



From the Pastor

*Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer*

There are certain things about summer that I treasure. Life winds down. The days get longer. Time seems to dilate. Minutes expand. The spring leaves turn dark green, start pumping out some serious oxygen, and there suddenly seems to be, not only more time, but more air to breathe, and more space to live and move in and have our being.

Summer is one of God's most gracious gifts. Time to make hay while the sun shines. Time to breathe deeply, relax, and enjoy that even greater gift of God - life.

When I think back on my life, I know that it was during the summer that I did the things and thought the things and felt the things that made me who I am today. Winter tested and restricted me, but summer affirmed me and nurtured me.

When I close my eyes and think of summers gone by, I hear the sound of cicadas on a hot Sunday summer afternoon at my grandparents' home in Streetsville. I hear the sound of way too many cousins and aunts and uncles splashing in their pool. I hear the sound of the electric rotisserie turning endlessly in their gas barbecue.

I hear laughter. I smell my grandmother's red rose climbing up the warm red bricks of her house. I smell the rump roast turning in the barbecue. I smell gin and tonic, chlorine, and Coppertone suntan lotion.

I see the blue sky. I see the haze of the humidity filming it. I see the sun smiling down on us all. I remember knowing then that life was good – even though sometimes the life that we live in the winters of our lives can be difficult. I remember realizing that one of my tasks as a boy growing up was to learn to celebrate that goodness, to make it the focus of my life, and to find a way to live my life so that it would be the blessing that my grandparents were to us.

My grandfather was a jazz singer. His brother owned a jazz band. The other thing that I remember about the summer was all that jazz – the Mills Brothers, Louis Armstrong's Hot Fives, Peggy Lee and Rosemary Clooney, and, always Nat King Cole playing like all the colours of the rainbow in the summer sunlight. I remember especially that song Nat King Cole sang about summer. *Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. Those days of soda and pretzels and beer. Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer.*

Those words are not so much different from the words and ideas we find in Ecclesiastes, chapter 9: “Enjoy life with the people whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward.”

Summer is the time for us to do just this. It is time to enjoy God’s grace. Summer is God’s reminder to us to dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer. Life is good. Enjoy it. As you breathe the air, and savour the longer days – it is time to dream, and consider how you might keep the summer in your heart no matter the winter to come.

This Sunday – maybe every Sunday this summer – consider what song you might want to play as you sit and dream and enjoy life. It may be Lady Gaga or Adele. It may be The Weeknd. It may be the Beatles or Fleetwood Mac. It may be something new you hear in a concert at Peace Park. There is a song for you this summer. It is my hope that you hear it. And that you keep this song in your heart.

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. Dust off the sun and moon, and sing a song of cheer.

God bless you and yours this summer, Fonthill United!

Robert Lawson, Pastor



Coming This Fall

Planning is underway for

The Return of the Flea Market

Saturday, October 1

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

As the church will welcome a new tenant in the lower hall in September, our Flea Market space will be reduced. Something has to give and that something will be books. They take up a lot of space and they are difficult to dispose of if they don't sell.

We will continue to welcome your donations of housewares, tools, plants, planters, seasonal items, craft supplies, sports equipment, jewellery, baskets, toys, games and puzzles.

But **NO BOOKS, NO BOOKS!**

Lots of help will be needed:

Monday, September 26 to Friday, September 30 for donations, set up, sorting and pricing.

Saturday, October 1 for sales and clean up.

The success of our Flea Market is important for the work of the church.

**Please mark your calendar and plan to join in the fun
whenever and however you can help out!**

News from the Outreach Committee

The Grapevine is a great way to keep in touch. It allows you to read it at your leisure, or go back and read it again. The news from the Outreach Committee is exciting and everyone can be proud of our congregation's accomplishments.

When Russia invaded Ukraine, we were there to hold a vigil and collect funds that could be used to help the Ukrainian People. We wanted to support those in the community that have loved ones affected by this terrible war and we collected over \$4,000.00 for their relief. We are continuing to communicate with the Ukraine Canadian Congress Niagara to know if and how we can assist.

We were able to contribute to **The Hope Centre** with funds to paint a mural in the grocery area of the building. This was a dual success as **Start Me Up Niagara** was included in the project. The mural will be there for many years, helping people smile and give them hope.

To keep the congregation in the know and to understand the programs better, we have asked representatives from the individual groups to speak. Our committee is very proud to have let our congregation know that these community programs are out there, and that our church is contributing to their needs.

Covid changed our lives and most of us stayed home to be safe. But others had to keep working. They were the heroes who made life a little more normal. With the approval of Council, our support for the **June 30th bandshell night** was a way to thank the front-line workers who kept our community operating through a difficult time.

The Blue Shirts were introduced to the congregation to show team spirit. Everyone who wore them on concert night looked great and Fonthill United Church was recognized. The funds that were collected will go to further the outreach programs and were contributed to your donation to the church.

Some of our Outreach programs require money and some require time. The Huntington Society of Canada is one that requires only our time. When a program like this affects someone in your church, it even makes it more meaningful. **The Huntington Society sells amaryllis as a fund raiser** and all we are going to do is take orders, collect the money, deliver the plants and voila, we have done a good deed. **Please pick up an order form or add your name to the list of purchasers.** They make great gifts (also to yourself) and they will brighten your life. The cost is \$15.00 per bulb. If you are not coming to the church yet and wish to order, just call Gail DeKoning, Janet Hamilton, or the church office.

Louise Stayzer was the lead in supporting Harvest Kitchen. In our church, it was always called "Out of the Cold." At the beginning of Covid, all gatherings were cancelled including our participation. Then Pastor Robert got a call asking if we would help with "**Harvest Kitchen.**" At that time, we did not relate the two names. A group was put together and a new journey began, but it was actually an old journey, and on our first attempt to fill Louise's shoes we toasted her and all the work she had done. **We are now committed to continue serving meals next winter.**

Due to confidentiality, we never know who we are helping in **The Nightlight Program.** We have been providing **Knap Sacks with essentials** to the young persons staying in the residence. When they are able to be in their own apartment, we provide a gift of **towels and a gift card to Wal-Mart.**

During the winter months, due to Covid, persons needing help were not allowed in the building but that did not stop them from coming. So, we **provided meals** to be given at the door until the government told Nightlight it was too dangerous to even be in contact at the door. Our congregation was, however, able to give coats, hats and mittens.

The Worship and Membership Committee has been coordinating drives to support **Pelham Cares**. They have been very successful and will continue next year.

Summer is usually a time when committees take a break, but as September is the start of new programs in the church, we are still meeting as a group to be ready for the new challenges. We look forward to your input!

Your OUTREACH Committee: Janet Hamilton (Chairperson), Lyn Taylor and Gail DeKoning (Secretary), Sharon Middleton (Liaison to Nightlight), Nancy Curran, Margot Fraser, Sharron Bradley and Pastor Robert Lawson (ex-officio).

Submitted by Janet Hamilton, Chair

From the UCW

Following is a summary for the church and its members regarding the United Church Women's Group or UCW. Fewer churches have a UCW as attendance has declined for churches and all other community organisations. The United Church of Canada has always included and respected women and young people as active members of the church. Inclusive? Yes! And worthy of working for Our Lord within the guidelines of the United Church of Canada.



At this time I would like to reinforce what the United Church Women of the United Church of Canada have as their guidelines:

“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 of Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.”

Any woman “willing to contribute her prayers, gifts, and services for the work of the Church” may join the United Church Women (UCW). Along with providing important networking and social bonding opportunities, the UCW has led discussions on, for example, feminism and restorative justice. ‘Indeed,’ says former Moderator Jordan Cantwell, ‘United Church Women are the “hands and feet” of the church.’

As president of the Fonthill United Church Women, I feel that it is because of the work that women did in the church since its inception, that women were accepted as lay workers, deaconesses and ordained preachers. Women represent half of all adults and if their contribution is not recognised, the church and the world is much poorer if this respect is lacking. Think of any country that does not permit a girl to be educated and keeps the female population at home unless within the company of a male. The country is losing half of its potential. Jesus and his disciples had women workers in their churches.

I am so very proud to be part of our UCW as the women use their talents to give service to God in many, many ways. May God bless each one of you.

Trudy Pickersgill, UCW President

Finance & Property Committee Update

When we completed the budget for 2022 we knew there would be some financial challenges because of lower member givings and increasing costs in some areas due to inflation. Unfortunately our predictions appear to be materializing and at the end of June, the shortfall in the Operating Fund amounted to \$31,282. This amount is slightly higher than the year to date projected deficit of \$26,152. For the corresponding period last year, the deficit was \$14,828. It is interesting, but our property costs are up roughly \$11,000 over last year as the building is being used more.

On a very positive note, we have seen some members increase their monthly givings, and effective September 1, we will have an extra \$1,200 per month in net rental income from the Montessori School. Another rental enquiry is under review which could generate an additional \$350 per month. With these changes, we feel comfortable we can keep the year-end deficit under the projected \$38,652.

We are hoping some of the efforts and suggestions developed under the Strategic Planning Committee will help raise additional funds, all of which will be beneficial in the long term. In addition, planning is now underway for a fall Flea Market and hopefully, seeing that we have not had a flea market for two years, we will exceed our budgeted number of \$5,000.

You may recall roughly 5 years ago, we regularly requested that members consider one-time contributions to the Enduring Gift Fund as well as consider a Legacy Gift when preparing one's will. Because of other priorities, we have not placed any emphasis on these giving instruments over the past few years, but will be providing more details shortly. In the meantime, if you have any questions in these areas, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Bradley.

The Property Committee, and more particularly Rich Miller, has been very busy preparing the building for the opening of the Montessori School on September 1. The bulk of their equipment and furniture is now in place and they will be holding an Open House the last week of August. As mentioned previously, there will be some disruption until we get used to having this tenant in the building but we know working together, we can minimize the effects. Over the next two weeks they will be constructing a fenced-in play area which will incorporate three parking spaces near the yard shed at the back of the church. This is being done at their cost. Overall, we feel the arrangement with the Montessori School will have long term positive benefits for Fonthill United.

In conclusion, we very much appreciate that there seems to be many uncertainties in the market today, some created by inflation and others by just general negative news. At the same time, we would like to think we should all feel blessed for having the opportunity to enjoy all the great amenities we enjoy by living in Niagara and the lasting benefits of being members of Fonthill United Church.

Thank you.

Jim Bradley, Chair, Finance and Property Committee

OPERATING FUND STATEMENT - June 2022				
		Year-to-Date	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
RECEIPTS				
	Operating Fund Givings	78,370.07	81,250	162,500
	Loose Offering	252.00	375	750
	Special Contributions (Energy rebate)	1,317.07	0	0
	Church Rentals	2,960.00	2,250	4,500
	Fundraising	0.00	0	5,000
	Interest Earned	2,102.95	3,350	5,800
	United Church Women	0.00	750	1,500
	Solar Panel Generation	3,422.11	3,150	9,000
	Wage Subsidies	0.00	0	0
	United Church Grants / Gifts	1,200.00	0	0
	Miscellaneous Receipts	428.00	325	325
TOTAL RECEIPTS		90,052.20	91,450	189,375
DISBURSEMENTS				
	Salaries & Benefits	70,739.61	72,360	144,325
	Contractual Labour	950.00	1,000	2,000
	Christian Education	64.95	250	500
	Worship & Membership	2,443.13	2,525	5,650
	Other Committees	212.94	313	425
	Outreach Fund Reserve	1,699.98	1,700	3,400
	Building & Property	33,633.16	28,150	49,350
	General Council Assessment	3,718.00	3,718	7,436
	M&S Fund Contribution	3,197.52	3,198	6,395
	Administration	3,635.58	4,388	8,546
	New website installation	1,040.00	0	0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		121,334.87	117,602	228,027
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		-31,282.67	-26,152	-38,652

**TO MAKE A DONATION TO FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH,
YOU ARE WELCOME TO:**

- 1) Mail a cheque to the church at: Fonthill United Church, Box 926, Fonthill ON L0S 1E0.
- 2) Drop your cheque donation, anytime, through the mail slot in the exterior office door at the church.
- 3) Bring cash donations into the office when the church office is open.
- 4) Send an e-transfer to: fonthilu@vaxxine.com. The donation will be directly received by the church's envelope secretary and will remain confidential.
- 5) Sign up for the pre-authorized remittance program (PAR). By donating through PAR, you give your church the peace of mind that comes with knowing your financial support will reliably be there each month. Contact the church office at fonthilu@vaxxine.com (or call the office at 905 892-6433) to register.

Thank you for supporting the life and ministry of Fonthill United Church!