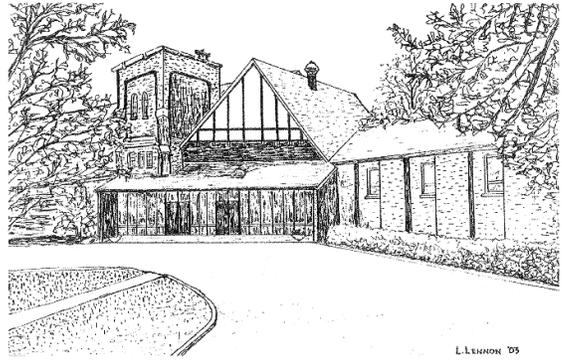


West Plains United Church November 2017



549 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON
www.westplains.ca info@westplains.ca (905) 529-4871



Minister's Message

2 Corinthians 5:17

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

I want to tell you how pleased I am to be at West Plains and have the chance to build relationships with the members of this wonderful church. When the members of this church needed to find a new location for their church building, they found a lovely spot to build a place of worship. Thank you for the opportunity to pray with you; worship with you; be challenged by Christ with you; and love God with you.

As I thought about this newsletter, some different things came to mind, but the one that kept coming back was how Jesus, our Christ, makes us new. Listening to Karen Inkster's message at our Anniversary Service reminded me, that one of the real opportunities God gives us is to stop, re-evaluate, and move forward with vision, since Christ makes all things new. I don't believe this happens just once, but like a conversion experience, it is something that happens repeatedly, progressing and growing through time.

I learned through a personal event years ago, that even the most difficult of situations can, years later, be looked upon as a time of blessing. When we are willing to risk and be vulnerable by putting our whole trust in God and letting God lead us, then we grow in our faith and as a community.

I hope that you will look carefully through this newsletter and note, not only the many different events that have been planned, but to think about how you might participate. I also hope that you will invite your family, neighbours and friends to come and join us. Even though it's still a bit early to think about Christmas, it really is about God's desperate attempt to teach us that life is about love: self-giving love, sacrificial love. Not just attempting to fill the emptiness of life with things, but instead, with God's love

We have been so blessed to have a loving community that is like a big family where we can love and care for each other. We have God's great love that holds us together, that strengthens us and enlivens us to act. We have been blessed to have engaged in Christian service and action in the community and for others. In all of this, God has continually been making us new. As we work together in the days ahead, open your hearts, let God in, be ready to risk, be ready to love.

In Christ's Love,
Rev Leigh

Rev. Leigh Olson



Rev. Leigh Olson's Biography

Hi, I'm Leigh Olson, your new minister, here are a few things you might like to know about me:

- 🌀 I was born and raised on the Prairies, in Mitchell, SD. – My family was very active in the local United Methodist Church.
- 🌀 I have a husband named Graeme Jannaway, who does business continuity planning, plays tympani for Metropolitan UC's Silver Band, and enjoys many hobbies.
- 🌀 I have a daughter named Hannah, who will be studying Massage Therapy at Humber College in the Fall, and a step-son named Andrew, who is an insurance broker in Windsor. They are exactly 9 years apart in age (same birthday).
- 🌀 We have a dog named Cuilean (I am an animal lover) and my daughter also has a hamster and hermit crabs.
- 🌀 My undergraduate degree is from The University of Northern Iowa School of Music – BA Vocal Music
- 🌀 My Masters of Divinity is from The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (PCUSA)
- 🌀 Originally ordained in the United Methodist Church, I became a United Church minister in 2003.
- 🌀 I have served many different congregations, rural, small and large town, before coming to Toronto, where I worked in North Toronto, Etobicoke, and Scarborough.
- 🌀 I enjoy music and the arts, sports, gardening, sewing, riding bicycles, walking and swimming, reading and learning, driving, and talking to people of all ages.



Worship Calendar

There will be a Sermon Series during the month of November - "Striving for Greatness":

November 5th - A Position of Power, November 12th - Being Prepared, November 19th - Giving our Talents, and November 29th - When we help another.

This series is based on the parables suggested for November scriptures.

November 5th: All Saint's Service, Communion

November 12th: Sunday closest to Remembrance Day.

November 19th: Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 26th: Reign of Christ Sunday

December 6th: Advent I, Communion

December 10th: Advent II

December 17th: Advent III

December 24th: Advent IV

December 24th: Evening ~ Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, Communion 7:00 p.m.

December 31st: Second Sunday of Christmas

We invite you to join us for worship – bring a friend/neighbour to West Plains!

WEST PLAINS

Fall 2017

November 18th, Saturday, 10am-2pm
West Plains Christmas Bazaar ~
Deli, Crafts, Bake Sale, Silent Auction,
Granny's Attic, Lunch Room

December 9th, Saturday @ 10:00 am
Cookie Walk (first-come, first-served)

December 17th, Sunday @ 7:00 pm
Christmas Concert with Joint Choirs
at St. James United Church, Waterdown

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Music

This fall, the West Plains Choir welcomed two new singers – Debbs Beardall (soprano section) and Tara MacCallum (alto section). Debbs and Tara have already made a difference to the choir by strengthening its sound and the balance of parts!

Our choir has been exploring the music of several Canadian composers this fall. One such composer is David Kai, who grew up in Toronto, and is of Japanese heritage. He studied music at Humber College, and also became a diaconal minister in the United Church. David was on the committee that produced Voices United. His hymns can be found in several hymnals, and his music is accessible and singable. To hear some of David’s music, please visit his website: <https://www.sites.google.com/site/davidwkaismusic/home>. In October, the choir sang David’s setting of “We are not alone, we live in God’s world” and “With respect in creation”.

As Christmas fast approaches, here are some musical opportunities for West Plains folk and friends to get involved!

Choir and Carols Concert!

Our West Plains Choir is joining the choirs of Carlisle United and St. James United (Waterdown) to present a concert of Christmas music and readings, on **Sunday, Dec 17th at 7 p.m.** at St. James United, 306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown. Admission is by freewill donation towards a good cause! Please save the date and bring friends and family to enjoy this concert.



- Calling interested singers to participate in this Christmas concert event! Rehearsals begin November 15th. For details, please contact Lianne Tan at tan_lianne@yahoo.ca

Carolling in the Community



Our West Plains Choir members and friends enjoy carolling at seniors’ residences and community outreach locations each December. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board when December rolls around! Come, join to sing and spread Christmas blessings! (If you know a place that we might sing at, please contact Lianne.)

As always, everyone at West Plains is warmly encouraged to offer their musical talents to each Sunday's worship, whether through singing in the congregation, singing in the choir, or playing an instrument. Music lifts the spirit, improves health, and strengthens community! God deserves our praise! Glory be to God!

Lianne Tan

"One enters with a sense of busyness, and leaves with a sense of peace"

Experiencing a Taizé Service

In the past few years at West Plains, we have, on occasion, held a Taizé service as our Maundy Thursday worship service. Taizé services are special in their contemplative quality. That means that silence is treasured, quiet moments of prayer are emphasized, scripture is read, and gentle repetitive singing helps comforting words to burrow deeper into the soul. The lighting is illuminated mainly by flickering candles laid around a cross which is placed on the floor, so that people can go up to kneel and pray at the cross. One enters with a sense of busyness, and leaves with a sense of peace, having reached the 'quiet centre'. In the past few years, a few people from West Plains have become regular attendees of the Taizé service held at St. Aidan's Anglican Church in downtown Oakville, held on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm. The service is led by a team of 3-4 musicians - a keyboard, a recorder/flute, cantor, and recently, a violin. This was the team that brought the Maundy Thursday Taizé services to West Plains. The rustic interior of St. Aidan's Church, with its strong wooden roof beams and white walls, lends itself especially to the feeling of keeping it simple and down-to-earth. A large Celtic cross adorns the front wall of the sanctuary. If you are interested in attending a Taizé service, please feel free to talk to Carol Eydt, Lynn Watson, Jan Hazelton, and Lianne Tan. We all agree that, among the various Taizé services offered in the area, the setting at St. Aidan's is the best. Come and join us!

Lianne Tan



LIVE MUSIC

Winter/Spring 2018

January 28th, Sunday @ 3:30 pm
Appleby College Strings and Singers :
Bermuda Tour Preview Concert
Freewill donations for community outreach



February 18th, Sunday @ 2:30 pm
Songs & Stories of Scotland with Hamish
~ with tea & shortbread ~
Theatre room ~ Tickets \$12



March 11th, Sunday @ 2:00 pm
Chroi Celtic Band ~ Celebrating Irish Roots
Tickets \$20 or 2 for \$35



April 15th, Sunday @ 2:30 pm
Nicole Coward & Band ~ Folk Revival
Tickets \$20 or 2 for \$35



New Members

Deborah (Debbs) Beardall - June 4, 2017
Steven (Steve) Burford - June 4, 2017
Judith (Judi) Honsberger - June 4, 2017
Edward Jansen - June 4, 2017
Irene Jacobson - June 25, 2017

Baptisms



We welcome inquiries about baptism at West Plains and have information about baptism in the church office for anyone who is interested!



Weddings

Congratulations!

Dennis Wilkinson & Darlene Kaye - September 2, 2017 *(Rev. D. Kigar)*
Jacob Barrick & Natasha Benko - September 2, 2017 *(Rev. D. Kigar)*
Dexter Alexander Jagula & Terri Lee Woudstra - September 16, 2017 *(Rev. J. Pearce)*



In Memoriam

William Charles Thompson - May 31, 2017
Malcolm Erwin Murray - July 8, 2017
Edward Olaf Jansen - October 11, 2017

Our thoughts are with all who are coping with the loss of a loved one. We never forget those who have touched our hearts with love and who have inspired us to live our best lives.



UCW

When summer transitions into autumn, we are blessed with golden sunshine, cooler temperatures and putting our gardens to bed. The birds are beginning to flock in anticipation of migrating south.

We welcome our new spiritual leader Rev. Leigh Olson to join us for devotion and fellowship at our next UCW meeting at 10:00 a.m. on November 7th.

Upcoming Events:

- * **Christmas Bazaar -- Saturday, November 18th -- 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**
- * **Cookie Walk -- Saturday, December 9th -- 10:00 a.m. until sold out.**
- * **Vintage & Next-to-New Clothing -- date to be determined.**

Time to declutter your closet; donate an item of value to our silent auction or grannies attic; bake your special recipe of squares, cookies etc. for our bake table and for our cookie walk. The community loves our goodies!
Our UCW Christmas Service and Pot Luck Lunch will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 12:30 p.m. All ladies are welcome.

Meat Pie Dates for 2018

- **January 17th**
- **February 7th**
- **April 11th**
- **May 9th**
- **June 13th**

Price \$4.00 per meat pie. Contact Marj Wilson at (905) 522-2569.

January 9, 2018 our New Year Meeting will be at 10:00 a.m.

We are forever grateful to each of you for your contributions of time and talent!

Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted!

Submitted by,

Judie Langford, Secretary

Mission and Service/Outreach

New project - The congregation has been asked to bring milk bags (the outer printed bag) for delivery to North Burlington Baptist Church where a group is cutting strips and braiding them for sleeping mats for children in third world countries. This is to be an ongoing project.

Donations for M & S fund forwarded to United Church of Canada as of September 30th is \$6,440. Our pledge for 2017 totals \$8,500.

Annual Case for Kids walk (Wesley Urban Ministries) took place in June - Donations of \$330. were forwarded from our congregation.

Benevolent Fund

One of our outreach projects is sponsoring a child through Children International. Our previous child, Lester is no longer needing our support, so we have a new child. Renato Concepcion of the Philippines, Age 14 -- Annual cost of supporting this child is \$365. Canadian. Renato's personal information is listed on the Outreach bulletin board.

We continue to donate \$200. monthly to The Compassion Society to support their work in the community, providing food, clothing etc. for those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Eydtt



COMPASSION SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WISH

The Compassion Society is looking for donations of grocery gift cards, non-perishable foods, toiletries and clothing. They are also looking for anyone who is able to volunteer their time with this endeavour. Gifts and other items are to be delivered by December 8th. Thank you!



Yuletide Bazaar 2017

Yuletide bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 18th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. ~ we will have our Deli, Crafts, Bake Sale, Silent Auction, Granny’s Attic and Lunch Room. Come out to support this great event.

Cookie Walk 2017!



Join us for our Annual Cookie Walk on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th** from 10 a.m. until **SOLD OUT!** Calling all Cookies and Squares – as many as you can bake for a wonderful opportunity to offer delicious Christmas Baking to those who mark this event on their calendar months ahead!! Please cut your squares and bring all baking to the church (kitchen) on Friday, December 8th between 9 a.m. and noon. Thank you!



Twiddlemuffs Prayer Shawl Knitters



We have a number of Prayer Shawls “on standby” and for this reason have started a new project, but will return to knitting Prayer Shawls if the supply becomes low.



TWIDDLEMUFFS Therapeutic Hand Muffs

This is a basic knitted muff using different yarn textures and colours. Items such as beads, buttons, and ribbons are attached inside and outside to provide tactile stimulation.

People with dementia often have restless hands and can be soothed by having something to keep their hands occupied. The muff provides a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation at the same time as keeping hands snug and warm.

Materials needed: soft chunky yarn, novelty yarns and 6.5mm needles. Buttons, beads, ribbon, small wooden toys, patches of leather, flowers, zippers, keys, pompoms, loops etc. nothing with sharp edges or points, and nothing that could tear or break.

Instructions: Cast on 40 stitches. Knit stocking stitch for 11 inches (this will be the inside of the muff), then start to add different yarns with interesting textures and colours.

Continue until the muff is 23 inches long and cast off. Join the sides to form a tube.

Now sew on the tactile items on the knitted side using fish line, dental floss or embroidery thread. Secure each item to a large button on the back of the work as an anchor. These buttons will be inside and will not show when you pull the first 11 inch piece through and into the remainder of the muff which is the outside.

What does KITT mean?

Keep In Touch Team

There are six team leaders who each have a list of people who they call when there is news to be known. Those of you who are at the church regularly may not always receive a call or email because your team leader has seen you at church and knows you are aware of what is happening at West Plains.

If you have questions to ask, your team leader is the person who can provide answers or at least search out the answers for you. We not only call with church news but we also call requesting you to “share the load” as we do God's work at West Plains. Hopefully this defines KITT for you from your team leaders:

Sharon, Jan, Lynne, Mary, Lois and Linda



Property Committee



Your Property Committee has been quite busy since our last newsletter.

We hosted the Easter morning breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on April 16th. Many thanks to all who attended and helped with buying and preparing the food.

T.A.P. began their run of shows April 27th, which meant the Committee members were busy setting up and taking down tables for the dinner shows and assisting with parking, through to the last show on May 7th. Thanks to Ron Underwood and Bert Posedowski for their help with parking.

The spring cleanup of the church property was hit and miss due to the weather, but we got it done.

As was mentioned in the February Newsletter, the Property Committee took over the responsibility of overseeing the work of our janitorial services. It was decided that a letter be sent out, terminating our agreement with All-Over Janitorial Services, to take effect June 30, 2017. During July and August, a small group of members took over the job of making sure the Church was clean and welcoming to the Congregation and all visitors. We knew that with September would come a greater use of the church facilities from our renters. With this in mind, we started a search for a suitable service to assist our needs, at a lower cost to the church. This process is ongoing. The members of the committee would ask that any congregational members who could assist with any of the cleaning tasks, please talk to anyone on property.

The Property Committee was pleased to welcome Reverend Leigh Olson to our October 3rd meeting. We look forward to working with her.

Reported by,
Murray Biggley, Secretary

Sunday School

Our Fall season has started off with changes as Kenzie Curran resigned from the position of Sunday School Coordinator/Teacher. She has accepted a full-time job in the Norfolk School District which has required her to move to Waterford. Due to the distance involved in travelling to church, she has decided that it would be too difficult to continue on with us. We wish her well in her new job and also share in the excitement that she recently became engaged. Many thanks to Darlene Groves, Pat Mifflin, and Bev Biggley for taking over the teaching responsibilities for September through the end of November. Ministry & Personnel is continuing their search for a Sunday School Coordinator/Teacher. If you know any suitable candidates please contact M & P.

We look forward each week to teaching the children and encourage those who are interested in helping out in any way to contact Pat, Bev, or Darlene as we are always looking for additions to the teaching team. We continue to work at bringing great lessons to the children and wonderful crafts for them to enjoy each week.

We are excited that Rev. Leigh had the children join in for World Wide Communion Intergenerational Sunday, and are looking forward to celebrating Halloween, Remembrance Day, and the Christmas Season with the children over the next few months.

We invite all children to join us for stories, songs, and crafts on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Groves

Take Note!

Recently there was someone who entered the church. For your own safety and the safety of others who may be working alone, please remember to lock the door when you arrive at the church. If you are waiting for a group to begin, either have someone wait for people by the door or have the group members ring the doorbell. We want everyone to be safe. Thank you!



Gifts With Vision

The United Church of Canada produces a small Giving Catalogue called "Gifts with Vision" to help you give a gift that makes a difference in a life beyond your own family. Gifts with Vision projects support the work of the United Church partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and across Canada. Here are two examples from this catalogue. For \$10.00 you can provide a gift card for groceries for "Food for the North" where grocery costs are very high (\$11 for 4L of milk). For \$100.00 food security gets a boost by supporting community based nutrition relief and advocacy around climate change resilience in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Gifts with Vision project is your opportunity to change someone's life while honouring family or friends or marking any special occasion.

The Gifts with Vision Catalogue is available online which saves production and administration costs. Just go to www.giftswithvision.ca/ and change a life for the better!
