



The Angel Line



Spring 2011

Strathroy United Church

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HAPPY EASTER



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 21, 2011 MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER SUPPER
POTLUCK - 6:00 p.m Golden Jubilee Room

April 22, 2011 GOOD FRIDAY - 10:00 am Service in the Sanctuary

April 24, 2011 EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE
8:00 am followed by coffee

April 24, 2011 EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
10:00 am followed by coffee



Blessings from the Minister's Desk

With each day that passes, the horizon of light stretches out before us. As the days are getting longer we anticipate Spring's arrival. Often people resist change, but this change – the change of seasons- is often easy to embrace! Easy because we are moving into the light, the warmth, and the new growth of Spring. As the first plantings on the window sill begin to sprout, and the last blanket of snow retreats, we acknowledge that change is in the air!

It has been my pleasure to sit in Rev. Julia's chair for a short while, and to travel with you through the seasons of Advent and Christmas, that bring us to Lent and Easter. I believe that without the darkness sometimes we forget to appreciate the light. This is the journey of Lent to Easter. A journey from darkness to Light. A journey from regret to gratitude. A journey from brokenness to restoration.

With resurrected light knocking on our doorsteps, might we all embrace the Risen Christ as Easter People. May we open our hearts to Jesus. May we open our minds to one another. May we open our hands to Mission. May we open our eyes to Justice. May we open our ears to Peace.

And for that all the people can say ... AMEN!

May the Blessing of God be with you all.
Rev. Michelle



What is Lent?

By definition, the season of Lent is the time of preparation for Holy Week, leading up to Easter. For many, it is a time to give up something like candy, smoking or chocolate. It may also be a time to take something on – to pray more often, to collect money for a children's charity, or to assist your elderly neighbour.

Lent owes much of its spirit to the forty days Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his ministry. We say he was tempted there, but a more accurate translation may be "tested." The Jewish view of the desert was an abode of demons, especially that part of the desert where winds would howl around tall, rough stone. It must have been terrifying at night: dark, looming shapes, unearthly wailing of wind, and nothing else. In this place, Jesus was offered the opportunity to be the wrong kind of messiah. He rejected each possibility.

The Lenten desert experience for us is about deprivation. Most of the world experiences it involuntarily, but we in the West have so much, that during Lent we are invited to deprive ourselves from some of the luxuries of our lives. For many people, however, deprivation is a great evil, and to be avoided at all costs. In deprivation, we discover that we are not all-powerful. We are slaves to our worldly goods. During Lent, we have the opportunity to hear voices that are usually lost in the din of pleasure and meaningless talk. We can enter into a private desert even in the midst of the world and face our own demons. If we are brave, we can journey through the desert building up our own relationship with Jesus. That is the invitation of Lent.

Easter Memorial Flowers



If you would like to have Easter Memorial Flowers placed in Sanctuary, please contact Bruce Lambert at 519-245-1351, or Dianne in the church office 519-245-0276 before April 4th to order hydrangeas at a cost of \$23.00.

March and April Worship Services

March 13, 2011 LENT #1

Extinguish Candle #1

Sermon: What is Lent?

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

The temptation of Jesus

Children's Message: Ashes to Burn



March 20, 2011 LENT #2

Extinguish Candle #2

Sermon: For God So Loved the World

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Jesus teaches Nicodemus

Children's Message: Spirit, Breath, Ruah

March 27, 2011 LENT #3

Extinguish Candle #3

Sermon: Water Women

Scripture: John 4: 5-42

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Children's Message: Water Water Everywhere

... and not a drop to drink!

April 3, 2011 LENT #4

Extinguish Candle #4

April 10, 2011 LENT #5

Extinguish Candle #5

April 17, 2011 PALM SUNDAY

Extinguish Candle #6

Sunday School to present Palms

April 21, 2011 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Seder Supper 6:00 p.m. Golden Jubilee Room

Potluck Sign Up Sheet on Kitchen Bulletin Board

April 22, 2011 GOOD FRIDAY

Extinguish Candle #7

10:00 am service in the Sanctuary

April 24, 2011 EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Sunrise Service followed by coffee

10:00 a.m. Communion Service

Edith Hanselman's Last Service

Greetings from Council Chair

Spring is my favourite season. Oh, I realize that the clear crispness of a winter's day, the ease of a hot summer afternoon, and the blaze of colour in the autumn can be deeply satisfying... but, spring is my favourite season. Somehow I breathe more deeply in the spring. I relish the newness, the freshness, and the promise that this season brings. From ground that is hard and rutted, bright green shoots grow into flowers that appear too delicate to survive the biting winds. Not only do those spring blossoms survive, they return each year. They bring us hope and a reminder that, although we cannot always see it, or hear it, or touch it, life is always present.

In a sense, beyond our Lenten and Easter observances, Strathroy United Church is on the brink of spring. We are in a time of transition, a time of renewal. Our heavy coats and boots will soon be put aside. They have served us well and, in some form or another, will be needed again, but we look now for change and newness and lightness. We will look over our spring garden and nourish the new life. As the year advances, we will encourage the growth that will sustain us through the winter and we will share our harvest with those who need it.

I invite you to breathe deeply this spring and to take part in our renewal.

Joan Gentleman, Chair of Council

What is Easter?

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Christians believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. Although Easter is just one day in the liturgical calendar, in reality preparations for Easter take place throughout the 40 days of Lent, and it plays a central role in the following 50 days of Pentecost (also known as the Easter season). Thus, Easter can rightly be regarded as the central day in the entire Christian calendar.

We gather to sing Hallelujah, Hallelujah to celebrate that Jesus Christ is Risen, and that we are Easter People. People who live with Freedom and Hope. People who live with Peace and Reconciliation. People who live with Justice and Democracy. We are Easter People Risen anew with the new life of Jesus Christ.



Hello to all Sunday church families and children at heart

In 2011 the Sunday School has been talking about The Church and its Mission. In January we dealt with Jesus the Teacher, learning about the Lord's Prayer and prayer and

The Sermon on the Mount and the beatitudes or Bee-attitudes as reflected in our crafts that the Sunday School teachers picked.

The bee-attitudes from the scripture Matthew 5:1-10 and Luke 6:20-23 remind us to be truthful, be forgiving, be thankful, be patient, be obedient, be kind, be joyful and be a friend. This is a good reminder in our daily lives.

In February we did a rotation on Jesus the Miracle Worker, dealing with some of the great MIRACLES: Jesus calming the storm, Jesus walking on water, Jesus turning water to wine, Jesus feeding 5000 people, and the people that he healed.

These are great scriptures in Matthew, Mark and Luke; feel free to check them out.

In February and March we will be dealing with Worship in the Old Testament through *Prayer and the Temple* (I King 6), *Psalms and Praises* (Book of Psalms) and *The Covenants*. Some readings to choose from would be Genesis 2 (Adam and Eve), Genesis 9 (Noah), Genesis 12: 1-3 and Genesis 15: 1-4 (Abram), Exodus 24 (Moses) and I Samuel.

We will also be learning about the "Fruits of the Spirit" in Galatians and at another one of our workshop rotations we will be looking at Paul and the Early Church.



It is great to see all the children coming to church; we do like to see your smiling faces. Candle lighters are always needed. Please check out the sign up board in the Golden Jubilee Room (GJR) to help light the candle for the service.

Upcoming event:

Everyone loves a skating party and we are having another one: the date is set for Sunday, March 27th, skating booked from 4:30 to 5:20 p.m. at the Gemini, and a potluck at the church afterwards. Come one, come all. It will be a great time for fellowship and food.

Abundant blessings,
Alice M. Milligan
Sunday School Coordinator

Family Skate/Games Night

March 27, 2011 -

4:30 - 5:20 p.m.

at the Gemini Sportsplex



To help offset the cost of the ice, we are asking each person to contribute a toonie.

A Pot Luck Dinner will follow in the Golden Jubilee Room, Strathroy United Church (food can be dropped off at the church any time after 3:45 p.m.)

Small families bring 1 large pot luck item, larger families please bring 2 pot luck items.

Please bring your own plates & cutlery - Drinks will be provided. Bring along your favourite board game.



One Easter Sunday morning as the minister was telling the children's story, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?" "I know!" a little girl exclaimed. "Pantyhose!"

What is Core Discipleship?

Everything we do in church or ministry should have discipleship as the ultimate core goal. What we do each time we gather, whether church services, Sunday School, children's ministry, VBS, outreach choir, etc. all need to focus on making disciples. **"Sitting in a pew watching the paid staff put on a Sunday morning show is all too often the North American view of discipleship; this view is not biblical and it is killing the Church."** Jim Putman, minister/author, Post Falls, Idaho.

Reflecting on this background, I write to you as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

For our very dedicated Chair of Council, Joan Gentleman, to provide maximum leadership, a full complement of Council is needed.

Presently we are in need of several positions on our Church Council: Vice Chair, Chair of Membership and Growth, Chair of Communications and Chair of Christian Education. For your Council to do the work that is set before us we need to have some one step up to the plate and say, "Here I am Lord." There is a saying "many hands make light work." Will you consider offering yourself, even for a short time perhaps until the end December?

We are very happy to welcome Nancy Larocque to Council as Chair of Outreach. Nancy will bring a wealth of experience to this committee.

We will very soon be celebrating the wonderful Easter Season of the Christian Church. Will you consider putting your name forward for one of these positions? Leave your name with Dianne at the Church Office or myself.

May God Bless each of you and your family this Easter.

Bruce Lambert,
Nominating Committee
Chair



Christian Education Programs

Play & Pray will continue until May 2nd. Each Monday morning from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Play and Pray is available for babies and children up to 6 years old. Activities, stories and snack are provided, giving care givers a time to visit. A special Play and Pray is planned for March 14th for children up to age 8, with caregivers.



Youth Supper Club (Grade 5 - 8)

Activities have been planned by the group that include cooking and eating supper, fun times and outings and helping out at church and community events. We've plenty of room for more youth. Join us! Contact: Nancy Larocque at 519-245-1304 or Marlene Dorrestyn at 519-245-2335 for dates of events

Senior Youth Group (Grade 9 and up)

Tina Zimmermann is in the process of starting the group. Contact her at 519-245-0304 for dates of events.

Story Time in the Library - during coffee time at 11:15 to 11:35. Children and adults will also have an opportunity to browse and sign out books, CD's, puzzles, etc.

Baby Nursery - babies and toddlers are welcome. A safe, fun spot for babies and toddlers up to age 2. We are always looking for more volunteers to staff the baby nursery each Sunday during worship service. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Marlene at 245-2335.

Relay for Life - June 3 - 4

Youth Group (Grade 5 and up) will be participating in this event. If you would like to sponsor one of our Youth, see us in the GJR during coffee time.



Attention all Seniors!
Mark your calendars for the Spring Senior's
lunch to be held on
Saturday, April 2nd at 12:00 noon
at the church!
Watch for more details to follow

HOME COMMUNION PROGRAM

Are you unable to get out to church, but would love to have church come to you?

Are you unable to come out for Holy Communion, but would love to have Holy Communion come to you?

Please let us know, and we would love to bring Holy Communion to your home and share in the Lord's Supper together. Strathroy United Church is celebrating Communion on Easter Sunday, and if you are unable to join us at church, please call the church office at 519-245-0276 by April 18th, and we will have Holy Communion delivered to your home.

**COME TO MY TABLE,
FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE
GATHERED,
THERE I AM ALSO!**



Mark on your calendar –

Scott Woods

**Christmas Show
Sunday, December 4th**

Scott and his band are very entertaining and talented. If you can help with this congregational project, please contact Shirley Aerts 245 1141.

Strathroy United Church is trying to be GREEN in as many ways as possible.

The Angel Line is available on our church website:
www.strathroyunitedchurch.ca

Please send us an email at office@strathroyunitedchurch.ca if you no longer need a printed copy.

Speaking of emails, to keep our records up to date please send us your email address and notify us if it changes.

And if you do not have email, and would like to continue to receive your correspondence in paper form, please know that is still an option.

**SAVE WHEN YOU CAN –
SAVE WHERE YOU CAN –
SAVE WHO YOU CAN!!**

PAR, or Pre-Authorized Remittance,

is a “direct debit” program that allows people to support Strathroy United Church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account.

The United Church of Canada administers the program following the giver's wishes (e.g., “x” amount for local church expenses and “x” amount for the Mission and Service Fund). Once a month, all PAR givings are debited from the givers’ bank account and then the total, less a service fee, is electronically transferred to the bank account of Strathroy United Church.

PAR is a simple and convenient way for members and adherents to provide consistent, year-round financial support for their local church. The PAR program is currently growing in the United Church of Canada at a rate of about 15 percent every year. Increasing numbers of people find that monthly direct debiting allows them to more intentionally plan and honour their financial commitments to their local church.

If you are interested in this easy and convenient program, or would just like to have more information please contact Dianne in the Church Office. You can also refer to:

<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate/howto/par>



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

As the new chairperson of the Outreach Committee, I am amazed and thrilled to be working with such a large, enthusiastic and dedicated group of people. This is, in no small way, due to the efforts and leadership of their past chair – Jim Mussell. I have very large shoes to fill!

The mission of our Outreach Committee is to reach out and connect locally and globally to support people in need of food, shelter and fresh water.

For our Outreach Lenten Project, we have chosen to support the project selected by the Middlesex Presbytery of the United Church. That project is to **“raise funds to help build a Day Care Centre for the children of Wattville, in Benoni, South Africa”**.

At the present time, 173 children affected by, or infected with, AIDS, are being cared for in a room about 20 x 30 feet. There is little space for naptime or activities, backpacks must be hung outdoors and there are no indoor washing or toilet facilities. Can you imagine what it must be like when it rains? Paula the cook creates a daily stew and a pot of corn porridge in a tiny tin shack. The Day Care is located in an area where most of the people live in tin shacks and shanties.

You might ask: **“Why build one daycare when the need is so enormous?”** Perhaps we could ask: **“Why do anything about any of the need in the world because the needs are so overwhelming and seemingly beyond solution?”**

We build because this is where we have been asked to build and this is what God has placed before us!

The Outreach Committee is asking for **your** help. You can choose to support this project in **any or all** of the following ways:

1. On Sunday, March 13th, the first Sunday of Lent, we will be presenting our **KARE for KIDS** fundraising project during worship and Sunday School. Let's see how much Strathroy United Church can raise to help purchase bricks, cement, doors, windows, roofing, toilets & sinks (for indoors even) etc..... These little children deserve a bigger, cleaner space!

Donations for the Day Care project are being handled by Melville United Church for receipt purposes only. **100% of your gift will go directly into the building of the day care!** How terrific is that!!!

2. On Sunday, April 10th, there will be a **“COOK the BOOK”** luncheon following church. Families are asked to choose and make a recipe from our recently published SUC Cookbook, and bring it (along with the name of the recipe and page #) to share with everyone. What a great way to try out some of our church members' favourite recipes! There will be a **“free will offering”** to help boost our fundraising efforts for the Day Care Centre. If you haven't yet purchased one of these special edition cookbooks, we still have a few left!

3. **“Treasures for Treasures”** is an event sponsored by the Presbytery – on Saturday, April 9th, at Siloam United Church, Fanshawe Park Road, London. They are looking for donations from individuals for their **UPSCALE SALE**, which will begin at 3 p.m. There will be a Live Auction at 4 p.m., a Chili Supper at 6 and a Concert at 7 p.m., featuring the talents of Presbytery churches. (An offering basket will be available at the supper and during the concert.) Remember: 100% of the funds raised will go to the **KARE for KIDS** building project.

If you have any items you would like to donate for this Upscale Sale, you can drop them off at **Strathroy United church** by April 8th and the Outreach Committee will see that they are delivered to Siloam.

We ask for your generous support to help provide the shelter these children need as we **KARE for KIDS** in a far away corner of our world.

Nancy Larocque
Outreach Chair



FROSTY FROLIC

The date has been set for the 2011 Strathroy United Church FROSTY FROLIC. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 26th**, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It's never too early to start working on your handicrafts or preserves!!!

EASTER MORNING HOT CROSS BUNS!



Ingredients

- 3/4 cup warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon instant powdered milk
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 3/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 egg white
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon active dry yeast
- 3/4 cup dried currants
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons milk

Directions

1. Put warm water, butter, skim milk powder, 1/4 cup sugar, salt, egg, egg white, flour, and yeast in bread maker and start on dough program.
2. When 5 minutes of kneading are left, add currants and cinnamon. Leave in machine till double.
3. Punch down on floured surface, cover, and let rest 10 minutes.
4. Shape into 12 balls and place in a greased 9 x 12 inch pan. Cover and let rise in a warm place till double, about 35-40 minutes.
5. Mix egg yolk and 2 tablespoons water. Brush on balls.
6. Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 20 minutes. Remove from pan immediately and cool on wire rack.
7. To make crosses: mix together confectioners' sugar, vanilla, and milk. Brush an X on each cooled bun.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I walked through the Garden of Gethsemane last week, I was weary. Full days and nights of meeting with church partners and others in Israel-Palestine had meant moving daily among armed soldiers, through checkpoints, sitting and listening to apprehensions, deep longings for peace and justice, and courageous work. I felt both full and empty.



I thought about the last night Jesus spent in the garden with his friends. They were weary, and they found it hard to stay awake with him. Even though they were inspired by Jesus and were his friends, he had to ask, "Could you not keep awake one hour?"

Even with all that makes us weary, may we keep awake with our friend Jesus this Lent. May our eyes remain open, whatever we're facing. With my Lenten video message, I invite you to hear Christ's challenge along with words of poetry and images from the Middle East: <http://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada>. They all help strengthen my resolve to try to stay awake with Christ.

If you'd like to be accompanied through Lent by a United Church community that's praying together in this season, please join me and others in prayer and online conversation while using this year's Lenten devotional book, *Rising with the Morning Star*: <http://www.wondercafe.ca/risingmorningstar>. This is an opportunity to share in a living spirituality that sustains the journey of faith doing justice, focused on God's healing of soul, community and creation.

May our eyes remain open...

May the soul's journey be revealed
and the true hunger fed.

May we be forgiven for what we have forgotten

and blessed with the remembrance of who we really are.~ The Terma Collective from "The Box: Remembering the Gift."

Lenten Blessings,

Moderator,
Mardi Tindal,
The United Church of Canada,

