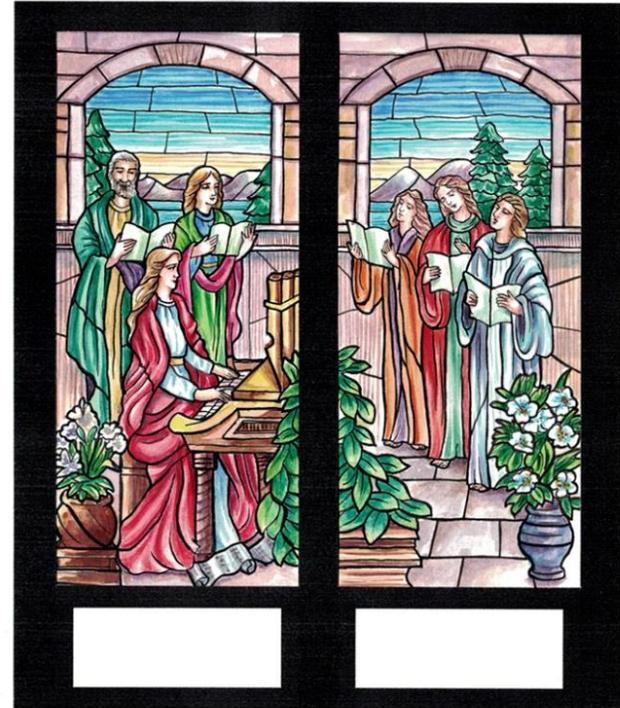


# *Grapevine* *Spring 2019*



## FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH

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### ***From the Minister – in times of transition***

Fonthill United Church is in a time of transition. Several changes are or will soon be taking place, but the church's mission remains the same.

*Retirement* - In January, I gave Council notice of my intention to retire from full time ministry so the congregation will experience a transition of ministers effective January 31, 2020. Council got to work right away, appointing a Community Profile Committee which produced its report. This report tells the "Living Faith Story" of the congregation and describes what you are looking for in your next minister. The Community Profile has been posted on the Fonthill United Church website: [www.fonthillunited.com](http://www.fonthillunited.com). Patrice can email a copy to anyone who asks for it and for those who don't have computer access, she can print the 11 page document. Our thanks goes out to those who prepared the Community Profile so quickly and so well. Their names are listed in the *Notes from the Council Chair* in this *Grapevine*. We will soon be in the next phase of the transition which is the Search phase. The *Notes from the Council Chair* names the people Council appointed to be on the Search Committee. Pray that God will give them wisdom and discernment as they do their work on your behalf.

*Governance*- Another transition that has taken place is in how United Churches are governed. On January 1, 2019 a new structure was put in place that replaced Niagara Presbytery and Hamilton Conference with "Horseshoe Falls Regional Council." This region includes about 150 United Churches. The United Church issued a new *Manual* outlining the laws by which congregations (now called "communities of faith") are to be governed. Back in 2014 we approved a *Constitution* that outlined the responsibilities of the Council and the committees that serve the church, but now that we have a new governance structure and a new *Manual*, the *2014 Constitution* no longer applies.

I have been working on a new *Governance Handbook* to replace the old *Constitution*. I hope to have that ready for your approval at a congregational meeting on June 16. I know that there is hardly a more boring topic in church life than governance but good governance is essential for a congregation if it is to conduct its mission effectively and maintain the peace and stability of its fellowship. It will be of immeasurable help for your new minister to know who is supposed to do what, in the work of Fonthill United.

*Summer Worship* will also be different than in past years. For many years, Fenwick United and Fonthill United have joined together for summer worship but when Fenwick entered into a new partnership with Bethany United Church in Attercliffe, that became too difficult to arrange. This summer Fonthill United will not be closing. Joan Wells, (who is a member of the Worship and Membership Committee), will be arranging for guest preachers to conduct Sunday services in Fonthill at the usual time of 9:30. This will give the congregation an opportunity to hear some different preachers, which will be good preparation for welcoming a new minister in 2020. In August, I will have returned from vacation but our music director, Bill Outred will take his vacation. In previous years Cathy Sturt has accompanied services and we look forward to her doing that again in August and on September 1.

*Refugee Support* – The work of the Pelham Syrian Refugee Constituent Group has been the focus of the congregation's outreach since 2016, but that is formally coming to a conclusion this month. Lyn Taylor has written a full report on how the families are doing.

*New Member Reception* – We have been very glad to attract some people who are planning to become members of Fonthill United Church. We mailed invitations to 12 people who have been attending worship services. Some of them have come from other churches, some of them have been members in the past and some of them are new to the Fonthill community. A Service for the Reception of New Members is being planned for June 2. Council members and those serving in Committees, please plan to be at the church on Friday May 31 at 6:30 pm. The UCW is hosting a dessert party for us to get to know one another better and we will rehearse the service for the following Sunday. Over the years, new members have re-vitalized the life of our church. Council is a good example of that. Eight of the sixteen members of Council have joined the church in recent years. We are grateful for everyone who enriches the life of Fonthill United Church.

The French have a saying: "*Plus ca change plus c'est la meme chose.*" It means roughly, the more things change the more they stay the same. I find that strangely reassuring. It suggests that while things on the surface appear to change, the things that are most important will continue. One of these is our mission to serve God by coming to the aid of God's people.

On the back page of this *Grapevine* you will read about an appeal to help the people in south east Africa who were hit by a catastrophic storm called Cyclone Idai. Council decided to invite the congregation to respond and will keep this fund open until the first Sunday in June.

Times of transition can be unsettling, but they can also be occasions for growth. When God's people unite in common cause, our fellowship is strengthened and we can accomplish so much more than we can do individually.

*Garry van Bruchem*

### ***Stained Glass Windows***

Over many years, the sanctuary of Fonthill United Church has been decorated with stained glass windows. There are however two windows remaining on the north side of the chancel that are not covered by stained glass. Bill Laing and George Rooke have arranged to have new stained glass windows installed. Bill is dedicating his window in memory of his first wife, Pat and George is dedicating his window in memory of his wife, Barbara. The ministry of music was very important to both families so it's appropriate that the new windows depict the choir. The picture on the front cover of this *Grapevine* shows what the windows will look like. We expect that they will be installed sometime this summer, so we will be planning a service of dedication after that.

### ***New Chairs***

You will notice that we have some new chairs. A few years ago we acquired some plastic chairs. Some were bought and some were a gift from Dora Drennan in memory of her husband Doug. These chairs, however, did not stand up to use. Several have cracked and some had the screws fall out of them. Council agreed to purchase 25 new metal and fabric chairs and they are ready to be used. The plan is to offer some of the plastic chairs for sale at the upcoming Giant Flea Market.

### ***Observer becomes Broadview***

The United Church Observer has a new name. If you subscribed to The Observer, you will have noticed that it is now called Broadview. It's intended to provide a 'broader view' on social and religious issues in Canada. Subscriptions to Broadview are the same price: \$25.00 per year for 10 issues. If you would like to try it for a year, Patrice will be glad to get a subscription for you.

### ***Upcoming services:***

May 12 – Rev Dr Alan Minarcik will be preaching while Garry is in BC to visit his mother.

May 26 – The new Regional Council of the United Church will be meeting in Kincardine. Ministers and representatives are expected to be there, so we are planning to have a guest preacher.

June 2 – Service for the Reception of New Members

June 9 – Pentecost Sunday Communion

June 16 – A brief congregational meeting after worship to approve the new Governance Handbook which replaces the Constitution from 2014.

June 23 – The choir will lead a musical worship service

June 30 - July 28 – Summer worship in Fonthill with guest ministers

August 4 - September 1 – Summer worship in Fonthill

### ***Christmas House Tour***

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual "*Homes for the Holidays*" Christmas house tour is scheduled for November 16. Please mark the date of this fund raiser on your calendars.

Many volunteers will be required on the day and we will be seeking your support at a later time.

Should anyone wish to feature their home on the house tour, or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Carolyn or Virginia.

*Submitted by Carolyn van der Sluis and Virginia Haun*

### ***UCW Report***

The UCW was slow getting started this year. The March meeting had a relaxed atmosphere, with Irish decorations and a pot of gold. Ann from Wellspring Niagara spoke of the programs that are now in Fonthill. The annual UCW auction was held in April.

The UCW purpose is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ through Christian study, fellowship and service.

*Maxine McPhail, UCW President*

## **GIANT FLEA MARKET**

Friday May 3 and Saturday May 4, 2019  
8:00 am to Noon

**SET-UP & PRICING:** TUESDAY April 30, WEDNESDAY May 1, and THURSDAY May 2 from 9 am to 5 pm

**DELIVERIES:** Bring your donations to the church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm  
**No "fleas" please, on Friday or Saturday.**

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

Time for spring cleaning!  
Help your church by donating CLEAN items  
in GOOD and WORKING CONDITION.

- \* Housewares of all kinds – dishes, utensils, cookware, linens, storage containers
- \* Items for garden, sports, or cottage
- \* Tools and hardware
- \* Books, cookbooks and timeless periodicals, CDs, DVDs
- \* Jewellery, purses, scarves, luggage
- \* Plants for indoors and outdoors, planters and baskets
- \* Toys, games, puzzles, children's books
- \* Antiques and quality treasures

**But Please: No baby furniture, baby seats, cribs, swings or gates.  
No heavy furniture.  
No encyclopedias, Reader's Digest Condensed books or textbooks.  
No clothing.**

**WORKERS NEEDED:** Please join in the fun and help to set up, price, and sell. Come any day. Come every day! Stay as long as you can.  
**Clean-up helpers are needed for 12:30 pm on Saturday.**

**Questions:** Please call or see Diane Rawsthorn  
or contact the church office (905 892-6433)

### **Customers needed:**

Please invite your friends, families and neighbours to share the fun.

*News from the Pelham Syrian Refugee Constituent Group (PSRCG)*  
After three and a half years, the Pelham Syrian Refugee Constituent Group will be officially disbanded on May 28, 2019. The PSRCG was first formed in December of 2015 so it has been a long process. I think everyone on the Committee would agree it has been a very interesting and rewarding experience. I also think it is fair to say that none of us really understood the scope of the task we were undertaking. Our final job will be to meet in early May and determine how best to disburse our remaining funds. A decision will be made on how to split the funds between the two families in the most equitable manner possible.

The PSRCG is very grateful for the support, financial and otherwise, of the members of the four churches involved and the community at large. To the members of Fonthill United, on behalf of myself, Rhonda, Keith, Gail, Joan, Ralph, Sharron, and Garry, our heartfelt thanks for all you have done to support us. Your genuine interest in the two families' progress, your many offers of help, donations and moral support are sincerely appreciated. A very special thank you goes to Patrice for all of the work she has done behind the scenes managing and distributing the funds, taking calls, issuing tax receipts, accepting donations and so many other things we don't even know about. Another special thanks to Ralph for preparing our financial statements and managing our financial position. Also a special thank you to Keith for a great job leading our fundraising efforts. Given the fact we have a surplus at the end, I think it is safe to say he did an excellent job!

*Submitted by Lyn Taylor, Co-chair PSRCG*

### *Notes from the Council Chair*

The process for finding a replacement for our Minister, Rev. Garry van Bruchem, progresses well. A Nominating Committee, comprised of the Chairs of Committees and the Chair of Council, met in February to select Members for a Profile Committee. This Committee in turn was approved at the Annual General Meeting and was tasked with identifying the nature of our Community of Faith and its needs, and developing a needs assessment relating to choosing a Minister following the new Pastoral Relations of the United Church.

The Members of the Nominating Committee are Jim Bradley (Finance and Property), Janet Hamilton (Worship and Membership), Marleene Kretchman (Pastoral Care), Marian McDonald (Ministry and Personnel), and Brian McDonald. The Members of the Profile Committee are Harold Beamer, Gail DeKoning, Sheila Laundry, Richard Miller, Sherrill Molkoski, Keith Rae, and Pat Tooley. Keith Rae has chaired this Committee very capably. The Community Profile Report will be placed on our website, [www.fonthillunited.com](http://www.fonthillunited.com).

The second task of the Nominating Committee was to choose Members of a Search Committee to be approved by Council. This approval occurred April 16. Members of the Search Committee are tasked with finding and recommending to our Congregation, a candidate for appointment as Minister. The Members of this team are the following: Nancy Curran, Dick O'Brien, Alvin Penner, Lyn Taylor, Pat Tooley, Joan Wells, and Helen Wismer. Pat Tooley served on the Community Profile Committee and thus will provide continuity to the process. Coincidentally, Pat Tooley and Sheila Laundry serve on our Council as representatives to the new Regional Council which has replaced Presbytery and Conference.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit guide all involved and I am fully confident that we will be pleased with the outcomes of their mission.

*Brian McDonald, Council Chair*

## CYCLONE IDAI



The United Church of Canada has invited all congregations to respond to the humanitarian crisis in southern Africa left in the wake of Cyclone Idai.

Cyclone Idai caused severe flooding and devastation after making landfall on March 14, 2019. The storm has affected an estimated 2.6 million people in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, ruining crops, injuring thousands, and destroying almost everything in its path. The current official death toll is over 760; that number is expected to rise sharply.

The images of people caught in the aftermath of the cyclone are haunting. People stranded on rooftops, clinging to trees, surrounded by flood waters. The need for search and rescue is compelling, so, too, is the urgent need for basic food items, potable water and water purification tablets, blankets, clothing, soap, and medical items.

As of April 15, 2019 the Cyclone Idai appeal has received just over \$73,000 to support Mission & Service partners who are responding to this crisis in Southern Africa. Your gifts will support Mission & Service partners as they work to respond to the immediate needs of the millions affected by the cyclone and, eventually, to rebuild communities and hope for those whose lives have been devastated by these events.

From Zimbabwe, Mission & Service partner, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches writes: "We count ourselves blessed that The United Church of Canada have us in remembrance as we battle to respond to a crisis that keeps getting worse by the day as the extent of destruction to lives, property, and livelihoods becomes clear."

**To contribute to this special appeal, simply enclose a cheque, payable to Fonthill United Church, in an envelope marked "Idai."**