



MARCH, 2024 – NEWSLETTER



Easter

How are you doing?

I hope you are OK. It's a bit of a weird winter — or a season that's not really a winter because we haven't had much snow yet (knock on wood, I'm not missing snow shovelling!). We're in a season of uncertainty when interest rates are supposed to come down but they might not yet, in a time when we're filing income taxes and seeing what the government will do, but we don't know yet.... There's a lot of now and not yet's. While that seems pretty normal these days, we wonder where it will all lead us.

Last month we talked about the journey of Lent – a journey we will continue through March until Holy Week, which falls this year from March 24-31. And, as we said last month, a journey is not just wandering – it has a destination. These weeks of Lent take us into a whole lot of ‘not yet’s’ on the way to that destination – the moment when God, in Jesus Christ, shows that nothing in the universe can stop the love and life of God.

Here’s some of what happens:

- Jesus enters Jerusalem as a hero, but he’s not where he needs to be – yet.
- The people herald him and it seems that things are going well, but they aren’t ready to accept everything he’s telling them – not yet.
- Those in power at the time, religious leaders and political officials, know they have to deal with this upstart preacher who is saying that the poor are blessed, but they can’t move against the overwhelming tide of public opinion in His favour – not yet.
- God’s grace and love have been shown all the way along through Jesus’ ministry, but He’s about to show them what love and power truly mean – but not yet.

But it’s coming. God’s love and power are coming into reality through Jesus’ death on a cross and resurrection. Through love and power, suffering and hurt, these events show us that God will do anything to bring us into right relationships with God and with each other again.

It’s confusing sometimes – that moment when the now and the ‘not yet’s’ suddenly become reality and we’re face to face with what we were waiting for all along. We’re seeing what it means when this journey reaches its destination. We see what God will do, and has done for love. For you. For me. For the world. What will we do with that in our faith, in our lives, in the way we treat one another. How will we live this message and this hope made real?

Come with us as we complete the journey of Lent in worship, study, and our Lenten lunch series. Then come with us as we enter into the deep, difficult sometimes, joyful sometimes, awesome and inspiring journey of Holy Week. On our journey there are destination points: a supper with friends, a parade, a cross, and an empty tomb. Because God’s love, power and grace in Jesus Christ aren’t a ‘not yet’ moment any more. They are here. Now. God is calling you and me to LIFE!

And so our new journey begins.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Susan

Session Update – February

BEPC Session met Feb. 5, moderated by Rev. Susan Kerr.

Main points:

- Ron Dekker is putting together a plan on mission focus.
 - Stephen Shields is investigating outreach and social justice programs that BEPC might get involved in after noting that BEPC's outreach programs shrank during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Session is to hold special workshops in April to discuss its role, the role of elders, and changing needs for pastoral care.
 - For the Finance and Maintenance Committee, Ron Dekker reported January income of \$14,879.80 and expenses of \$18,477.61 for a monthly deficit of \$3,597.81.
 - New security cameras for the side parking lot and the sanctuary exit. Fire exit signs have been modified in Douglas Hall. Land Acknowledgement plaques have been installed (see below).
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SUNDAY, MARCH 3

COMMUNION SUNDAY

followed by lunch provided by Session and

BEPC's Annual General Meeting

Live Lent With Love lunches March 6,13, 20 @ 12:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Evening service with Port Nelson United Church, March 28.

Good Friday at Burlington East March 29@10:30 a.m. with communion and hot cross buns to follow.

Easter Sunday at Burlington East, March 31 @10:30 am.

Save the date for....
**Summer Adventure:
Camp Big World!**

Exploring God's creation!

- **July 22-26, 9:00-12:00**
- **@ Burlington East
Presbyterian Church**

Summer Adventure Camp is back! The four Presbyterian churches in Burlington are working together to offer this amazing ministry to children from end of JK to Grade 6. We'll be looking at plants, animals, the environment, and how we take care of our world. We are offering roles for helpers, secondary students who need volunteer hours, crafters, cooks, singers, and people who just love being with kids and sharing God's love with them!

*If you are interested in helping out either during the camp (July 22-26, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) or in the preparation/registration/publicity beforehand, please save the dates of **MARCH 20 at 7 p.m.** or **MARCH 24 at 3 p.m.** (same meeting at both time slots) and come find out more about what we're going to be up to! Looking forward to seeing you there.*



March 25 marked the birthday of Madeleine Beaudin, daughter of Kevin and Donna, and one of the first babies (maybe *the* first) born to members of Burlington East Presbyterian Church after it was formed by the amalgamation of Pineland and Strathcona churches. (photo by Halyna Dickinson)



The annual Valentines pizza lunch of the BEPC Social Club with four varieties of pizza, ice cream, and sherbet on a stick. And, of course, euchre after lunch. (photos by Ron Dekker)



Fundraiser for Ukraine by Two Teenagers

Halyna Mychalczuk Dickison

Carly Montgomery has just released her first-ever single, ***Just So You Know***, and has generously made it a fundraiser, with all proceeds going to UNITED24, a charity launched by the president of Ukraine a few months after the invasion began.

Carly, 17, is the daughter of Lesley (a member of our choir) and Don Montgomery, and granddaughter of Dorothy Fabian, longtime member of Pineland and BEPC. Carly collaborated on the song with Aleksii Medianykh, 19, who arrived in Canada last year after fleeing the war. They met at school and have become good friends.

The song expresses Aleksii's thoughts and experiences during a devastating time for her, her family, and her country. They wrote the song together and Carly performed and produced it.

Carly's music teacher wrote, "*The first time I heard it, it floored me, with the first-hand experience of war and leaving home articulated so well through the eyes of a teen. It's an important piece that deserves to be heard.*"

For a donation, you can download the song at <https://cbyacademy.com/>



Ukrainian children receive Christmas shoeboxes. (Picture: Samaritan's Purse)

Thousands of churches across Ukraine distributed nearly 400,000 shoeboxes last year filled with gifts including clothes, toys, school supplies, hygiene items and goodies. Churches are doing the best they can to meet the needs of children suffering from confusion, fear and trauma. Samaritan's Purse alone has provided more than 100 million kilograms of food since the conflict began. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through shoeboxes packed with gifts by Canadians. It's one way to remind children suffering as a result of war, poverty, famine, disease and disaster that they are loved and not forgotten.

To donate via United24, the fund-raising initiative of the president of Ukraine, go to this website: [UNITED24 - The initiative of the President of Ukraine \(u24.gov.ua\)](https://u24.gov.ua/) or <https://u24.gov.ua/>

To donate to Doctors without Borders go to this website: [Donate to Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\) - Doctors Without Borders Canada - Médecins Sans Frontières Canada](https://action.msf.ca/site/Donation2?df_id=2260&mfc_pref=T&2260.donation=form1&s_locale=en_CA) or https://action.msf.ca/site/Donation2?df_id=2260&mfc_pref=T&2260.donation=form1&s_locale=en_CA

To donate through PWS&D go to this website: [Donate to Presbyterian World Service & Development - The Presbyterian Church in Canada](https://presbyterian.ca/donate/donate-to-pws) or <https://presbyterian.ca/donate/donate-to-pws>

BOOK, BIBLE & BAG LUNCH CLUB



11:30 AM



Every
MONDAY



MORE
INFORMATION SEE
REV. KERR

Men's Group



COME HELP THEM SOLVE THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS
MONDAYS AT 10 AM - McRAE ROOM

NEXT WOMENS
GATHERING IS
LUNCH @



3140 South Service Road

ON MARCH 14
AT 1 PM

LET ANN or JANE KNOW
BY MARCH 10, IF YOU ARE
ATTENDING

Burlington East Social Club

The Social Club continues to meet
every Monday afternoon,
from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.



\$2.00 admission covers coffee,
snacks and future events.

New members always welcome.

See Ron or Susan for details

BEPC offers
several sound
reinforcement
& listening
options

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE
TO HEAR THE SERVICE?



Bluetooth



Headset



T-Coil

See Ron Dekker or Bob Dickson
for confidential assistance.

Prayer
Requests

minister@burlingtoneast.net



Flowers in
memory

Send your request to:

OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET



DELIVERED TO YOUR EMAIL IN-BOX

BURLINGTON EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SEND YOUR REQUEST IN TODAY
OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET



LOCATED AT THE FRONT AND BACK OF SANCTUARY

e-Transfer

SEND TO CLERK@BURLINGTONEAST.NET

HOW TO GIVE TO BEPC



MAIL TO: BEPC, 505 WALKERS LINE
BURLINGTON, ON L7N 2E3



SEE RON DEKKER TO USE POINT OF SALE

Burlington Presbyterian Church Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Burlington East Presbyterian Church is located on/in the traditional territory of Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Attiwandaron, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation peoples. This territory is covered by Treaty 3 & 4 and Brant Tract Treaty 8.

We recognize that we must learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our role as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers. We cannot change the past, but we continue to share in the work of healing and reconciliation and move forward in hope.

We seek a renewed relationship with our neighbours, one that is based on honour, deep respect, and our call to love all of God's creation. We give thanks for the gift to live, work and worship here. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its peoples.

This acknowledgement was adopted by the elders of Burlington East Presbyterian Church on December 4, 2023

Pronunciation: Attiwandaron - *at-a-wan-dar-on*

Anishinaabe - *Ah-nish-in-ah-bay*

Haudenosaunee - *Ho-den-a-o-nee*



I Have So Much To Thank God For!

Psalm 77:11-12 - I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds. (NKJV)

I will try to do just that as I retell the story so often repeated by my parents when I was growing up.

Polio is a highly contagious, disabling, and life-threatening disease that can infect a person's spinal cord, causing paralysis. At its peak in the 1940s and 1950s, polio would paralyze or kill over half a million people worldwide every year.

In July, 1946, at two years of age, I was a patient at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, Canada, and was not expected to survive the disease that ravaged my little body. My parents were thoroughly exhausted, as my father visited the hospital every morning and both my father and mother would visit the hospital every evening, even though they were never allowed to see me, because I was in isolation. Several agonizing months went by.

After what must have seemed like an eternity, they visited an interdenominational church in Toronto. With standing room only, it must have been overwhelming for them, to say the least.

A very kind pastor noticed the couple in obvious distress and cautiously approached them with the comment, "My name is Pastor Smith. Can I help you?" My father often said that it was almost as if he were waiting for them to show up. Right there in the lobby, he placed his arms around them and prayed for them and me, with the promise that he would also call on the huge congregation to pray later in the service.

During the service, true to his word, Pastor Oswald J. Smith, who founded the People's Church in Toronto in 1928, stopped the singing. He called for prayer for little two-year-old Stephen French, who was not expected to survive a terrible disease called polio. That was almost 80 years ago.

On Monday morning, my father visited the Sick Children's Hospital on his way to work as usual. When he arrived at the hospital entrance, he was rather shocked to see a doctor running towards him, waving his arms and shouting, "It's a miracle! It's a miracle! Come quickly and see your son." The curtain was pulled back to reveal a little boy sitting up in bed for the first time in months and obviously very much alive.

Would you wonder why, at the age of 12, I would accept the gift from the Lord Jesus Christ to be my personal Saviour from sin and accept the call to preach the gospel for the rest of my life?

Psalms 9:1 - I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. (NKJV)

What has God done in your life that should cause you to tell of all His marvellous works? We can use even small "coincidences" to give glory to God!

Prayer: Our Father, we have so much to thank You for that our lives won't be long enough to do it adequately. Thank You for all who are made clean by the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ and who are called by You to listen to the cry of the human heart and to respond. Amen!

Worth repeating: **Why go to Church?**

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper saying it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years and in that time I've heard something like 3,000 sermons. For the life of me, I can't remember a single one. I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers and priests are wasting theirs."

This started a real controversy in Letters to the Editor. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 yea(rs now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. For the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one, but I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead."

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something.

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

(With thanks to Ron Dekker)

**REMEMBER
TO CHANGE
THE TIME
ON SUNDAY
MARCH 10
at 2:00 AM**



Please remember, we are doing everything we can to keep all the information in these newsletters as accurate, inclusive of everyone in our BEPC family, and informative as possible. We apologize in advance for any omissions or errors. They are by no means intentional.

BURLINGTON EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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You are receiving this email because I have you attached to Burlington East Presbyterian Church. If you have received this email in error, please let me know.

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Burlington, On L7N 2E3