

FANFARE

Autumn 2025



Siloam
United
Church

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United in Worship and Service



I'm so excited to share what our leadership has been working on. In September (2025), our Council agreed to kick off a brand new, spiritually focused initiative starting in **January 2026**. We've called it "**United in Worship and Service.**"

Worship and Work Must Be One

When I hear those words, I immediately think of the Voices United hymn ***Worship the Lord***, particularly that line that hits home every time: "**worship and work must be one**". As one Council member noted, "That is exactly what this whole project is about!"

We realized that sometimes the 'work' of running the church—all the administration, meetings, and reports—can feel separate from the spiritual heartbeat of our faith. We want to stop that! We are committed to transforming our Council and M&P (staff) meetings into genuinely **inspirational and worshipful gatherings**, making sure everything we do is guided by God's purpose.

For the Council, this initiative involves transforming standard functions, so they are United in Worship and Service by consciously applying biblical principles to governance. Specifically, we will be sharing reports as **stories of God's leading and grace**, mir-

roring the consistent practice of early believers who *reported all that God had done through them*. We will deepen our spiritual vitality by engaging in **biblical-theological reflection** on shared challenges, using **Scripture**, so that we may live a life worthy of the God and please God in every way". Furthermore, to guide decision-making, we will engage in **prayerful discernment**, adhering to the consistent call for **devotion to prayer** and striving to understand **what God's will is** so that the work of the church may be *built up* and our actions are done *in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God*. The goal is to conduct our governance in a manner that serves God's people and promotes mutual edification, recognizing that we are Christ's servants entrusted with God's mysteries.

And, for our amazing United Church ministers—me included! We are carving out time for **Sacred Companionship**. This means dedicated retreats for rest, healing, and spiritual nourishment. It's a safe space where we can be vulnerable and honest, tackling that feeling of isolation.

Anchoring Ourselves in the 2035 Vision

Why is Siloam undertaking this shift? Because it completely supports the big-picture future strategy of the United Church, known as "**Towards 2035**." This vision calls for the UCC to become a **resilient, inspired, and diverse** community of disciples.

By intentionally making sure our leaders are spiritually grounded and adaptive, we are making Siloam a stronger, more **inspired** congregation. This intentional focus helps us prioritize and continually reinvent our ministry. It's about focusing on the clear path forward, ensuring we become a **resilient** community equipped for the future.

Cooperation and Shared Learning

And that's where the "Service" part of our name comes in! The 2035 Vision stresses that **cooperation and collaboration** must be central to our future. We aren't keeping this goodness to ourselves. We are **documenting** our learning so we can share it with other communities of faith!

This journey is all about living that hymn line: "worship and work must be one." Please keep our Council, Staff, and Ministers in your prayers as we prepare for this transformative launch in January 2026!

In hope and faith,
Pastor Christina

Ask, Seek, Know: Prayer Practices Workshop



*Are you searching for deeper clarity,
spiritual purpose, or a connection in life
that transcends mere words?*

Join Pastor Christina for a four-week **Pray Workshop** designed to transform your spiritual approach. We will define precisely what prayer is and detail how we should pray (manner and content), exploring the reasons and circumstances for prayer and uncovering what to avoid in prayer.

Tuesdays 10:30am - 12pm, November 4 - 25

*You can add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Arva Atrium or email
ccrawford@siloamunitedchurch.org*

AUTUMN EVENTS AT SILOAM

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Sunday, Oct 12 | Thanksgiving Sunday |
| | Urban Roots Pop-Up Honey Market |
| Monday, Oct 13 | Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Sunday, Oct 19 | 168th Anniversary Sunday |
| Saturday, Nov 1 | Santa Shoppe Bazaar |
| Sunday, Nov 2 | Daylight Savings Time Ends |
| | Social Sunday |
| Sunday, Nov 9 | Remembrance Sunday |





Music Notes

Greetings, Siloam friends! Happy autumn from your Director of Music Blythe George.

Over the summer, singers from the Siloam choir employed their talents by providing special music for Sunday services. We also welcomed guest musician Andrea Wells who both sang and played the violin in July. Andrea will be returning to share her talents with us for Anniversary Sunday. While I took a few days' vacation, the ever-radiant Helen Bruzas filled in at the keys. Helen, thank you for ensuring Siloam is always good, musical hands!

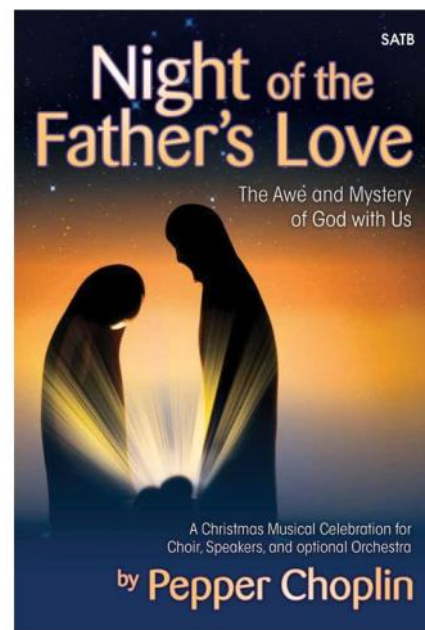
This fall, the **Siloam choir** is exploring a new start time: Thursdays from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. This change will be especially welcome as the days get shorter and colder. We have also welcomed a number of new choristers: Diane, Marianne, and Eilish. It is wonderful to have you with us. We continue to enjoy social time on the last Thursday of each month, with drinks and goodies provided by volunteer members of the choir. It is an excellent time to get to know one another and grow our community. If you are interested in joining us to sing, contact me, one of the choir members, or the church office. "There is room for all!"

The **Siloam handbell choir** will be starting up soon. Rehearsals will continue to be in the sanctuary on Sunday after services. Handbell ringing is a rich musical tradition dating back to 17th century England. The practice was developed to enable bell tower ringers to practice "change ringing" on smaller, quieter bells. Handbell ringing can be easily adapted to match the capabilities of all ringer, with opportunities to improve skills over time. It's lightly physical and quite a lot of fun! If you are interested in joining us, contact me, one of our ringers, or the church office.

There is much to celebrate this fall, with the return of beloved traditions as we explore new ways to positively impact the community. I look forward to working alongside Rev. Christina, our Siloam musicians, and the many hands who make worshipping together an enriching, joyful experience.

"See you on the ice!"

- Blythe



In December, the choir looks forward to presenting a choral cantata by Pepper Choplin entitled "Night of the Father's Love".



On Sunday September 28th, Siloam enjoyed a meaningful Truth & Reconciliation service led by Dr. Eileen and Rosalind Antone of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, which included hymns sung in the Oneida language. As Rosalind shared her story, she presented a flag she designed for the victims and survivors of residential schools.

Welcoming Pastor Christina Crawford

At the beginning of the summer Siloam welcomed our new minister, Christina Crawford. Christina's Sept 28 Covenanting Service was uplifting with musical performances from the choir and the Dreams Come True Music Studio/Young at Heart group.

Many thanks to Antler River Watershed Regional Representative Rev. Kerry Stover for leading the service and Rev. Marylin Townsend-Smith for delivering a wonderful sermon.

The Search Committee, led by Chair Tracey Brown and composed of Jim Anderson, Wendy Barbour, Vincent Chacko, John Davidson, David Dillon and Herb Hunter also participated in the service. They have now been discharged of their duty with the thanks of the congregation.

We look forward to many years building community with Christina and taking Siloam into its next chapter, providing a safe, inclusive place to worship.



Rev. Kerry Stover, Rev. Christina Crawford, & Rev. Marilyn Townsend-Smith at the Covenanting Service.

- Tracey Brown

Want to get to know Pastor Christina? You can watch her introduction video on our website at [siloamunitedchurch.org/who-we-are/](https://www.siloamunitedchurch.org/who-we-are/)

Boutique Yard Sale

Our first Boutique Yard Sale was held on Saturday, September 27th, and was a resounding success. This sale differed from our Spring Yard Sale in that we were only selling books, clothing and jewelry as well as a bake table of home-made goodies. Everyone was on board and the donations poured in. We could not have done this without the volunteers who sorted, organized and priced these donations. It was a big job but they rose to the task. The doors opened at 8:00 a.m. with a flood of buyers shopping for bargains. The bake table sold out by 9:00 and netted \$500.00. The shopping continued until noon at which time unsold items were packed up and donated to other worthy organizations. The total revenue for the sale was **\$4622.95**. Well done Siloam!

- Wendy Barbour and Pauline Newton, Co-convenors



The Clothing section of the sale (better known as "Fashions on Fanshawe") netted \$1 692.10. Many thanks to everyone who fluffed and folded during the week, sold on Saturday and helped clean up at the end of the sale. We did have "leftovers" and they have been distributed to: Life*Spin, Mission Services, St. George's Anglican Church—a supporter of the homeless and to Jesus Victorious Church International (the home church of our custodians, Maria and Ray)—a supporter of Filipino students and their families.

- Peggy Rivard



From Allison

Siloam's **Young At Heart** group was excited to get back together on Sunday mornings and very excited to welcome wonderful Reverend Christina! We are an all ages, all abilities group who share our faith through music, art and drama. We met throughout the summer for fun and fellowship. Take a look at some of our adventures! We look forward to working together as a team and making a difference! Thank you Siloam and friends for your support of our Ministry. Come join us in the library Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.



Young at Heart members perform a skit with Pastor Christina at Springbank Park.

Community Of Faith Musical Theatre is back! Welcome to our new members! It's so wonderful to gather with people from Siloam and other faith communities to share a faith based musical message together! Come see our musical, Camel Lot!



**"It's Possible.
Anything's
Possible."**



Dreams Come True Music Studio held a fabulous Broadway Beat Summer Program! We were so excited to get back to Siloam for the Fall Program 2025! What an exciting experience it promises to be with community performances to showcase our passion for inclusion. We are presenting the musical Frozen Jr. on December 13 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be available November 1 on our website: dreamscometruemusicstudio.ca

We are very grateful to Siloam for the beautiful support of our program by providing rehearsal and performance space.



Farewell to Erin

At our service on Sunday, September 21st we honoured Erin Salter, who has faithfully served the church as our Office Administrator for 14 years. Erin has moved to a new position with the United Church of Canada with the Office of Vocation. During her time at Siloam Erin has been the face of Siloam, the first voice that someone hears when they call the church, the first person who greets them when they enter the building and Erin made everyone feel so welcome. She was also a fountain of knowledge

about the workings of Siloam. To say that she will be missed is a huge understatement but we wish her much success in her new role with the United Church of Canada. Erin was presented with gifts and flowers from the Siloam congregation. Following the service everyone gathered in Tolpuddle Hall for a hot dog lunch followed by cake and coffee and an opportunity to visit with Erin.



Young at Heart made a special presentation to Erin during the service.

From Allison: "Thank you to our dear friend Erin for all her love and support! These 3 groups are grateful for Erin! We are not saying goodbye but instead, "and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."



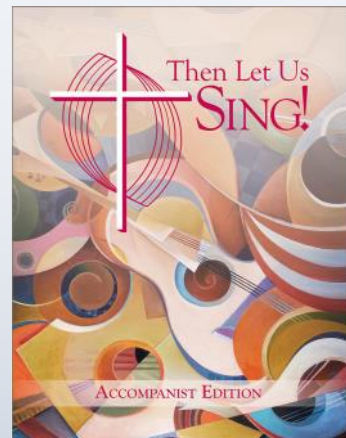
Christian Resource Centre

The new United Church of Canada hymn book, "Then Let Us Sing," was released this year, and the Christian Resource Centre has sold hundreds of copies to Communities of Faith, church choirs, and individuals. Our Siloam Choir has already sung some pieces from this new resource. The soft-cover hymn book is \$34.60 and the coil-bound Accompanist edition is \$52.45 (taxes included). Various churches in the area are hosting gatherings (in-person and/or via Zoom) for folks to learn the new music, and these will be advertised once we hear about them.

The Christian Resource Centre has held several book displays. UCW members are among our biggest supporters, and we've been present at many UCW events this year (the ARW UCW Annual Gathering on April 26 at Naamjiwinaang First Nation, Sarnia, Middlesex UCW at Richards Memorial on April 30th, UCW "Fun in the Sun" Day at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee on July 9th, and Summer Event here at Siloam on July 19th. We've also been invited to provide a display at the Middlesex UCW Fall Event at Riverside U.C., and at a Conference for the Association of Professional Church Secretaries and Administrators in Beamsville on October 20th. Displays were also provided to the Annual Meetings of Antler River and Western Ontario Waterways in the Spring.

We will soon be receiving boxed Christmas cards, Christmas decor, and copies of the United Church's calendar for 2026. For the photographers in our midst, please consider submitting your photo(s) to be considered for inclusion in the 2027 church calendar, or for church bulletin covers. My regular hours in the Resource Centre are Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon but, since I am often in the building, I'm always happy to welcome you.

- Mary Dillon, Volunteer Manager



Outreach “Christ to Each Other and God’s World”

ELUCO

Thank you Siloam. The 2025 Walk and Roll for Families was an overwhelming success with a total of more than 9,575.00 going towards the life and work of the East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO).

Thank you to all the walkers and sponsors from Siloam (2175.00), First St Andrews, Richard’s Memorial, Rowntree Memorial, Area UCW and Strathroy United Churches for making this fundraiser such a success.

- Sharon Ashton, ELUCO Board Representative



Fall Season Basic Needs

Note: We are no longer accepting summer clothing!

- Any size winter/fall coats, jackets, hoodies
- Gently-used boots/shoes & warm socks
- Long johns & warm layers
- Sheets & blankets (Single-sized)
- Hand/foot warmers (ex: Hot Paws)
- Track pants & other smaller-size pants
- Women's bras & underwear (size small)
- Men's boxers and briefs (small sizes)
- Belts, backpacks & reusable bags
- Unopened body wash & conditioner
- Razors & deodorant

Big Needs

- Mosquito coils and/or bug spray
- Tarps (all sizes)
- Flashlights and batteries
- Pop-up canopy tents (2)
- Commercial fridge
- Pickup truck or van
- Portable chargeable radios
- Portable cell phone power banks
- Generator (2)
- Portable wheelchair charger



We accept Amazon orders!
Please request for the driver to deliver to reception at the front door of 696 Dundas St.

Food/Supply Needs

Always in Shortage:

- Protein (meat, fish, eggs)
- Any canned goods with pull tabs to open
- Wrapped granola bars and snacks
- Tomato sauce
- Electrolytes
- Pasta
- Cereal
- Rice
- Lettuce
- Dairy products
- Potatoes
- Ground coffee
- Coffee creamer
- Sugar

Other Items

- Collapsible wagons (4)
- Backpacks — hiking-sized (20)
- Bus tickets
- Used cell phones with chargers
- Used or new laptops for programs
- Air fryers (2) — new or good condition
- Paint (interior)
- Wired earbuds



We CANNOT accept:
Furniture, medication, toys, and children's clothing.

HOW TO DONATE

We accept drop-off donations every day from 9am-5pm at 696 Dundas St. in London. Please email info@arkaidmission.ca or call 519-667-0322 for help.

Has the cost of your groceries gone up? Imagine being unemployed, underemployed, living on social assistance due to illness or disability? Can you help with ELUCO'S mounting costs? Please consider donating much-needed food items to the grocery cart in the Arva Atrium:

October – Thanksgiving – Stew

November – Remembrance Day – Let's remember others with boxes of cereal



“Thank you” from Innerkip United Church

Late in the Fall of 2024, Pastor Mary Dillon received a request from her colleague, Rev. Karen Willis, who was serving Innerkip United Church at the time. The congregation had made the painful decision to close, and Karen reached out for support from neighbouring congregations, suggesting that they donate prayer shawls to let congregation members know that they were still cared for and a part of the United Church of Canada.

Wib Dawson and Jo-Ann Gramlich immediately responded by donating several beautiful shawls they had made, and Helen Pickard also commissioned Jo-Ann to make a couple on her behalf. The shawls were dedicated at our service of worship on February 16th and given, along with the prayer shawls made by the Prayer Shawl Group at Richards Memorial, to Rev. Karen so that she could gift a shawl to each household in that Community of Faith. Thank you to Rev. Karen for sharing this wonderful idea, and also to Wib, Jo-Ann, and Helen for responding to this request and sharing our concern, love and friendship with the folks in this Community of Faith.

INNERKIP UNITED CHURCH
INNERKIP, ONTARIO
September 30, 2025

Dear friends at Siloam United Church,

On behalf of the congregation at Innerkip United Church, thank you so much for your gift of prayer shawls for our members. As the church closed its doors for the last time, every household took with them a prayer shawl knowing that they were being thought of and prayed for by friends in other congregations.

On June 8th there was a special service of farewell and remembrance for the congregation. This was held a few weeks before the closing service and gave all of us at Innerkip a time for sharing, laughter, tears and hugs. It was on this day that the prayer shawls were wrapped around the congregation. These gifts have offered great comfort to the members as they moved to close their beloved church.

Here are a couple of pictures of what greeted the congregation – prayer shawls from friends like you draping the pews. Love and gratitude is being sent to all at Siloam United Church from the Innerkip congregation. May God continue to bless your ministry.

With love and prayers,
Rev. Karen Willis



What's Growing in Siloam's Garden?

The Urban Roots Garden is in a transition period.

We are expanding the garden for more growing space, and we have started our seed saving operations at the garden. We are growing 22 species at the Siloam site to harvest their seeds. Seed saving is important because it promotes food security by preserving diversity, adapting plants to the local climate, reduces dependence on commercial seed companies, fosters self-sufficiency, and preserves cultural heritage and genetic diversity for future generations.

We have planted a new orchard row along the back fence that has a better root system, so we are hoping the trees will take better and flourish.

We have harvested 1,070 lbs of food so far this season, and there is still produce in the garden!

445lbs of produce has been donated through the ELUCO, and we have donated 80lbs of produce to the Siloam Families we directly support. Donations will still continue throughout the winter! The remaining produce harvested from Siloam gets distributed to our community pop-up markets partners for direct distribution to individuals and families at no cost to them.

- Anna Badillo, Executive Director, Urban Roots London

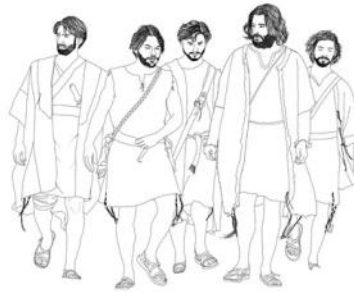


Siloam hosted 10 pop-up markets this year in the Arva Atrium, including a special Thanksgiving Honey & Produce market.

Prayers for Peace meets in the Library-Chapel on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9:30-10:00 am, and is always open to more people who wish to offer their prayers and intention. Our 30 minutes together begins and ends with spoken prayer by the facilitator; others may pray as the Spirit leads them, or people may sit in silence.

Upcoming dates are October 14 and 28, November 11 and 25, December 9 and 23.

"The Chosen" Video Study



This multi-season series about the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth will resume at Siloam on Sunday Oct 19th at 6:30pm, with discussion to follow. Facilitated by Mary Dillon.

Healthy Body, Mind and Soul

Siloam offers a variety of fitness classes to keep you moving through the week.

Tuesdays	Yoga	6pm, 7:15pm
Wednesdays	Ageless Grace	1pm
	Walk Fit	2pm
Thursdays	Chair Yoga	1:30pm

PICKLEBALL at Siloam

Mondays	10am-12pm, 1pm-3pm, 3pm-5pm
Tuesdays	10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm
Wednesdays	10am-12pm
Thursdays	10am-12pm
Fridays	10am-12pm

For more information, contact office@siloamunitedchurch.org



The Garbage We Produce

Canadians hold a record that I am not very proud of. We produce more garbage per person than any other country in the world. According to Canadian Geographic (Nov 2017), that's 720 kg per person, per year, which is about twice what is produced per capita in Japan and up to 10 times what is produced by a half dozen countries in Africa. How can that be, you say. We recycle – we invented the Blue Box! Well, there are a number of reasons for this statistic and for the fact that most of us are blissfully unaware of it. For one thing, it all takes place so easily and efficiently that we just don't think about what happens to our garbage once it leaves the house. We plop it down by the side of the road and soon it's out of sight (and out of mind).

Another reason is that, on average, Canadians are financially comfortable. Oxfam has estimated that the richest 10% of humans are responsible for about half of global "lifestyle consumption" emissions, while the poorest half of the world's population only emit 10% of these emissions. Then there is the fact that our economy is based on endless growth – manufacture, consume, discard (FYI - this is not a sustainable way of life).

The biggest problem, plain and simple, is that we buy too much stuff. Too much stuff we don't need, too much stuff for the sake of convenience, and too much stuff that's made to be used once then thrown away. So one of the most important ways we can create less garbage is to simply buy less stuff.

This is where we begin to talk about the 3R's: **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**. Reduce is the most important. When we cut back, we buy less, we use less and consequently, we waste less. A few years back this was common practice. Unfortunately, we have developed into a society of "consumers". We have disposable this and single-use that, all for the sake of convenience. Many products are impossible to fix because they are supposed to be thrown out when they stop working. To top it off, we are constantly bombarded with media messages urging us to keep up with the latest fad and to try numerous "new and improved" products.

Stop and ask yourself some questions before you buy anything:

- Do you really need this item?
- Can you do without it?
- Can you purchase it second-hand or can you rent it?
- Is it a quality product that will give you years of service?
- What will happen to it when you are done with it?
- Can it be recycled?
- Can the packaging it comes in be recycled?
- Is it over-packaged?



Packaging makes up one third of household garbage, so this is an important consideration. Is there more packaging than product? This is often the case with single serving products. All those snacks, beverages, desserts, and microwave meals can add up to a lot of garbage. Instead, buy larger containers, then divide it up into smaller portions at home. At Bulk Barn you can bring your own containers and further reduce your packaging. Cook extra food and create your own microwave meals, then freeze them for future use.

When we reduce the amount of wasteful purchases we make we save in a number of ways. We save the raw materials and energy used to make the product (and its packaging) as well as the cost of sending it all to a landfill site when we dispose of it. It's all a matter of looking at things from a different perspective. We need to change ourselves from "consumers" to "conservers".

- Maria Prohaszka

Rose Birrell Santa Shoppe Bazaar

Saturday, November 1, 2025
10am – 1pm

Support the work of the Rose Birrell group by
shopping at the Santa Shoppe Bazaar!

Christmas cakes, pickles, jams, meat pies & Christmas
sweets as well as crafts, quilts, woodworking, sewing
items and more!



Siloam United Church
1240 Fanshawe Park Road East (at McLean Drive)
www.siloamunitedchurch.org
519.455.9201 (9am—1pm Monday to Friday)