



White Oaks United Church

1901 Jalna Boulevard, London, ON, N6E 3V9, 519-681-3229

Open to God
Open to new life
Open to you

Date: January 17, 2022

Hi Everyone

We thought it was time to send another congregational letter. Hopefully, you are coping with this pandemic roller coaster we are riding. The fall was looking rather positive and unfortunately, we all have had to cope with another Christmas season disruption and since then we have moved once again to online Sunday Worship Services. Our new Minister, Rev. Michelle Owens only had the opportunity to have one in-person service before the decision was made to stop the in-person worship for a bit. This was not the way we had anticipated welcoming her to our congregation. However, Rev. Michelle has been very accommodating and has adjusted. She is hoping to make contact with all of you over the next while. We have been through this before and while we are sure you are tired, as are we, we will see an end and get back to normal or nearly normal life again.

Even with all of the disruptions over the past year, our congregation generously continues to support our church. We are thankful that we were able to end the year with a surplus in our operation budget and we also exceeded our proposed contributions to the United Church Mission. This coming year will be a bit more of a challenge as we now are back to having a full complement of staff working for the congregation for the entire year. We just need to take things as they come and hopefully, we can have fundraising events later in the year, which will help.

With Sunday Worship Services now being provided virtually, there is also a bit of a challenge in providing financial support to the church. Here is some information on how you can continue to provide your offering:

Firstly, thank-you to all who provide their offering through PAR (pre-authorized remittance). This provides a stable and consistent base of funding. If you do not give through PAR, but are considering it, you can get information by contacting our Envelope Secretary, Martha Gordon by e-mail at: martha.gordon@sympatico.ca or by phone at 519-668-6268.

If you prefer, you can drop your offering off to Beth in the Church Office on Tuesdays 9 to 1, Thursdays and Fridays 9 to 12.

There are also a couple of other options that you may consider, one is by donating through the Canada Helps website at: Canadahelps.org and selecting White Oaks United Church as the recipient, or donations can also be sent by "E-Transfer" to the following church email account:

treasurer@whiteoaksunitedchurch.ca

If you have any prayer requests, please send an e-mail to Rev. Michelle at owens@whiteoaksunitedchurch.ca or Beth in the office at churchoffice@whiteoaksunitedchurch.ca or call the church office 519-681-3229 with the information and they will see that they are included in Sunday Worship prayer time.



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At this time of year, we provide the Annual Report and have our Annual Meeting. We are currently in the process of creating the report and once complete, it will be sent out in digital form to all of you on e-mail and by mail to those who do not have e-mail. The Annual Meeting will take place on February 27th and like last year, will be a virtual event via Zoom. For those of you who cannot attend via Zoom a phone number can be provided so that you can listen to the meeting by phone. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

The Annual Meeting is also a time when committees welcome new members and also say goodbye to existing members that have completed their term. Over the last few years, it has become more challenging to recruit new members and many committees are currently operating with members who have remained in place beyond their term. We ask that you all consider accepting a position on one of the church committees so that these committees remain strong and viable over the next year and are available to support our new minister and the church programs. An outline of each committee's roles and responsibilities can be found in the church constitution, alternatively, you could contact a current member of a committee, or even join the council and then decide on your committee preference later.

Finally, in closing, Thank-you to all of you for all that you are doing to ensure that we stay connected and remain a caring and thoughtful church family.

Yours in Christ,

Dave Thompson, Chair of Council and John Schulze Vice Chair of Council