16th!



Dick & Carol's oldest great grandson, Harrison, celebrated his second birthday on Feb 4th. Just finished eating a chocolate cup cake, to celebrate!



PRAYER CANDLES

Each Sunday there will be prayer candles at the front of the church for anyone who would like to light one.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7 PM

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22 at 7 pm. Please plan to join us for this short service.

SOUTHWEST PUBLIC HEALTH

strongly recommends masking in indoor settings to prevent triple threat of respiratory viruses. Here's an update from [January 31, 2023](#). Help us keep everyone safe.



PEACE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for Peace United will be incorporated into the service on **Sunday, February 26.** Printed copies of the Annual Report are available.

UNIFIED BOARD UPDATE

The Unified Board passed a motion at their meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023 to change the number of people on the Board. A motion will be brought to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, to change the number elected to the board to 8 (down from 10), plus one member appointed from the M&P Committee.

NEW PUZZLE CORNER!

Outside of Jennifer's office is our new **PUZZLE CORNER** ~ borrow one, bring one, exchange one or donate one. Adult and children's puzzles welcome! Puzzling is good for your brain!



COLLECTING MILK BAGS & CARD FRONTS

Please collect your empty milk bags and card fronts from old greeting cards (no writing please). Gail Fulton knows of a group that will put these items to good use. Please place items in the box on the shelf down the steps to the church hall.

BAPTISMS & CONFIRMATIONS

Anyone interested in baptisms, transfers and/or confirmations, please talk with Rev. Jennifer.

You
make
the world
a better
PLACE

MISSION OUTREACH

The Mission Outreach Committee, Jennifer, Maggie, Kathy R & Denise, met to plan out our Outreach projects for the spring. **Just doing our part to make the world a better place!**

FEBRUARY ~ RAW CARROT SOUP TASTING



We have scheduled a Raw Carrot Soup Tasting again! Order sheets are at the front door. Join us for a soup tasting (not a bowl full) along with cheese, crackers, and

refreshments following the service on **Sunday, February 19th**. Raw Carrot personnel will join us for the service too. You can email Denise by Wednesday, February 15 with your order too. Want more information? Visit [The Raw Carrot | Peeling for Change](#)

- Price: \$10 each for a 750 ml (3-serving) pouch that comes frozen.
- Pick up the at: **Peace United Church** 20 Samuel St. Plattsville on February 19th after the morning service

Here is the list of the handcrafted, gourmet soups that are available.

Our Top 6 Soups:	Quantity
Signature Carrot Soup (Vegan/Gluten Free)	
Flying Noodle (Gourmet Chicken Noodle Soup)	
Hearty Lentil and Barley Soup (Vegan)	
Loaded Potato and Bacon Soup (Creamy potato & bacon combination)	
Mulligatawny (Indian flavours with chicken, vegetables and coconut milk – Gluten Free)	
Spicy-ish Italian Sausage Soup (Gluten Free)	

MARCH ~ “UNDIE SUNDAYS”

We will be collecting new underwear for children and adults for the month of March. Karen Geerts from the Power of HOPE Community Organization will join us on **Sunday, March 5** for a short presentation during the service. \$1-\$2

Coffee Hour will follow the service. Proceeds to Mission & Service.

APRIL ~ TOILETRIES COLLECTION



We will be collecting personal care items in April. Sanguen Health Centre in Waterloo Region requests: polygrip, nail clippers, shaving cream, razors, shampoo, and conditioner; and Operation Sharing in Oxford County is requesting shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, feminine hygiene products, men’s and ladies jogging pants (small to XXL).

MAY ~ KIDS PAINT NIGHT

We are hosting a kids paint night (ages 7/8 plus) on **Wednesday, May 3** from 6:30-8:00 pm. More details to come! Dianne Haycock from the Burgessville Library will lead the evening.



JUNE – GRANOLA BARS FOR CAMP TANNER

We will be collecting granola bars for the snack bowl at Camp Tanner for the month of June.

VOLUNTEER AT THE PEACE CAFÉ!

Darlene Koebel has undertaken the opening of the Booth at the Plattsville Arena for Peace United and other community volunteers. She is looking for volunteers on Saturdays and Sundays and high school students are welcome to earn their volunteer hours too! (Students will be required to have a consent form completed by a parent/guardian prior to volunteering).



1) Click here:



2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

3) Sign up! It's Easy. Contact Darlene at 519-404-7022 or fifthtraditionpeace@gmail.com. Shorter shifts are available too, contact Darlene.



PEACE NEWS

News and Announcements are due by Thursday at 6 pm. Please call Denise at 519.535.1417 or email

peaceplattsecretary@outlook.com with your news.

OUR DAILY BREAD MAGAZINE

The January-March 2023 issue is on the table in the narthex. The donation basket is beside them.



Our Daily Bread
Ministries.

LISTENING DEVICES

If you struggle with your hearing, please remember that we have listening devices at the back of the sanctuary that have been sanitized and are waiting for you. If you are not certain how to use them, as one of our friendly and helpful ushers. They are always happy to help. After all, we do not want you to miss out!



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

The schedule for the first half of 2023 has gone out. If you are not available on your designated Sunday, please make a trade. One greeter will run the lift and the other will greet upstairs. The Peace Kids leader is listed here too. If you'd like to help, please let us know.

Hello



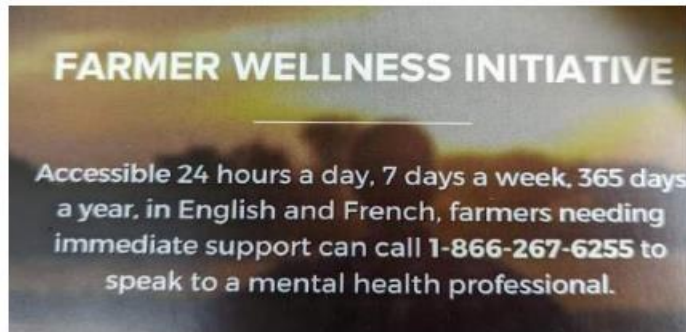
Date	Greeter	Greeter	Counter	Counter	Peace Kids
12-Feb	Maggie	Bill	Marg H	Pat House	Frances
19-Feb	Darlene	Kathy R	Ferne	Shelley	Barbara
26-Feb	Ron	Paulette H	Shirley	Denise	Maryann
05-Mar	Karen	Marion	Maryann	Pat Hall	Barbara
12-Mar	Ian	Darlene	Nancy B	Shirley	Ferne

PEACE UNITED'S FACILITY CALENDAR

We are gradually seeing an increase in the number of activities taking place at Peace United. A calendar of events, activities, and facility bookings is maintained in the front hallway by Denise, our Administrative Assistant. The calendar will also be updated and posted on the Peace website [STAYING CONNECTED \(peaceunited.ca\)](http://peaceunited.ca).



If you are planning an event, committee or Board meeting, work session, or activity for any area within the church, please contact Denise to confirm availability and to have this added to the calendar. If you are wanting to use our facilities for a private event, Denise is your contact for that as well. She will then inform the appropriate staff or personnel so that your plans can be accommodated. Thank you.



Keeping You Informed

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA E-SENTIALS
[February 7, 2023 Newsletter](#)

**EMBRACING THE SPIRIT
 CHURCH-OPEN-NEW-UNITED**
[February 1, 2023 Newsletter](#)

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION
[January 19, 2023 Newsletter](#)

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS
[January 2023 Newsletter](#)

GOD'S MISSION OUR GIFTS ~ M & S
[Philanthropy News – January 26, 2023](#)

ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED
[February 3, 2023 Newsletter](#)

CONNECTIONS
News & Views of Oxford County Churches
[February 8, 2023 Newsletter](#)



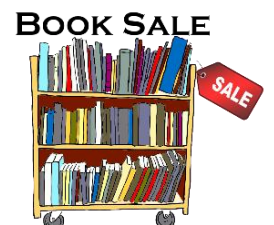
LIONS EUCHRE – FEBRUARY 20

The Plattsville Lions Club with be hosting Progressive Euchre at Peace United on alternate Mondays starting at 7:00 pm on **February 20**; March 6 & 20; April 3, 17 and May 1, 15 & 29. \$10 gets you into play, prizes and light lunch, no partner required 😊.



WILLIS UNITED BOOK FUNDRAISER

Paperback, hardcover, and children's books will be for sale Saturday mornings from 9 am to 12 noon, with proceeds going to Willis Church, Drumbo. Coffee and muffins will also be available, with proceeds from that going to the Mission and Service Fund. Jigsaw Puzzles ARE BEING added to our book sale! Donations will be accepted at the church on Wednesday 10 am to 12 noon or Saturdays from 9am-12pm.



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

You are cordially invited to attend the virtual meeting of the Oxford Branch of Ontario Ancestors on **Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm.**



Heather Rennalls will discuss the importance of Black History Month; the who, why and when Black History Month was designated both in the United States and here in Canada. Visit Heather's website [here](#) for more information on

Oxford County's Almost Forgotten Black history.

To attend the virtual meeting on February 13th, visit their website at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> for the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

NEW EXHIBIT AT KEN SEILING WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM

Click picture for more details on the NEW multimedia journey that highlights the Indigenous contributions to the history of this land, as told through local Indigenous voices. Exhibit is open until April 16, 2023.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A FAMILY DAY GAME CAFÉ AT NORWICH UNITED CHURCH

Looking for a fun Family Day activity? Our 3rd Annual Family Day Game Café is back from its Covid hiatus! Come on, roll the dice, move your mice! UNO it's time for our 3rd annual Board Game Café on **Monday, February 20th from 12 noon until 8pm at Norwich United Church** (80 Main Street, Norwich, ON) in the Lower Hall.

This year we are hosting two fun invitational tournaments one Euchre and one Crokinole. We'd love it if your communities of faith would be a part of them. Players will compete for fun and bragging rights. There is no fee for participating only that registering for one of the 20 team slots be done by Sunday February 12, 2023. To register email Dawn Jones at jdjones@xplornet.com | or call 519.423.6010.

We have 200+ games for all ages of all sorts, sizes, and challenges. Check out Score 44 & our special Game Hosts. Invitational Tournaments for Crokinole & Euchre add to the fun. Sign up for the Score 44 tournament on site. Our cafe will serve beverages and snacks. Family & friends, singles or groups, everyone is welcome for a fun time. Come alone and meet a new friend. Challenge friends or family to a game. No admission fees, just good will. Location is fully accessible through the front church doors. Donations and volunteers also welcome. Contact Norwich United Church at 519-863-3637 or visit [3rd Annual Family Day Game Cafe | Facebook](#)

LIVING WITH LOSS

~ SIX WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Mondays, February 27th - April 3rd ~ 6:30 - 8:00 pm

PLEASE REGISTER BY: February 24th

Call or Text 519-536-3370

LOCATION: St. David's United Church (Friendship Room)

190 Springbank Ave, Woodstock

A safe and supportive space to explore your grief, with the guidance of trained facilitators.

Offered by the Caring Hearts Support Network

www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com

CARING HEARTS

SUPPORT NETWORK

FOR THOSE AT END-OF-LIFE AND THE BEREAVED

PRAYERS FOR TURKEY & SYRIA

On Monday, February 6, a massive magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit southern Turkey and neighbouring Syria. The United Church of Canada is deeply concerned for all those affected, particularly the thousands who have lost their homes and their lives.

The United Church is in contact with [partners in the region](#) to learn more about the impact and understand how best to offer our support. Please include the people of Turkey, Syria, and other countries affected in your prayers, and consider making a donation to the [emergency relief fund](#).

God,

In the face of destruction

that tears down homes and threatens life,
we pray that your deep abiding love be felt by:

those who are grieving,

those who fear for themselves and their communities,

those who are struggling; and,

those who are offering aid.

May they continue to be strengthened by your Spirit.

May we extend our hearts in prayer. Amen

*Every positive thought
is a silent prayer which will change your life.*

- Bryant McGill

