

Streetsville United Church

Summer Tidings 2025



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CALENDAR

Regular Sunday Services 10 am (in person and livestreaming) Summer Worship Series - "Praying through the Bible"

June 29 – Prayers of the Patriarchs
& Matriarchs (Genesis)

July 8 – Prayers of the Exodus
(Exodus-Deuteronomy)

July 15 – Prayers the Judges &
Monarchs (Joshua-2 Chronicles)

July 22 – Prayers of the Prophets
(Isaiah-Malachi)

July 29 – Prayers of the Psalms

August 6 – Prayers of Wisdom
(Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of
Songs)

August 13 – Prayers of Jesus
(Matthew-John)

August 20 – Prayers of Paul
(Romans-Philemon)

August 27 – Prayers of the Early
Church (Acts, Hebrews-Revelation)

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Summer is often a lower energy time of year for urban and suburban churches. Especially in the GTA people go to cottages and take vacations where there is less concrete and blacktop to absorb the long hours of hot sun. This is a wonderful practice, and I plan to take some time this summer for vacation, too. However, I do wonder...how will you engage your faith in Jesus if you do not come to worship services and other church activities as regularly as you do other times of the year?

Might I suggest...prayer? I often hear folks describe prayer as simply "talking with God," and no one *needs* to be in a church building to do that. Yet I also find that, at least in my personal spiritual practices, I need some structure in order to be regular in prayer and to gain some sort of strength, peace, or guidance in my times of prayer. So how do *you* pray?

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus responded with what we now commonly call the Lord's Prayer, which of course begins with the words, "Our Father, who art in heaven..." We find this prayer Matthew 6:9-13 and in Luke 11:2-4, which brings up another point...did you know that we can use a lot of prayers in the Bible in our own prayer life?

Throughout this summer will focus on "Praying through the Bible." Our Christian education team is putting together a booklet with a prayer from the Bible for each day from June 29 to August 30. You will be able to pick up this booklet by the end of June and use this resource whether you are at home in the GTA, by a lake in cottage country, or somewhere even farther away from Streetsville. Our Sunday morning worship services during the summer will also focus on different prayers of the Bible. Our hope is that you will get to know the Bible a bit better and use the prayerful words of Holy Scripture for your own personal spiritual practices.

And as you begin this summer season, let these words of St. Paul in Thessalonians 5:16-18 guide you: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

**PEACE,
REV. JOE**

IS YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION
UP-TO-DATE?



If your information has changed (address, phone, email), please inform Heather in the office. We need up-to-date information for tax receipts, Tidings, etc. Call the office at 905-826-1542 or send an email to info@streetsvilleunited.ca

REPORT FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

As Chair of Church Council at Streetsville United, I want to thank all members of Council for their leadership and positive efforts put forward over the last few months. Ideas have been initiated and plans implemented with encouraging results.

In addition, many members of our Community of Faith have 'stepped up', having accepted new volunteer opportunities. Youth have participated in Sunday worship services; new attendees and regular members are participating in various roles, bringing enthusiasm and vitality. Thank you! Your willingness to 'make a difference' is uplifting.

As we look ahead to the warm summer months, taking time for rest and relaxation, let's continue working together to be a vibrant, multigenerational congregation as we share God's truth and unconditional love within our diverse community.

Blessings to all,
Kate Sparrow



UCW NEWS

Once again UCW is busy within the community. We have recently donated items for game prizes to Streetsville Community Care. Casseroles were donated to Open Door at Square One. 32 infant layette sets have been delivered to Children's Aid. A donation has also been given to Gifts of Vision, an organization of the United Church.

Plans are underway for the creation of school bags for the Pathway families. This is sponsored by the Joy Givers who have recently raised money with a bake sale and all proceeds go to Pathway families. The Friendship Circle and Sunshine Circle will also be supporting this ministry.

The Spring potluck dinner was held on Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m. The theme for the evening was Draw the Circle Wide. Everyone was encouraged to bring a friend or neighbour to celebrate our vision of reaching out to the community. It was a fun evening singing camp songs, introducing our friends, and sharing our potluck dishes. Plans are also underway for the church courtyard. The UCW and Willowtree Montessori school are contributing significantly to the project. The brick walkway will be replaced with new interlocking stone. On the south side, the grass/dirt area will be restored, the area will be graded and then topsoil, and sod will be installed. On the north side of the walkway, playground mulch will be added. The project is beginning in June.

We are now planning our meetings and events before the summer break. BBQ's, Potlucks and going outdoors will be enjoyed by the units as we break and rejuvenate during the summer. We appreciate the contributions of all of our members and wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer.



Streetsville Community Care



Bake Sale hosted by Joy Givers



Spring Potluck

Quilting Group at the Spring Potluck



THE HARVEST OF CRAFTS SALE

Save the Date-SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 25, 2025.

It is time to make sure that you have saved Saturday, October 25, for the annual Harvest of Crafts Sale! Once again there will be the return of Church Crafts and the Country Kitchen. You will find special gifts for friends and family in Heritage Hall and baking in the Fellowship Lounge for those with a sweet tooth. A variety of vendors in the auditorium will display their creations and works of art. The Men's Group will be providing a rest area with coffee and muffins in the Heritage Hall.

Please contact Lorraine Treanor or Kerry Poulsen with questions about donations of craft items. Questions related to the Country Kitchen can be directed to Bev Mathew.

Thanks for your support and have fun crafting, baking, and preserving this summer!

UCW FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

Friendship Circle has been busy this winter. We gathered toiletries from all in the congregation and put together 38 bags (14 pouches made by Wendy Johnson) for Our Place Peel. Along with the bags we sent extra toothbrushes, soap and other toiletries.

After hearing about the need for reusable menstrual pads for Canadian Nurses for Africa, the Sweatshop Sisters (in Christ) had two sewing sessions and made over 50 pads. They were taken to Africa in May. Another trip will happen in October, and we are still sewing.

Our sewing skills are always in use when we make receiving blankets for layettes for Children's Aid.

At another meeting we brought one item, either for household use or a toiletry, to be delivered to the Open Door at Square One. We had an impressive selection.



Summer
Blessings

AV UPDATE

Over the spring, several of you will have noticed some problems with the streaming of our Sunday morning services. Our AV Team has been working diligently to solve these problems. We recognize that since the Covid pandemic, our Sunday morning streaming has become very important to our Outreach into the community and remains extremely important to members of our congregation. Some minor changes at the soundboard did not fix the issue completely, so we also met with Rogers, our internet service provider. They replaced cables both inside and outside our building, and these changes improved our internet speed significantly. This helped stabilize our streaming but did not solve the problem completely, as internal hardware limited speeds at the soundboard. Subsequently, we changed some hardware in our telecommunications room. Most of you will be unaware that we have such a room. It is a tiny room under the office stairs by the Heritage Hall, where telephone and internet equipment are kept. This is what it looks like inside.



Replacing an old internet switch, with a new gigabit switch, significantly improved internet speeds both at the soundboard and in the office wing for Rev Joe and Heather. Fortunately, these changes have stabilized and improved the quality of our streaming. We are currently making some changes in the CE Wing to improve our WiFi coverage in the CE Wing both for SUC and the Willow Tree Montessori school. Bill Powell, on behalf of the AV Team

OUTREACH NEWS

- 1) Stem Cell swabs are available until December for ages 17-35. The congregation will be informed that they can get the kits on any Sunday.
- 2) Murray Lewis -The Outreach Committee would like to thank Murray Lewis for all his contributions to Streetsville United Church over his many years of attendance with us. He was an Elder, and a member of the Church Council, as well as a member of the Welcome Team. His many years of leadership for The Coldest Night of the Year has been very much appreciated and valued and has assisted the Dam in offering their programs. All the best to Murray as he begins his next journey, returning to his roots in Cornwall.
- 3) We have \$7800.00 available to distribute and we will keep some back.

Here are the organizations that we discussed, and we have added an additional charity.

- a) **Oxfam Canada**-(Ottawa)- Oxfam is part of the global Oxfam network as it works to end poverty and injustice by focusing on women's rights. The organization also provides emergency aid for disasters and conflicts, and food basics. \$1500.00
- b) **Matthew House** (Toronto)- A welcoming community that offers a range of support services to help refugees establish new lives in Canada \$1000.00
- c) **Eden Food for Change**- \$1000.00
- d) **Mississauga Food Bank**- \$1000.00
- e) **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** (Winnipeg)- A Canadian Christian Organization working to end world hunger-\$1000.00
- f) **Indwell**-\$750.00

Respectively Submitted (Sandy Jutzen and Cathy Hitchcock Co-Chairs)

PASTORAL CARE NEWS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday School

Sunday School closes for the summer months at the end of June and we express our thanks to anchor teachers, Dee Hopkins and Deanna Hodgins, and faithful helper, Madeleine Tume for supporting our younger worshippers over the year. We are hoping to be able to offer child-care and student support during the summer with volunteers! If you are able and willing, sign up for a Sunday on the list in the narthex which will be available throughout the summer.

Library

A renewal of the library is nearing completion thanks to continued work sessions with our helpers, Martha Heeney and Deb Simpson. We have included a children's book section with table and chairs, as well as a Young Adult section separate from the regular collection. Borrowing is on an honour system, with returns placed in the bag on the book cart in the narthex. As work continues, please feel free to browse the stacks and the book cart and find a good read for the summer!

Adult CE

Again, this summer, we are working with Rev. Hopkins to develop a summer bible reading session that will include a reading booklet as well as a few in-person sessions, dates to be announced. Look for the booklet to be distributed in the narthex (and on-line, I hope) later in June.

Youth Participation

We are pleased to continue to welcome our youth in various aspects of Sunday worship, from occasional scripture reading, help with the A.V. work, and several dialogue/skits performed in worship. We look forward to continued events and support over the summer.

WORSHIP

Easter, the holiest of seasons, taxed our emotions as we grieved the crucifixion of our dear Lord and Saviour and then found inspiration in his resurrection. Christ has risen. He has risen indeed. Hallelujah!!!
Maundy Supper - Thursday April 18, 2025.

If you missed any of the Easter Season Services, you could revisit these important messages through the Streetsville United Church Service 2025 YouTube tapings.

Special Easter Messages:

April 18th - Good Friday (Bible Readings and Reflections from multi-generations in our community of faith.

April 20th - Rising with Christ, Our Cornerstone

April 27th - Rising with Wounds (Guest Preacher: Keith Mayers)

May 4th - Here I AM; United Church Women Celebration of the United Churches of Canada's 100th Anniversary (Delivered by representatives in our UCW)

May 11th - Shepherding and Mother Blessed Wounds (Mother's Day Sunday)

May 18th - Imagine (Guest Lay Minister: Mary Parsons)

By the time this newsletter is posted, our church will have joined eight other faith communities in a joint centennial anniversary celebration at Eden United Church on Sunday June 8th. We appreciate the collegiality of our Minister, Choir Director and Community Outreach Chair who participated in planning this event.

During the summer months, worship services at Streetsville will

continue with **vibrancy** and **hope**. For the first time in decades, the in-person worship service will support classroom children's programming. Thank you to Leslie Guimond for coordinating this outreach and those volunteers who have signed up to implement this initiative. Your servant faithfulness is truly a blessing.

All congregants will not want to miss the "Praying Through the Bible" series that forges a partnership with our Christian Education program. If you travel and vacation during the summer, remember these services will be live-streamed and recorded on YouTube.

Faithfully in service,

Worship Co-Chairs (Antoinette Clarke and Wendy Dowling)



PROPERTY NEWS **COURTYARD UPGRADING**

Work to upgrade the courtyard began June 2nd. This is being done by Richland Landscaping. Waterproofing of the exterior wall, below ground, at the elevator entrance was done in early April by another contractor, Canada Waterproofing.

For the play area on the north side of the courtyard, used by Willowtree Montessori School, playground mulch (wood chips) was installed, with a wooden retainer at the boundary. A wooden retaining wall was also installed for the Willowtree garden outside the Fellowship Lounge (see photos).

The old interlocking stone was removed from the courtyard, a base layer of gravel was put in, and new interlocking stone is presently being installed.

On the south side, the grass/dirt area next to the Office area will be restored: the area has been graded, and topsoil and sod will be installed. An underground water line will be installed, for a sprinkler system to be put in later. Connection of the downspout from the low roof near the elevator entrance to the catch basin via an underground pipe has been done.

It appears that Richland's work may be completed the week of June 9th, depending on weather.

We have found Richland Landscaping to be diligent about safety, about parents and kids entering the schools through alternate entrances while construction is underway. We also have a very good impression of the quality of Richland's workmanship.

We look forward to the completion of this project, which will provide a safer path to the church from the parking lot, provide an

enhanced play area for the Montessori school, and improve the appearance of our courtyard. We are very grateful to UCW, which is paying for over 50% of the cost of this work, and to Willowtree Montessori school, which is paying for over one third (the rest is from Property's project budget).



View of work in progress, near the entrance close to the Fellowship Lounge.



The play area with playground mulch d wood borders.



New interlocking stone, installation in progress.



Almost finished!

BUILDING SECURITY

The ad hoc committee working on building security and safety (Bill P, Doug H, Rev Joe, John S and Rob G, created in response to some security concerns in April) had its third monthly meeting June 3rd. Work continues on action items and developing and documenting procedures. We will meet next in mid August to prepare for the busy fall season. In addition to documenting safe procedures and investigating security cameras, Fire Safety will be reviewed: some fire drills will be required, including for the congregation.

Rob Gravelsins
Chair, Property

FINANCE

The Finance committee wishes to extend our sincere thanks to everyone for their support of the recent fundraisers. The Pay It Forward campaign raised \$5890 from which \$1485 will support the Benevolent Fund and \$4405 will go to our Operations account to help reduce the deficit this year. The McGregor Meat fundraiser sold 136 boxes, a value of over \$9000. From this our profit was \$1561. We are still looking for someone to coordinate this sale in the fall.

Without a volunteer this will not happen – we need your help!

The courtyard reconstruction has been a major project spearheaded by the UCW and Willowtree Montessori Preschool with much guidance and expertise from the Property committee. The work is almost complete, and we now have a welcoming, tidy, and safe entrance to our church. Many thanks to the UCW, \$15,000, and Willowtree, \$10,000, for their financial support of this project which has made the redevelopment possible.

The May YTD results are a bit disappointing with a deficit of (\$11,568) versus a deficit of (\$5,382) last year. The YTD deficit is slightly worse than the Annual Budget by (\$2,313). Revenue of \$130,950 remains strong, supported by the Pay It Forward campaign in February and March, strong rental income, annual garage sale, Easter Offering and UCW donation. YTD revenue is higher than last year of \$122,886 for an improvement of \$8,064. Expenses of \$142,517 are higher than last year of \$128,268 primarily due to increased personnel costs, operating church home and office administration. The higher expenses are primarily due to boiler expenses, foundation waterproofing, property budgeted courtyard deposit, higher than anticipated water bill, and printer costs as we switch over to new copier lease and have not received expected credits for old copier.

Streetsville United Church - Income Statement YTD May 2025 vs YTD May 2024 and 2025 Budget

	Actual YTD May				5-month Linear Budget		YTD	Annual 2025 Budget
	2025	2024	Variance		YTD	Variance	Actual as % Annual Budget	
			\$	%				

REVENUE

Envelope Offerings - General, Initial, Special	\$ 67,506	\$ 67,272	\$ 234	0%	\$ 69,583	\$ (2,077)	40%	\$ 167,000
Loose Offering, Canada Helps, UCC Foundation	\$ 6,572	\$ 6,526	\$ 46	1%	\$ 3,458	\$ 3,114	79%	\$ 8,300
United Church Women	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -		\$ 2,083	\$ 2,917	100%	\$ 5,000
Facilities Rental - Total	\$ 41,604	\$ 31,617	\$ 9,988	32%	\$ 39,731	\$ 1,873	44%	\$ 95,355
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 10,267	\$ 12,472	\$ (2,205)	-18%	\$ 6,833	\$ 3,434	63%	\$ 16,400
Total Operating Receipts	\$130,950	\$122,886	\$ 8,064	7%	\$121,690	\$ 9,260	45%	\$ 292,055

OPERATING EXPENSE

Personnel	\$ 82,305	\$ 75,666	\$ 6,639	9%	\$ 78,227	\$ 4,079	44%	\$ 187,744
Operating Church Home	\$ 40,592	\$ 37,636	\$ 2,956	8%	\$ 36,800	\$ 3,792	46%	\$ 88,320
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 19,620	\$ 14,965	\$ 4,655	31%	\$ 15,918	\$ 3,702	51%	\$ 38,203
Total Operating Expenses	\$142,517	\$128,268	\$ 14,250	11%	\$130,945	\$ 11,573	45%	\$ 314,267

NET INCOME - SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (11,568)	\$ (5,382)	\$ (6,186)		\$ (9,255)	\$ (2,313)		\$ (22,212)
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OUTREACH / BENEVOLENT FUND

Outreach/Benevolent Receipts	\$ 10,565	\$ 10,498	\$ 67		\$ 9,546	\$ 1,019	46%	\$ 22,910
Outreach/Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 6,470	\$ 6,979	\$ (510)		\$ 9,546	\$ (3,076)	28%	\$ 22,910