

Epworth United Church

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Fall Newsletter 2024



Greeting in Christ, Epworth United Church Family! I trust that your summer was filled with God's abundant blessings and moments of joy. As the vibrant colors of fall begin to unfold, it's time for us to embrace this new season with renewed faith and commitment to the Lord's work.

We have so much to be thankful for from the summer months. Let's take a moment to praise God for His rich grace that has been evident in our church. This summer, we were blessed to celebrate three adult baptisms, one confirmation, and the addition of eleven new members to our church family. Our June church picnic brought us together in a spirit of fellowship, and our Thursday worship services at two retirement homes filled our hearts with joy. July's Vacation Bible School was a wonderful success, with many children experiencing God's love in a fun and engaging way. In August, we hosted a vibrant youth week and a community dinner and concert with the Connect Church group from Toronto, which drew many people from our community and created lasting connections.

As we step into the fall, we are called to build on this momentum and continue growing in our faith. Our goal of having 120 regular worshippers by the end of this year is not just a number; it's a tangible expression of our commitment to the Great Commandment of loving God and one another (Matthew 22) and the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). When all our members who have been away for the summer return, and each of us faithfully worships on the Lord's Day and invites friends and family, this goal is achievable. By relying on the Holy Spirit, we can help others come to know Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, which is the greatest gift of love we can offer.

To kick off the season, we'll be celebrating Homecoming Sunday on October 20 with a special service and brunch. This will be a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and pray for God's blessing on the day. Our Wednesday Bible Discussion and Fellowship Group will resume on September 4 at 10 a.m., and I encourage everyone to join. The Beyond Alpha group will also begin meeting on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. for fellowship, discussion of Biblical themes, and prayer.

I've been praying for the Lord's guidance on how to connect everyone in our church through small groups. These groups can provide a safe place to share our life stories, study God's Word, pray for one another, and get involved in serving the church and community together. Small groups aren't a new concept; the early church met in large groups for worship and in small groups for discipleship and fellowship (Acts 2). In our society, where loneliness is a growing issue, small groups could be a powerful way to foster deeper connections within our congregation. Let's pray together for the Lord's guidance as we explore this ministry.

As we journey through this fall season, let's hold onto the promise of Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." May we faithfully engage in the Lord's call, trusting that He will continue to work powerfully among us. In Christ's love and joy, Rev. Joshua J. Kang



WORSHIP'S FALL NEWSLETTER

As the scorching heat of summer is finally leaving us, we look forward to the stunning colours of the autumn season, and the smell of the burning leaves. We watch in wonder the migrating birds and perhaps chuckle at the scurrying movements of the squirrels looking for treasures to bury. And finally, we breathe in the cool, refreshing air that for so long seemed to pass us by. Thank you, God, for your many gifts.

August 29th

Thursday nights are bell & choir nights. We are always looking for new bell ringers and voices. Practice starts at 6:30 for Bells and 7:30 for Choir. No previous experience needed. We take all who are interested and love to play and sing to the Lord.

September 29th

We recognize this as Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Residential School Survivors and their families. Please wear your orange shirts on this Sunday to remind us all that **Every Child Matters**.

October 6th

World Communion Sunday is celebrated on this date. Come and celebrate Holy Communion at Epworth with us.

October 13th

Thanksgiving Sunday. We have so much for which to be thankful. From our individual freedoms, our bountiful harvests shown to us daily, to our roadside stands and grocery stores. Let us give thanks for our many blessings.

October 20th

Homecoming Sunday - on this noteworthy day, Epworth will have as many members and adherents attend our church service as possible. Stay tuned for further details.

October 27th

All Saints Day recognizes all of those who have passed away in the past year. A candle is lit in their honour and their relatives rise in the congregation as an acknowledgement.

November 10th

Remembrance Day Ceremony - this special day is acknowledged through the reading of poems, the singing of hymns and the laying of the Remembrance Day wreath by a veteran.



Outreach and Action

The Epworth Outreach and Action Committee will be busy this 2024 fall season, from September to December, organizing the following activities. The details for each activity will follow closer to the event time.

1. Coats for Kingsville: Beginning in September and through December, winter coats collected and distributed to children and adults.
2. Mission and Service stories read on selected Sundays in October and December.
3. The Samaritan's Purse: Children's Christmas Shoebox activity is in October and November.
4. Work with the Fund-Raising committee to serve hot chocolate to the spectators during the Annual Santa Claus Parade.
5. Christmas plants ordered and delivered in November and early December to the members of the Epworth family members living in retirement homes, nursing homes and those who are homebound.

Members of the Outreach and Action committee are:

Nancy Barlow, Fran Coghill, Trudy McHardy, Fran Malott, Don Coghill

We are looking for new members for the Epworth Church Board and the O & A Committee. To volunteer, please speak with one of the members for more information.



Finance Committee

What we Believe, from the United Church of Canada.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that we strengthen one another to work through God's grace for a better world. Giving, Generosity, Gratitude.

BINGO

Bingo continues to reimburse Epworth for expenses such as utilities and repairs. This would not be possible without the help of the volunteers. The Bingo Committee continues to volunteer at the Bingo Hall three times per month and the revenue brought in is very good, considering the time we are there. The Bingo Committee consists of Fran Malott, Barry Pettapiece, Garry Bishop, Ed Buckler & Tom Malott. My thanks to all of them. A more detailed report will be in the Annual Report.



Christian Development

- ♥ Greetings Epworth Family. Christian Development and Faith Formation is busy planning Fall events. On October 20th we are having Homecoming Sunday. Everyone is welcome and we will also invite past members, adherents and friends of Epworth. The Breakfast Bunch will serve brunch after church. On October 19th, we will serve cookies and cider in front of the church during the parade, so please stop by and partake.
- ♥ Rev. Kang will continue with the Wednesday morning Bible study and also the Alpha Reunion on the last Tuesday of each month. Possible topics for discussion at the Alpha Reunion are: Things that test our Faith; What is truth? Miracles in a modern world; How comfortable are we sharing our faith? If you have any other possible topics for discussion talk to Leon or Rev. Joshua.
- ♥ Catherine Leach will attend an info meeting about a community Christmas choir and will report back. Talk to her later in September, if you are interested.
- ♥ Next year is the United Church 100th Anniversary. Early planning ideas are: car rally, time capsule, special Sunday service and more. If you have events to suggest, talk to Jane.
- ♥ We are always looking for new members so please talk to us if interested.
- ♥ Respectfully submitted; Jane Bowen
- ♥ Committee members: Lisa Reive, Leon Barlow, Cathy Leach (Franklin), Natasha Whitefield (corresponding), Rev. Joshua Kang



Property Committee

Hello everyone,

This has been a very busy summer for the Property Committee. Some of the things we have accomplished around the Church are:

- 1/ paddle handles have been installed on all Narthex doors.
- 2/ new carpet has been installed in Wesley Hall, from ramp entrance to office.
- 3/ Property continues to test the monitoring system every month.
- 4/ decals have been installed on Memorial Hall fire escape and basement doors.
- 5/ a new camera and monitor have been installed. This greatly improves visibility at the ramp door.
- 6/ all gas has been turned off to the boilers for the summer. This has drastically lowered our gas bill.
- 7/ all gas was turned off to the stove and oven. This will also help save money on gas. The gas will be turned on to the stove/oven when there is a function taking place that requires its use.
- 8/ new filters have been installed in the Air Handling unit in the basement.
- 9/ lights on North East side of Church have been repaired (one new bulb and one new LED fixture).
- 10/ all chairs in Memorial Hall and Storage Room were taken outside and thoroughly scrubbed and power washed.

The Property Committee consists of: Tom Malott (Chair/Secretary), Sarah Stevens, Emiley Stevens & Alex McHardy

Sincerely submitted by Tom Malott

U.C.W. – FALL 2024



Purpose: To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may experience loyalty to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study and fellowship and service.

Activities: All ladies of the congregation are members of Epworth U.C.W. Come out and meet your church family and enjoy sharing your talents, ideas and yourself with others.

We have an excellent yoga class (chair) on Saturday mornings at 9:30. Great fun, good exercise for young and old. Make sure you give us a try – see you September 14th for the 1st class!

September 10 – Fall luncheon at Kingsville Golf Course. Come, meet and greet those you see on Sundays.

October 8 – Pumpkin Fest – food, facts, fun!

October 25-26 – Our annual fall rummage sale. Need your help, your presence and your treasures.

November 12 – Remembrance Day

December 10? – Christmas Pot Luck

Come out, enjoy the happenings.

---Pat Womack

Semi-Annual Rummage Sale

October 25 and 26

Start finding your treasures!

Set-up will start Monday, October 21



Beyond Alpha

**Last Tuesday Evening
of each Month from
7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m.**

**Come Enjoy the Fellowship
of Others as We Discuss
Some Topics of Faith**

**Each Session is an Independent Theme,
so Come to 1 or 3 or All of Them.
We hope to see you there!**

Coffee, Tea, and Treats will be Served.



**Bible
Study**

**Wednesday Mornings
at
10:00a.m.**

**The group will continue the study
of the Book of Mark**



Socks for Downtown Mission

Thanks so much everyone for just carrying on with the sock donations! It means a lot to a lot of our homeless people. Last year, October 2022 to October 2023, our initial year of the project, we donated 1005 pairs of socks. This year (October 2023 to October 2024) we have added another 373 pairs, for a total of 1378 pairs of socks donated, so far. Since summer is almost over we will again be getting into need for medium weight socks, then heavier when the temperature drops and the snow starts to fly! Keep in mind that second hand / previously used (clean) socks are every bit as welcome as brand new ones! You are good people! Keep up the good work!

FUND RAISING

Sundae Sunday is Sept. 15th by donation.

We'll be selling 3" meat pies for \$4.00 and turkey pies for \$3.60 at the end of October.

The Craft and Bake sale will be Dec.7th so start making crafts.

We'll be having a Book Sale in May 2025. Please save your books or bring them into the church.

It's gift card time again! We will be running our Fundscrip gift card campaign during October and November – it's the perfect time to buy Christmas gifts. Please spread the word to family and friends as well – you can buy for yourself and use the cards like cash at many local retailers. Look for order forms and info throughout the church beginning in early October and help the church earn FREE money!

Finance Report

The Finance Report for the first 6 months of 2024: offerings were \$86,619 and disbursements were \$112,243 for a deficit of \$25,624. Our budget number for six months was a deficit of \$25,000. This deficit was expected. We are on budget for the first six months of the year.

We expect a similar deficit for the second half. At the Annual Congregation meeting on February 11, 2024 we presented a budgeted loss of \$48,229 for the year 2024.

We can make up this deficit from interest earned and capital funds from our investments. Interest from our investments will be about \$27,000 this year and the rest will be from capital funds. Our investments are currently more than \$500,000. We are in a reasonably good financial position.

We thank everyone for their donations. We recognize in this inflationary time, it may be difficult to maintain or increase your donations.

As a Church, we will continue to manage your donations to meet our Church's mission and charity services.

Also, the Sound System Project is a success. The total cost was \$41,499. The Windsor Essex Church Development Fund Corporation donated \$19,376. Epworth donations from our Congregation and various committees were \$22,123.

Bill Follitt, Treasurer, Adele Sims, Bookkeeper, Doug Lewis and the Finance team





CELEBRATIONS!!!

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

2 Samantha Cooper
7 Barb Healey
8 Katherine Turcotte
9 Mary Hebert
13 Jakob Driedger
14 Leon Barlow
15 Jane Bowen
15 Norm Buchanan
16 Gord Queen
17 Rev. John van Omme
18 Steve Whitfield
18 Janet Robinson
19 Terry Wigle
22 Bev Baxter-Schilbach
23 Nancy Barlow
24 Bev Murray
28 Chris Allsop
29 Liz Jackson

OCTOBER

2 Rick Phillips
3 Jasmine lee
5 Helen Buckler
13 Trudy McHardy
14 Lee Queen
17 Karin Dupont
19 Tom Bishop
23 Adele Sims
24 Natasha Whitfield
30 Sandy Buhler

NOVEMBER

3 Marie Bailey
4 Leo Dupont
6 Henry VanVliet
9 Ed Klassen
10 Eleanor Buchanan
17 Karen Linsley
26 Pauline Allsop
18 Tim Buhler
25 Tom Malott



Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER

6 Rick & Gail Phillips (1975)
12 Jerry & Betty Ceman (1964)
28 John and Barbara Van Wingerden (1968)

NOVEMBER

13 Alex & Trudy McHardy (1971)
23 Jan & Ruthann Bonkink (1957)
26 Hank & Jackie Van Kempen (1966)

OCTOBER

3 Claire & Bonnie Sherk (1964)

Happy Anniversary!

For the Kids!

Thanksgiving Top Ten List

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11



F Q G J Y U B H J I I S I C K
F I F Z U X B D R O T K N O W
V F K P X L P F Y N T S D L S
Q A O P G Z Z X E Z E N E D U
A F K O J Y A R Y R Y G N Y Q
C X F L D A A L I P O E V O B
E Q R H I P I O Y L I H C K E
C A U U E M X U F R C L N R N
V Q L S A A Y Z F L L D J I J
O N U F X R L Z B G O C I L B
C O F L T N V T F I T M J C C
H V T N D N B U H H H W E Y O
W K U S E T E A C H E R S L S
X O Z J D E Q I Z W S Y U H L
C N G Y A O X V G Q Y H S K R

JESUS	FAMILY	TEACHERS	HEALTH	FOOD
PARENTS	FRIENDS	COUNTRY	CLOTHES	HOUSE



Autumn is a time to play
God for every day.
Let's Thank God for every day.