



215 Peel Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E7

☎ 519-662-1182

✉ zionunitedchurch@bellnet.ca

🌐 zionnewhamburg.ca

We are ... ordinary people, praising God, caring for others, learning to be the Family of God

October 2020

Greetings Zion! Hope everyone continues to keep well, safe, and in touch with each other.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki and the Attiwonderonk First Nations peoples, on land that was subject to Treaty 3 (1792), an area also known as the [Between the Lakes Purchase](#).



Figure 1 :For information on why land acknowledgements matter, click here. LocalLove.ca

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” The Lorax

Upcoming Worship Services

Join us on Zion’s [YouTube](#) channel for our weekly worship services. Keep up with announcements on our web page.

October 25 ➤ Anniversary Sunday (Our 181st)

November 1 ➤ All Saints Day

www.zionnewhamburg.ca



November 8 ➤

Remembrance Day

November 15 ➤

Children’s Sunday

November 22 ➤

Reign of Christ & Rev. Marg’s last Sunday

November 29 ➤ Advent 1 & Welcome to Rev. Maggie

News from Leadership Council

Leadership Council met in September. Minutes of Council meetings are posted on the Zion [website](#) under the "Resources →Announcements tab.

The meeting began with a welcome to Pat McGlynn and Carol Gilmore followed by a brief orientation and review of Governance Model, V 6. Council continues to search for a "Member at Large" to complete the required Council membership as approved by the congregation.

Council agrees with the Reopening Task group that due to increasing COVID-19 cases, our worship events will continue to be recorded.

Teams can now meet in Fellowship Hall by reserving space and time with our Office administrator. One church group (maximum 10 persons) per week is permitted. The group must observe Region of Waterloo Public Health recommendations including signing in and out at the parking lot entry door only, using only the

handicapped washroom outside the office, wearing masks, observing social distancing, and using hand sanitizer.

During the first week of October, our Zoom subscription was used five days out of seven for various church group meetings! Any Zion group can reserve a Zoom time by contacting Zion Council Chair at council-chair@bellnet.ca

The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 25 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Please contact any council member should you have questions, comments, or ideas for Council to consider as we forge a new and faithful path for Zion through this pandemic and into a future of Christian ministry and mission in New Hamburg and beyond....Neil

Human Resources

Kathryn writes: The Human Resources committee is an important link between paid staff at church and the congregation. The work of the HR committee is confidential. Each member of the committee signs a confidentiality agreement.

Any issues concerning staff must be in writing, signed and submitted to Kathryn Murrell as Chair of HR.

My contact info is kmurrell@rogers.com

We are fortunate to have very capable & wonderful staff working with us. Thank you for the valuable work that you do, especially right now in these unusual times.

- Jennifer Meyer..... Church Administrator
- Kathy Poirier CE & Youth Coordinator
- Barbara Kellerman..... Organist/Pianist
- Marg Smith..... Interim Minister
- Ashley Haid..... Custodian

We are sad to say good-bye to Rev. Marg. Please stay tuned for details of a send off for Marg.

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Maggie Dieter to Zion, beginning November 23.

Finances

Year-to-date receipts are 65% of budget; Year-to-date disbursements are 53% of budget.


Year to Date Receipts	Year to Date Expenses	Difference between receipts & expenses to date
\$112,643.22	\$93,162.08	\$19,481.14
Year to Date Budget		
\$130,611.75		
Thank you for your support.		



It is easier than ever to donate funds to Zion! Just click the DONATE NOW button at the top of our Home page. Your funds can be donated “In Memory of”, “In Honour of”, or to the church’s Operating, Building, Missions, or Special Funds.

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Phone: 519-662-1182

Click here to follow our children & Youth on Instagram!

**SUNDAY SERVICE EVERY WEEK
ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!**



UCW News

The UCW held its October meeting via Zoom featuring guest speakers Marnie McDonough & Jan McPhedran-McLeod. They spoke of inspiring lives through “[Lift Off to Higher Education.](#)”

Join the next UCW meeting on November 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

The Zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/91889768822?pwd=ckZjRXoxQS9hLzZlUjF5LzhpSGNuZz09>

Meeting ID: 918 8976 8822

Passcode: 4SRQ9d

Learning Team



Starting November 2, come and view an Autumn Art Show presented by the children and youth of Zion United Church! Various art mediums will be on

display on the front doors of the church. The Autumn Art Show will run for the entire month of November so be sure to check it out!

WOW Regional Council Fall Conference

Pat McGlynn (WOW rep) & Janet Bradley Worthington (guest) attended the fall conference via Zoom. The theme was “Sweet Honey From The Rock” based on Psalm 81:16.

Moderator Richard Bott delivered a powerful and uplifting message, encouraging us to find the sweetness during this challenging time. To summarize: “For the sweetness to truly be tasted, there needs to be just enough salt to open everything else up. We are at a time right now that is not easy, so many things have changed. Life is not easy – is that the salt that makes the sweetness of God’s presence even more beautiful? Sometimes salt acts as a contrast so when we have moments when we are able to be together, to celebrate with each other, we don’t take them for granted anymore – we actually lean into them – recognize how important the people are who are around us. We and our communities of faith have to learn to deal with the challenges

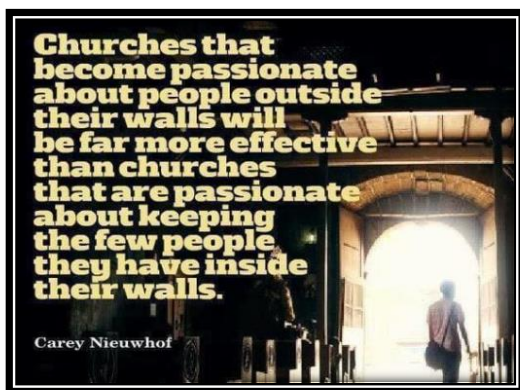
as part of our life. A time for us to rest, stop, reflect on what really is our ministry, and what it is we need to be doing to share it. I pray that in the times to come, days, weeks, months, we will continue to reach out to one another, to find the ways we can live out God’s call to be people of healing and hope in the world. In this time of salt, in this time that is not always the sweetness, let’s take a moment to taste the goodness of God, to know that what is on our lips and in our hearts are some of the sweetest things in a world that tastes bland, and let’s share them. Go in peace, and in all that you do, do it for love, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. No matter where you go, no matter where you are called to be or how you are called to live, you don’t do it alone. God is with you. Alleluia!”

Wilmot Forest Church

Wilmot Forest Church has resumed! Join Wendy Janzen the last Sunday of every month at [Hidden Acres](#). This month will focus on embracing and recognizing God’s call for us to commune with all the creatures of the earth and the earth itself. In honour of World Communion, communion will be celebrated. Please bring your own bread & cup. Proper COVID-19 precautions will be taken. Further details will be sent out to registrants, which is limited to 25. Register at [Eventbrite](#). There is still space available for Sunday, October 25, 4:00 p.m.

Caring Team

Thanks to the Caring Team for the highly successful Food Pantry and Thanksgiving Food Drive. For further information on coverage or donations, please either call Pat at 1-905-826-5021 or email her at p.mcglynn297@gmail.com.



Phragmites

As you travel around Wilmot Township, you have undoubtedly seen stands of VERY tall grass-like plants along the side of the road or in ponds or wetlands. These plants are VERY TALL (2-4 m) green in the growing season, turning light brown later. They have a stem about the thickness of a finger topped by a darker feathery plume.

These are phragmites, a non-native plant that was introduced to North America by nurseries as an ornamental plant, that according to Agri-Food Canada, has become the **Number one invasive plant in Canada**. The [Ontario Phragmites website](#) tells us, "Phragmites is a very aggressive plant



that spreads rapidly and out-competes native species for water and nutrients. This invasive species thrives in disturbed habitats and is often among the

first species to colonize these areas.

Invasive Phragmites has an intricate system of specialized roots that secrete toxins into the soil to impede the growth of and kill neighbouring plants. While invasive Phragmites prefers areas of standing water, its roots can grow to extreme

lengths. These roots can also extend deep into the soil to find and access moisture, allowing the plant to survive in relatively dry areas."

Phragmites grows so closely together that other plants and animals such as turtles and native pond plants can't survive.

We need to control the spread of this invasive plant or the problem will become much worse. It's not easy to do this because the seeds are carried by the wind and the roots can travel 6 m underground. It requires a professional approach and perseverance. We need to encourage our Council to begin a program to eradicate this noxious plant. Thanks Wayne!!

Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Issues

This group is collaborating with WFRC to hire an Indigenous Worker. Some objectives for this position are to provide support and counsel to women affected by family violence, help shape the Resource Centre's programming, and foster respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the community. Donations from individuals payable directly to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre for this project would certainly be appreciated. Contact Dorothy Wilson ah_wilson@sympatico.ca for more information.

Music 🎵🎵

In preparation of opening their church, Avondale United in Stratford prepared this video about some of the policies that will keep their congregation safe. "Gotta Wear Your Mask!" Enjoy!!

<https://youtu.be/6ScBeOmLn3E>

PS: Do we have any seamstresses who would like to sew masks? Please contact Janet.



Faith & Life Discussion Group

Following up on a discussion on diversity, Carol Gilmore shared this poem sent to her from Linda Gerber:

When You're Black, You're Black

When I was born, I was BLACK
 When I grew up, I was BLACK
 When I went in the sun, I stayed BLACK
 When I got cold, I was BLACK
 When I was scared, I was BLACK
 When I was sick, I was BLACK
 And when I die, I'll still be BLACK

NOW, for you 'White' folks...
 When you're born, you're PINK
 When you grow up, you're WHITE
 When you go in the sun, you get RED
 When you're cold, you turn BLUE
 When you're scared, you're YELLOW
 When you get sick, you're GREEN
 When you bruise, you turn PURPLE
 And when you die, you look GREY
 So why do you call us

COLOURED Folks?

Christmas Dinner



It will be difficult to connect this year on Christmas, especially for those who live alone. Wilmot Family Resource

Centre and various churches are offering a free Christmas dinner on December 25 for pick up or delivery. Fill out the registration form and send it

to Wilmot Family Resource Centre by December 15.

**Will you be alone or lonely this Christmas?
 Could you use some Christmas cheer?**

WFRC & local churches are providing a
FREE Christmas Day Dinner
 (Friday, December 25th)

Yes! I/we would like a Christmas dinner

Name(s): _____

Contact #: _____ # of dinners: _____

OPTIONS . . .

PICKUP (preferred)
 Pick up your Christmas dinner at a
 scheduled time at Steinmann Church
 (1316 Snyder's Rd. W., Baden)

DELIVERY (if necessary)
 Your Christmas dinner delivered at an
 arranged time

Please fill out and return this form to WFRC
 by December 15th

You will be contacted for pick/delivery details




Prayers

This is from a post by Nancy Vermond of St. Mary's United Church:

I have a bedtime prayer story to share. When I was a child, I too learned "Now I lay me down to sleep" from my mother. After the prayer, we would pray "God bless grandma and grandpa, Aunt Mary, Uncle John...and on and on...we would pray for blessings for all our family and friends. Then say Amen. I taught this prayer to my son when he was 3, but I always added the verse, "If I should live for other days, I pray the Lord to guide my ways." After I said "Amen", my 3-year old jumped in with a loud little voice, "I'm in too!" God bless all the children of the world! (These days if I can't get to sleep, I pray the "God Bless" and name everyone I can think of, and I ALWAYS

get to sleep before I name everyone, every group, etc. that I know or know of. Blessings to you.



Please remember the following members of our community of faith in your prayers:

- Melanie Eichler, Wendy Held & family
- Joyce Capling & family
- Reg & Janice Kutasinski on the passing of Reg's twin brother Ronald
- Shirley Ranck
- Joanne Ross
- Jim and Shirley Shantz



In Memory

We light a candle for:

- Melba Honderich
- Oliver Capling
- Tom Sosnoski, husband of Shirley Ranck



Reflections on Autumn

The autumn equinox marks the arrival of the season of fall, traditionally seen as a period of changes leading to the dark of winter.

Christopher Hill points out that for Christians who observe the liturgical year, autumn is actually the beginning of the cycle. In an excerpt from his book *"Holidays and Holy Nights"*, he suggests that "the dynamics of the fall of the year have the sweep of a great symphony or an epic poem."

"Fall is a season for balancing light and dark, letting go, and accepting the impermanence of things." [[Spirituality & Practice, Sept. 22, 2020](#)]

I hope these photos remind you of the beauty of the season.



Figure 2: Photo by Rev. Marg at Nith River Campground

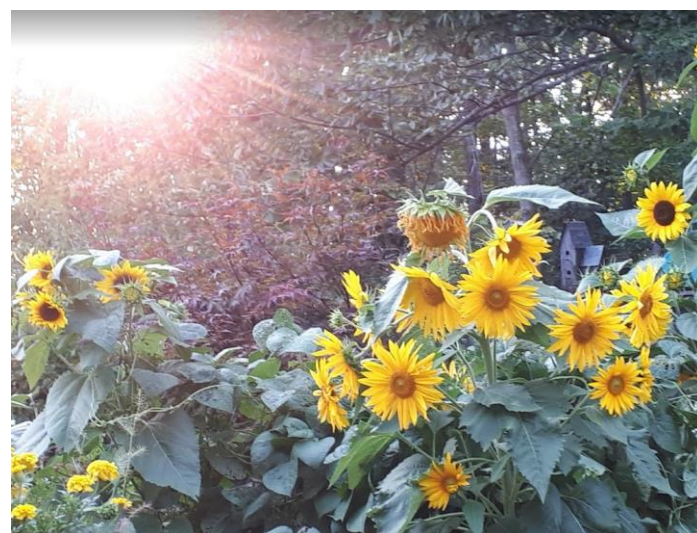


Figure 3: Photo by Don Worthington