



Siloam United Church

Fanfare

Easter Edition 2025

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From Rev. Ann Corbet, Interim Minister...

*"To every thing there is a season
And a time to every purpose under heaven..."*

Dear friends,

As I stand at the crossroads, about to embark on the adventure of retirement, I do so with much gratitude.



In the summer of 2018, Rev Dr Sheila Macgregor encouraged me to apply for the position of Minister of Visitation at Siloam. I did and thus began a meaningful journey providing pastoral care to this congregation. Five years later, when Sheila left to retire, I was asked to serve as the interim minister. This too proved to be a fulfilling time of service. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit has been moving with much grace in the time that I have been here. In a matter of days, I will pass the baton to our friend Mary Dillon, our very competent Voluntary Associate Minister. She will lead you capably until the new minister arrives.

This minister will require your prayerful and practical support. I am very excited that we have just trained 11 individuals in the congregation to be visitors. These visitors will make contact with members who are not able to get out to church because of medical conditions, and/or because they are no longer driving. Our volunteers will begin to visit later this Spring.

Before I leave, I have many people to thank. I hope that you will be present at my last service on March 30, to hear my words of gratitude.

A host of blessings upon you, the good folks of Siloam. You are about to enter a new era. The Spirit will move in a myriad of ways, and great adventures which will surely come your way.

Peace to you,
Rev Ann

From Pastor Mary Dillon, Voluntary Associate Minister...

We are halfway through the season of Lent. The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for springtime. In the early years of the Church it was confined to a few days before Easter. By the fourth century it was extended to forty days before Easter, a period associated with the forty days and nights that Jesus spent being tempted in the wilderness, just after his baptism (Matthew 4:1-11). "Forty days before Easter" may be somewhat misleading. The Church doesn't count Sundays among the



forty days, as Sundays are “little resurrections” so the period of Lent, lasting from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, actually covers 46 days. Whether the length of the season is 40 or 46 days, Lent provides a time to pause and rethink the fundamental purpose of our lives. It can also be a time of transformation; a first step on the path of becoming the people God has called us to be.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which fell on February 5th this year. Hundreds of millions of Christians all over the world received ashes on their foreheads (or perhaps on the back of their hands) that day, and Rev. Ann and I offered a drop-in “Blessing of the Ashes” in the sanctuary. Why ashes? Since Old Testament times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mortality. When ashes are placed on our foreheads we hear the words: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It’s a reminder that the world, that often seems so important to us at this moment is passing and we need to give more thought to what comes at the end of our earthly life, which is eternal life.

Ashes are also a sign of our need for repentance and a heartfelt acknowledgment that we, being human, sometimes fall short of being the people God intends us to be. But we can place our trust in God - Creator, Son, and Spirit – who is always with us, loving us unconditionally no matter what we've done or not done. As an Easter people, we lean into God's gift of abundant grace.

As one of the ministers here, I feel it is my responsibility to make sure that we do not rush to our destination of Easter without spending some necessary time in the season of Lent. Lent is a spiritual journey, and I hope you will consider the Sundays in Lent to be a kind of “rest stop” on your journey through this holy season. Many people have a tradition of giving up something for Lent (a habit or certain foods, for example) or they take on something new such as a spiritual discipline (meditation, prayer, fasting, daily reading of the bible, personal reflection, walking or some other form of exercise, for instance). This year, my own plan for the season of Lent has been to give up Facebook which takes up my time in ways that is not spiritual.

Included in this newsletter is a list of the worship services for Lent, Easter and beyond. Quite honestly, we can't truly appreciate the joy of Easter without going through the season of Lent and the sorrow of Good Friday as we go with Jesus to the cross. I hope you will plan to join us.

Yours in Christ,
Mary

From Blythe George, Director of Music...

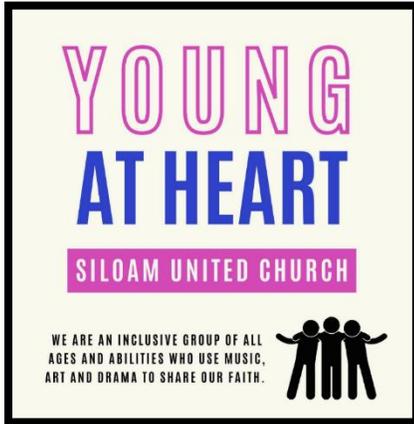
Submission not available at time of publication.



Fun Financial Fact!

**In 2024, Fitness Activities
brought in \$14,225 to support
the life & work of Siloam.**

From Allison O'Connor, Young At Heart, Dreams Come True Music Studio & Community of Faith Musical Theatre...



Sunday mornings are a favourite at Siloam because our Young At Heart Family gathers together to celebrate faith, friendship and fun! We are an all ages, all abilities community. All welcome! Come join us in the library at 10 a.m. and you will witness this beautiful group! Take a look at what we have been up to since Christmas....Happy New Year, We Are Blessed, Choose To Include, Welcome Ruth and Paul, Pancakes and more! #inclusion #faith #friendship



Community Of Faith Musical Theatre is back at it...creating music! We are rehearsing the musical, In The Big Inning which will be showcased on June 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Siloam. Come see musical theatre in action as we share God's message through Music together! #inclusion #faith #music



COMMUNITY OF FAITH MUSICAL THEATRE
PROUDLY PRESENTS

IN THE BIG INNING

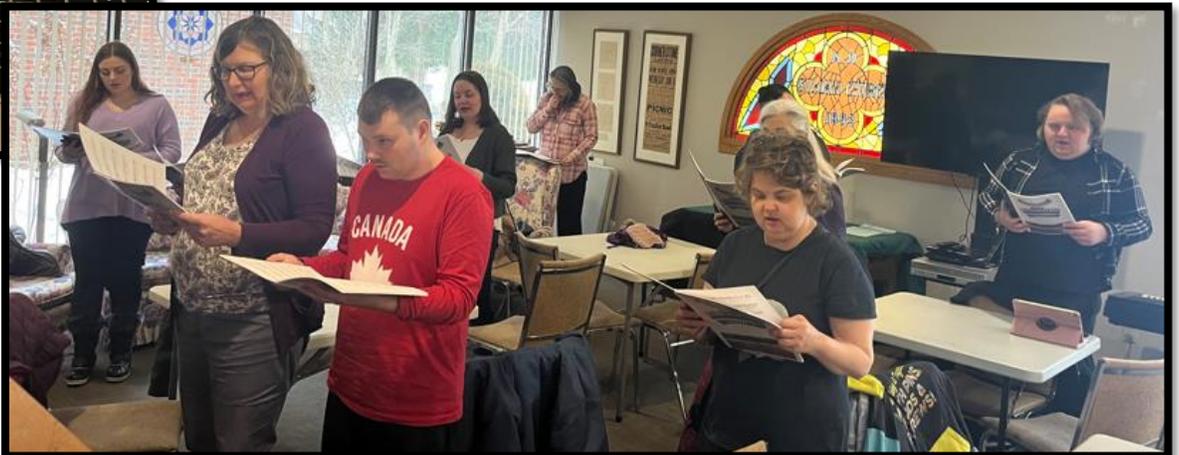
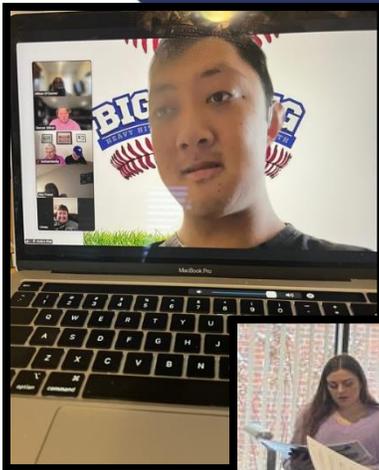
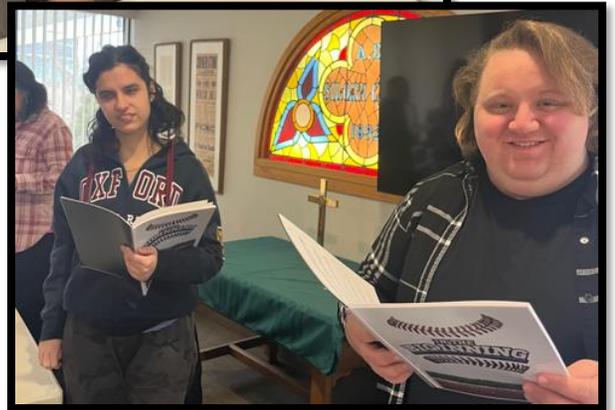
A MUSICAL BY
DAVID GUTHRIE, ROB HOWARD & CYNDI NINE

**DO YOU LOVE TO SING AND ACT?
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN!**

**REHEARSALS BEGIN
FEBRUARY 2ND, 9:00AM**

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| JUNE 8 2025 | PERFORMANCE SILOAM UNITED CHURCH | SUNDAY 7:00 PM |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|

TO REGISTER EMAIL ALLISON BY JANUARY 26TH AT
DREAMSCOMETRUEMUSICSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM





Dreams Come True Music Studio is grateful to Siloam for providing rehearsal and performance space for our DCT Family! We are deep into rehearsals for our upcoming musical, Mary Poppins Jr. Get your tickets for April 12 and come witness what true, meaningful inclusion looks like. We have been busy performing in the community and were very honoured to be invited to be

showcased at the Kids Mental Health Optimist Club Foundation's General Meeting and The Have Resolve Foundation's Gala! It's Possible. Anything's Possible. #inclusion #abilitiesfirst #singyoursong

DREAMS COME TRUE MUSIC STUDIO
Proudly Presents

Original Music and Lyrics by
Richard M. Sherman and
Robert B. Sherman

Book by
Julian Fellowes

New Songs and Additional
Music and Lyrics by
George Stiles and Anthony
Drew

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH

Co-Created by
Cameron Mackintosh

Adapted by iTheatrics under
the supervision of
Timothy Allen McDonald

A musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney film
Adapted by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

Directed by Allison O'Connor

EST. 2018
DREAMS COME TRUE
MUSIC STUDIO

APRIL 12TH | 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
1240 FANSHAWE PARK RD E, LONDON, ON

TICKETS ON SALE - MARCH 1ST @12PM
\$25/PERSON

f X @



And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

It's Possible. Anything's Possible. ❤️

~Allison

Administration Corner...

Have you recently moved? Changed your phone number or email address? Would you like to be added to our email distribution list or sign up for PAR?

Office Administrator Erin can help! Just let her know if anything has changed for you and your family and she will update your information.



If you have questions about the day-to-day life at Siloam, don't hesitate to call, email or drop in during regular office hours. The office is open Monday – Thursday from 8:30am-4pm (closed from 12-12:30pm for lunch) and on Fridays from 8:30am-12:30pm. Drop in anytime! If the door is locked, please ring the bell and Erin will only be a moment or two.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

(Pastor Mary will be in the pulpit until the end of June unless otherwise noted, and our new Minister, Christina Crawford, joins us in July)

- | | | |
|----------|---|---|
| April 6 | Lent IV – Sarah Campbell from Ark Aid will tell us about their plans for a women-only housing project | |
| April 12 | Dreams Come True presents, "Mary Poppins Jr!" | |
| April 13 | Palm Sunday and the Sacrament of Holy Communion | |
| April 18 | Good Friday – We will celebrate the life of Jesus of Nazareth and mourn his death |  |
| April 20 | Easter Sunday and our Celebration of the Resurrection and New Life | |
| April 27 | Second Sunday of Easter and Holy Humour Sunday | |
| April 27 | Forest City Singers Concert – 2pm | |
| May 3 | Spring Yard Sale – 8am! | |
| May 4 | Third Sunday of Easter | |
| May 11 | Fourth Sunday of Easter – Pulpit Supply to be arranged | |
| May 18 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | |
| May 25 | Sixth Sunday of Easter - Pulpit Supply to be arranged | |
| June 1 | Seventh Sunday of Easter and PRIDE Sunday - Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor, minister at Wesley-Knox U.C., will be our guest preacher | |
| June 7 | Chicken BBQ – 5pm-7pm | |
| June 8 | Pentecost and sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada Also, at 4:00 p.m. there is a live-stream of the Centennial Worship Service from Gower Street United Church, St. John's, Newfoundland | |
| June 15 | Trinity Sunday – Pulpit Supply to be arranged | |
| June 22 | Second after Pentecost – Pulpit Supply to be arranged | |
| June 29 | Third after Pentecost | |
| July 6 | Fourth after Pentecost – We welcome Christina Crawford, our new minister, to the pulpit! | |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| July 13 | Fifth after Pentecost |
| July 20 | Sixth after Pentecost and the PRIDE Parade – Watch for more details. |
| July 27 | Seventh after Pentecost |
| Aug.3 to Sept 21 | Eighth to Fifteenth after Pentecost |
| Sept 28 | Sixteenth after Pentecost and Truth & Reconciliation Sunday Guest preacher to be announced. |

Prayer, Care, and Connection

Our Community of Faith at Siloam is committed to being an affirming, welcoming, safe place for all who walk through our doors.

Something happened recently that made us realize that we can do a better job of connecting with those who attend worship and other activities here. Last month, a winter storm hit one weekend and many churches outside of London as well as some in the city, made the decision to cancel worship on February 16th. Siloam's service went ahead with a much smaller than normal number of people who braved the elements and road conditions to attend. We discussed this at our Council meeting the following week and it was decided that, in the event of a storm or some other emergency situation and in consultation between the Chair of Council, the Chair of the Property Committee, and the Minister, a decision will be made by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday as to whether we will go ahead or cancel the Sunday service. To this end, it is very important that we have your **UP-TO-DATE CONTACT INFORMATION**. Please be assured that the personal contact information we are collecting from you is for use by Siloam United Church only and will not be shared with other parties. In addition to your home address and phone number, it would be helpful to have an e-mail address and cell phone number for those who have them. Notices about cancellation will be distributed by e-mail and posted to our Facebook page and website. Phone calls will be made to individuals who do not have a computer. We want everyone to stay safe, so please check for messages before you venture out to the church in inclement weather!

Once Rev. Ann retires at the end of March, we will no longer have a Minister of Visitation and although our new minister will be full-time, it is not feasible for him/her to visit with every congregation. Prayer, care and connection are important aspects of our ministry here at Siloam, and Rev. Ann and I were

delighted when 11 people answered the call to join our new **VISITATION TEAM**. They are Marg Boss, Lorna Carnegie, John Davidson, Brenda Fieldhouse, Marg Herrington, Herb Hunter, Nancy Kelly-Bernardo, Neila Lawson, Cindy MacKinnon, Pauline Newton, and Linda Peeling, These Volunteers have now completed their Visitor's Training, facilitated by Rev. Ann, and have obtained or have applied and are waiting for their Vulnerable Sector Police Records Check to be processed.

Our Visitors will each have 4 or 5 people to visit, two to three times a year, with phone calls in-between, and may also be asked to deliver our Fanfare newsletter, income tax receipts, and greeting cards (often using the beautiful cards designed by our **PASTORAL CARE CARD TEAM**: Judi Emery, Brenda Fieldhouse, Karen Moffat, Rev. Carol Reardon-Smith, and Heather Vosper. Thank you to our card-makers for their creativity and dedication to this important ministry. We also give thanks to the **ROSE BIRRELL WOMEN'S GROUP** for the donations they provide to offset the cost of postage for the items that have to be mailed.

An important question was asked by one of our new Visitors: "What do we do in case of emergency? Do we have an emergency contact for the people who attend Siloam??" This is something we need to work on compiling. Although we would never wish for an emergency situation to happen to anyone, if it does, it would be most helpful if we knew which family member or friend we should contact and how to get in touch with them. At the same time you update your contact information with Erin, please provide her with the **NAME AND PHONE NUMBER FOR YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON**. And, again, this information is confidential and for church use only in the case of an emergency.

Our **PRAYERS FOR PEACE** group will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in the Library-Chapel. After the opening prayer by the minister, participants are invited to pray aloud, as they feel led. Many Tuesdays, the half hour between the opening and closing prayers is a time of silent prayer. Upcoming gatherings will be held April 8 and 22, May 13 and 20, June 10 and 24. This group is open to anyone, and no prayer experience is required.



Siloam is blessed to have several people who pray for members of our

Community of Faith and the wider community. Our **PRAYER CIRCLE** is coordinated by Heather Vosper and Pastor Mary. Each member of the prayer circle is given a list of people and asked to pray for them. All prayer requests are confidential. If at any time you, or someone you know, should be added to our prayer list, please let Pastor Mary know.

Siloam also maintains a connection with our folks in long-term care. For many years, Rev. Ann has been offering **WORSHIP SERVICES AT RICHMOND WOODS** on the 3rd Thursday of the month. When she retires, this outreach ministry will continue with Pastor Mary alternating with Rev. Joshua Lawrence from First St. Andrews to offer Sunday afternoon worship.

When Rev. Karen Willis, the minister at Innerkip United Church reached out to her ministry colleagues about the possibility of providing **PRAYER SHAWLS** to the families in her Community of Faith which has decided to disband at the end of June, she was overwhelmed by the response. Two of our prayer shawl makers at Siloam, Wib Dawson and Jo-Ann Gramlich, immediately provided **18** of their beautiful creations (including two shawls commissioned by Helen Pickard) for this outreach initiative and the shawls were dedicated and blessed on February 16th during our worship service. These were added to another **14** prayer shawls made by the Prayer



Shawl Group at Richards Memorial United Church, Pastor Mary's home congregation. Rev. Karen has mentioned the prayer shawl idea to the members of her Church Council, but the folks in the congregation do not know about these forthcoming gifts. I think they will be very touched by this outpouring of

support and I look forward to seeing the group photo of the people from Innerkip United Church with their lovely prayer shawls.

Abundant blessings,
(Pastor) Mary Dillon, Voluntary Associate Minister



Fun Financial Fact!
**The Bridge Club donates
\$100 monthly to the life
and work of Siloam.**

Good News from the Search Committee!

At the congregational meeting that was held on March 23rd the Search Committee presented their recommendation for a new minister.

The Search Committee had been meeting for over 1 ½ years looking for the right person to lead our church into its next chapter. The committee consisted of the following volunteers: Tracey Brown (chair), Herb Hunter, John Davidson, Wendy Barbour, Jim Anderson, David Dillon and Vince Chacko as well as our Regional Representative Kerry Stover.

The recommended candidate is **Christina Crawford**. Christina is a diaconal minister with 6 years of experience in the United Church. She currently supports ministry at St. Paul's United Church in Milton, ON and, before that, she began her career at Forest United Church in Forest, ON.

During the meeting the members of the committee presented their thoughts on why they believed our recommendation is the best choice for Siloam. Christina comes with excellent recommendations from her previous charges, and she is currently completing a program designed to help ministers assist churches in transition. Christina is passionate about social justice and outreach and through her previous work with Operation Sharing she has experience collaborating with other churches. Christina lives in Ingersoll and has previous working experience with youth and young families in St. Davil's United Church in Woodstock. She is in full support of our unique Young at Heart program.

The congregation was unanimous in its acceptance that Christina Crawford be called for the position of full-time minister, and she will start on July 1st.

The Search Committee would like to thank everyone for their patience while we worked to find just the right person to fit our needs.

2025 Siloam Lenten Project

Please read about this new endeavour from Ark Aid focusing on a rapidly growing homeless demographic – aging women. This is our opportunity to make a difference.



A Safe Place to Heal, Grow, and Belong

At **Ark Aid Street Mission**, we are listening to the voices of women who have experienced homelessness, addiction, and instability in London. In response, we are expanding women-only housing solutions designed to provide safety, healing, and a path to permanent stability.

Starting with one home on Oxford Street for four women, we are now growing to 13 supported housing units for women transitioning out of addiction treatment. Our goal is simple but profound: to help women find home—not just a place to stay, but a place where they are safe, supported, and empowered to rebuild their lives.

We recognize that women’s experiences of homelessness and trauma are different from men’s, requiring unique service models that address their needs with compassion, dignity, and care. Through communal living spaces and individual units, we are creating flexible, supportive environments that foster interdependence on the journey to independent living.

At Ark Aid, we believe in a community where all people are beheld, beloved, and belong. That’s why we are committed to building diverse and responsive housing models that meet women where they are, offering stability, care, and connection as they move toward a future filled with hope.

This is more than housing—it’s a foundation for a new life.

Join us in making home a reality for women in London.

To donate, you may place your cheque in the offering plate or drop off at Siloam during regular office hours (**please make your cheque payable to "Ark Aid Mission" and marked 2025 Lenten Project**). Payment by credit card can be made at the following link: [Donate Now - Ark Aid Mission](#). Thank you for your generosity!

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY



In 1925, the Methodist Church, the Congregationalist Union of Canada, and 70% of the Presbyterian Church in Canada voted to unite as one, and The United Church of Canada was born. The inaugural service was held on June 10, 1925 at the Mutual Street Arena in Toronto, and Rev. George C. Pidgeon was installed as the first Moderator.

Each of the founding churches had a long history in Canada prior to 1925. The movement for church union began with the desire to coordinate ministry in the vast Canadian northwest and for collaboration in overseas missions. Congregations in Indigenous communities from each of the original denominations were an important factor in the effort toward church union.

The United Church continues to be a "uniting" church, and has been enriched by several additional unions since 1925. In 1930, the Synod of The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bermuda became part of The United Church of Canada's Maritime Conference (now Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council). The Evangelical United Brethren Church became part of The United Church of Canada in 1968. In addition, various individual congregations from other Christian communions have become part of the United Church over the years.

This year, we celebrate 100 years of dedicated mission and ministry in The United Church of Canada, and several special events are being planned.

- A Centennial Worship Service will be held at Gower Street United Church in St. Johns, Newfoundland on Sunday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. EST).

- A special Centennial issue of "Broadview" comes out in June. The deadline to order your copy, if you're not already a Broadview subscriber, is April 3rd. It is anticipated that copies will be mailed out mid-May.
- "Moments in Time: Sermons from The United Church of Canada 1910-2020" was published to coincide with this Anniversary and copies are in the Resource Centre
- Antler River Watershed Region has invited Communities of Faith to submit a brief history which will then be gathered into a collection that tells the stories of our various Communities of Faith.
- Individual Communities of Faith have come up with creative ways to celebrate, such as having a "watch party" where other congregations and the public are invited to watch the Centennial service together, perhaps with a meal to follow, or committing to collect 100 donations of a certain item each month.
- London and area clergy are working together to offer a city-wide celebration on June 8th. Stay tuned for more details!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Mission & Service – Springtime of the Spirit

Siloam's donation to the Mission and Service Fund is valued and appreciated! Enjoy the following words from our United Church of Canada E-ssentials newsletter...

First come the tiny snowdrops, bravely peeking out over the melting snow. Then, the crocuses with their delicate purple petals, followed by the buttery-yellow daffodils. By the time I'm bundling up for Easter service, tulips in every colour of Joseph's splendid coat are blooming.



Spring reminds us of renewal, of hope, of life returning. And in this Easter season, I see that same renewal in the Mission and Service work that your generosity makes possible.

Because of you, Mission and Service partners are like the first flowers of spring—blooming where they are needed most. Your compassion takes root and becomes warmth and care for those in crisis, hope for those facing hardship, and new possibilities for communities near and far.

Like the crocuses and tulips, our shared ministry blossoms in many forms, responding to the needs of different communities in the ways that will help most. Your support makes this possible, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

This Easter, may you be like the first flowers of spring—vibrant, alive, and bringing joy to those around you. In this time of renewal, know that your generosity through [Mission and Service](#) will help even more seeds of hope take root and grow. Thank you.

News from the Christian Resource Centre

The Christian Resource Centre offers a range of Christian resources to support the local community. Our focus is on providing assistance and guidance to individuals seeking spiritual growth and development. With a commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment, the Resource Centre aims to be a valuable resource for those looking to explore their faith and connect with others on a similar journey. At present, we serve individuals and churches of our own denomination but are reaching out to other faith traditions in the city to let them know we are here to support them.

The Christian Resource Centre carries books on theology, worship, preaching, spirituality, social justice, anti-racism, studies for personal and group use, stewardship, resources for ministers and church growth, as well as a selection of books for children, giftware, greeting cards, and items for church use such as candles, certificates, record books, and communion supplies. As we update our inventory, we offer books at a reduced price or some that are free for the taking.

If the items you are looking for are not on our shelves, we can easily order them.

Normal hours are Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon but, since I am often in the building, I'm always happy to welcome you. We also have comfortable seating and can offer you a cup of coffee while your browse.

Mary Dillon, Volunteer Manager
mcdillon@rogers.com (519) 878-7134



Fun Financial Fact!
Siloam donates \$1,250
each month to The Mission
and Service Fund of the
United Church of Canada.

Cleaning Responsibly

Housecleaning and laundry are not high on my list of favourite things to do, but like it or not, they are jobs that need doing. In September, I talked about how important it is to conserve and protect our limited supply of fresh water. Learning how to clean without polluting our water is an important part of this. So how do we keep our clothes and our homes clean without contaminating our precious water supply?

Nowadays there is a dizzying array of “environmentally friendly” cleaning products available and figuring out what to use can be daunting. I know how hard it is to change habits, especially when it’s for chores we’d rather not be doing in the first place. So my recommendation is to look for environmentally friendly products that are similar to what you are using now. That way, the transition will be easier. Deciding what brand to use is another challenge. David Suzuki’s website suggests checking the label for four things: 1) eco-certification, 2) biodegradability, 3) a complete ingredient list and 4) company contact information.

Two brands of cleaning products I have tried and am happy with are “Eco-max” and “Method”. Both offer a wide range of affordable products that are available at many local grocery and hardware stores. My top choice is Eco-max because it is made here in Ontario.

Another Canadian company is the Green Beaver. They make pure castile soap which is an all-purpose liquid soap concentrate. Since it’s made from vegetable oil, it is completely biodegradable.

For the more adventurous people who want to save money as well as the environment, you can make your own cleaning products from the basic old standbys like baking soda, vinegar, borax, washing soda and pure soap. For more information on how to use these products go to: tru.earth-35-Easy-Eco-Friendly-Home-Cleaning-Hacks-You-Wish-Youd-Known-Sooner

Another option is to clean without using soap or detergent. Is that even possible you ask? It sure is! I am aware of two companies that sell microfibre cleaning cloths that are meant to be used with only water, "Enjo" and "Norwex". They are quite expensive but worth every penny. I've been using the Enjo products for fourteen years now and I just love them (by the way, I haven't had to replace those items yet, so the cost has been spread over all that time). I like to use them for all those big jobs like washing floors, washing windows and spring cleaning. Every time I use them, I marvel at how well they do the job and how much quicker and easier they make the work (full disclosure – sometimes I do add a little vinegar or a few drops of soap to my water).

For laundry, conventional laundry detergents contain a variety of harmful chemicals like surfactants, bleach, fragrance and synthetic polymers that can contaminate water and be harmful to aquatic life. Again, look for an environmentally friendly product instead, and read labels as recommended above. One relatively new laundry product that I highly recommend is the Tru-Earth laundry strips (again, the reason I suggest this brand is because they are made in Canada). These small biodegradable strips of concentrated detergent are easy to use, come in zero-waste packaging and can be used in any type of washing machine. There is no measuring, no garbage, and no harmful chemicals or plastic – what's not to like?

If you feel you need to use bleach occasionally to whiten clothes and remove stains, then choose an oxygen-based bleach (eg. Nature Clean Oxygen bleach). It's made from hydrogen peroxide which breaks down into harmless water and oxygen.

As you struggle with the tasks of cleaning your home and cleaning your clothes, keep in mind that it is much more important to keep our water clean – because ALL life on Earth depends on clean water.

~Maria Prohaszka



Fun Financial Fact!
Rose Birrell donates \$1,000
every month to Siloam's
General Account.



FundScrip™

Here is another (EASY!) way you can help support Siloam!

Next orders due by Sunday, April 13!

3 EASY WAYS TO ORDER YOUR FUNDScrip CARDS:

1. Orders are placed once a month – usually the Sunday closest to the middle of the month – and are ready to be picked up the following Sunday. Fill out the order form and give it to Wendy Barbour at church on the order date or leave in the church office during regular office hours prior to the order date. Cheques should accompany orders made payable to Siloam United Church.
2. Fill out the order form and email to the church prior to the order date and send an e-transfer to Siloam United Church for the amount of your order. Your cards will be ready for pickup the Sunday following the group order date. You can even simply send an email to the church saying e.g. I want 3 \$100.00 Loblaws cards, 2 \$50.00 Esso cards and 1 \$100.00 Walmart card and I will be e-transferring \$500.00 to the church.

3. You can set yourself up online to do direct orders so you are not limited in any way timewise to placing your order. You are limited to a maximum dollar limit of \$500.00 and a maximum of 4 cards per order. You will be paying \$1.04 for regular Canada Post delivery and you will need to set up EFT (electronic fund transfer) with FundScrip. How do you get started with this method? Go to fundscrip.com, select 'Support a Group' and enter the Code G3EPGX. Fill in the required info and you will get further instructions direct from FundScrip.

Remember that gift cards aren't only for giving away at Christmas, birthdays or other special occasions. They are for using everyday when you shop for groceries, put gas in your car, buy clothing – the possibilities are endless.



Fun Financial Fact!
**Siloam donates \$1,000
each month to ELUCO.**

Siloam Pickleball Club – Check This Out!

You could be wrong you know. You may be thinking you are too old or could never be good enough to play pickleball. Well, there is no easier way to find out than by checking out how we play pickleball at Siloam. You might surprise yourself.

In 2019 we began Pickleball For Seniors here at the church specifically for anyone 50 or older, whether or not they had ever played before. It has been a great success with players' ages ranging from 50 to over 80. We offered to teach people, and still do, and once beginners learned, they loved it. Others

who already knew how to play with varying levels of experience joined in, and as a result beginners learn even more from the experienced players. That's because one of our rules is that we always try to play to the level of the least experienced player. This gives beginners lots of opportunities to improve.

An additional benefit of playing pickleball at Siloam is the social aspect. Because the 2-hour sessions are kept to small numbers (8-10 players, Monday to Friday) each person normally enjoys playing a game then sitting out for a game. This provides an opportunity to quickly get to know the others while taking a rest between games. These breaks also allow a chance to watch others playing and pick up some tips on what to do or not do. This enables players to immediately implement any changes they might like to try - very helpful. Many say the social interaction is as much fun as playing. All this for only \$5/session!

If you have had your 50th birthday, have reasonable mobility, fairly good hand-eye coordination, and good balance, congratulations! You qualify for playing, or learning to play, pickleball at Siloam United Church here in northeast London. There is no requirement to be a church member anywhere - it is open to all who meet the above criteria.

Not sure? Come out, watch a session in action, and pick up a brochure with no obligation. You'll soon see how friendly and helpful the environment is and can find out much more about Pickleball For Seniors at Siloam. Want more detail? Call the church office at 519-455-9201.



Let's Put the "Fun" Into "Fundraising"!

SILOAM YARD SALE - May 3, 2025

Many hands make light work is a proverb said to originate in Medieval England and when it comes to the yard sale Siloam has been blessed with many volunteers who have made it a success year after year. It is time – probably long overdue – to make some minor changes to better share the workload. We will have multiple captains or coordinators this year, each looking after a different aspect of the yard sale. For example, departments such as clothing, books, sports, housewares, and food, will each have its own captain. As well, there will be a captain to lead a team for initial set-up, receiving goods, and disposal of unsold goods. This year we may be adding an e-sale component to the yard sale as well.



A typical yard sale captain/coordinator role involves recruiting a team, receiving donations, set-up, sorting, pricing, and packing up. We anticipate that we'll need the most assistance in housewares as it has historically required the most assistance.

The committee leading the yard sale will consist of Wendy Barbour and a team of captains/ coordinators. We look forward to hearing of innovative ways this team has come up with to make this yard sale easier on everyone. Can we count on you to join this team and help make it a truly successful fundraiser? For more details or to volunteer as a captain/coordinator, please contact Wendy Barbour at 519-451-1882 or wwbarbour@rogers.com.

So please, plan to donate items for the yard sale and mark May 3 on your calendar so you can help or attend the event to make it bigger and better than ever.

Also, please make note of these other important upcoming Fundraiser Events:

- June 7 Chicken Barbeque
- September 27 Fall Yard Sale
- October 4 Oktoberfest Dinner & Silent Auction
- Various Lunches following Church

Information as to how you can help with these events will be forthcoming.

FUNDRAISING is an important complement to our ongoing church life. We appreciate any and all help you're able to provide.

PRIDE NEWS

PRIDE PARADE – SUNDAY, JULY 20TH

For many years, the United Churches in London, including Siloam, have taken part in the annual Pride Parade. We haven't received confirmation of the specific parade route or where we're congregating this year but we will provide updates as they become available. Lynn and Pete McClary will provide a trailer for those who wish to sit rather than walk the parade route, there is often live music from Trinity United, and it's an opportunity to connect with the community. Come and join us, and let's show London how welcoming and affirming we are as individuals and as a Community of Faith!

HEARTS FOR PRIDE

Do you knit or crochet? The HEAT Team is looking for folks to make "Hearts for Pride" to hand out at the Pride Parade on July 20th.

These handmade hearts will have a small card attached to them which says Siloam United Church and "God Loves You." If you're interested and wish to participate, please pick up the pattern from the table in the Arva Atrium. Completed hearts may be left in the basket there. Happy crafting!

This idea comes to us from Rev. Wendy Noble who serves in ministry with Dundas Street Centre and Rowntree Memorial United Churches in London. Individuals in these

congregations have been making the hearts to hand out at Pride Events, their neighbourhood block party, and other community events. Wendy shared the idea and patterns with local clergy and we look forward to distributing the gift of a Heart for Pride to those we encounter.





ROSE BIRRELL WOMEN'S GROUP

The Rose Birrell Women's Group will meet again on

Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 1pm

Join us in the library-chapel for tea and treats,
fellowship, and an afternoon of Easter fun!

All Ladies Welcome!

Quilting Group

The Rose Birrell Quilter's Group continues to meet every Monday from 9am – 2pm. New quilters are always welcome to join our group. We regularly quilt items for our bazaar and also quilt for others who enjoy piecing a quilt top together and seek help with the quilting. The beautiful quilt pictured here was recently quilted for a member of our congregation. For further information, please call Margaret Smith at 519-645-0142.



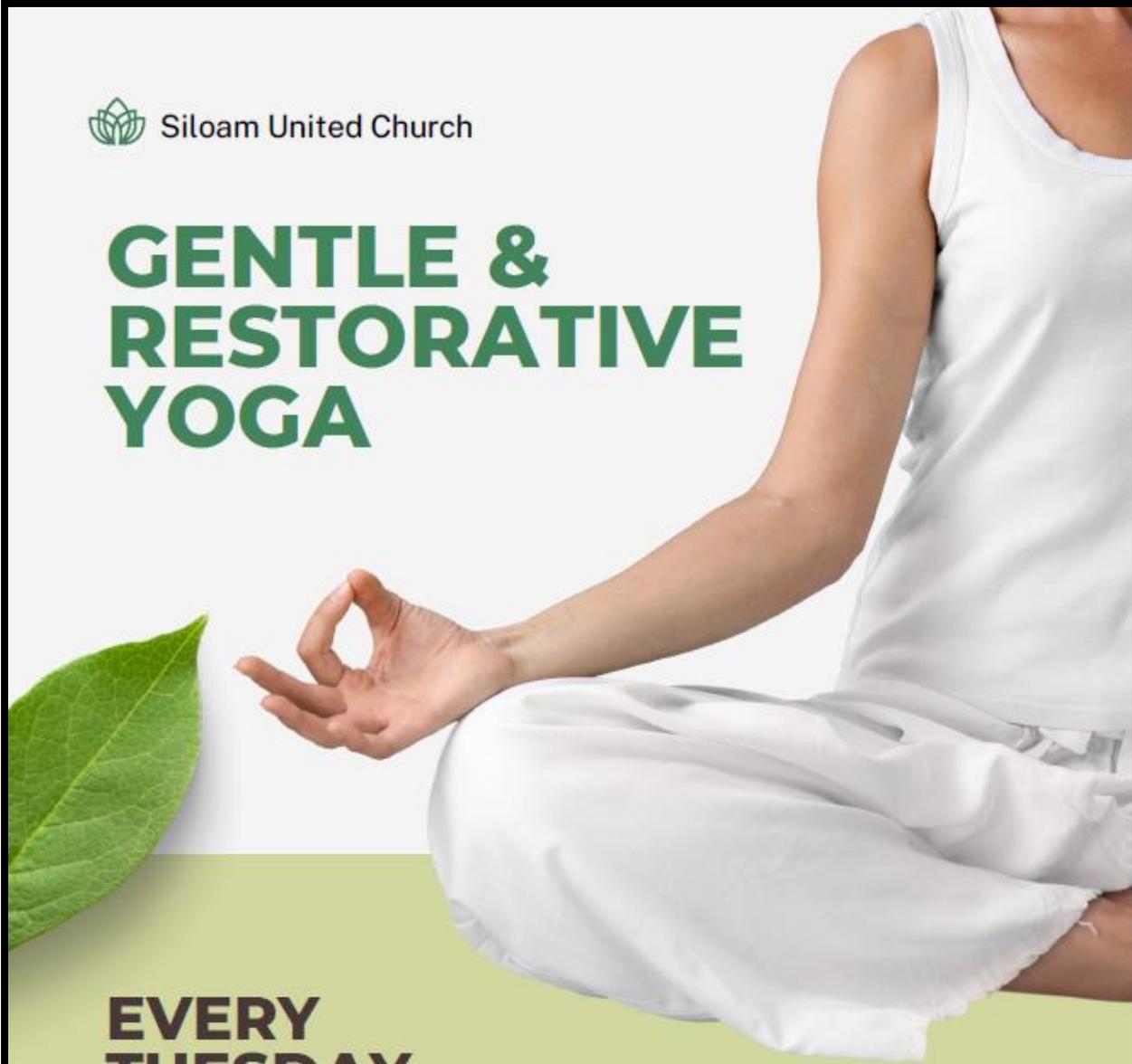
Fun Financial Fact!

**We collected \$14,368 for
Facilities Rentals in 2024**

**and look to repeat or
exceed that in 2025.**

 Siloam United Church

GENTLE & RESTORATIVE YOGA



**EVERY
TUESDAY**

Gentle Yoga 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Restorative Yoga | 7:15 - 8:15 pm

WITH HEIDI

INVESTMENT
\$15.00 PER
CLASS OR
\$25.00 FOR
BOTH CLASSES

What to Bring?

Your own mat, water bottle and blanket,
blocks and straps provided

Any Questions?

Email: Heidibee66@gmail.com

ELUCO



East London United Church Outreach

The Voices of Broadway Show Choir

(www.thevoicesofbroadway.com)



Siloam United Church 1240 Fanshawe Park Road East

3pm Saturday March 29, 2025

Tickets \$25.00 at the door or

In advance by e-transfer eluco267@gmail.com or
at Siloam Church Office (519-455-9201)

A decorative graphic featuring stylized butterflies in shades of blue, pink, and purple, and large, layered flowers in teal, green, and blue. The background is white with faint dotted lines and swirls. The entire graphic is enclosed in a black rectangular border.

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