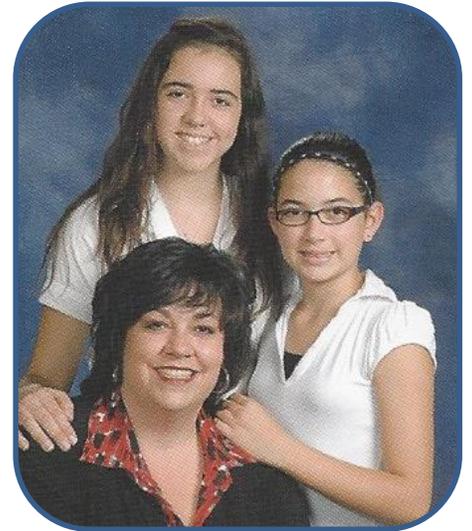
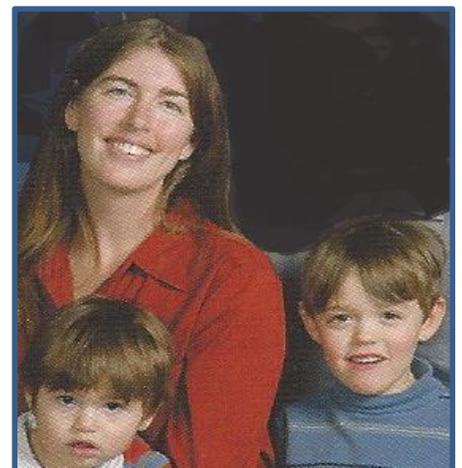


# The H♥rcourt Herald

*The life and work of the Harcourt Memorial United Church community, Guelph, Ontario  
May, 2016*



*The Many Shapes of  
Mothering at Harcourt!*



# Harcourt Memorial United Church

*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

**Seek | Connect | Act**

## **Our Mission:**

Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate, and non-violent relationships

## **Our Vision Statement:**

To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service

## **Our Core Values:**

Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

## **Our Purpose:**

To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

## **Harcourt Memorial United Church**

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1L3

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am-noon; 1pm-4pm

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Email: [office@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:office@harcourtuc.ca)

Web: [www.harcourtuc.ca](http://www.harcourtuc.ca)

**Ministers:** The People with  
Reverend Wendy Brown (ext. 222)  
[wendy@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:wendy@harcourtuc.ca)  
Reverend Jim Ball (ext. 223)  
[revjmball@rogers.com](mailto:revjmball@rogers.com)

### **Director of Music Ministry:**

Alison MacNeil (ext. 225)  
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### **Church Administrator:**

Anne Purkis

### **Technical and Office Support:**

Nick Swan

**Custodian:** Darko Cikovic

## **Harcourt Herald**

*Published 10 times each year*

*by the*

*Communications Committee*

**Your contributions are welcome!**

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Sept-June**

Editor: Gillian Joseph  
[herald@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:herald@harcourtuc.ca)

Printer: Anne Purkis



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday May 1 *Easter VI***

9:00 Worship in the Chapel

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary   Nursery Care available.

10:30 a.m. “Manna”, an all-ages experiential worship opportunity in the Friendship Room



### **Sunday May 8 *Easter VII Affirming Sunday***

9:00 Worship in the Chapel

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary, with the Rainbow Choir   Nursery Care available.

10:30 a.m. “Manna”, an all-ages experiential worship opportunity in the Friendship Room

### **Sunday May 15 *Pentecost***

9:00 Worship in the Chapel

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary   Nursery Care available.

10:30 a.m. “Manna”, an all-ages experiential worship opportunity in the Friendship Room

### **Sunday May 22 *Pentecost I/Trinity***

9:00 Worship in the Chapel

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary   Nursery Care available.

10:30 a.m. “Manna”, an all-ages experiential worship opportunity in the Friendship Room

### **Sunday May 29 *Pentecost II* The Celebration of Baptism**

9:00 Worship in the Chapel

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary   Nursery Care available.

10:30 a.m. “Manna”, an all-ages experiential worship opportunity in the Friendship Room

## There are three Sunday services

### *Chapel service (9 am)*

The Chapel service features prayers, readings, singing, and a message. It is quiet and meditative. There is no choir or special children's program. Tea and coffee are served following the service, and some participants gather for additional guided reflection.

### *Sanctuary service (10:30 am)*

The Sanctuary service closely follows the Chapel service, but also includes children's time, the Harcourt choir with piano and guitar accompaniment, and occasionally the handbell choir and flutes. **Nursery support is provided in the nursery from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.** Tea and coffee are served in the gym after the service.

### *MANNA (10:30 am)*

Is a new, friendly, all-ages, interactive, alternative worship experience that involves hands-on activities and sharing. It takes place in the Friendship Room, also at 10:30 a.m.

### *Special schedules*

**Summer schedule:** There is only one service at 10 a.m., held in the Sanctuary. Summer services begin the last Sunday in June and continue through to include the first Sunday in September. Nursery care available.

**Special events:** There are also some special Sundays during the year, such as Easter Sunday, when the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services are held together at 10 a.m.

**Midweek services:** There are other times and opportunities to come together in worship at Harcourt. These events take place seasonally. Visit our webpage at [www.harcourtuc.ca](http://www.harcourtuc.ca) for more information.



## FROM THE MINISTERS' DESKS

by Jim Ball

At various times I have been asked, "**What is 'MANNA'?**" The question is in reference to Harcourt's Sunday by Sunday gathering down in the Friendship Room. Many of you will know that this gathering seeks to be all ages friendly, interactive, participatory and rooted in progressive interpretations of the stories and practices of the Christian tradition. It also focuses on building community. This community experience and experiment is committed to the ways of justice and mutual support. The group seeks to be respectful of difference. And it tries, as it recently did the week the group visited a local Muslim education centre, to look regularly beyond itself with openness and love for the wider world.

At other times I have been asked, "**What is 'manna'?**" The question is in reference to the "stuff" an ancient people once ate in the wilderness. Details about this edible

"morning dew" are found in the sixteenth chapter of the book of Exodus. The word **manna** literally means, "**What is it?**" It refers to a fine, flake like substance. According to the story, the ancient Hebrews gathered and prepared and ate this food daily for forty years!

In that Biblical tale, a community of former slaves cross a large wilderness space. They have left the shackles of captivity behind and are making their slow way toward a new life and land. As they travel they eat manna to survive. As they journey they discover a deep truth: it is easier to get out of Egypt than it is to get the influences of Egypt out of themselves. Egypt was a place. But, more importantly, it was an idea - a model of social and political life that was pyramidal. Pharaoh was at the top and everyone else, in



increasing numbers, were below. Egypt, as an idea, was a world of top down decision-making. It was a place in which resource flowed from the bottom up. The privileged and meritorious few took and kept what they could, scrambling to get as close to the top as possible. The rest of the people had very little, and few prospects for gaining more. The temptation the masses faced, if ever they got free, was the temptation to reproduce Pharaoh's world, creating a landscape of winners and losers, haves and have-nots. According to Exodus story, a group of slaves do get free. But before they can enter a new land and create a new life they must first shed their desire for Pharaoh's world and learn instead fairer, healthier and more environmentally sustainable practices.

The manna story provides three key pieces of wisdom. The first directs the people *to take only what they need*. They are not to build their life on wants. The second directs the people *to refrain from practices of accumulation*. They are to redistribute resources whenever possible. The third directs the people *to keep the Sabbath*. Which means to practice rest, taking regular breaks from work. It also means forgiving debts, freeing others to rest also. Such Sabbath practice contributes to a world of greater justice, peace and environmental health. We call it Sabbath Economics. (See Ched Myers, [The Biblical Vision of Sabbath Economics](#), 2001.)

Importantly, this biblical story about "daily bread" teaches core values and practices about the Jewish tradition. These core values and practices were central in the message and ministry of Jesus. They were also central in the life of the early Christian community. Today, many people are finding that the environmental and political challenges of our times are leading them back to this old story and its wisdom. It provides guidance about how we might go about building healthier community on this planet - community that seeks to be more fair, loving and sustainable.

We have picked the "MANNA" name for our Sunday morning initiative intentionally. The ancient story about manna calls us back to simple values and practices that make life better for all.



## COUNCIL NEWS

by Lorraine Holding, Chair Council



Council members have worked very diligently during March and April. As lead-up to the April 10th Congregational Meeting, the focus of two Council meetings was on the bridge financing request from Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC). Along with representatives from the Harcourt Trustees, we carefully and thoughtfully considered the implications of providing support, or not. The considerations shared by the Congregation, while discerning a decision, demonstrated our long-time commitment to the Chalmers' ministry through volunteer hours, donated goods and financial support. As a result, the Congregation approved the motion to provide a commitment to CCSC for a loan of up to \$100,000 from the investments managed by the Trustees. This will be repaid at per annum rate of 1.5%, secured by a renewable 12-month note(s). We look forward to hearing about CCSC's success as they prepare to move to their new permanent home.

On April 20, Council hosted ten Committee Chairs, Team Leaders, and other key lay leaders. Each person shared one key priority for 2016 that is the focus of his/her role within Harcourt. What an important list of projects, leadership priorities, and communication needs! Our agenda also included "refreshers" on: Harcourt's governance, structure and organization; policies and procedures; financial processes; connecting with office staff; Harcourt 20/20 timepath. Kathy Magee is leading a planning team to mark the conclusion of Wendy's ministry with us and her transition into retirement. Stay tuned for more details!

On the Harcourt 20/20 front, we thank the Recruitment Team for their work to recommend the appointment of Miriam Flynn as our Supply Minister for July 1/16 to June 30/17, pending approval by Waterloo Presbytery. Miriam will cover the duties of



Wendy's position as Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach. During the coming months, the Harcourt 20/20 Steering Team will continue work along our timepath to focus on community building, needs, and models that could be part of our future. The results of the IMNA Survey (Identity, Mission, and Needs Analysis) will add to the mix of information. Again, stay tuned for more details!

Spring has arrived bringing new growth, bright colours, more outside activities, and warmer temperatures. May each of us find delight in this new season; let's reflect on how Harcourt people and programs support us through each season of our lives. Where is the Spirit leading us for future seasons?

With faith and hope.

**PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...**



- **Atheist Minister Speaks Out**

In the coming weeks, an unprecedented review will be carried out to determine whether Gretta Vosper can stay on as a United Church of Canada minister. The review will provide a complicated answer to a simple question: can the United Church of Canada have an atheist minister?

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/24/atheist-pastor-canada-gretta-vosper-united-church-canada>

- **Nation Wide Discussion Gives Hope - Considered Thought Provoking**

The United Church Observer, the arms-length monthly magazine tracing its roots to 1829, partnered with The Walrus to present the live-streamed discussion from Toronto. Churches all across Canada, including Harcourt, participated. Seven speakers, shared a range of views that represent many of the contemporary issues that are being raised in churches across the country.

<http://lethbridgeherald.com/news/local-news/2016/04/06/optimism-for-religion-in-canada/>

- **United church calls for members to take part in the People’s Climate Plan.**

This spring, you can help make the Paris Agreement real in Canada. The People’s Climate Plan invites you to take part in your local public climate consultation on the National Climate Strategy. It calls on the government to include three key principles in a new climate plan:

- A plan that aligns with the science of climate change and keeps fossil fuel reserves in the ground.
- A plan that builds a 100% renewable energy economy by 2050.
- A plan that is justice-based: for Indigenous peoples, energy-sector workers, and those hit hardest by the climate crisis.

Add your voice to the many around the world and in Canada urging bold action for climate justice.

<http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/add-your-voice-global-call-climate-change-action>

## COMMITTEE AND GROUP NEWS

### Property Committee Invites All Garden Lovers

by Dave Hume, Chair of the Property Committee



We need YOU for Spring Clean-Up at Harcourt on May 7<sup>th</sup>! The Harcourt Property Committee has organized a Spring Clean-Up Bee for the outside grounds.

We will be trimming back the old growth on plants left from last year, working up the gardens, removing the refuse and freshening things up. Any and all volunteers are welcome,

with a particular invitation to Master Gardeners or those who would like to learn. The Property Committee is particularly indebted to Jon Welch and the Harcourt Scouts who will be coming on another week-end to clean the windows!

## Caroline Harcourt Women Talk About Organs – And Not the Musical Kind!

by Ruth Tatham

The speaker for the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Caroline Harcourt Women’s Fellowship will be Mr. Bob Rutten, a local recent recipient of a successful kidney transplant. He speaks as an advocate of the “Gift of Life” movement of the Lions Club and will offer time for a question and answer period after his talk. All women are encouraged to bring their bag lunch at 11:45 (cookies and tea supplied) and learn more about this vital topic of organ donation.



## My Picks from the Library This Month

by Mary-Lou Funston, Library Committee

- *FOR YOUNG READERS* (ages about 9 and up):

**The Breadwinner, Parvana’s Journey and Mud City**, by Deborah Ellis.

These 3 books describe for young readers what life under the Taliban regime is like in Pakistan. The author, Deborah Ellis, has written this trilogy in the voice of an 11 year old girl who is faced with very hard challenges to help her family to continue to exist under the regime.

- *FOR TEENS AND TWEENS:*

**The American Muslim Teenager’s Handbook**, by Dilaria Hafiz, Imran Hafiz and Yasmine Hafiz. Critics suggest that this book is “delightful, hilarious, wonderful, beautiful...”

**Reason for Hope – a Spiritual Journey**, by Jane Goodall

In light of concerns about climate change and what it means for the earth this is a unique autobiography by world renowned anthropologist Jane Goodall who explores the spiritual and moral evolution of humanity.

- *FOR GRANDPARENTS:*

### **The Spirituality of Grandparenting**, by Ralph Milton

For all grandparents especially those who are never too old to love, or too old to be loved back.

*And if all this serious stuff is just not your thing this month:*

**The Wedding**, by Nicholas Sparks (His name is in MUCH larger print than the title, so he must be VERY well-known!) A husband of thirty years whose marriage has lost its spark vows to find a way to make his wife fall in love with him again.

*Do please come and visit our Library, browse amongst the shelves and borrow whatever grabs your interest. We have many fine volumes covering a broad range of topics and ideas, by many authors, well-known and not so well-known.*

### **Men's Group Meeting**

by Ross McKenzie and Richard Gedye

At the meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Men's Group voted to donate \$500 to the funding appeal for Chalmers Community Service Centre. During 2014 and 2015 our group also donated \$616 to Chalmers food shelf.

The next men's meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at the Church. Sandy Middleton will be leading this meeting. He will speak on "Climate Change, A Christian Biologist's Perspective". All men are welcome to attend and we invite you to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this meeting. Coffee will be ready at 7:45 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m.

### **Update on Washrooms**

by Dave Hume, Chair, Accessible Washroom Building Committee

Harcourt is planning to build two accessible washrooms on the sanctuary level. The reason is so physically-challenged people do not have to go upstairs or downstairs to go to the washroom. The impetus for the sanctuary level washroom was a large, generous donation from an un-named benefactor. I chair a blue-ribbon committee consisting of Jean Julian, Murray woods, Mark Sears, Kent Hoeg, Joan Barham, Michael Hofer and Lynda

Jessup-Lew. We secured the services of architect Unto Kihlanki, who has been of long-time assistance to Harcourt. He first designed a washroom for the west end of the Greeting Place and the architect secured ballpark estimates from a local contractor, Even Construction. The committee turned down the proposal as too expensive and asked Mr. Kihlanki to find a less costly alternative. The plans are back and involve two washrooms within the current cloak room. That scaled-down proposal has been costed again by Even Construction and that ball-park estimate came back at \$110,000 for the building of the washrooms but not including architect's fee and other possible expenses. At our last committee meeting 3 weeks ago, the committee instructed Mr. Kihlanki to prepare detailed plans ready to go out for tender. The call for tenders should go out by the end of the month. I speculate that the total cost will be about \$130,000 and there are about \$103,000 that have been raised already. I would like to see this project finished by the end of the summer. I also would expect to come back to the congregation for approval after the Building Committee has selected a tender that it agrees can be recommended to you. I have copies of the plans if you wish to see them and will be happy to answer your questions.

## Preparing for Transitions

by Andre Auger, Adult Faith Formation

My wife and I are probably like a lot of people our age in this community: we live in a great house, our health is still relatively good, and we'd like to stay here as long as we can. But we know there will come a time when one or both of us will be unable to look after this place... what then? How soon should we think of selling, downsizing, and where should we go? What options are there? We feel neither equipped to deal with these questions, nor motivated to look into them very seriously.

Along comes Julie Glass-Ashley. Many of us know Julie in a variety of capacities: she works tirelessly with Harcourt's LGBTQ community, she's been a lay reader on a couple of occasions, and many of us saw the latest James Bond movie thanks to a fundraising event she organized in support of Chalmers Community Service Centre. In her work life, Julie combines her training as a counsellor with her skill in real estate to work with seniors in transition, and brings to bear a wide range of connections to help make the transition as smooth and anxiety-free as possible.

As member of the Adult Faith Formation team, I asked Julie to consider designing a set of sessions on thinking through living arrangements for those of us about to face transition. She has designed an extraordinary series which starts with a **luncheon Sunday Sept 11**, which would be an interactive opportunity to hear more from each other what our concerns and questions are, while presenting on the “importance of home”, and looking at statistics and trends with ageing populations and housing. This session will also discuss the importance of being proactive versus reactive.

Subsequent sessions will examine:

1. **How to stay put**, and what services are available to enable us to stay as long as we can in our beloved homes.
2. The **non-institutional options** including “smart-sizing”, life leases, the arboretum, rentals, condominiums. Julie will discuss some of the myths as well as pros and cons of the variety of home choices and speak about projects currently being developed in Guelph.
3. The **retirement home and nursing home option** – why it isn’t like your parents’ experience. Julie will present information that will make it easier in the event this becomes your option.
4. A session on **stuff!** What do I do with all of my stuff!! Julie will present with a professional organizer to help people understand what kind of help is available, when the time comes to downsize. Part of it will look at how to disconnect from our possessions and turn the process into something positive.
5. Making sense of **the financial side of residential options**: Unpacking the expenses, and using the potential equity in your home without a reverse mortgage. She will talk about the Sell ‘n Stay program, and we will have a chance to hear from an Estate/Financial Planner and Estate Lawyer.
6. **Preparing your home for sale** – the entire process: when to begin and how to get the most from your home and potential ways to make the entire move as seamless as possible.

Sessions will be weekly, time and room to be determined. Be sure to mark your calendar and stay tuned for details.

# Planning and Leading Worship Workshop May 11 2016

by Esther Devolin, (Chair) Pastoral Care Committee

The GUM Pastoral Care Committee is organizing a worship training workshop **May 11, 2016, 7-8:30 p.m.** at Harcourt. The purpose is to provide support for all volunteers who are interested in learning how to plan and lead worship for church congregations and also for Retirement/Nursing Home Residences. Our very own Wendy Brown will be facilitating this workshop. Please contact Esther Devolin at [ekdevolin@sympatico.ca](mailto:ekdevolin@sympatico.ca) or 519-836-7675 to register for this enriching opportunity.

You may or may not be aware that the four churches of Guelph United Ministries (GUM) offer regular visitation, communion and worship services throughout the year to multiple seniors' residences and nursing homes here in Guelph. It is a vital ministry as many of our members transition from their own homes to new settings for extra care or ease of living. Regular connection through worship and visits help many folk who are no longer able to actively participate in their former church communities.

There are many ways that you can support this ministry. You could offer to be a part of a worship team who leads worship with the assistance of both ordained and lay worship leaders who share in hymn sings, scripture reading, short meditation, handing out song sheets or sharing your voice and presence.

Please consider getting involved in this worthwhile chance to volunteer.



**"In the minutes, should I record this as a 'vigorous theological discussion' or a 'serious ecclesiastical debate'?"**

## Meet Miriam Flynn, Harcourt's Newly Appointed 'Bridging' Minister.

by Sandy Middleton

Miriam Flynn is an ordinand from Halton Presbytery and a long-time member of Tansley United Church in Burlington. She will have completed the requirements for her M.Div. at Emmanuel College on 15 April, and expects to be ordained on 28 May, when Hamilton Conference meets at Dublin Street United, Guelph. Miriam comes to ministry as a second vocation, following thirty years in the practice of law. Her ministerial experience includes, providing pulpit supply, an Internship at Maple Grove United in Oakville, and a placement with McMaster University Ecumenical Chaplaincy. She has two grown children and resides in Waterdown with her husband, Rick, and faithful pug, Zoe. When she is not writing academic papers or sermons, Miriam likes to be outdoors, enjoying the trails and public gardens in our region.



## Exploring Cyber Pathways

by Rev. Gaylyn McLean (GUM co-chair)

In March of 2013 all four United Churches in Guelph along with Chalmers Community Service Centre and Rising Spirit through motions passed by their respective boards/councils made a commitment and covenant to work together to better live out Christ's mission in the city of Guelph.

A vision out of that joint covenant included finding ways to build up and help grow the United Church of Canada ministries in Guelph. This way of working together has already impacted our individual congregations and ministries in many positive ways and

has in fact, been seen as a model for new ministry across Canada. One of the aspects of this joint vision is to support initiatives that will raise the profile and visibility of the United Churches and their ministries in and beyond Guelph.

In the spirit of sharing expertise and resources to do better together what we could not do alone, GUM (Guelph United Ministries) is supporting an initiative to look at what our churches are doing in terms of their online presence. This includes such things as our websites, our social media tools (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and our overall ability to connect and communicate with our younger demographic who live online. In fact, we learned at a recent Digital Marketing Workshop held at Harcourt last fall that our website is the “new front door” of any church. And so it begged the question are we being as open, welcoming and accessible as we could be for those from age 4-40? Each of our ministries has been working diligently to provide physically accessible buildings and services but can we say the same about our online presence?

We realized that there are many questions to answer and so representatives of the Communications teams of the various churches and ministries have been meeting to discuss where we are in our Digital Marketing plans and what next steps we need to make to better dialogue with our congregation and community. With the assistance of RKD Web Studios a Digital Marketing Analysis and Strategy has been produced thanks to the financial resources of GUM. Our next steps are to review this analysis and strategy and agree on what we’d like to do collectively moving forward.

There are still resources available to us so individual ministries need not be burdened by the cost. What is required is a commitment to continue this work by representatives of each of our churches. As quoted in the Executive Summary: *“The ministries that will sustain themselves are those that will assume the people they’re trying to reach are online. Rather than looking at the Web as an add-on, they will consider their web strategy as a fully-integrated part of how they help people take steps toward their Christian mission in life. They will be an online Church as much as they are a church in a building”.*

For some this may seem like a daunting and scary thought; for others a welcome step into our present digital age. No matter where we stand on the spectrum, our ability to communicate with our younger members or prospective members depends on our willingness to speak their language. We have a lot to learn. We have a lot to share. Let’s do our best at both as we strive to explore how we can better communicate our story and be open to others in this new digital age in which we live.

If you have an interest or passion for this social media opportunity for our churches and would like to help please contact Rev. Gaylyn McLean (GUM co-chair) at [gaylynmclean@gmail.com](mailto:gaylynmclean@gmail.com)

## Saying Goodbye to Wendy – Save the Dates!

by Joan Barham



Be sure to mark on your calendar - **June 5, Harcourt, 10.30 Service**, during and after the service. A fun occasion for all ages near the end of May. Date, time and details to be announced.

Come to both of these special occasions. Wendy has touched the lives of many people, both those who are at Harcourt and those who are not. Be sure to let them know! Please give contributions for Wendy to the Harcourt office marked "Gift for Wendy".



## Are you leading a group, chairing a meeting or planning an event at Harcourt?

### Booking Space for Events & Meetings

Contact Anne Purkis, Church Administrator, as far in advance as possible to book space to ensure you get the date, time and space you prefer.

Include set-up and cleanup time.

### Sharing/ Publicizing Events, Meetings & Announcements

- Harcourt has various bulletin boards that you may post items on.
- Please be very clear about where/how you would like the info shared.
- Be concise or be edited. We reserve the right to edit as needed.

Form of Communication	Who to Contact	Due Dates
Facebook	Marion Auger - facebook@harcourtuc.ca	ASAP
GUM Calendar*	Anne Purkis - office@harcourtuc.ca	ASAP
Harcourt E-Weekly*	Anne Purkis - office@harcourtuc.ca	Thursdays, 10am
Harcourt Herald	Gill Joseph - herald@harcourtuc.ca	20th of each month
Harcourt Website* & Online Calendar	Anne Purkis - office@harcourtuc.ca	ASAP
Sunday Life & Work announcements	Anne Purkis - office@harcourtuc.ca	Wednesdays, 4pm
Twitter	Gill Joseph - <a href="mailto:herald@harcourtuc.ca">herald@harcourtuc.ca</a> or <a href="mailto:gjoseph@clearpane.ca">gjoseph@clearpane.ca</a>	ASAP

**\*Harcourt related events and information only please.** In some instances, these items could be shared with GUM and the wider United Church.

**Harcourt events or groups open to the wider community:** Contact Anne for the *Revised Marketing Opportunities List*, updated August 2015. A great tool to guide you in spreading the word beyond Harcourt.



*“To everything there is a season, and time to every purpose under heaven...”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Tuesday April 12, 2016

Dear Five Oaks Friends,

It is with great sadness, the Board of Five Oaks share with you two end of season announcements:

- 1) The resignation of our beloved Executive Director, Melissa Connor effective April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- 2) The forwarded recommendation to Hamilton Conference that **Five Oaks cease operations effective November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

Melissa has been our strong, dedicated leader since 2012. Her passion and drive towards a redeveloped Five Oaks, supported by a strong team of staff, board and volunteers has been exceptional. We have been blessed by her faithful and faith filled presence, and wish her well during this season of change. To read a farewell note from Melissa, click [here](#).

The Five Oaks journey toward redevelopment over the past 3 years was Spirit led and guided by a hopeful vision. Within that journey was prayerful planning with realistic

bench marks created to guide forward movement. To our disappointment, 2 key bench marks halted our journey; a viable Business Plan and, the funding necessary from our key Stakeholders to support the Capital and immediate

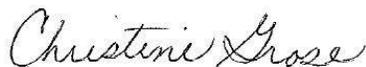
Operational needs. To read more about our cessation explanation and journey, see the attached “Detailed Explanation” document or click [here](#).

*To everything there is a season...a season to be born and a season to die.* From death will come new life – our Easter Season reminds us of this! In between we will have mourning and celebration. Perhaps we will have opportunity to share both at one of the upcoming programs being offered at Five Oaks between now and November.

Thank you for the life you have breathed into our sacred retreat centre. Together we have contributed to the Five Oaks season – and together we will bid this season good bye. May we carry each other in prayer and hold onto the strength that comes from our Comforting God.

Peace be with you.

On behalf of the Five Oak Board of Directors,



Christine Grose

Chair

Pam Byers, Secretary

Ronald Jewell, Treasurer

Rev. Peter Hartmans Corresponding Board Member – Hamilton Conference

Rhonda Johns

Rev. Fred Monteith

Rev. Shelley Roberts

Rev. Ted Smith

Robert Stapleford

Rev. Rose Ann Vita

## Harcourt's Affirming Service Celebrates Guelph Pride

Harcourt is proud of its diverse community. We will celebrate Guelph Pride on **Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** at an affirming service. All are welcome. The United Church of Canada also invites everyone to remember May 17<sup>th</sup> as the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. We are one family under God.



## Wow...Thanks Harcourt, We Did It Again – Garage Sale Success!

by Janet Webster

Our annual garage sale took place on April 9th. Once again the community responded in fine form with many donations and by buying treasures. One salesperson overheard two visitors say they always come to the Harcourt sale as it is so well organized! This is due to the many volunteers who sorted and displayed the donations on Friday April 8, as well as the diligent staff on Saturday who assisted shoppers and kept the tables full and tidy. Our system of cashiers at the side door was very well received. Shoppers also visited the Royal City Pre-school sale in the Friendship Room and so were happy to take advantage of two sales in one location. Marilyn and Mark Sears had eager, well trained staff in the kitchen preparing tasty breakfast sandwiches, and although few visitors took advantage of the offering, volunteers certainly did!

After a busy 3 1/2 hours of selling, two volunteers from Chalmers Services selected items from the unsold stock to replenish shelves downtown, filling 3 boxes with useful supplies. The Guelph Food Bank arrived with their well-honed team at noon, quickly finding many items for their needs, and a member of Harcourt also found some unclaimed treasures to use in his Amazing Race Guelph fundraising event. Finally, a group of energetic Harcourt friends helped pack up the few remaining leftovers and the gym was ready by 1:15 for other activities.

That afternoon, we prepared the bank deposit and were thrilled to report to the Congregation on Sunday morning that the total amount taken in was \$2,815.15. Of course that was not the end! Several people found things they "needed" to take home after the service. Mark and Marilyn Sears sold more breakfast sandwiches with the result that another \$121.50 could be added to the General Funds. On Monday, the remaining items were dealt with, with some going to the Re-Use store, or other thrift stores and a few to metal recyclers. We continue to see a few donations that cannot be sold due to their condition or safety concerns, but this has improved over the last few years.

Our garage sale has so many positive aspects: assisting people who are downsizing, placing treasures with happy new owners, directly assisting other charities in our community as well as donating to other organizations, diverting unwanted material from landfills, not to mention creating fellowship and fun and, last but almost least, obtaining welcomed funds for Harcourt projects.

Well done Harcourt! We have booked April 8, 2017 for a return effort.

## Open Heart Journals: Write from Your Soul to Someone You Love

by Lisa Browning

*Being told you are appreciated is one of the simplest and most incredible things you can ever hear...*

Have you ever been stumped for words when it comes to expressing what's in your heart, especially to someone you care about? Writing a journal *to someone* gives you the opportunity to express your gratitude, acknowledge how much you appreciate them and let them know how much they are truly valued. During the writing process, as you share your genuine gratitude for their presence in your life, *your heart opens* and expands which allows for *deeper connection, compassion and forgiveness*.

Sharing your love in this way is the biggest gift for *them*, as you shine light on the depth of your relationship and their beautiful qualities that make them so *wonderfully special*, not only to you but to everyone around them. Your heart opens, their heart sings, your relationship grows to a whole new level and you both have a whole new appreciation for one another. What could be better than that?

During this (free) introductory workshop you will be guided with prompts, visualization and writing exercises to learn to write a journal to someone you love...no journal or writing experience is necessary when you write from your heart. Write to your husband, daughter, sister, mum, fiancé, best friend, grandmother, God-daughter...for a special birthday, anniversary or wedding. They will be so touched to receive your heartfelt and memorable gift.

Date: Saturday, May 14

Time: 1pm to 5pm. (Snacks will be provided.)

Location: Harcourt Memorial United Church, Friendship Room

Free to attend; journal or notebook required.

To register, email Lisa Browning at [lisa@onethousandtrees.com](mailto:lisa@onethousandtrees.com). **Limited spots are available.**

For more information, email Lori Bateman at [info@openheartjournals.com](mailto:info@openheartjournals.com) or visit [www.openheartjournals.com](http://www.openheartjournals.com).

### **Facilitator Bio:**

As an Open Heart Coach & Mentor, Lori Bateman supports women with learning to love themselves and to build the confidence they need to create lives they love. As a life-long journaler and connector, Lori founded Open Heart Journals to combine her passions for writing and connecting people, as a way to strengthen and deepen our closest relationships. She facilitates online journaling workshops and leads retreats to empower women and open their hearts. Lori is a creative spirit, artist, author, adventurer, mother to 2 young adult men, currently living in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

## **Plate Up for Saturday Night Supper**

by Jill Gill

Many thanks to all those who volunteered to serve, provide food or cash donations for the Saturday Night Supper (SNS) at Royal City Church on April 23. Everyone was in high spirits and the dinner was a great success with many compliments and words of appreciation. The Harcourt congregation's commitment and generosity are obvious and greatly valued by our dinner guests.

Our next opportunity to host the SNS will be June 11. This follows very soon after our previous date, but I was asked to switch evenings with another church. As usual we will require 12 volunteers to prepare and serve dinner and many folks to provide food. We will serve pasta casserole (recipe provided on Harcourt website), Caesar salad, cheese, pickles, assorted fruit pies, vanilla ice cream, juice, milk and coffee.



There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Greeting Place where you can indicate where you'd like to help. Alternately, you can volunteer online via Sign Up Genius. Go to

the Harcourt website, click on “Connect with Community” and scroll down to “Saturday Night Suppers”.

Volunteers and food should be at Royal City Church, 50 Quebec Street ( backdoor entrance), by 5 p.m. Volunteers will be need until approximately 8 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of an important aspect of Harcourt’s outreach to vulnerable folks in our community. For further details contact Jill Gill at [peter.gill@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.gill@sympatico.ca)

## Summer Day Camp is **GO, GO, GO** for Kids!

by Merrill Pierce

Harcourt is once again hosting the **GO Project Summer Day Camp from July 25-29**. All Guelph United Churches are welcome to attend, and GUM funded the initial funds required to book the camp.

It is for children ages 7-11, or going into Grades 2-7. The focus is on the environment and community service projects. There are two trained leaders and youth leaders to run the program. It has a good balance of activities, games and crafts. They meet daily from 9:00-4:00. Lunch and snacks are provided. The cost is \$100 for the week, although help with funds can be arranged for those who need it. Registration is done through the website: [www.thegoproject.ca](http://www.thegoproject.ca). This program is run from Islington United Church in Toronto.

There are three areas where volunteers are needed.

1. We need at least two high school teens to act as youth leaders. The week-long commitment will give you most of your 40 of your required hours for high school graduation.
2. We need volunteers to provide two snacks a day. You need only sign up for one snack for the week. Suggestions for snacks include popsicles, vegetables and hummus, fruit, cookies or muffins.
3. 3. We need a billet for one of the leaders of the program for the week.

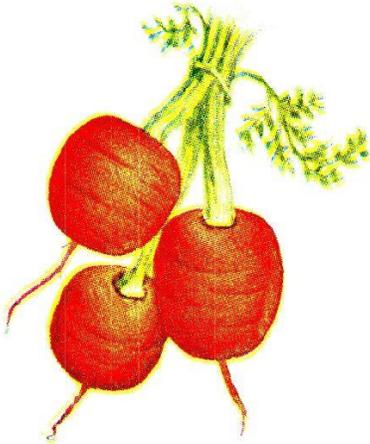
For any questions you have, or any of the volunteer opportunities, please contact Merrill Pierce at [mpierce@sympatico.ca](mailto:mpierce@sympatico.ca), or 519-836-8867.

# Harcourt Communal Garden – Urban Farm Tour Coming Up!

by Jill Gill

Harcourt's hugely successfully communal vegetable garden is about to begin its sixth growing season. In the previous five years, we have harvested 3,333.6 lbs of fresh, organic vegetables, herbs and fruit - all donated to the food pantry at Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC). **Our first work 'party' of 2016 is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m.-noon.** We will be doing spring clean-up, prepping the veg beds and sowing seeds for an early crop of greens. All are welcome and invited to take part for the morning. We will be working alongside folks in the Memorial Garden and the Guelph Community Orchard Project. Please dress for the weather, bring water, work gloves, spades, forks and a wheel barrow, if you have one.

At our planning meeting in early April we had several folks volunteer for maintenance and harvesting in the communal garden (approx. 2-3 hours, once per month from June-October), however we would always welcome more participants. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, contact Jill Gill at [peter.gill@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.gill@sympatico.ca) for more details.



**Save the Date:** The Harcourt Communal Garden will be taking part in the **Transition Guelph Urban Food Working Group's 'Urban Farm Tour' again this year on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m.** We will have a work 'party' and a workshop led by a Master Gardener. Stay tuned for further details.

One day a kindergarten teacher asked the children to bring in something that represented their religion. The first child got in front of the class and said "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish. This is the Star of David". The second child got up and went to the front and said "My name is Mary. I am a Catholic and this is the Crucifix". A third child went to the front of the class and said "My name is Tommy and I belong to the United Church of Canada. This is a casserole."



## Minutes for Mission

On Sunday, May 26, 2015, congregations all over Canada created Heart Gardens to honour the memory of Aboriginal children who died in the residential schools over the 120 years the schools existed. Over 2,000 Heart Gardens were created.

Faith United Church in Kingston, Ontario, was one of those congregations. Faith United is entering its 25th year. It began its ministry through a Mission & Service-funded mission support grant. The congregation gathers in the small theatre of La Salle Secondary School every Sunday morning and was able to plant their garden on the school grounds.

The hearts were made over two Sundays and symbolized Faith United's deepest hope and prayer that the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will allow truths to be spoken, and healing and a new relationship to begin between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in this land.

The congregation sent one heart made by their youngest member to Ottawa to be part of the Heart Garden planted on the lawn of Rideau Hall, the Governor General's residence.

"The heart has an image of an alien because the artist said we should be nice to everyone, including aliens!" says the Rev. Nan Hudson.

We are thankful for our gifts for Mission & Service that support congregations in transition or in remote locations so faith can be shared and grown!

Please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith.



# Kids Adventure Day Camp

Make our world a better place  
Ready Set GO!



**Cost for the week: \$100/week Grades 2-7 9am - 4pm**



This environment based day camp is an action-packed week for children and young teens. Trained staff and volunteers will lead programming inspired by The GO Project along with traditional camp



experiences like games, crafts, delicious food, singing, and lots of fun! Children's Adventure Campers will do their part to make our world a better place. Ecological clean-ups, team-building activities, growing and



sharing food, and other environmental projects and activities will spark their imaginations and give campers the confidence to change the world one small step at a time.

**Summer  
2016**

**HARCOURT MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH**

**JULY 25-29, 2016**

Confidential Financial Assistance Available. Contact: [mpierce@sympatico.ca](mailto:mpierce@sympatico.ca)

For more information or to register visit [www.thegoproject.ca](http://www.thegoproject.ca)

# Hooping for Hunger



Help us end chronic persistent hunger both locally and globally through



A hula-hoop-a-thon!

A fun event to raise money and build community  
Family Friendly Event - Everyone Welcome  
No experience necessary

**May 28, 2016**

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

@ John McCrae Public School  
189 Water St. Guelph

To register a team: [www.hoopingforhunger.ca](http://www.hoopingforhunger.ca)

More info email [h4h@flowofficewisdom.com](mailto:h4h@flowofficewisdom.com)

To Support:

Created by:



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Passing:



**Tom Bates** on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at the age of 89. Husband of Margaret (nee Hamilton). Born in 1926 on a ranch near Irricana, Alberta he grew up on a farm near Shelburne ON. Just short of finishing high school he signed up for military service with the war ending before he went overseas, but service opened a door to the University of Guelph that set Tom's course for life. He found summer work at a research station that set his path to becoming a professor of Soil Science at OA.C. He took up running on the cross-country team and formed a bond of friendship with his

Ontario Agricultural College '51 classmates that lasted his life. After graduation, Tom worked in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) on tobacco production research from 1951 - 58. He joined the OAC in 1961 as a faculty member in soil fertility carrying out research, teaching and extension for 30 years and on retirement followed by 15 years of consulting. Donations may be made to Welcome In Drop-In Centre, 23 Gordon St., Guelph, ON, N1H 4G9, or Harcourt Memorial United Church, 87 Dean Ave., Guelph, ON, N1G 1L3, or to charity of one's choice.

### Note of Thanks:

The family of the late Keith Slater wish to thank the Harcourt Community for all expressions of sympathy and tokens of condolence on the recent death of Keith. Your love and support has been wonderful and the cards are still an avenue of comfort and will continue to be in the months ahead. Thank you, Rosalind.

Q: Why is a computer so smart?

A: Because it listens to its Motherboard!

# Behind the Scenes

## The Many Shapes of Mothering

by Gillian Joseph

I can hardly believe that I've been a mother for almost 40 years. It seems like yesterday that I first saw the little crinkled face and mass of straight brown hair as our first son arrived. Now he has big patches of grey hair in his beard...my how time flies!

Heidi Anderson (2015) reflects that, "Mothering comes in all shapes and sizes, variations and relationships". We have "mothers" who are not always biologically related to us – and some "mothering" people in our lives who are not even women. Our teachers, coaches, ministers, maybe even our neighbour can mother us. Perhaps the men in our families are better at mothering us than are the women. For some, the word "mother" brings pure joy to their souls, but for others the word has a negative vibe – a relationship fraught with stress, conflict and sorrow. One of my hobbies is genealogy and I have often seen how lives have been shaped by good and alas bad parent-child relationships that sometimes take generations to mend.

But trying to measure what it means to be a "good" mother may only lead to unnecessary guilt. When I was growing up it was a "bad" mother who went to work outside the home. My mother was a full-time nurse who worked shifts...but she was a good mother from my point of view. I adored her and was proud of her. Yes, she made some mistakes along the way, but when I became a mother myself I realized that there is no such thing as a "perfect mother", no matter how hard you try. A good mother for me is someone who is a cheerleader with an honest answer and a hug when you need it. If you get home-baked cookies and food that doesn't come out of a tin for dinner that's a bonus...but not a requirement.

Luke 2:41 recounts that when Jesus was only 12 years old he went to the feast of the Passover with his parents and a group of friends and relatives who travelled from their home town of Nazareth to the big city of Jerusalem. Jesus must have been playing with his cousins and other relatives during the feast because when it was all over his parents assumed that he was still with his cousins and they left town without him. It must have come as a great shock to Mary, Jesus' mother, when she suddenly found out that young Jesus had left the company of his cousins the day before, and without telling her, had gone somewhere else. How many times do mothers tell their children – let me know where you are so I don't worry! Her guilt must have been immense. Mary and Joseph turned around and went quickly back to Jerusalem in a panic. When Mary found Jesus sitting in the temple she marched up to him and said "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold your father and I have been looking for you anxiously" and, like a typical 12 year old, Jesus said

I'm just fine – why were you worried? Nice to know that the challenges of being a good mother are timeless.

I like to think that Harcourt Church itself is a place where good mothering can be found – unconditional, patient and kind in its best form – but sometimes beautifully imperfect. Mothering in all its shapes and sizes, variations and relationships. Sort of like those big plastic baby puzzles where you push the different shaped blocks into the appropriately shaped hole...we are all different, but we all belong – there is a space for each and every shape of mothering.

Reference: Anderson, Heidi (2015). Mothering comes in all shapes and sizes, variations and relationships. Life 102.5. <http://life1025.com/2015/05/mothering-comes-shapes-sizes-variations-relationships/>



# Kitchener Waterloo Symphony in Concert - Evolution

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm at Harcourt**

“Join us for an evening of musical exploration into the genre of classical music as it has transformed and evolved over time, curated by KWS bassoonist Michael Macaulay. A genre is a living thing and, once in a while, a radical development emerges that both changes the future of music and pays homage to the work of generations past. Join the KWS and featured Orchestra soloists to trace the evolution of the classical symphony; a story told through the music of the composers who laid its foundation, as well as those who refined it.”



## Harcourt Calendar – May 2016

Updated April 19, 2016–[www.harcourtuc.ca](http://www.harcourtuc.ca) for most up-to-date information

### **Sunday May 1**

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am “Manna” Service [G/F]  
1:30pm Little Kickers [G]

### **Monday May 2**

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]  
7:00 pm Scouts [G]

### **Tuesday May 3**

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings  
6:45pm Cubs [G]  
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

### **Wednesday May 4**

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
6:30pm Guides [off-site]  
6:45pm Beavers [G]  
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]  
7:30pm Flute Choir [M]

### **Thursday May 5**

8:45am Mindstretch [C]  
9:30am Stroke Recovery Executive [F]  
6:30pm Zumba [G]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

### **Friday May 6**

7:00pm Youth Group [off-site]  
8:00pm Kitchener Waterloo Symphony [S]

### **Saturday May 7**

9:00am Garden Spring Clean Up  
10:00am Living the Question 2.0 [202]

### **Sunday May 8**

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am “Manna” Service [F]  
1:30pm Little Kickers [G]

### **Monday May 9**

11:45am Carolyn Harcourt Women’s Fellowship [F]  
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]  
7:00pm GUM Justice and Outreach [F]  
7:00pm Creative Intentions [C]  
7:00pm Scouts [G]

### **Tuesday May 10**

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings  
6:45pm Cubs [G]  
7:00pm Worship Committee [C]  
7:00pm Property Committee [F]  
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

### **Wednesday May 11**

7:45am Men’s Group [F]  
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
6:30pm GUM Pastoral Care Worship Workshop [C]  
6:30pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]  
6:30pm Guides [off-site]  
6:45am Beavers [G]  
7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]  
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]  
7:30pm Flute Choir [M]

### **Thursday May 12**

8:45am Mindstretch [C]  
6:30pm Zumba [G]  
7:30pm Finance Committee [O]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

### **Friday May 13**

No events scheduled

### **Saturday May 14**

10:00am Living the Question 2.0 [202]  
1:00pm Open Hearts Journals [F]

**Sunday May 15**

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]  
1:30pm Little Kickers [G]

**Monday May 16**

9:30am Quilting Group [F]  
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]  
7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]  
7:00pm Scouts [G]

**Tuesday May 17**

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings  
11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]  
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

**Wednesday May 18**

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
5:30pm Pride and Prejudice [202]  
6:30pm Guides [F]  
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]  
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]  
7:30pm Flute Choir [M]

**Thursday May 19**

8:45am Mindstretch [C]  
6:30pm Zumba [G]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

**Friday May 20**

No events scheduled

**Saturday May 21**

No events scheduled

**Sunday May 22**

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am "Manna" Service [F]

**Monday May 23**

Church/Office Closed

**Tuesday May 24**

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings  
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

**Wednesday May 25**

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
6:30pm Guides [off-site]  
7:30pm Flute Choir [M]

**Thursday May 26**

8:45am Mindstretch [C]  
6:30pm Zumba [G]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

**Friday May 27**

7:00pm Rainbow Tech Rehearsal [S]

**Saturday May 28**

8:00am Royal City Preschool Carnival  
5:30pm Potluck and Games Night [F]

**Sunday May 29**

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am "Manna" Service [F]  
3:00pm Guelph Concert Band Concert[S]

**Monday May 30**

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]  
6:00pm ARCH Men's Group [202]  
7:00pm Scouts [G]

**Tuesday May 31**

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings  
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]