

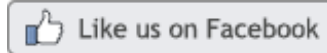
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SILOAM United Church

To be Christ to each other and God's World



Fanfare

Easter Edition 2018

Fanfare is the quarterly newsletter of Siloam United Church highlighting the life and work of our faith community. You are also invited to visit our website at www.siloamunitedchurch.org or send your comments and feedback to office@siloamunitedchurch.org.

FANFARE NEWS! If you have family news and/or photos that you would like to share in future editions of Fanfare please let us know! You can send your news items to office@siloamunitedchurch.org and we will include as we are able.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, March 29th - Please join us at St. John the Divine Anglican Church, Arva (21557 Richmond Street) for their annual Maundy Thursday supper and worship service. Dinner is at 6pm and worship is at 7pm (RSVP for dinner by using the sign-up sheet in the Arva Atrium).

Good Friday - Friday, March 30th - 10am

Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 1st - 10:30am

A Message From Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor...

March 4th, 2018

Dear Friends,

I am writing this not long after my return from the Emerald Isle, where my family and I attended a family wedding (see pic at right). Blessed by beautiful sunshine every day of our trip, we saw Ireland at its very best.



One of our favourite excursions while in Ireland was a day trip to the Giant's Causeway (see pic below - Alexandra, Richard, Lachlan & Malcolm), an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns located in County Antrim on the north coast of Northern Ireland.



Legend has it that the columns are the remains of a causeway built by a giant. The story goes that the Irish giant Fionn MacCool was challenged to a fight by the Scottish giant Benandonner. Fionn accepted the challenge and built the causeway across the North Channel so that the two giants could meet. In one version of the story, Fionn defeats Benandonner. In another, Fionn hides from Benandonner when he realises that his foe is

much bigger than he is. Fionn's wife, Oonagh, disguises Fionn as a baby and tucks him in a cradle. When Benandonner sees the size of the 'baby', he reckons that its father, Fionn, must be a giant among giants. He flees back to Scotland in fright, destroying the causeway behind him so that Fionn would be unable to chase him down. Across the sea, there are identical basalt columns on the Scottish isle of Staffa. The Giant's Causeway is a magnificent site and it was wonderful to be there on such a gloriously sunny day.

The north is not the only place in Ireland that is known for its incredible rock structures. In the Dingle peninsula, in County Kerry on the southeast coast, there is a rock known as the Rock of Tears. It was here that emigrants from the Blasket Islands and Sleat Head paused for a while and wept. From here they caught a last glimpse of the home they were leaving and would never see again. Beyond this bend the road stretched to Dingle, to Cobh, and to the ships that would carry them away from their beloved homeland. It was a tearful moment.



Saying good-bye is never easy. The hour of parting from a loved one is a painful hour and often there are many tears. At such times, we are moved to speak words that really matter. This is when we appreciate our family and friends most. Only the essentials matter now. Words like "I love you." Words that contain sage advice for the recipient. That kind of thing.

These are the words that Jesus speaks to his disciples on the night of his betrayal and arrest. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." (John 15) Then some excellent advice: "Love each other as I have loved you." These are Jesus' final words to his followers before he is led away to stand trial and then to be crucified on Calvary. "Love one another." If they obey this command, he tells them, then his joy will be in them and their joy will be complete. A bit later, he promises to send them an advocate, the Holy Spirit, someone who will comfort them when he is gone.

It is this same Spirit that accompanies us when we face struggles and dangers. It is this same Spirit who journeys with us through our own pilgrimage to the Cross of Good Friday, who stays with us through our own dark night of the soul, when all seems lost.

As we enter into the final week of our Lord's life, and as we journey with him to the Cross, may we find comfort in the Master's love for us, and in the presence of the Spirit, who is our comforter and guide. Let us remember too that, while partings are often tearful and frightening, there is much joy when we are reunited with those we have loved and lost. This is Jesus' promise to each of us, fulfilled in the Resurrection on Easter morning. As John writes in his gospel, "Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."



Again, according to John, "Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So, with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." (John 16)

It is this incredibly wondrous and amazing joy that we celebrate in the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. We can believe this promise because the One who makes it is trustworthy.

Happy Easter!

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, B.A., M.A., M. Div., D. Min.
Lead Minister and Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care

PS - At long last, my book has been published! Check out www.friesenpress.com for more information on ***Re-Designing Your Life: A Practical Spirituality for the Second Half of Life***. Special thanks to everyone at Siloam who encouraged my research! Your support is deeply appreciated! You may also check out my blog post for March 3rd at <https://boomerality.com> and there is a link that will direct you to a page from which you can order my book. You can also purchase a copy in the church office at a reduced cost of \$20.

Mark Your Calendars!
CANADIAN BOOMERFEST 2018:
A CELEBRATION & COLLOQUIUM ON BABY BOOMERS AND SPIRITUALITY

October 17 to 19, 2018 here at Siloam!

Interested in Growing Your Spirituality in the Second Half of Life?

Want to Discover How You Can Support Baby Boomers and Older Adults in their Quest for Meaning, Health and Well-Being? Keen to Learn How You and Other Boomers in Your Faith Community Can Better Connect with Younger Canadians?

Join us for the inaugural Canadian Boomerfest and Spirituality Colloquium

<http://canadianboomerfest.siloamunitedchurch.org/>

A Message From Jennifer Prince, Ministry of Youth & Young Families...

Hello Siloam Family and Happy Easter!

It has been a busy and wonderful winter, and as much as I have resolved to enjoy the white stuff as long as it is here since we can't do anything about it, I was excited this past St Patrick's day weekend to see red wing black birds, and I am looking forward to the days when temperatures creep past the freezing mark and into the double digits.

Our young people have been busy too. Coffee House saw 52 participants this month, and I am always so happy to have the opportunity to see all of the talent, wisdom, heart, and imagination that this up and coming generation has to offer. It is truly a privilege to get to know this group.

Our Sunday school is enjoying a slight re-boot to the program with more hands-on games and activities that relate to the lectionary scriptures. The already minimal teacher-prep time has been reduced, and teachers and students are reporting to me that students are more engaged with the lesson. Youth Café continues to have thoughtful discussions on what it means to be a Christian and how our faith is lived out in our daily lives. Want in on the fun? We have room for more teachers, so if you are interested, let me know.

Soul Groove choir is back, and we are very interested in adding to this choir's membership. It is open to kids ages 4-18, so if you or someone you know is interested, please talk to me or to Carla Lord.

Hops and Hope has resumed with the financial support of London Conference, and the practical support of Riverside staff. There are more youth ministry personnel in the area interested in helping to lead and plan this fun and often insight-giving for all program for young adults. This program meets in a local pub and offers young people a chance to socialize, apply scripture to their everyday life, and make powerful connections with their local churches and one another.

Messy Easter happens on March 24th, complete with art activities and games for families and a little friendly competition as we host a pasta sauce cook-off. I am looking forward to it and I am hearing that our families that attend this event are too.

As we approach the upcoming Holy Week, I have had a chance to reflect on just how blessed I have been to have begun my journey through ministry with Siloam. I am truly thankful for the support and encouragement and all of the teachings I am receiving on a daily basis from the staff and congregation of this amazing church family. Thank you all. I look forward to continuing the adventure with you and your young people.

Yours in Christ,
Jen Prince

A Message From Kerry Stover, Ministry of Visitation...

Dear Friends,

If it wasn't for the cold brisk wind that I am walking against to get to school today, I would say that spring is almost in the air.

Spring is a time for newness of life; to see the buds bloom, the earth return to its green lush carpet and the colourful plantings as we are filled with hope and joy. We also anticipate Easter just a week or so away. A time of reflection, peace, and remembering the greatest gift that was given to each of us; the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We have journeyed through Lent, penitent and giving of our gifts so that others may live in peace and with harmony in their lives. We have embraced others on our journeys as we are called to be disciples of Christ, "they will know us by our love" and to go into the world to be Christ to one another.

During the season of Lent and in anticipation of Easter, I will be finishing my classes for the Master of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College in Toronto on April 12th. The degree is just one of three items that I require for ordination into UCC ministry. The other two requirements for ordination are an internship and then a recommendation from the Conference Student review committee on my suitability for ministry. Three years of seeking, questioning, research and reflection on various theological subjects have laid the foundation for an understanding of ministry. In the next two weeks I will prepare for my last classes and

my final essays and I know that there is new day dawning. A resurrection of sorts that brings hope and grace to my life. As I reflect on that grace in my life, my words cannot express my deep felt appreciation for the support that you have given me over these years. And like every spring, the buds bloom, the grass turns green and we journey on with the love of the God, the hope of Jesus our Redeemer and the support of the Holy Spirit to guide us on our various journeys. Thanks be to God for the blessing you have been to me on my journey and for the blessings in all of our lives during Lent and this coming Easter season.

Peace,
Kerry

Pastoral Visitation

Please note that Sheila continues to conduct pastoral visits to our Siloam members and friends and tries to get around to see as many people as she can. She appreciates hearing from you if you know of someone who needs a visit or if you would like a visit yourself. However, because we have a big congregation with many needs, Sheila is very grateful also to have Kerry Stover assisting in this important ministry. Kerry will be visiting mostly members and adherents from our mature population; but he will also conduct other visits when Sheila is away. Please speak to Sheila or Kerry - or phone Erin in the office - if you or someone you know would like a pastoral visit. Thank you.

Youth and Young Families

Messy Church - Saturday, March 24th - 4pm-6pm

Come as you are, and come when you can! Crafts, Activities, Fun Worship, and Great Food! A chance for families to explore faith & enjoy a meal together. This month we will be celebrating Messy Easter! Please contact Jen Prince at jl prince@yahoo.com to register so we have an idea of how many to expect for dinner.

Hops & Hope - Sunday, April 8th - 7pm-9pm

Faith and fun centred discussion with other younger adults from ages 19-30ish. Join us and co-hosts from other London United Churches at McCabe's Irish Pub.

Open Mic Coffee House - Wednesday, May 23rd

Play a tune, read a poem, sing a song, or just sit back and enjoy the fun with other high school aged youth! Please join us from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Beacock Library, 1280 Huron Street.

Soul Groove Choir - Sunday Mornings 9:45am

Every Sunday morning elementary and high school aged young people are invited to join us for a fun choir experience from 9:45 to 10:15 AM (classroom #3). We sing once a month at our intergenerational services, so feel free to contact Carla Lord, our Soul Groove director, if you would like more information: clord@rogers.com

Outreach

OUR LENTEN PROJECT & HOW YOU CAN DONATE:

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee - This year in Lent you can support the Revitalization of this United Church camp which has played a vital role in developing programming that connects with the social issues important to the United Church today while providing a magical camp experience for children. You can contribute either to the Capital Fund – which will facilitate needed upgrades to the camp – or the Endowment fund – which supports Camper scholarships. Please see the information posted on the website and support this vital Ministry. You can use the pledge forms and envelopes which you will find in the pews throughout Lent. You can also find the pledge form online and mail your gift directly to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. **Please make cheques payable to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee.** Thank you for your generosity!

The Outreach Committee reminds the congregation of coming events that deserve your support.



Do remember, hunger never takes a holiday. When doing your grocery shopping, please take time to add some items to your list that can go to the E.L.U.C.O. food cupboard.

Here's what we need

Pasta - spaghetti preferred

Canned Goods - especially vegetables, stew, tuna, salmon, meats

Beverages - tea, instant coffee, powdered milk

Peanut butter, jell-o, cheese slices, margarine, breakfast cereal

Dish soap and toiletries.

Help Needed

Every Wednesday from September to June at the Hillcrest Salvation Army a nutritious hospitality lunch is served by a group of area churches. Siloam is one of the churches. We could use an extra pair of hands to help out with the serving on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Please see Sharon Ashton if you are interested in assisting us and for more details. sharonashton93@hotmail.com or 519 455-9385.

Property

The Property Committee is happy to announce that we now have an Automated External Defibrillator unit (AED) at Siloam! The AED is located opposite the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel, beside the Chancel Cupboard.

Opportunities for Involvement

Want to get involved in the life and work of Siloam United Church? Do you have talents to share but don't know where to start? The Stewardship Team has designed a form to help! Please click the link below to access the form, or you can pick up a yellow form just outside the church office. [Opportunities for Involvement](#)

The form can be returned to the church office or placed on the collection plate. Thank you!

Coming Events

Ham and Scalloped Potato Dinner

Home made pies for dessert



**SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
1240 Fanshawe Park Rd East**

**Saturday April 21, 2018
6:00 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$20/person
Advanced Ticket Sales Only
Available at the church office or by calling
519.455.9201**

Tables of Ten

Proceeds will go to support the continuing work of the
Rose Birrell Women's Group at Siloam United Church

Please join us and bring your friends.

Mark Your Calendars - Coming Soon!

Friday, April 27th - Forest City Singers Spring Concert
Saturday, May 5th - Spring Yard & Bake Sale
Saturday, June 2nd - Chicken BBQ

Be sure to check your bulletins for more information on these events, and more!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We are currently studying Adam Hamilton's book on suffering, entitled: "Why? Making Sense of God's Will." We meet in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel at 9:30am on Tuesday mornings. New members are always welcome!

Friday Morning Book Club

Book club meets on Friday mornings at 10am in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel. Want to join with other seekers who like to discuss spiritual questions and explore spiritual writings? 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 in an atmosphere of love and concern for each other and will read and reflect on a chapter per week. For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Rev. Ross Williams or David Dillon. Future books will be chosen by the group. Come to one or come to all!

Book of Revelation Study

Are you interested in studying The Book of Revelation this spring? If so, please contact Sheila at smacgregor@silouamunitedchurch.org or leave a message with Erin in the office. The Book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God's message in this peculiar part of the Bible? Taking as our guide the very user-friendly book written by the eminent New Testament scholar, the late Rev. Dr. Bruce Metzger, we will explore this final book of the New Testament and its meaning for our lives today. Starting the week of April 9th

or later, we may break up this 11-session series into two parts, if the group prefers to study half of the book in the spring and half in the Fall. This will be determined at our first meeting.

For now, please use the sign-up sheet in the Arva Atrium and check off as many of the following days and times that could work for you (Tuesday morning, Wednesday evening, Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Sunday after church).

Drumming Circle

Sunday evenings, beginning Sunday, April 15th - 7pm-8pm

Please join us for our next 6-week drumming circle, facilitated by David Dillon. Expand your technique, grow spiritual discipline, enhance psychological health, build community. No previous experience required! A few drums will be provided, as well as other percussion instruments. Please register with Erin at 519-455-9201 or office@silouamunitedchurch.org or sign the sheet in the narthex.

Ageless Grace

Join instructor Odile Brockman-Lee in Tolpuddle Hall for this exercise program for the brain and body, done in a chair, to lively, fun, upbeat music! Sessions are Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30pm beginning January 9th. **NOTE:** there is a \$2 fee per class.

Zentangle Art Afternoons

Join us in the Gethsemane Room on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4pm beginning April 4th. Sign-up sheet is available in the Arva Atrium - check out the Zentangle samples attached to the sign-up sheet. All welcome!

Visioning Workshop Day

Saturday, April 7th

Thank you for the overwhelming support we have received for our Visioning Day! For those who have registered, please arrive between 9:30-9:45am on Saturday, April 7 so we can begin promptly at 10am. This is a chance for members of our congregation to participate and help develop our new Siloam Church Mission for the future. It is a chance to share your thoughts on what our Mission should be going forward. It's also a chance to learn about the latest trends in congregational mission, best practices and the changing place of the church in society. Michael Kooiman from Edge Consultants will be our facilitator. The format of the day will include a presentation in the morning starting at 10 am, lunch will be provided, and then a group discussion with the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas in the afternoon. We will wrap up the day at 2:30 pm.

"Lunch with a Bunch"

Sunday, April 8th

Our next gathering will be Sunday, April 8th in the O'Brien-Sproule Library-Chapel immediately following worship. It's another brown bag special & the fun event will be charades!!! Don't let this stop or intimidate you - it's just for fun & hopefully a few laughs. Remember - ALL are welcome!

Gifts With Vision

The Gifts With Vision catalogue is here! Why not think about giving an alternative gift for special occasions all year long? These gifts make wonderful options for teachers, baby showers, anniversaries, birthdays & more! Catalogues available in the Narthex.

Passion Play - 2020

Interested in going to the world-famous PASSION PLAY in 2020? Held every 10 years since 1633, and performed by the people of Oberammergau, the play is a staging of Jesus' passion, covering the short final period of his life from his visit to Jerusalem and leading to his execution by crucifixion. The trip will be preceded by an opportunity to study the story of the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry, so that we can assess the play properly and within its historical context. Other highlights of this 12-day trip include Munich, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague and Budapest. **WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Siloam United Church | (519) 455-9201 | office@silouamunitedchurch.org |
<http://www.silouamunitedchurch.org/>