



The Banner

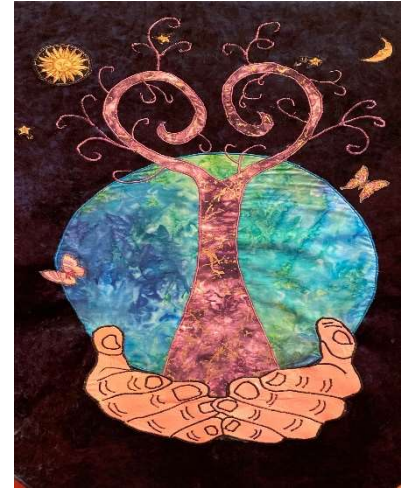
Fall 2024

Website: www.saintlukesunited.org Telephone: (519) 658-2351

"A community of faith reaching out to others through Christ"

*"In grateful response to God's abundant love,
we bear in mind our integral connection
to the earth and one another;
we participate in God's work of healing and
mending creation."*

from United Church of Canada's
Song of Faith (2006)



Dear Saint Luke's Members and Friends,

Life is full of beginnings and endings – not only in our personal lives and relationships but in nature itself. We anticipate the transformation of the green leaves and colourful blossoms of summer into the changing colours of autumn. We also look to the beginning of the liturgical season of **Creation Time**, which runs from **September 8 - October 13**. This year's theme is *"To hope and act with Creation."*

As the quote above from the UCC *Song of Faith* reminds us, being part of God's creation alongside mountains, plains, oceans, streams, plants and animals establishes a deep connection throughout this earth... not always acknowledged, but we believe that connection is present nonetheless. At times, hope may be challenged when stories of rising temperatures, fires, landslides and floods seem to overtake the news. Our hope may wane when humans forget the relationships we share with all facets of God's wondrous world. Yet, as expressed in the UCC *Song of Faith*, as well as this year's theme, we are still encouraged to take an active part *with Creation* (not against it) in the ongoing work of "healing and mending creation," all "in grateful response to God's abundant love."

Further along in the *Song of Faith*, it also says "we are called to be a blessing to the earth." I believe it is God's love within us that enables us to be that blessing, reciprocating the abundance of God's blessings given to us. I also believe it is the God's love surrounding us

that helps us appreciate more fully creation's beauty – within us and beyond. And I believe it is that love still shared in this world, evidenced by the many people still willing to share the responsibility of caring for our global community, that keeps hope alive. Let us perpetrate that hope.

We are thankful, as always, for the beautiful banners (pictured above) created by Saint Luke's own fabric artist Suzie Hollihan, and not just because we are approaching Thanksgiving in October. During the Season of Creation, these banners (antependia) grace our pulpit and lectern. Suzie's wonderful depiction of earth, held in the hands of the Creator, helps us visualize that very care expressed by faith leaders and environmentalists that is needed for the continued existence of our earthly home.

I invite you to play a positive part (individually and collectively, as we are able) in answering the call "*To hope and act with Creation.*" I also invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings, and for other activities outlined in our listings that follow, as we pursue God's work to be a blessing - in our congregation and our community.

If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral support in the form of prayer requests or visitation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or call the **church office (519 658-2351)** where telephone messages are monitored regularly.

Peace to you and yours...

Daria Salemka, interim pastoral care provider
dakmelas@gmail.com



FOR A NEW MINISTER

Our Search Committee - comprised of Carrie, Daria and Mary W. – is delighted that Laura From has joined our team. Laura brings her valuable experience in the work force to our efforts as we continue to pursue leads to find the best possible match for our congregation. Our pulpit vacancy has been reposted on the United Church Hub and updates will be provided when available. Doug Hayward continues as liaison from the Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Regional Council. If you have any questions, please contact us. As always, your prayers and patience are deeply appreciated.

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE 🎵

Choir rehearsals resume on **Thursday, September 5** at 7:30pm under the continuing leadership of Marian Little. All those who love to sing (high or low!) are welcome to join us. Our practices are filled with music, laughter and friendship. Whether you've had experience or not, come and help us lift spirits by lifting our voices in praise and sharing beautiful music!

STEWARDSHIP - RETAIL CARDS

Prepaid orders will be accepted until **Sunday, September 15**. A wide range of cards is available for ongoing shopping (groceries/gas/department stores, etc) as well as popular gift-giving options. Customers get full value of the card while our church receives a % rebated by the companies. The card list can be obtained at the church, or viewed online at our website. **Another order will be submitted at the end of November in time for Christmas.**

Payment Options: cash or cheque (made out to Saint Luke's United Church). Contact Daria or Godfrey to place your order.

CORN/HOT DOG ROAST

Bringing summer to a close, we invite you to our annual fall fellowship time following worship on **Sunday, September 15**. Enjoy fresh local sweet corn (rolled in butter if you like) and hot dogs off the bbq dressed with your favourite toppings. Always a good opportunity to catch up on people's summer activities! A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted.



You have probably noticed recent additions to our church, including 2 railings that enable safe navigation of the stairs for everyone accessing the front of the sanctuary. Many thanks to George Winterbottom for sourcing and installing the railings. You will also see a harmonium (also known as a pump organ) that has

been donated by Heidi (Schmidt) & Tim Mussar. Both of these items will be dedicated at a Sunday morning worship service this fall (date tba).

Liturgy & Learning-Worship Committee News.
WELCOME BACK! after our 4 weeks of holiday

God knows what we need even more than we do. Psalm 23:2-3a show us that God—as He lovingly shepherds us—brings us to a place of rest, rejuvenation and restoration.

The Worship Committee hopes that everyone had an enjoyable, relaxing, safe summer and are ready to gather once again as a community of faith reaching out to others through Christ.

For those who share in leadership and those who share in worship, who help to enhance our Sunday services, thank you, thank you. Your presence is a blessing to us all. We are truly grateful for the varied leadership, both lay and ordered, that we experience each and every Sunday morning.

We are excited to share our Fall Services as we enter into Creation Time and Thanksgiving.



Upcoming Services

Sept 1 – Holy Humour,
Daria Salemka

Sept 8 - Rev. Marlene Britton

Sept 15 - Michele Braniff

Sept 22 - Paul Knierim

Sept 29 - Karen Cartmell

Nov 3 - Karen Cartmell

Nov 10 – Remembrance Day, Rev. Deborah Deavu

Nov 17 - Michele Braniff

Nov 24 - Paul Knierim

God's Peace to All

Oct 6 – World Communion,
Rev. Lynne Bandy

Oct 13 - Thanksgiving, Karen
Cartmell

Oct 20 - Michele Braniff,
SLUC Anniversary

Oct 27 - Paul Knierim

Games night at Saint Luke's Church is back.
Come out and enjoy the fun!!! **Friday Oct. 4**
@7.30pm



More News—

UCW – The UCW invite all ladies to their **POT LUCK SUPPER** on **Wednesday, September 18 at 6:15 pm** in the **Mary Clemens** room.

Please bring a food item to share, your own dishes and cutlery.

Beverages will be supplied. This is an opportunity to reconnect with friends after the summer. Good food, good friends and great fellowship. We will save you a seat at our table.



Fireside Chat Group

Our Fireside Chat Group is still going strong, and continues each Monday morning from 10 a.m. to noon in the Mary Clemens Room. We continued to meet over the summer, even when there were no services at Saint Luke's. Our members so look forward to getting together with each other and don't like to miss this opportunity.

Fireside Chat is open to congregational members of Saint Luke's and also community members. You are cordially invited to join us, and to bring a friend if you wish. There is always coffee and tea, and usually some delicious baked goods.

100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada

Each Congregation of the United Church of Canada is invited to undertake a project, or projects, in recognition of the 100th Anniversary. More information will be shared relating to this, but in the meantime, please begin to get your creative juices flowing and be willing to share your ideas and to participate in this initiative.

Outreach Campaigns June-Oct., 2024

On June 2nd, our guest speaker, Tom Connelly, shared with us the important work of the **Alzheimer's Society**, resulting in a record number of people donating to our Alzheimer's campaign.

"THANKS" to the many people who helped us raise \$779.65 for our local Alzheimer's Society.

Our next campaign runs from Sept. 15th-Oct. 6th, focusing on both the local and global work of **Mission & Service**. By July of this year, we were just \$290 short of the halfway mark for our 2024 goal. By keeping our eye on our goal, and with your help, we believe we can succeed in reaching our goal this year.

Please keep in mind that our grocery cart for the **Food Bank** is always in the sanctuary and as with all of our campaigns, please give as you are able.

**With gratitude,
The Outreach Committee**

Digital Sign -

The Church is continuing to fundraise for a Digital Sign. Our Goal of \$13,000, Currently stands at \$6,050, as of August 20th. While the trustees stand ready to make up for any shortfall, your further donations will allow the trustees to preserve their dividends for the long term good of the church.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Trillium United Church (450 King St.E., Cambridge) is offering the **Alpha Course**, a series of informal evening sessions (Tuesdays, 6:30-9pm) that explores the basics of the Christian faith. It is open to everyone, no matter where you are on your faith journey. A light meal is shared, a short video is viewed and discussion follows, during which you can offer thoughts or simply observe. There's no pressure and no follow-up.

Cost: Free of charge

Dates: Tuesdays, October 1 – December 10 *(light supper included)*

Plus: Retreat Nov.15 (eve) & Nov.16

Please register for the Course by September 24

Call 519 653-6601 ext.2, or email office@trilliumchurch.ca

Two of A Kind – Come and enjoy great music, get up and dance or just tap your feet. As Ellis Chapel Presents Two Of A Kind on Sunday, September 15th, 2024 at 6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch, Ontario at 2:30pm. Rain Or Shine, Bring Your Lawn Chairs. Donations are greatly appreciated. Proceeds for the upkeep of Ellis Chapel. Food Catered By – The Farmhouse Kitchen; Sandwiches, Beverages and deserts will be available for purchase on cash or debit.

