

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

February 2021

hope

2020 taught me to appreciate and value things I never thought about....a hug, seeing our family, worshipping in

person, singing in a choir, face-to-face meetings, socializing with friends, celebrating special days....leaving the house!

May we never take for granted the human connections that enrich our life and the sacrifices we made to keep one another safe in 2020.

As 2021 has started with a lockdown, let us continue to show great resiliency and prove that "we can do this!"

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with gratitude that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the New Credit, Haudenosaunee, and Attiwonderonk Nations, on land that was subject to Treaty 3 an area also known as the [Between the Lakes Purchase](#).

We also acknowledge the importance of The Dish with One Spoon Covenant, a peace agreement made between Indigenous nations before the Europeans arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth, to

take only what we need, leave enough for others, and keep the dish clean.

By acknowledging this covenant and the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, we are reminded of our important connection to this land where we live, learn and work together as a community.



[Richard Hill's video explains The Dish with One Spoon.](#)

And so, we begin a new year...

When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



Dates to Remember

- February 16** Shrove Tuesday – your Pancake Supper committee is missing this annual event!
- February 17** Ash Wednesday – stay tuned for details of Zion’s service
- February 20** Coldest Night of the Year Walk
- February 20** Tri-City Regional UCW “A Step Toward Diversity”
- February 21** Annual General Meeting @ 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
- February 24** Leadership Council Special Meeting via Zoom
- March 5** World Day of Prayer
- April 3** Zion’s Easter Food Drive

House Team 3, under the leadership of Kathryn Murrell, is supplying the scripture readers for the month of February. Thank you.

Join us on Zion’s [YouTube](#) channel for our weekly worship services.

News from Leadership Council

Annual Report: The Annual Report has been emailed to you. Those without email will receive printed copies in the mail. If you wish the Annual Report in print form, please call Jennifer with your request.



MAL Vacancy: We need you!! There is still a vacancy for the Member at Large position on Council. This is a wonderful way to support Zion and provide input on the decisions of Council. For more details, call Neil Lackey at 519-656-2653

Zoom Licence Available to You

The church has an enhanced licence for using Zoom (i.e., we aren't cut off after 40 min.) and is available 24/7. This is now available to House Teams/Leaders and congregation members to 'Zoom' with their families near and far. To request access and a Zoom link, please Neil Lackey at 519-656-2653

Caring Team

Lent is from Wednesday, February 17 to Saturday, April 3, 2021. The Caring Team suggests giving up one non-perishable food or toiletry item each day of Lent to donate to the Zion Easter Food Drive.

Easter Food Drive

Saturday, April 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church parking lot. Please support Zion’s Easter Food Drive and bring non-perishable food and toiletries to support our Zion Food Pantry.

“Christ In Action” Right Here in New Hamburg [submitted by Karen Martin]

Stepping off our front porch step and turning towards the downtown core to do an errand, I noticed a man standing at the Zion Food Pantry bending down looking at the contents



on the shelves. He placed a single item or two into a cloth bag hanging over his arm. As I approached on the sidewalk, he stood up and glanced toward me as I said that I hoped he had found everything he needed.

The man looked at me and smiled. He said he was so happy that the pantry was here on Peel Street. He commented that he loved the

whole “take some food, leave some food” concept. He sometimes puts food in the pantry as well as taking what he needs, helping him feel involved in the community service project too. He’s told “everyone” he knows about Zion’s little Food Pantry!

This gentleman explained he was struggling and sometimes hungry. He spoke of his inability to work at this time but how he was also unable to collect CERB.

I thanked him and told him how our church wanted to reach out and serve the community. And as I walked away from him, I felt a warm glow inside and felt like the pantry reflected Christ in Action in our community.

I am so glad to be part of the church and Zion’s Caring Team, supporting our community.

A Personal Thank You

I want to thank the Caring Team for its donation towards the free Christmas Day Meal offered through the Wilmot Family Resource Centre. Angie’s Kitchen supplied 130 delicious meals. Ten churches in Wilmot supported this initiative. Don & I delivered six meals to rural homes. It had snowed on Christmas Eve and blanketed our township, making for a beautiful but exciting drive through the country. Thank goodness for snow tires! Seeing the people’s faces light up when I took their meals to them and wished them Merry Christmas was a very rewarding and humbling experience. They were so very grateful to receive a Christmas meal. I hope this project will continue for many years.

UCW News



How many words can you make from the word “HEART”? That and “Name That Tune” were the activities for our February meeting, thanks to Dorothy and Janet. [Hint: we found 30 words!] The next meeting is Tuesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. All ladies and guests are welcome to join us. It’s a great way to be community and it’s fun!

We were so pleased to welcome Karen’s mom, [Evelyn] June Partridge to our meeting. June has been staying with Karen & Steve since January 16, and will stay until it’s safe to return to her Bough Beeches Retirement Place in Mississauga. Since she’s been here, she’s really enjoyed the home cooking and TLC she’s been receiving at the Martin home!

June was a long-time member of Stouffville United Church. Welcome June! It’s great to have you participate in our Zoom Café, Faith & Life Conversations, UCW and worship services.

“A Step Toward Diversity” – Please join the Tri-Regional UCW on February 20 at 10 a.m. for its virtual Zoom gathering, a time of worship, speakers, and connection.

On February 20, click this Zoom link:



<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/91399944781?pwd=TxHdHN00VfkbWYxS3ljNHp3RkVNUT09>

Meeting ID: 913 9994 4781 // **Password:** 253172

 Or join by telephone audio:

Call the Toll-free Number 1- 855 703 8985
Canada Toll-free Meeting ID: 913 9994 4781

House Team News

The spirit of “ubuntu” – a word popularized by Nelson Mandela & Bishop Desmond Tutu, simply put, means “I am, because you are.” It has its roots in African philosophy, where the idea of community is one of the building blocks of society.¹ So many times throughout this pandemic, we think of ourselves, not thinking we may or could have an impact communally, or that anyone would miss us or cares. But guess what.... we do! Every one of you is important and matters to our community of faith. Every one of us is “the church.” I can hardly wait until we really do need someone to help with the elevator and ushering, but until then, let’s help any way we can, which may just include checking in on someone via a phone call, a card, or email.

As Amanda Gorman wrote in her poem, “The Hill We Climb” - *When day comes, we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.*

Calling House Team 2 members to read scriptures & light the Christ candle in March. Please call Don & Janet to volunteer.



February 20, 2021: Join or make a donation to the [Zion Zealous Zoomers](#) as they participate in the coldest night of the year

walk to support charities serving hungry, homeless, and hurting people.

The Wilmot Family Resource Centre is proud to host Coldest Night of the Year 2021 in Wilmot area. Due to COVID-19, members will gather together safely in COVID-friendly teams, or walk individually.

Click to support the Zion Zealous Zoomers! → → →



World Day of Prayer

What is the World Day of Prayer? “*Informed Prayer. Prayerful Action.*” Imagine Christians from over 170 countries speaking 79 different languages, coming together in spirit, uniting on a common relevant women and is a reality: has been nearly 100 year the Prayer will be



day to pray for issues affecting children. This the movement active for years. This World Day of celebrated

Friday March 5, 2021. The service "Build on a Strong Foundation" is written by the women of Vanuatu. Due to COVID-19, our service will not be hosted by Hillcrest. You can access the program at www.wicc.org by following the links. Hopefully, we will meet again at Hillcrest in 2022. Thanks Wini!

Music 🎵

February is Black History Month. Hope you enjoy these renditions by virtual choirs.

[Down to the River](#)
[You'll Never Walk Alone](#)

¹ Toronto Star, Denis Daneman, December 30, 2020

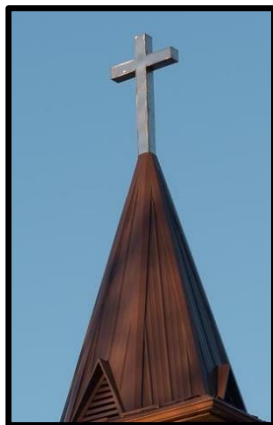
And because we're still in lockdown, I thought this might be appropriate.

[Good Job](#) by Alicia Keyes



Lastly, I just love this so am sharing it with you! [Here I Am Lord](#)

Property



Our latest addition! Isn't she beautiful?? Thanks to our amazing members on Property.

Community News

Dorothy Wilson advises: 50x30WR is a grassroots, community-led campaign advocating for

Waterloo Region to commit to a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. On February 22, from 7 - 8 p.m., Christine Boyle, a United Church minister and Vancouver city councillor, will be the guest speaker at a free webinar. Christine will share lessons from her work creating an initiative aimed at engaging people across generations to explore the intersections between faith, spirituality, and our work for a better world. [Register here](#) for an evening of inspiration and to learn more about how we can help build a just, safe climate future here in Waterloo Region.

Aboriginal Services - Conestoga College and



Be-Dah-Bin Gamik,

Place of New Beginnings, is presenting the 11th Annual Traditional Pow Wow on a virtual platform via [Facebook Live!](#) Saturday, February 27, 2021, 11:30 am - 3 pm. Grand Entry @ 12Noon

Host Drum: Whitefish Bay Singers

Co-Host Drum: Old Style Singers

Head Dancers: Molly Peters & Shane Mitchell

MC: Adrian Harjo

Arena Director: Jordan White Eye

Conestoga Eagle Staff: Myeengun Henry

Firekeeper: Al McDonald

Special Guest: Lotunt Honyust & Kay^thoke Honyust

Prayers - We remember

Elsie Hannon who moved to Nithview, Ellen Luelo, Jan Latimer, Jim Shantz, Darcy Wagner who continues to improve, and all members of our Community of Faith.

Prayer for the Week²

We pray,

For a more loving and kind world,
For a more just and brave world,
For a more free and generous world.

We pray,

For wise and compassionate leaders,
For reckoning and justice for the vulnerable,
For community and vulnerability between neighbours.

We pray,

For hope for a shared future,
For healing for our planet,
For peace in our souls.

We pray, O God, hear our prayers.

Amen.

² Cameron Trimble, January 21, 2021