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*Our Mission:* Christ-centred living together, in worship and learning, caring and serving.  
*Our Vision:* To be an open, welcoming community, in which every person who seeks God, finds God.



## The Connection ~ Spring 2024



*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!*

### Ministers' Message

Many, many years ago, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus wrote: "No one ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and they are not the same person."

Change is a part of life. Some changes are good; some are more challenging. Most change leaves us somewhere in between. Happily, the changes that come with spring are fresh and wonderful. Spring teaches us that change can be a positive force for renewal and energy.

The story of Easter brings the same lesson. That first Holy Week, the disciples did not know what the future would hold. As the week progressed, their leader continued to upset the authorities of the day, more and more deeply. Even the crowds who were on his side at the beginning of the week, turned against him in the end. Their leader dying like a common criminal and laid in a borrowed grave, the disciples must have sat in paralyzing fear and disbelief. Despite Jesus' best efforts, this was a change they were not prepared for.

And, then, Easter happened! God brought new life to Jesus and to all who would receive it. This change was full of opportunity and new possibilities.

Knowing that change is inevitable and always preparing for the possibilities of renewal and newness of life, is the most faith-filled way to face new realities. Over time, the disciples learned

this. After Jesus' ascension into heaven, out of fear, they sat and awaited Pentecost. When the Spirit danced again at Pentecost, the disciples finally began to trust in the continuing presence of Jesus in their midst and to embrace the newness of life that he was offering...even if the new life looked different from the one they thought they would be living. Despite all the change they had experienced, they learned that, when Jesus is alive and well in our hearts and in and amongst the people, the Spirit is unstoppable!

In the life and times of Port Perry United Church, we are all anticipating a time of change. There will be many goodbyes, but also the excitement of welcoming a new minister with different strengths and ideas and new energy. Changes do come our way, and yet always preparing for the possibilities of renewal and newness of life, is the most faith-filled way to face new realities. We are confident that the unstoppable Spirit of Jesus Christ will carry Port Perry United Church through a time of transition in the coming months.

For now, let us all anticipate this Easter with joy in our hearts, ready to be filled with new life in Christ. May this new life inspire us in every way to be the church!

In Christ,  
Elaine & Don



### Church Chicks United Bake Sale

The Church Chicks' spectacular bake sale returns, on Sunday, March 24th, immediately following the morning service, in the church auditorium. Delicious baked goods of all kinds—many wrapped in festive giftable wrap—will be on hand. All money collected from the bake sale is used as the Church Chicks' essential seed money for the Port Perry Easter bonnet contest.

## Church Photo Directory

Be a part of Port Perry United Church's history! Be a part of Port Perry United Church's future! Universal Portraits Studio will be at our church from **Tuesday, April 2nd, to Saturday, April 13th**. This is the same company that we used for our last directory, and everyone loved their pictures. And touch-ups are free! Also, if you book an appointment, you get a free photo directory.

**Whether you are at church every Sunday or watch on-line or are able to come to church only once in a while, you are important to us and we want to have you in our new church photo directory.** This directory will be a tremendous help to our new minister in getting to know people. So we are asking you to be seen and be known by your church family! **You can easily book your professional photo session on-line.** You can do this by visiting [www.universalportraits.com](http://www.universalportraits.com). Simply click on appointments and select Port Perry United Church in the menu. For your convenience, there is a link to the on-line booking system right on our church website. **You can also book your appointment while at church!** A booking assistant will be in the lounge on Sunday mornings from now until April 9th to assist you. **You can also reach out to Leanne Ashbridge** mid-week for assistance, by email [LIashbridge@gmail.com](mailto:LIashbridge@gmail.com) or phone 905-985-9520.

**What if I can't fit in an appointment?** Then you can send in a picture of you and/or your family to be included in the photo directory. You won't qualify for a free directory, but you will be taking your place among our church family photos.

**What if I am camera-shy?** Then please give us permission to print your contact information in the photo directory. Please reach out to Leanne Ashbridge, by email [LIashbridge@gmail.com](mailto:LIashbridge@gmail.com) or phone 905-985-9520, to let her know your wishes.

### Holy Week and Easter Services

<b>March</b>	<b>24th</b>	Palm Sunday – communion service
	<b>28th</b>	7:30 p.m. – Maundy Thursday service
	<b>29th</b>	9:30 a.m. – ecumenical Good Friday walk, Palmer Park gazebo
	<b>31st</b>	6:45 a.m. – Easter sunrise service, Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert
		10:00 a.m. – Easter Sunday worship



### Maundy Thursday

You and your family are invited to our congregation's **Maundy Thursday service, on Thursday, March 28th, at 7:00 p.m.** Maundy Thursday is the day that commemorates Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples and the last supper that Jesus had with his closest friends. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, recalling Jesus' words to his followers, "I give you a new commandment, that

you love one another, as I have loved you." This year's service will begin in the sanctuary and then we will travel downstairs (via stairs or elevator) to the auditorium, where tables recalling the Last Supper will be set. Using symbolic foods, we will remind ourselves of that special night and of what Jesus was striving to show and teach his followers. The service is not long and is suitable for all ages.

### Church Chicks United Annual Easter Bonnet Contest

It's time to shed our toques and to welcome spring, with this beloved community event put on by our very own Church Chicks United! The contest is on **Easter Sunday, March 31st, at 12:00 noon, in front of the Queen Street post office.** Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., at the tent across from the Royal Bank. There is a category to fit every hat and all ages (including pets!) Categories are listed in the most recent issue of *Focus on Scugog* magazine and on the flyer in the church upper hallway, or you can email [chickbonnets@hotmail.com](mailto:chickbonnets@hotmail.com).

This is a free event, with all donations this year going to Operation Scugog.



## Mission Awareness Trip to El Salvador

Welcome back to our mission awareness team, who spent a week this past March break listening and experiencing the realities of life in El Salvador.

Our partner church there, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel, is changing lives through education, the arts, and peacemaking programs. They work tirelessly to support the El Salvadoran people as

they deal with poverty, violence, and uncertainty. Our team was blessed to hear their stories of past pain, current challenges and ongoing healing and renewal. Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel is very appreciative of our support, and expresses their sincere thanks for our generous donation that helped create a water irrigation system for growing nutritious vegetables.

### Church Band

The church band will be tuning up for Heritage Sunday, May 5th, under the leadership of Charles White. Rehearsals will be Sunday, April 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, after morning worship. This is a band for all ages, grade 8s and up. Please let Charles know, at [charles.jan.white@gmail.com](mailto:charles.jan.white@gmail.com), if you intend to be part of the band, so that your music can be prepared.



### Youth Groups

Our youth groups, grades 6 to 8 and 9 to 12, continue to meet monthly. In January our grades 6/7/8 group enjoyed a mini-Olympics night, while the high school group were offered a de-stressing night before exams. In February the groups enjoyed games nights, complete with a popcorn bar. And last month we tried our hand at

painting masks. On Friday, April 5th both youth groups will meet and have a fun session playing pickleball with some expert coaches from our own congregation! If you are curious about our youth groups, please contact Elaine at [elaine@portperryunited.com](mailto:elaine@portperryunited.com).



### Port Perry United Church Spring Rummage Sale

Friday, April 19th, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
& Saturday, April 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*Celebrate 48 Years of Reducing, Reusing & Recycling!*

Spring is here! It's time to clean out our closets, nooks, and crannies of the things we haven't used in the last 5(?) years. We welcome donations of clean family clothing, footwear, accessories, jewellery, small housewares and décor, linens, sports equipment, tools, toys, children's books only, CDs, DVDs, seasonal items, and decorations. No electronics or TVs please. Donations may be left in the downstairs storage room. When making donations, if possible, please put items in a box or a tote for drop off, to reduce the amount of plastic waste. Please contact Brenda Robinson at 905-985-2903, if you need a pick-up.

*The volunteers who make it happen are the heart of the sale!*

#### Helpers are needed:

**Wednesday**, April 17th, 7:15 p.m.: to bring items from storage

**Thursday**, April 18th, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.: to unpack and set out donations (as many as possible for each shift)

**Friday**, April 19th, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.: to monitor the rooms (6 helpers each shift); 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: (4 helpers)

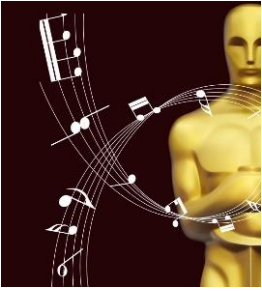
**Saturday**, April 20th, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: to consolidate items (4 helpers)

1:00 p.m.: to pack up items for Diabetes (14 helpers)

1:30 p.m.: to take boxes and bags to storage room, take down tables and put them back where they belong (8 strong helpers)

Please contact Jill Bates, email [jillybeanbates@hotmail.com](mailto:jillybeanbates@hotmail.com) or phone at 905-985-6014, if you can give the gift of time.

## The Grand Event



**Save the date! Please join us on Saturday, May 25th, at 7:00 p.m., for our annual musical celebration, The Grand Event.** This year will be a **showcase of Oscar-winning music** from 1935 to present. Featuring our senior and junior choirs and highlighting our talented soloists, under the direction of our brilliant musical director Joan Bretney. Lots of fun for the whole family! Be sure to tell your friends and neighbours too! So many in our community look forward to this event. No advance tickets required. A free-will offering will be received. *Editor's note: If you have an earlier version of this newsletter, the time has been changed, and is now 7:00 p.m.*

## Confirmation Class

On the weekend of April 12th to 14th, Elaine and Don will be travelling with our confirmation class to Toronto. The class will attend 8 places of worship and will experience various cultures and expressions of faith. The following Sunday afternoon, April 21st, the class will be making a special trip to a Sikh temple. Adults are welcome

to attend the worship services with us (and you don't have to sleep overnight on the church floor!) **Please let the church office know if you are interested in joining in.** The confirmation service is on Sunday, June 2nd. Please continue to hold Cameron, Fiona, Geoff, Liam, Max, and Ryan in your prayers as they prepare for confirmation.

## Prayer Shawls

**Prayer shawls** will be blessed on **Sunday, May 19th**, during morning worship. If you have been making prayer shawls and have some finished, bring them to the church office before Friday, May 17th.

## Pot-Luck Supper & Games Night



Mark your calendar and plan to attend! Port Perry's Christian Education Committee invites you and your family to a pot-luck supper on **Saturday, April 27th**, gathering at 5:30 p.m. Bring your favourite board game or a deck of cards; from bridge or euchre to Catan, Clue, or Go Fish. This is a night for all ages and interests. Come and have fun with your church family!

## Heritage Dinner, Saturday, May 4th Heritage Sunday, May 5th

With Prince Albert United Church and Port Perry United Church becoming one congregation, their respective church anniversaries have been combined into one day of celebration. This day is being called **Heritage Sunday and will be marked on Sunday, May 5th!** It will be a happy day to celebrate and give thanks for our past and to look forward to our future. The day will include our church band and special displays by our archivist.

AND! Mark your calendar for the night before, May 4th! The Stewardship Committee is hosting a **heritage dinner on Saturday, May 4th, at 5:30 p.m. Come and enjoy black forest ham with delicious scalloped potatoes and all the fixings!** Tickets are \$20 per person. Tickets will be on sale closer to the date, in the church auditorium following morning worship, or in the church office during the week.

## Spring On-Line Auction

**Please mark Friday, May 17th, to Sunday, May 26th, on your calendars!** These are the dates for our Stewardship Committee's spring on-line auction. Adapting to the times, your Stewardship Committee has decided to give a try to two on-line auctions (fall and spring) a year, rather than one large in-person auction. The auctions are significant fundraisers for our congregation...and are a fun way to support your church. **Please start thinking about what you might like to donate to the auction. Let the spring weather inspire you!** Here are some suggestions: outdoor lighting, bbq accessories, plants, outdoor cushions, picnic tables, gardening tools, baking, themed baskets (spa, home movie night, gardening), car detailing, yard work, tutoring. And remember: gift cards are always a huge success! More details to follow. Together we can do great things!



## UCW News

Looking for a great group of women who are friendly and are making a difference in the church and the world? Then why not check out the United Church Women (UCW) of Port Perry United Church? There are three different groups or units to choose from! Each unit meets monthly. The **Mary Unit** meets on the second Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. The **Martha Unit** meets on the third Tuesday of the month, at 12:30 p.m. The **Esther Unit** meets on the third Thursday of the month, at 1:00 p.m. **New members and visitors are always welcome!**

Our UCW hosted the **World Day of Prayer** ecumenical service on Friday, March 1st. We were glad to learn about and pray for the people of Palestine. Members took part in the service and provided refreshments for the social time following. There was a great turnout!

It's almost time for the UCW's **annual pot-luck social on Tuesday, June 4th**. There will be a guest speaker, lots of yummy food, and a chance to visit with old friends and to meet some new ones. All women are invited to attend; so bring a friend!

## Homecoming Service

The annual homecoming service is on **Tuesday afternoon, June 11th**, at 2:00 p.m., in the sanctuary. There will be singing, worship, communion, and fellowship. If there is someone you know who is **unable to come to church Sunday mornings** and would enjoy this service, please offer to bring them, or let the church office

know and an invitation will be extended. All are welcome. Drives are available. **For regular Sunday worshippers, this service is a wonderful opportunity to visit with many of our shut-ins or with those who just find mornings a challenge.**

## Here We Go a-Camping!



The church camping weekend is happening again! Port Perry's Christian Education Committee welcomes church families, couples, and singles to join us for a weekend of church camping fun from **Friday, June 21st to Sunday, June 23rd**, at the Riverwood Park Campgrounds near Lindsay. Riverwood is a private family campground with many amenities. Check out their website at [www.riverwoodpark.net](http://www.riverwoodpark.net). All sites are serviced with water and electricity. Sites are available at a cost of \$70 per night. Not a camper? Not a problem! The weekend includes a **non-camper option on Saturday, June 22nd!** This includes a whole day at the campground, with full use of their pool, playgrounds, walking trails, and riverside. We will end Saturday with a pot-luck supper and campfire. Come for the day or just for the pot-luck supper—whatever suits you! The cost for non-camper visitors will be \$10.00 per person. For overnight campers, a \$50 deposit is due to Tim Chasse by Sunday, April 28th. Please email Tim at [timchasse39@gmail.com](mailto:timchasse39@gmail.com), to let him know that you are planning on participating. Also, it would be helpful to know if you are thinking of taking in the non-camper option. Tim is very happy to answer any of your questions; so don't hesitate to ask!

## Vacation Bible Camp

**Plans for Vacation Bible Camp are underway!** The dates for the camp are **Monday, July 8th to Friday, July 12th**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day. It will be a fun-filled week of stories, songs, games, crafts, and snacks! There is a program for little ones ages 3 to 5 and a program for kids grades 1 to 5. Look for registration information to come out by email the first week of May, or contact the church office at that time. **There are many ways to help contribute to the success of the camp.**

Most importantly, we need adults to help prepare and serve snack each day of camp, adults to help with the closing hotdog lunch, and adults or older teens to help with supervising and supporting campers as they move from one activity to the next. **Please let the church office know if you are able to lend a hand for one or more days of Vacation Bible Camp.** Thanks in advance!



## Community Outreach

Our January soup luncheon was very successful, raising money to benefit our mission partners in El Salvador. Thank you! Together with the Christian Education Committee, we were able to buy one very much needed water irrigation system for our friends in El Salvador. Well done, everyone!

Our outreach team has grown! Please meet our members: Tinie Evans, Elaine Hall, Perry Halls, Brenda Jones, Gail Kerry, Candice Lemieux, Kelly Olsen, Kathy Payne Mercer, Beth Thomson, and Janice Weyrich.

We have two more Souper Sundays for this season, March 17th and April 28th; please plan on joining us. There is no cost to this event, however

a free-will donation will be happily received and donated to local charities. Many, many thanks to all of our soup makers and volunteers who help to make this time of fellowship so enjoyable for all.

We are planning a Three Sisters Seed Kit giveaway for our Sunday School in May. We're hoping that they will have much success with their planting. Look forward to seeing their pictures of their garden!

Minutes for Mission now fall under the Outreach umbrella. Please look for them in upcoming Church Services.

Happy Spring to all!

## Sacrament of Infant Baptism

The sacrament of infant baptism will be celebrated on **Christian Family Sunday, May 12th**. Please contact the church office, by Sunday, May 5th, if you have an infant or child whom you wish to have baptized. A baptism preparation session will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, at 7:00 p.m., in the resource room at Port Perry United Church.

## Search Process Update

At a congregational meeting on Sunday, March 3rd, the congregation's living faith story and position description for a new minister were approved. These will serve as the main "marketing tool" to attract a new minister. A search committee was also struck, with the direction to seek for one full-time minister.

Due to the recognition that our congregation will be moving from 1½-time ministry to 1 full-time minister, at the most recent congregational annual meeting it was agreed that \$20,000 a year would be drawn from the trustees' holdings for the next five years, in order to hire staffing that would support the new minister. It is anticipated that the support required will be around Christian

education, audio technical, and pastoral care needs. At the most recent Council meeting, it was agreed that a search for a Children's Program Director would begin this spring.

Many thanks to those who worked in a timely fashion to create the living faith story and the position description. Members of the search committee are: Paul Griffen, Sandra Halls, Rusty Hick, Drew Hollett, Pamela Hollett, Carolyn MacKinnon, and Geoff Manns. It is hoped that there will be a new minister in place early this fall, but of course there are no guarantees. Please hold this entire process in your prayers, and may we all welcome our new minister with the same care and energy that we welcomed Elaine and Don.

## Special Upcoming Worship Services

<b>May</b>	<b>5th</b>	10:00 a.m. – Heritage Sunday worship service
<b>May</b>	<b>12th</b>	10:00 a.m. – Christian Family Sunday (Mother's Day) – baptism
<b>June</b>	<b>2nd</b>	10:00 a.m. – Confirmation service – 6 youth will be confirmed this day!
<b>June</b>	<b>9th</b>	10:00 a.m. – Sunday School Celebration service
<b>June</b>	<b>11th</b>	2:00 p.m. – Homecoming service

## Stay in the Loop!

Let's stay connected! If you have recently moved or changed your phone number or moved to cell-phone-only service, please share your new contact information with us. If your household is on-line, but you have not been receiving the regular weekly emails from the office on Fridays and wish to begin receiving them, please contact Gwen at the church office and share your email address.