



# *Union United Church Autumn Newsletter*

2021



## **From Rev. Mark's desk.**

**'I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'** Isaiah 43:19a

As I write this it is the final day of summer 2021. Tomorrow is the autumnal equinox. It's hard to believe that we have been out of the sanctuary for 18 months. It's hard to believe we have managed to continue as a worshipping community virtually, especially considering none of us had any experience of virtual worship a year and a half ago. Truly, we are resilient.

And now, we are about to do a new thing - something none of us has ever done before - again. In about a week and a half we will return to the sanctuary from covid exile, or at least some of us will. Others may not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship just yet. And there may be some who have been worshipping with us virtually and have never been to the building, and may never join us in-person. And still others may no longer be able to get to the building, yet will still want to join us. And so it is that we will try to integrate two parts of the congregation: the part that is in the building, and the part that is joining virtually.

Many have been working diligently over the past several weeks to give the church a good cleaning, and decluttering. Others have been working on the exterior care of the building, taking care of things like plugged downspouts and the like. Yet others have been working on what covid safety precautions and procedures need to be in place for everyone who enters the sanctuary.

**Many thanks to all for all of their hard work!**

Roberta and I have been focused on the tech side of things. We now have the technology to send audio from the sound system out to zoomland, and to run audio from zoomland through the sound system. This means people at home will hear whomever is using a microphone in the church, and people in the sanctuary will be able to hear people at home through the church speakers. AND, both groups will be able to view the power point screens.

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As impressive as that may sound, I'm equally sure that we will experience growing pains. Things may not always work as anticipated or hoped for. Another unknown is: what will the organ sound like to those at home, or gathered in the sanctuary in Dorchester? I'm sure that what worship looks, sounds, and feels like in six months will be different than it will on October 3. And, this is nothing new for us. You went through a learning curve when you started using a projector. We went through a learning curve when I started using the tablet. We have just been through a learning curve moving to virtual worship. This will be no different. And once again we will prove the apostle Paul right when he wrote to the church in Rome: **“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from ..... God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** May it be so.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Mark



## **Union Sunday School**

Sunday school will start, by zoom, on October 3rd at 9 am. Valerie and Becki will alternate teaching each Sunday, like last year. We'll be making craft deliveries to each family by Saturday. If you have family members or friends whose children would like to join the Sunday School zoom, please let Becki or Valerie know so they can deliver craft supplies.

Join Zoom Meeting (Sunday School )

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86391024213?pwd=Y3ZZOENuQWkxN1NVeDhNWER0R1JiUT09>

### **Upcoming Services**

October 3 – World Wide Communion

October 10 – Thanksgiving Sunday

October 24 – Dorchester's Anniversary

October 31 – All Saints Sunday

November 7 – Union's Anniversary & Remembrance Sunday

November 21 – Reign of Christ – Communion

November 28 – Advent 1 – Happy New Year!

## **Union United Church Reopening**

We are pleased to announce that the doors of Union United Church will open for in person worship as of October 3, 2021 or you can continue to use Zoom at home. Services start at 9:45 am and Rev. Mark will be at Union church every other Sunday with his first Sunday as October 3. When Rev Mark is preaching at Dorchester United Church, people can attend Union United Church to watch the service on Zoom which will be projected on the wall.

The following COVID safety procedures are in place:

- all persons attending, 12 years or older, must be fully vaccinated and the vaccine status and phone number are recorded with the attendance of the in person services

**All attendees** must do the following:

- perform a passive screening using the posted questions prior to enter the front door of the church
- use hand sanitizer
- sit in unmarked pew (minimum 2 m distance between families/people)
- wear a mask throughout the service
- exit using the door near the Friendship room

Please note the following:

- only the accessible washroom is available, no hymn books/bibles in pews
- some masks are available at the entrance
- offering - it is recommended to mail cheques, use PAR or Canada Helps for your donations and monthly donations are encouraged. Offering plates will be present in 2 places for people to drop off their offering prior to or after the service.

### **Offering / donations**

Those wishing to mail your offering or donation, the address is:

**Union United Church  
c/o Berniece Lidster  
46810 Martyn Line  
Sparta, ON N0L 2H0**

If you prefer to donate your offering electronically, click on the "donate now" button on our website at [www.unionunitedchurch.ca](http://www.unionunitedchurch.ca)

Just complete the form and submit. You may choose "now" or "monthly".

## Union United Church 201st Anniversary

We will be celebrating our 201st Anniversary on November 7 beginning at 9:45 a.m. and you are invited to join us in the Church or by Zoom.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, the Executive Minister for the Antler River Watershed Regional Council, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and Horseshoe Fall Regional Council. Cheryl-Ann will be joining us by Zoom.

Cheryl-Ann is often at meetings throughout the three regions. She is responsible for overseeing, supporting and guiding the regions in governance and administration. She was the Executive Minister of the London Conference before re-alignment.

### Outreach Projects

Our Fall project is the St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank.

Please make a monetary donation by sending a cheque to the address below, or online at [www.stthomaselginfoodbank.org](http://www.stthomaselginfoodbank.org).

St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank  
(The Caring Cupboard)  
24 John Street  
P. O. Box 20025  
St. Thomas, ON N5P 2X3

### Remember

Effective October 3, 2021,  
Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom  
Sunday Worship service begins at 9:45 a.m.  
in person at the church or by Zoom.  
If you need the zoom links sent to you again,  
please contact Rev. Mark or Roberta

### Union Unified Board Meeting

All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

**November 17**

Committees meet prior to board meetings

### Recipe For Living

by Judy Page Jones  
Women's Institute 2021  
Spring Connections

Measure life's shortenings, worries, hates and fears: Especially those seasoned with tears. Crush them into pieces so small, that a teaspoon of hope will cover them all. Mix fresh eggs from the "Dove of Peace", with the milk of kindness and lightly beat. And now the flower from your garden rare, dampened with charity, love, and prayer. Assemble your contents with tender care... then place in the container of everyday wear. For topping you must add sugar and spice; equal portion of courage and laughter is nice. And to make this recipe really outstanding - bake slowly in the flame of true understanding.

