

THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

Greeting you this morning are Sophie & Abby Keunecke.

Sunday, December 3 *Advent I*
10:30am White Gift & Mitten Tree Sunday
11:45am Lunch will be served in Tolpuddle Hall.

Monday, December 4
9:00am **Quilting** in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel.
9:30am **OEYC Playgroup** in Tolpuddle Hall.
11:00am **Communications Committee** will meet in the Choir Room.

Tuesday, December 5
9:30am **Bible Study** will meet in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel.

Wednesday, December 6
1:00pm **Bridge** will meet in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel.

Thursday, December 7
Noon **Rose Birrell Christmas Luncheon** in Tolpuddle Hall.
6:15pm **Bell Choir**
7:30pm **Choir Rehearsal**

Friday, December 8
10:00am **Book Study** will meet in the Choir Room.

Saturday, December 9
4:00pm **Messy Church** in Tolpuddle Hall.

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Christmas Eve Services 2017 - Sunday, December 24th

Worship - 10:30am (Advent IV)

Children's Service - 4pm

Family Carols & Candlelight Service - 7pm

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From the Social Justice & Outreach Committee - Advent Project - The committee is pleased to announce the initiation of fundraising for Habitat for Humanity. Envelopes can be found in the pews if you wish to make a donation to Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario (habitat4home.ca). Please include your information on the envelope so that we may issue an income tax receipt. Envelopes can be placed on the offering plate during Advent. All funds donated will be used for the construction of homes for families with low income. **Advent Gift Cards:** Sales of Advent gift cards begin on December 3rd. Representatives from the Committee will be in the Arva Atrium throughout Advent after the worship service and you may purchase cards in \$5, \$10 and \$20 dollar denominations. Funds will go to support the agency or agencies of your choice which Siloam has pledged to support: ELUCO, LIRSA, Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada and Habitat for Humanity.

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Rose Birrell Christmas Meeting - Ladies of the congregation and friends are invited to our December 7th Christmas Dinner at 12 noon. Dinner will be followed by a short devotional and entertainment. The cost of the dinner is \$16 (payable on December 7th); however, please indicate if you are attending by signing the sign-up sheet in the Arva Atrium by Sunday, December 3rd or contact Margaret Smith at 519-645-0142.

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Tuesday Morning Bible Study - our fall session continues in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel at 9:30am. We are studying the book, "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton. Leaders this fall will be Stu Cunningham, Ric Graham, and Sheila Macgregor. All welcome! Our final meeting before Christmas will be Tuesday, December 5th at 9:30am. Christmas Break will follow.

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New Tuesday Bible Study will begin on January 23rd at 9:30a.m We will be using the book/video study by Adam Hamilton entitled "Moses: The Reluctant Prophet" Six Sessions. Please purchase your own book through Amazon or Chapters. Those who do not have access to Amazon or Chapters, please contact Sheila or Erin and ask them to order you one. 519-455-9201. In March we will do Adam Hamilton's book and video study on suffering, entitled: "Why? Making Sense of God's Will." Again, we invite you to order your own book if you are able to do so. Thank you.

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"The Gift of the Magi" - a one-act Christmas operais coming to First-St. Andrew's United Church, 350 Queens Ave, at Waterloo - **Friday and Saturday December 8th and 9th**. The show features Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Todd Wiczorek, Chad Louwerse and Terry Head and is directed by George Jolink. Treat yourself to a dinner out at the Church followed by an inspiring musical performance. Dinner and show on December 8th and 9th at 6:30 pm for \$45; show only, at 8 pm for \$20. Matinee on December 9th (show only) at 3 pm for \$20. Tickets online at www.fsaunited.com, or for show only, at the door. Cash bar at all performances.

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Changes to Subsidized Transit for Seniors - Information Session - beginning January 1, 2018, there will be changes to London Transit for seniors. Next information session is **Wednesday, December 6 from 4:30-6pm at the Kiwanis Seniors' Community Centre**. For more information, please contact 519-661-5910 or london.ca/transitsubsidy.

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Movie Night - Friday, December 8th - Steven Britton will be choosing this month's movie (slbritton@rogers.com or 519-472-6374).

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Christmas Messy Church: Don your ugly Christmas sweater and join us December 9 from 4-6 PM. Invite your extended family, neighbours and friends and join us to decorate the Sunday School tree, create Advent wreaths, play games, share in a short worship service, and sit down to a meal together. Dinner is served at 5:30, but you are invited to come as you are and to arrive when you can. Please register with Jen Prince at jlcprince@yahoo.com or by calling the church office on or before Monday, Dec 4 so that we can be sure to set out enough plates.

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Labyrinth Walk - The labyrinth will be set up for a meditative walk on **Thursday, December 21st from 4-6 pm in Tolpuddle Hall**. At 4:00 pm there will be an opening devotional time for those who would like an introduction to walking the labyrinth. You are welcome to come and walk at any time during the two hour block. For more information, please speak to either Janet Fradette or Janelle Towle

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Open Mic Coffee House - December 13th - 6:30-8:30pm - Sing a song, dance, slam a poem; share your talent with us & with other high-school aged youth. Please join us at the Beacock Library, Meeting Room A, 1280 Huron Street.

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News from LIRSA.....as many of you remember, Siloam was one of the churches that supported the Asad family who arrived from Syria, via Turkey, in February 2016. The Asad family is very happy to announce the birth of Maria on November 23. Mother and baby are doing well, as are Dad and Maria's big sisters.

Banner United Church "Country Christmas Musical Service" - Sunday, December 10th at 3pm. Special musical guests include The Marrieds, Jorge Trabanco & Brent Jones.

Friday Morning Book Club - 10am in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel - Tired of the traditional book club? Always scrambling the night before to finish the book in time for your meeting? Then this group is for you! We will be reading together in an atmosphere of love & concern for each other. As followers of Christ, we can and often do learn from those who follow other paths. The goal of this group is to gather together informally to explore a variety of spiritual writings from Christian & other traditions. Our first book will be Dr. Wayne Dyer's *Change Your Thoughts. Change Your Life. Living the Wisdom of the Tao*. We will read and reflect on a chapter a week. For more information, please contact Rev. Ross Williams at 519-474-6038, David Dillon or Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor at 519-455-9201. Future books will be chosen by the group. Come to one or come to all!

Coffee Servers...a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered this past year to host the coffee/juice table after Sunday service. Unless we hear from you, we are assuming that you will continue to be part of the group for 2018. We would love to add some new names to this group...are you interested? Congregational Life members will help walk you through the process...it's very easy and just means you would need to stay after church for about an extra 40 minutes. Remember, we have an automatic dishwasher so cleanup is a breeze! Please contact Liz Griffin (519-204-3100 or segriffin1@hotmail.com) regarding this chance to volunteer approximately 2 times each calendar year and to meet lots of people.

SIZZLERS!! Sizzler event - **Saturday, September 22nd, 2018** at noon - Walters Dinner Theatre in Bright, Ontario - "Jukebox Heroes Live" show. Book early as these shows sell out fast! Information sheets are available in the Arva Atrium.

The new **Gifts with Vision** catalogue has arrived! Why not give an alternative gift this Christmas or for special occasions all year long? These gifts make wonderful options for teachers, baby showers, anniversaries, birthdays & more! Catalogues available in the Arva Atrium. This year's Gifts with Vision catalogue offers opportunities to give meaningful gifts to bring hope to people in their community, Canada, & around the world.

No Way To Treat A Child - Canada Canada-Wide Campaign has been Launched - UNJPPI has joined the No Way to Treat a Child - Canada campaign. The campaign was a focus at the 2017 UNJPPI Gathering in Winnipeg Sep 8-10. Israel is the only country in the world to automatically prosecute children in military courts that lack basic safeguards for a fair trial. From the moment of arrest, Palestinian children encounter ill-treatment and torture at the hands of Israeli forces. Three out of four experience physical violence during arrest or interrogation. Visit the website by going to www.nowaytotreatachild.ca. Sign the petition on the website: <http://bit.ly/2voG5IE> Visit the UNJPPI website (www.unjppi.org) for more information.

Emergencies at Home and around the Globe - The United Church of Canada is monitoring several situations around the world where people are facing the effects of extreme weather events. Please join us in praying for those impacted by these events, our partners in the regions, and those who remain in harm's way from approaching storms. The United Church of Canada is accepting donations for relief efforts related to Hurricane Irma. The United Church of Canada works with several churches and agencies throughout the Caribbean region, including ACT Alliance, the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas, the Cuban Council of Churches, and the Karl Lévéque Cultural Institute. This provides multiple ways that the church can assist people affected by Hurricane Irma to assist with evacuations and emergency shelter where necessary, and to plan for post-storm responses. How to donate:

Online via <https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=1955&AID=2274&PID=5549>

Phone 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

Send a cheque (note "Emergency Response—Hurricane Irma"), money order, or Visa or MasterCard information with donation amount to:

The United Church of Canada
Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4
Please be sure to .

Magnetic nametags! Please contact Erin in the office (519-455-9201 or office@siloamunitedchurch.org) to order your new nametag at a cost of \$3.

ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) Food Cupboard is always in need of non-perishable food items, including cereal. The food cupboard is open Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:30am-noon. Contact Sharon Ashton, 519-455-9385 if you are interested in volunteering. **In October 2017, the Food Cupboard served 49 families (91 adults & 31 children).** www.eluco.ca

If you would like to donate one of our special bulletins in memory or in celebration of a loved one, an income tax receipt will be issued for cost of bulletins. Please contact the church office for more info. Cost of 200 bulletins is \$30.

Offering Envelopes - If you are not already receiving Siloam offering envelopes & would like to receive them for 2018, please contact June Sunseth at 519-432-9948. If you would like to receive offering envelopes for your children/grandchildren, please contact Alliene Dowswell at 519-660-4043.

Quarter Time Pastor for Agape Fellowship Needed - As you may be aware, Agape Fellowship has been looking for a new pastor since February of this year. Unfortunately we have been unsuccessful in our search to date. So, we have made a few changes. The previous half time position has been divided into two quarter time positions, a Pastor and an Outreach Coordinator. We are hoping that a quarter time pastoral position will be easier to fill by someone who has interest in supporting the vision of Agape Fellowship. This individual could be:

A person who might have other part-time employment such as a chaplain, or

Someone with pastoral/social interests, or

A retired pastor wanting some part-time involvement.

Please take a bit of time to think of whom you may know who might have the skills, training and heart for a position of this sort and pass this information on to them.

Pastor (0.25 FTE) - Agape Fellowship - We are looking for a mature, compassionate pastor of a small mission church in Northeast London. This church originates out of a Mennonite/Anabaptist perspective, and is a member of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. Many of the members deal with significant physical, mental, emotional and financial challenges..

This Pastor will provide spiritual leadership

This Pastor will provide pastoral care in the community

This Pastor will lead worship

This Pastor will be responsible for weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. on an as-needed basis

This person will have a heart for God's mission in northeast London

This person will work closely with the **Outreach Coordinator**

Interested persons please contact Brenda Beer-Brissette at 226-927-1657 & brendabeerbrissette@hotmail.com and/or Gloria Janzen at 519-858-3824 & gloria.janzen@yahoo.ca .