

THE YEAR WE LEARNED HOW TO ZOOM.....



# Huron Shores United Church

## 2020 *Annual Report*



AND...WE DID IT A LOT...*BUT*...WE DID IT TOGETHER!!

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# MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES

## OUR VALUES

Faith/Love of God = BELIEVING

Community/Inclusion = BELONGING

Compassion/Compromise = INVITING

“Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.

We welcome and include everyone into congregational life.”





## CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Last year, I started my report by stating ‘What an incredible year we have had’ where I went on to note how many amazing events and how much work had been so successfully undertaken by all of the teams, working groups and enthusiastic participants and volunteers through it all. This year, we are still marked by those same words ‘What an incredible year we have had’ but for very different reasons. Let’s look back at how this year 2020 played out in our church life.

From January to mid-March, we were still leading a full and busy life in the church. We kicked off the New Year with our usual “Ask Kate Anything” service followed by “Holy Humour Sunday”, both favourite occurrences for our Community of Faith. Speaking of favourites, nothing like a Congregational Potluck following our Annual Congregational meeting. We all left feeling satisfied and “full”-filled!!

At the same time, Rev. Elise Feltrin, our Community Wellness Coordinator, put together a well-received “Cabin Fever Coffee Club”, a place where people could gather, drink coffee/tea, chat and/or play some board and card games.

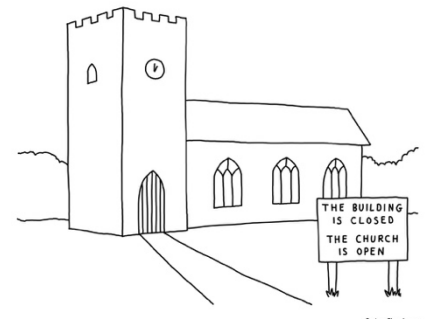
February also saw two successfully attended concerts for Grand Bend Place with a performance by “Take 3 and Company” at the beginning of the month followed by “The Dixie Demons” for Mardi Gras toward the end of February. The bar and appetizers served before the concerts and during the intermissions were met with great enthusiasm. Still within the month of February, we launched a new fundraising project for our Lenten season called Loonies for Lent.

And then came March! And the shutdown! Here’s where our Community of Faith came together in a new way – figuratively and virtually. We all learned very quickly how to Zoom, how to write “Letters of Hope” to keep people’s spirits buoyed during this ongoing tumultuous journey for us all.

Through this time, our Council, Teams, Working Groups and individuals persevered in creative ways to maintain the integrity of our Worship services, meetings, and group functions like Bible Study, Meditation etc. Many people stepped forward to assist with Worship services during these past few months lightening the load for our beloved Rev. Kate as she dealt with the pressures of this ongoing pandemic situation.

I feel it necessary to acknowledge the consistent generosity that our Community of Faith has shown in supporting Huron Shores United Church financially throughout this troubling time. Through PAR, regular offerings and special appeals, our church has continued to thrive despite the current conditions associated with COVID-19. We are so grateful and so fortunate in so many ways

As I pass the torch to the next incoming Chair of Council, I would like to say that I am so grateful to have had this incredible leadership opportunity. I have had the pleasure of working with so many gifted, talented and selfless individuals during my tenure of the last two years. Huron Shores United Church has shown itself to be a leader within the Western Ontario Waterways Region and beyond, truly earning a big WOW in every way! I am honoured to be a part of this community.



Respectfully submitted by **Janice Sinker** - Chair of Council



## MINISTER

"My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2

This is a year unlike any other, in some regards. But utterly like all of them in one key way: we remained faithful to Jesus Christ and his ministry of hospitality and of grace.

When the pandemic hit, we learned in a new way what we had once learned as children: the church is the people. Our doors were locked tight, but the church escaped into the world. It didn't take us too long before we 'pivoted' and learned how to gather as a loving community in new ways: Zooming to Church, dropping Letters of Hope to folks without computers, and reaching out through porch visits, phone calls, and drive bys. You just can't keep God's people under a bushel!

My own year was unlike any other just like yours, but also in one special way: eleven weeks of Restorative Care leave, brought on by what in the olden days would have been called a *breakdown*. But I wasn't broken, and I wasn't down – so I think of it as *stress overload*. Just like you can't plug a kettle and a microwave and an electric drill all into one outlet and run them at the same time, it seems that you can't pile too much on a minister without her circuit breaking. It was not just church, of course, as my father's 16-week hospitalization contributed significantly to my stress load.

I was lifted and carried by your kindness. In the words of the Rev. Kevin Steeper, the Pastoral Minister for Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, I had to let the Body of Christ care for me. It has been over two decades since I 'sat in the pew' and simply received. What a healing gift. There are congregations which would have crumbled under the stress, and turned against their settled minister. Instead, **Charles MacDonald**, the Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Team, rallied the leaders of the church, ensuring that weekly worship continued while I was protected from the burden of leadership, until I could return to work. When I did, I found everything running smoothly, and our whole Council of leaders smiling and ready to welcome me back. There is nothing sweeter!

Many, many thanks go to the team with whom I work: **Janna McFadden-Oud**, who completely rewrote her job description to become the electronic hub of our congregation; **Elva McIntyre**,



our Music Director, delved into a new ministry of *talking about music* until we can get together to sing again; **Carey Eddy**, our Envelope Secretary, who keeps track of our donations with unending positivity; **Sherrie Smith**, our Bookkeeper, does far more than she should for us, and we know it; **Bob Stewart**, our Custodian, who expresses our hospitality through cleanliness and order; **Rev. Elise Feltrin**, our Community Wellness Program Coordinator, gone now, but who brought so much to our congregation in her exciting role, and **Janice Sinker** who guided our community with strength and wisdom through a time none of us saw coming, or could have imagined.

Grace and peace to all,

Respectfully submitted by **Rev. Kate** - Minister

## STEWARDSHIP

Throughout 2020 the Stewardship Working Group, reporting through the Finance team, continued to inform the congregation of ways they could support the financial needs of Huron Shores United Church and expressed gratitude to all for their contributions.

Once again, October was Stewardship Month in conjunction with the month's spiritual messages of Thanksgiving. Weekly announcements in Shorelines spoke of various methods available for giving such as personal envelopes, PAR (pre-authorized remittance) encouraging year-round financial support, Special Envelopes, and Grocery/Gift Card purchases. 'Celebration Gifts' were promoted as a means to commemorate a special occasion, birthday, marriage, or family member's memory with a gift to HSUC.

The congregation were informed as to how their contributions to Huron Shores United Church are used in general operations, as well as how they could assign portions of their donations to specific programs including debt retirement or the Mission and Service Fund.

Special envelopes were provided again this year for donations at Easter and in October to celebrate our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Donations this year were gratefully accepted as a means to help meet our anticipated Operation budget shortfall.

A weekly announcement in Shorelines was created to provide information on five ways to financially support HSUC during these unprecedented times.

A key part of the Stewardship program is 'gratitude'. Members and adherents of HSUC are greatly appreciated for their financial contributions of whatever they can give to the ongoing support of the church's operations and projects. The Donor Wall outside the Sanctuary expresses gratitude to all those who have financially contributed to the HSUC building renovations. We recognize that there are so many others in our community who contribute to our present and future, not only of monetary treasures but also gifts of their time, and talents.

Our Church Council, on a recommendation from the Stewardship Team, decreed 2020 as the Year of Gratitude. Each month, in Shorelines, we recognized, celebrated and expressed our gratitude to those who make up our teams and working groups here at Huron Shores United Church. These individuals work very hard behind the scenes to make our Church such a vibrant community.

Thank you (Miiqwetch) to all supporters of Huron Shores United Church

Respectfully submitted by **Steve Northey** and for the rest of the working group: Rev. Kate Crawford



## COMMUNITY WELLNESS

With great hopes for a year ahead filled with Wellness Events for both the congregation and the community, over twenty people gathered in the Fellowship Hall on New Year's Day 2020 for a relaxing afternoon of homemade soup and classic board games. Dominoes, Scrabble and various card games kept people competitively engaged and cheerfully entertained. The conviviality continued with the weekly Cabin Fever Coffee Club which began on January 9<sup>th</sup> and carried on every Thursday afternoon throughout the winter. People took turns hosting and bringing treats as conversation and camaraderie were shared among the 10-20 people who regularly gathered. Live music by Tom Taylor was even offered on a few occasions. Many thanks to Di Campbell for her dedication in organizing.

Meaningful conversation continued over a few wellness-themed documentaries which were sponsored: a couple with the Alzheimer's Society screened at the Huron County Museum in Goderich, and 'The Great Disconnect' shown in the Huron Shores sanctuary in partnership with the Grand Bend and Area Health Centre. Over 40 people attended and stayed for discussion over refreshments around the topical issue of social isolation and how to build healthy communities.

Little did we know, that 'social isolation' was about to engulf the world in the form of COVID 19.

The closure of the church building on March 13, caused the Community Wellness Program to take on a new spin as physical isolation became everyone's new reality. The Cabin Fever Coffee Club relocated to the Zoom platform where a handful of dedicated participants continued to gather and socialize in this virtual space. 'Wellness' became shared through my written weekly contribution to the Letters of Hope along with thorough researching and publishing online health and wellness resources in the Shorelines newsletter. Plans for a Soul Collage Workshop, a Circle of Friends event and participation in the Grand Bend Studio Tour were all put on indefinite hold. Instead, I attended online meetings of the hastily created Pandemic Support Network and lent my assistance to Kate in reaching out to the congregation. I helped complete many Elder's calls – which was another wonderful way to connect with people and personally check on their health and wellbeing.

The unexpected surprises of 2020 continued with my decision to accept a call to Chemainus United Church and move to Vancouver Island. While sad to not complete my contract with Huron Shores as Community Wellness Coordinator, I was excited with the opportunity to relocate and be closer to my daughters. Even after giving my notice, unanticipated change continued to occur as I stepped into the role of Pastoral Charge Supervisor and pastoral care coverage during the Restorative Care Leave of Rev. Kate.

2020 has definitely not unfolded as any of us would have predicted and yet it has certainly been a year of being responsive to God's Spirit 'blowing where it will.' Adapting to changing circumstances, reacting to evolving needs and discovering creative solutions have proven to be characteristics of faithful witness, in addition to being indicators of wholeness and harbingers of wellness! I greatly appreciate the opportunity for the personal and professional growth and learning I experienced while serving at Huron Shores.

Be well; stay well.

Respectfully submitted by **Rev. Elise Feltrin** - Community Wellness Co-Ordinator



## COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM

Thanks to the on-going support The New Ministries grant from The United Church of Canada Foundation our Community Wellness Program has been able to carry on. The Rev. Elise Feltrin started our 2020 program on New Year's Day with a lunch and games afternoon in the Fellowship Hall just before noon. It was attended by approximately 20 people from HSUC and the wider community. For a little more than 3 hours people gathered and enjoyed some nice treats and board games. Those attending were very appreciative for the opportunity.

On January 16 from 14:00-15:00, we started the Cabin Fever Cafe which ran until the beginning of June. Until COVID-19 closed the church building there were up to 20 people attending. During this time we provided tea, coffee, water and an assortment of treats, along with music by Tom Taylor. It worked very well with some members of the greater community helping to organize cabin Fever cafe. However, with COVID-19 and the church building closing, we moved to Cabin Fever Cafe by Zoom. We continued with the Zoom format with our own drinks at home. Our numbers varied as many people were reluctant or learning how to navigate Zoom. In June, it was decided to stop for the summer months and restart in the fall. Volunteers were not forthcoming, so we hope to have Cabin Fever Cafe running in early 2021.

We did have several events planned and cancelled due to COVID-19. Some of which were an Introduction to Collage Workshop, a Food Safety Handling Course and a Studio Arts Tour, to name a few.

Elise through COVID-19 continued to keep in touch throughout the community through the Community Health Center weekly Pandemic meetings. She was investigating a labyrinth for the Main Street garden, complete with a community bulletin board.

However, over the winter she also received a very timely call to Chemainus United Church in Chemainus BC. Which she accepted and which allows her to be closer to her daughters. Elise finished with HSUC at the end of August and a few members of Council took her to lunch and presented her with a gift from HSUC. In mid-September she moved to BC.

The Community Wellness Program Working Group (CWPWG) met in Oct to discuss the future of the program. We decided that it would be prudent, due to COVID-19, to wait until early 2021 to start the search for another Community Wellness Program Coordinator, and informed our donor, The United Church of Canada Foundation, of this decision. Other grant recipients have been doing the same.

Respectfully submitted by **Charles MacDonald**

The Community Wellness Program Working Group:

Charles MacDonald, Janice Sinker,

Rev. Elise Feltrin (to August, 2020), Rev. Kate Crawford



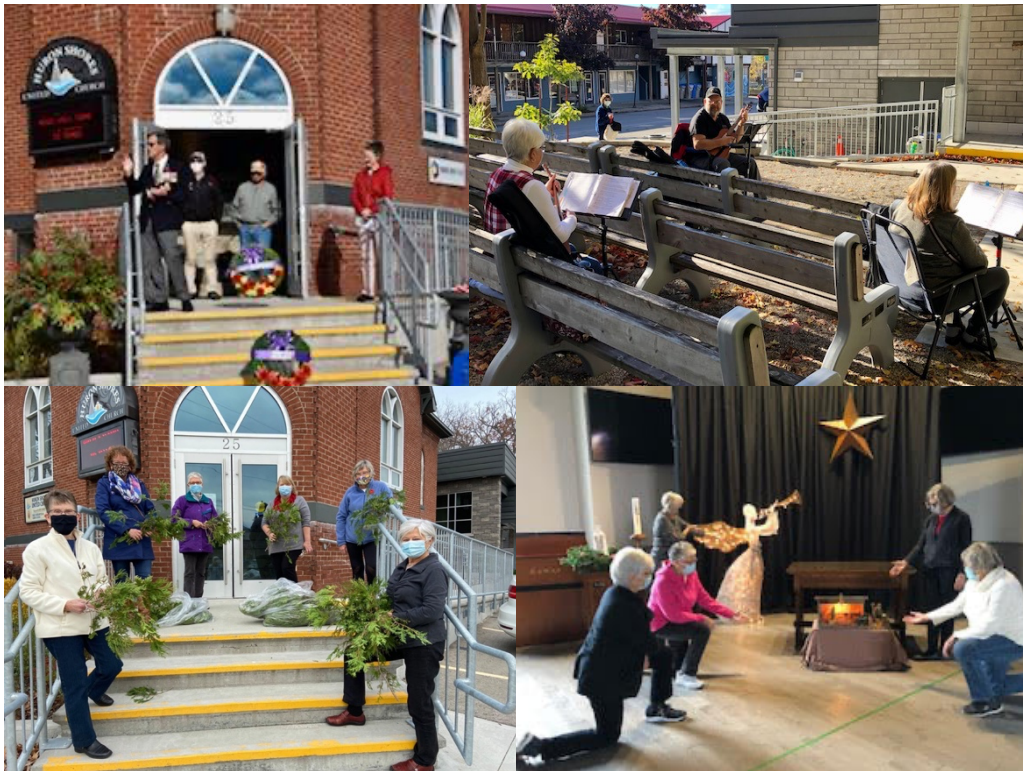
## COVID-19 REOPENING WORKING GROUP

The COVID-19 Reopening Working Group formed after March 15th when it became apparent that our congregation would not be meeting in the church for services or for community activities. It was recommended by the Regional Council leadership that each congregation form such a group.

The group met regularly near the beginning of the pandemic, but now meets on an as-needed basis. The group collects information from Federal, Provincial and Municipal organizations pertaining to any and all of the current COVID-19 restrictions and protocols.

Our working group shared information at a Congregational Meeting in July, 2020 regarding the activities of the working group and its recommendations.

Respectfully submitted by **Janice Sinker**, Chair of COVID-19 Return Working Group



## OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

What a year....they say hindsight is **2020**...well I can honestly say I would never have seen this coming....2 weeks I thought...yah sure we can do this!! Well, here we are almost a year later...*STILL DOING THIS!*

We have learned a lot, especially with technology and new internet platforms like Zoom. Somehow, we have managed to still keep smiling and keep it all together. Without everyone participating in Zoom and being willing to try something new we wouldn't still be together. Shorelines is something we do regardless and keeps us together and connected. Letters of Hope are such an amazing addition and these letters still keep us going today. They are an uplifting beacon of light in this uncertain time.

We wouldn't be here today if it were not for the BOLD actions from Rev. Kate who decided to take a chance and tackled this virus with a "we can do this" attitude while other churches closed their doors. She's techy and strong and wasn't afraid to let us at least....**TRY!** We just had to try....and here we are!

Of course, she had some serious contributors along the way to keep the fire burning. The council, the working groups and the entire congregation that stood beside her and said without a second to think...."WE ARE WITH YOU"...and off we went as this **NEW COVID TRIBE**.

Clearly her "let's beat covid" passion came at a price and it was time to take a step back and take care of herself first, after all she had just spent all her days taking care of us. She did it with grace...and here she is back at it again guiding the ARK to safety.

I'd say it has been a good year to spend time with your immediate family, picking up the phone and talking or seeing loved ones on a screen. A good year to re-evaluate what's important and to simply SLOW DOWN. Maybe it was a good year to start something new which you had been putting off trying!

Even though "The Hive" is still in full swing behind the scenes...I am very curious to see what 2021 will bring for not only Huron Shores United Church but also for the world!

Find your good in 2021, be hopeful and open to change.

Respectfully submitted by **Janna** Office Co-Ordinator


### Join us from the comfort of home

3 ways to stay in touch as we navigate social distancing


Letters of Hope

These letters are for the time we cannot meet together

Letters of Hope



The Gathered Community



Shorelines Newsletter





## ACCESSIBILITY

NO REPORT

## AFFIRMING

This has been a transitioning year for our Affirming Team. Our faithful Chair Person, Blanche Savage resigned from the chair position in the Spring. Many thanks from our team to Blanche for her conscientious and caring leadership!

Our team and our Community of Faith eagerly and enthusiastically await the construction of the rainbow crosswalk that will be created on the main street of Grand Bend as soon as weather permits. Wilma Harris was instrumental in contacting and following up with the Municipality of Lambton Shores on the possibility of this project. We are very grateful that this crosswalk will soon appear in our community.

We renewed our annual membership with Affirm United / S'Affirmer Ensemble. Janice Sinker accepted the position of chair for our Affirming Team going forward. We look forward to a new year, with the possibility of adding to our team as well as new initiatives and projects on the road ahead.

Respectfully Submitted by: **Janice Sinker**, Chair of Affirming Team

Affirming Team Members: Blanche Savage (until March), Betsy Hanes, Wilma Harris, Kate Crawford, Janice Sinker



## CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

This has been a very different year with COVID-19. Because of the virus, we had to cancel the Congregational Service/Picnic and we had planned to have a week-long children's camp. We still have a donation of \$1,000 secured by Rosalind MacDonald from The Bank of Nova Scotia to use for a camp administrator which we hope to use when we can proceed with the camp.

### **Sunday School Report by Julie Ciufo, Sunday School Supervisor**

The Christian Development Committee ordered the *Seasons of the Spirit* online Sunday school curriculum for ages 5 - 12 for the 2019/2020 Sunday School year. This curriculum works well for the program that we run during non-COVID-19 times. Normally during Sunday School, teachers Julie Ciufo or Ann Russell will do a small teaching or lesson from the curriculum and a craft or game.

Our two consistent Sunday school students are Brynn and Phoenix. Phoenix enjoys a short lesson and some time to play with the Sunday school toys.

Due to COVID-19, a Sunday School curriculum was not purchased for 2020/2021.

Julie and Brynn Ciufo lead a Zoom youth message two Sundays per month.

**Angel Tree by Ann Russell** This year the Angel Tree was done independently. We shared the information on when and where to send your donation. Let's hope that next year, we can go back to purchasing gifts.

**Adult Opportunities by Reverend Kate Crawford** Adult Opportunities for Christian Development fall largely to me - although volunteer program leaders are always welcome!

\* ***Community Bible Study*** continued strong this year, working with the Sunday morning readings as well as the biblical book *Revelation*. During COVID-19, we first formed an email community, called The Ribbon, and then found our new home in Zoom. Folks from Owen Sound and even St. John's, Newfoundland have popped in and joined us (friends and family of regular members). The welcome is always warm, and the tea is always hot - if you make it yourself! Join us any time if you need a great group of crazy people who love to talk about stuff that matters.

\* ***Grand Bend Vipassana Meditation*** - at first side-lined by COVID-19, we soon found ourselves a space online. Kate's leave left us with a few months in the summer away from each other. Then, we invited Judy Myers Avis to lead an 8-week course to strengthen our practice. Her wisdom and strength were a great help to us all. Donations at the end were directed to HSUC Outreach Fund.

\* ***Jesus at the Movies*** - our film/sermon series started out well, with several films showed in Lent in our sanctuary. Good-sized groups gathered to watch the films, and enjoyed hearing how it could be preached along with the gospel the following Sunday. This came to an abrupt halt in March, of course.

\* ***BLUE (Bluewater Lambton Ukulele Ensemble)*** was rocking and rolling each week in the Fellowship Hall as 2020 began. Pivoting to online gatherings was impossible, due to the limitations of Zoom technology with music. A number of socially distant gatherings and strums were held through the summer in different outdoor locations in Grand Bend, tapering off as our fingers froze in the fall. We eagerly await warmer weather and vaccinations.

Respectfully submitted by, **Virginia Scott** - Chair of Christian Development Committee

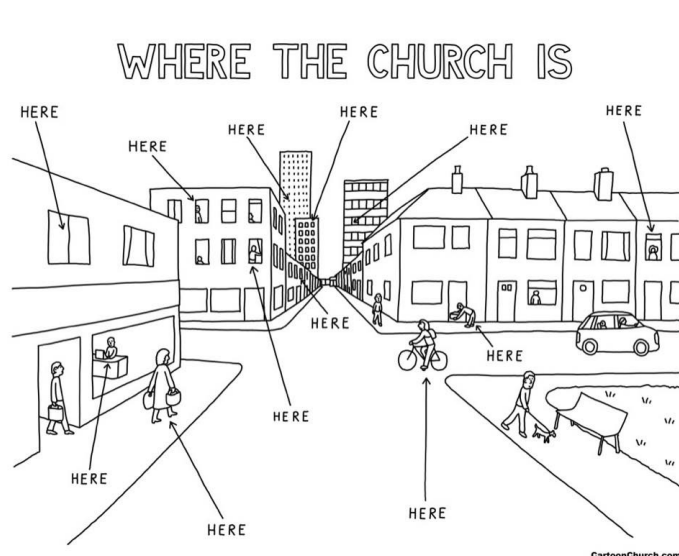
## CONGREGATIONAL VISITORS

In our church community we like to think that none of us are alone and we hope with Congregational Visitor phone calls and visits, there is a sense of no aloneness. Congregational Visitors are re-appointed yearly at the Annual Congregational Meeting and January 26, 2020 we were confirmed in our roles. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of the Congregational Visitor adapted. No longer were visits in person possible and the telephone was our means of keeping in touch. Many of these calls were to shut-ins, listening to them and extending compassion as they dealt with significant life moments. It was heart-warming and very rewarding to chat with others and share stories.

In the spring, members of Council and some volunteers reached out to everyone associated with our community, to extend a caring call from the congregation. These calls were assisted by our Community Wellness Coordinator, as she reinterpreted her role in the face of the pandemic. So many folks were grateful that "the church" had called. As we moved into late fall, with COVID-19 still present, the Congregational Visitors felt the need to reintroduce the phone calls to our community, so they initiated The Phone Tree. Several members of our church community came forward; volunteering to become part of The Phone Tree team; to reach out regularly with telephone calls so that all members of our church community feel connected. The calls began in December and will continue in 2021.

Respectfully submitted by ***Rosalind MacDonald and Joanne Barry***

Congregational Visitors





## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

The Ministry and Personnel Team is the congregation's supervisor of staff. We ensure their jobs are being performed properly, that our people are satisfied with their jobs and that you are confident with their work performance. To do that, we monitor their job performance and take all concerns and compliments and ensure they are properly addressed. Our team consists of myself as chair, Maxine Eveland, Ernie Lane and Bob Fuller who joined us during this past year. We are a small team and are always seeking new members to join our team. Normally, we meet a few times a year, and do informal checks with staff regularly throughout the year. In December we perform job interviews/performance reviews. When it comes to budgeting, we recommend salary increases to Finance, in keeping with United Church of Canada guidelines. As with the world 2020 has been a very different year for M&P starting normally and then COVID-19 changed everything. With the church building closing our staff needed to stay home and work through phones, email and social media with Zoom being our medium of choice for most meetings.

This year we had two staff changes. In the spring Joanne Barry accepted the call to join Rosalind MacDonald as a Congregational Visitor. This call came late due to COVID-19 but, Joanne has come in with a great verve for her new place in our HSUC community and the two complement each other.

Sadly, we lost our Community Wellness Coordinator, The Rev. Elise Feltrin. She found a new calling in Chemainus BC at Chemainus United Church and is closer to her daughters. She was a great asset to HSUC leaving a large hole in our HSUC family. With COVID-19 still with us we have decided to wait until early February before we start to look for a new CWC.

Janna Oud was our only staff member to continue to visit the church to pick up and distribute mail and do only necessary work in the office. For all staff, Janna was the umbilical cord to the church and her hours grew because of the situation we found ourselves in.

Rev Dr Crawford (Kate) had a very difficult year in 2020. Firstly, her sabbatical was deferred due to COVID-19. Through various means she kept the congregation together, informed and she started Zoom worship for our community of faith which has been very successful. Alas, in June she had an emotional breakdown which saw her on RCP (Restorative Care Plan) until mid-September. With the help of the congregation, she has had a successful return to work progressively, growing stronger with time.

Our Congregational Visitors have been busy this year keeping in touch with many of our congregants. Along with Kate and Melodie Northey they have been busy updating our church records.

Our staff greatly appreciates all that we do to assist them in the performance of their jobs. We remind the congregation that they can provide input to the Ministry and Personnel Team relating to our staff. If you see a problem that is staff related, tell one of the Ministry and Personnel Team. On behalf of the Ministry and Personnel Team, we thank our staff: Rev. Dr Kate, Janna, Elva, Bob, Sherrie, Carey, Rosalind and Joanne for what they do for our congregation. We look forward to a healthy and prosperous 2021!

Respectfully submitted by *Charles MacDonald* – Chair

## MISSION & OUTREACH

Our team was able to carry out the monthly Minutes for Mission. Marion Ogilvie, our Mission and Service Enthusiast and chosen members presented updates by Zoom each month.

Roz MacDonald & myself, collected, counted & banked tourist parking dollars, five times over the summer time. We were able to assist locals in need with the following 4 cheques:

- **\$500** Hillside Elementary School (Kettle & Stony Point)
- **\$1000** Stephen Central Public School (Dashwood)
- **\$788** B Community Health Center "We Can Help Fund" (Medical Social Dept.) For a Senior in need.
- **\$1800** "We Can Help Fund" (Social Dept.) Lise Callahan to distribute

**Total: \$4088**

For a year filled with restrictions, due to COVID-19, HSUC Mission and Outreach Team were still able to help the community.

The Free Store & Food Bank donations of food were not able to work as usual once the building closed. We are eager to start these programs again as soon as possible. Our two local Foodbanks, Blessings and Ailsa Craig, receive monthly distributions of donated funds. The Adopt-the-Beach program has ended after many years, and we thank Lee McCutcheon for his long-standing efforts to organize volunteers to do beach sweeps after long weekends in the summer season. The Right Relations Working Group has been able to continue meeting on-line, primarily focusing on the Reading group. A number of interesting books were promoted to the community through the year, along with a viewing of several short National Film Board films on Indigenous issues.

Many thanks to:

**Free Store organizers** Joanne Barry, Ruthanne Eagleson

**Prayer Shawls** Sharon Soldan & Trish Murdock

**Foodbanks** Barb Teskey, Bill & Onalee Welch

**Right Relations** Blanche Savage (contact person  
– stepped down in 2020)

Respectfully submitted by **Lynne Desjardine** - Chair



## PRAYER SHAWL

January 2020 started the Prayer Shawl Group off with a new format and new leaders. Lynda Holmes, who had led the group from the beginning in 2015, retired from her position. Trish Murdock, Linda Smith and Sharon Soldan took over the position and looked forward to leading the group each week.

Our knitters and crocheters were busy each week creating prayer shawls, prayer bears and pocket prayer shawls as well as enjoying friendships which had been made over the years. The social interactions were an important part of our meetings.

In March, we recognized Doris Bestard's 90th birthday. March 9 was our last meeting as the coronavirus forced us all to return to our homes and isolate. The virus stopped our meetings but not the knitting and crocheting! Everyone was happy to have yarn at home and to continue working. An email account was set up for our group and we kept in contact through email updates, shared poems and songs. We were still connected.

Mid-August there was a "possibility" that we might start meeting again in September but that soon changed and we remained at home. In late August, we received notice that "Aunt Rose" Frim had passed away just a few days before her 98th birthday. She was an avid knitter and a great supporter of our group and attended whenever she was in our area. In August, I picked up all the yarn from the Church and made a few house calls for those who were running short so that we could keep on working.

In the fall, we added a new item to our list of available items. Butterflies made by Jean Glazier were included and have been well received.

November and December were busy months with requests and we also made some new contacts who were pleased to receive our gifts. In addition to Jessica's House, we added Hoffman's Funeral Home, Huron Women's Shelter and Parkhill Nursing Home. In November and December alone, we gave out 19 prayer bears, 67 pocket prayer shawls, 35 prayer shawls, 11 butterflies and 2 afghans.

We also kept Janna busy printing the cards for us to attach to each item. Thank you, Janna!

**This brings our total donations to 411 prayer bears, 623 pocket prayer shawls, 747 prayer shawls, 11 butterflies and 2 afghans.**

We are grateful for the yarn donations made to our group this year. Yarn is expensive and these donations offer a variety of yarns to help keep our hands busy. All donations are appreciated.

If anyone is in need of any items, please contact me at 519-238-8109 and we can arrange a "no contact" pick up time or email - [gbprayershawlgroup1@gmail.com](mailto:gbprayershawlgroup1@gmail.com)

Respectfully Submitted by **Sharon Soldan** on behalf of **Trish Murdock, Linda Smith** and the Prayer Shawl Group





## NOMINATING WORKING GROUP

The Nominating Working Group has worked throughout 2020, filling Council positions as they became available.

### **Elected during 2020 by Council**

Deb Gill	Chair of Property Management Team	2020
Lois Gill	Chair of Congregational Care Team	2020
Janice Sinker	Chair of Affirming Team	2020
Ruth Ann Eagleson	Co-Chair of Worship Team	2020

### **Continuing in Office for 2021**

Bryan Beattie	Chair of Finance Team / Treasurer	2015
Ruth Ann Eagleson	Regional Council Representative	2015
Marilyn Beattie	Regional Council Representative (Alternate)	2015
Bryan Beattie	Regional Council Representative (Alternate)	2017
Wilma Harris	Co-Chair of Worship Team	2015
Bob Illman	Chair of Board of Trustees	2015
Virginia Scott	Chair of Christian Development Team	2017
Charles MacDonald	Chair of Ministry & Personnel Team	2017
Lynne Desjardine	Chair of Mission & Outreach Team	2019
Bob Illman	Regional Council Representative	2019
Rosalind MacDonald	Regional Council Representative	2019

### **Nominations for 2021**

Charles MacDonald: nominated for Chair of Council

Mary McFadden: nominated for Minute Secretary

Linda Obermaier: nominated for Accessibility Team Chair

These individuals have accepted the nomination.

To be thanked for their contributions during their terms of office

Christine Bregman: Minute Secretary and Chair of Accessibility Team

Peter Challen: Co-Chair of Property Management Team

Debbie Procter: Co-Chair of Property Management Team

Janice Sinker: Chair of Council

### Working Groups of Council

Nominations Working Group- Janice Sinker, Marilyn Beattie, Lynne Desjardine

Construction Working Group- Deb Gill, Dan Gill, Bob Illman, and others

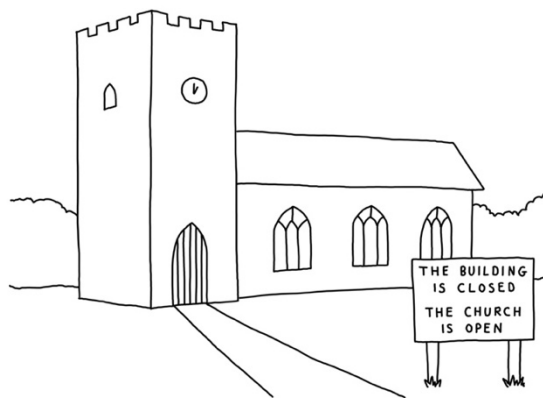
Grand Bend Place Working Group- Bob Illman, Janice Sinker, Tom Taylor, Christine Bregman, Kate Crawford (until June)

Community Wellness Program Working Group- Janice Sinker, Kate Crawford, Charles MacDonald

COVID-19 Return Working Group- Janice Sinker, Bob Illman, Kate Crawford, Deb Gill, Charles MacDonald, Wilma Harris, Ruth Ann Eagleson

Sabbatical Working Group- Charles MacDonald, Janice Sinker, Kate Crawford

Respectfully submitted by: ***Marilyn Beattie, Lynne Desjardine and Janice Sinker***



## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

What a year! Needless to say the number of issues and activities arising in Property were significantly reduced due to our shut down and we are just now starting to have folks use our building. Working Groups of Property that we are hoping will be reactivated this year post pandemic include: Kitchen, Chair Moving, Sanctuary Beautification and Decor.

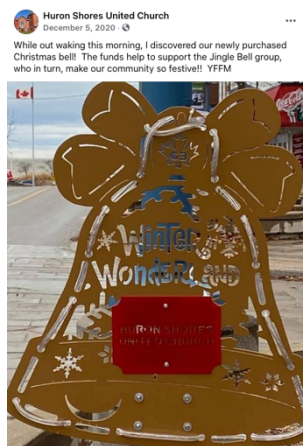
The Green Working Group, however, stepped up to the plate and kept our gardens watered and in great shape. Many folks told me they felt it was quite therapeutic to get into our gardens during our pandemic. Thanks so much to the 'green thumbers'!

The Construction Working Group did take the opportunity to get closer to completing our renovation and renewal process. This spring, thanks to an accessibility grant from the federal government called The New Horizons Program, we were able to complete the Main Street ramp and entrance. Also, the Rotarians have given us a water station which will be placed on the west end of our front yard. We hope to have this installed this spring.

Thanks to the New Ministries Grant of The United Church of Canada Foundation (for the Community Wellness Program) we are getting very close to having the kitchen completed. We have ordered dish carts and dollies, a shutter door for the opening, a microwave shelf and a warming oven. Also this spring, we will install roof gems to provide us with safety from falling snow and ice.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the former co-chairs of Property Management, **Peter Challen and Debbie Proctor**. They worked tirelessly at making us and our building shine. I am reminded of a favourite bible verse my Dad used to quote. "Well done thou good and faithful servant".

Respectfully Submitted, *Deb Gill*



## BOOKING COORDINATOR

Well, what started to be a busy year in 2020 came to an abrupt end in March. The Council closed our facility and I am having a nice holiday.

Since late October we have been receiving enquiries from small groups wanting indoor space, "coming in from the cold".

With Covid-19 procedures and sanitizing instructions approved by the Covid-19 Reopening Working group, we did start booking some people in space. All groups have the procedures and sanitizing instructions and agree with our requirements.

Respectfully submitted by **Bob Illman** – Booking Co-ordinator

## CONSTRUCTION

**See Property Report**

## WORSHIP

"You can't allow the past to steal your present, but if you siphon off just the right amount, it can help fuel your future." This is a quote from the book, I Know Who You Are, by Alice Feeney.

It remains to be seen what we have learned from our experience in 2020 that we will need to apply to the next stages in our worship planning. What we can do is recall the stages that we have encountered.

### **Covid-19**

When our awareness of Covid 19 rose to the surface the first step was to close our building on March 15. The major focus then became the need to somehow provide some continuity for our members.

Moderator Richard Bott appropriately provided YouTube services that those with computers could access. Many other churches also recorded worship we could access...again with computers. Kate presented "The Gathered Community" every Tuesday and Thursday for those who could access on Facebook. Letters of Hope written by Kate (and later by many others) were sent out by Janna first every day and later every Wednesday. By April 22 some of us had learned enough to set up Bible Study on Zoom. (Catch your breath here!)

Kate encouraged some of us to record readings for an online Good Friday worship service and by May 3 we were brave enough to present the first Zoom Sunday morning service. A tech team of volunteers came together and haven't stopped since. Hallelujah! When Kate had her medical leave Bob Illman, Charles MacDonald and Roz MacDonald carried us through the trials and



glitches of virtual church admirably with care and great patience. Our music director had a change in career and found herself finding new ways to keep in touch with the choir and the congregation with weekly notes and music suggestions. Melodie Northey and Pat Lane also took turns on the tech team and bravely learned new skills. As Chair of Ministry and Personnel, Charles MacDonald, coordinated Sunday morning worship leadership, and Ruth Anne Eagleson came on alongside to assist in chairing the Worship Team.

### **Settling In On-Line**

The Covid-19 Reopening Working Group presented a survey to congregants to determine their views on eventual re-opening. Results were presented on July 26 at a general meeting after church indicating a consensus to remain closed. We have continued to provide Zoom church weekly and have enjoyed many special services. Before closure these included Ask Kate Anything, Holy Humour, The Annual Congregational Meeting and Black History Month. Special features this year included an introduction to American Sign Language, which we called Talking With Our Hands, presented by Devin, Virginia and John Scott, as well as the beginning of a Lenten service series called Jesus at the Movies, featuring films selected by members of the congregation as preaching texts alongside the gospel. This was cut short in March.

Since closure on Zoom we have made our way through Mother's Day, Affirming Sunday, Father's Day and special services provided by Bob Illman, Deb Gill, Ruth Ann Eagleson, Rhonda Manor, Elise Feltrin, Janice Sinker, Lynne Desjardine, David Kai and Peter Challen and guests Marlene Britton, and Heather MacEchney. We have celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary, communion at home, Remembrance Day with Charles MacDonald, New Members Sunday and joined WOW for the ordination service. For Advent we each were encouraged to design an Advent wreath and light our candles simultaneously at home during Zoom church. A unique Christmas Eve service was available to watch any time after Dec. 21 and as many times as you like, featuring readers, singers and a Virtual Choir, for the first time ever!

### **Our Team**

2020 has been such a challenging time and yet the Love and Care remains strong at Huron Shores United Church. The proof is found in the joyous giving of time and talents by those who care for our church and our church community. We want to thank the many helpers who through their gracious and selfless giving assist worship to run smoothly.

- **Janice Sinker** welcomes all each Sunday as we worship on Zoom with the occasional help of Steve Northey.
- **Chip Styles** and **Rev. Kate** and **Bob Illman** continue to prepare the slide deck although the process is slightly different during on-line worship.
- **Susan Daum** edited our audio sermons until March, when we stopped taping them.
- **Janna Oud**, working from home, keeps our church information organized and flowing as she sends the weekly Shorelines and Letters of Hope and continues her behind the scenes work for all.
- **Elva McIntyre** enhances our worship with music, as have **Paul Seagrave** and **Janice Sinker** in her absence.
- **Doug Proctor** maintains our copyright lists and payment.
- **Karen Etherington** organizes scripture readers.

- **Julie and Brynn Ciufo** have been ingenious in creation and continuance of our Youth Message.
- **Virginia and Devin Scott** have kept us talking with our hands.
- **Dr. Crawford** remains our faith leader as she creates sermons and guides our church through unique times.
- **Charles MacDonald** assists with pulpit supply.
- **Dennis McIntyre** is our chief Sound Technician.

The summer of 2020 did not see us in the Green Cathedral but rather on Zoom as we continued our faith journey. Special thanks go to

- **Bob Illman, Roz MacDonald and Charles MacDonald** who have been joined by **Melodey Northey and Pat Lane** for keeping us connected through Zoom.
- Thank you to **Norah Galea** for her assistance with our first on line Christmas Eve service
- and to **Mary McFadden** and the Embellishment Working Group, **Carey Eddy, Debbie Procter, Joyce Seagrave, Mary Marg Prowse, Jacqui Krech, Lois Gill, Ava Nagel and Ginger Weber** who create the atmosphere inside and out as required for Christmas and Remembrance Day.
- Thank you to **Robert Stewart**, our custodian, for his weekly cleaning of the church.
- Thank you and a blessing to **all who assist** to help services and our church run smoothly.

We pray we have not missed any who have helped us to continue our worship ministry in 2020.

Thank you from your Worship Chairs for all who helped in any way.

Respectfully submitted by

***Wilma Harris and Ruth Ann Eagleson***



## CHOIR

2020 started off "normal" with choir practices and weekly anthems until the middle of March when everything "shutdown". Choir was already working on Good Friday and Easter anthems so we put them on hold hoping this Covid thing would go away. With the 'Covid' restrictions we were no longer able to meet as a group in the church.

As time went on, I started adding contributions to the weekly newsletter. A lot of suggestions came from the choir and other church goers. Thanks so much!

Zoom meetings started and after one meeting with the choir we knew that because of the delays in the internet, singers could not sing from different locations along with my playing.

As the tech team learned to navigate the system, we were able to bring singers into the church by November to help support the hymns by singing with me at the piano, at a safe social distance. During this time two of our members moved to B.C. Don and Beth Tedford will be missed in our choir. I'll miss the 'thumbs down' from Don indicating to 'lower the key'!

Christmas Eve Service!! What can I say. Rev. Kate was the 'instigator'. All you have to do is send out some emails. Ask for church decorators, readers, tech support and of course our wonderful choir and then send it all to Rev. Kate and her daughter Norah to put it all together for a pre-recorded Christmas Eve Service. This took HOURS of hard work from everyone involved but what a success! This is the first time in 20 + years that Rev. Kate and I have not been at church for Christmas Eve.

As we navigate into 2021, I will try and provide as much music as possible with the tools / tech we have. I am constantly learning new things.

To EVERYONE involved with music, the weekly church services and the Christmas Eve Project..... THANK YOU!! (the list is very long).

Respectfully submitted by **Elva McIntyre** – Director of Music



## REGIONAL COUNCIL

The second year of the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council in the United Church of Canada proved to be a true year of new beginnings as it adjusted to Covid-19 and went virtual.

WOW representatives: Bob Illman, Rosalind MacDonald, Ruth Ann Eagleson and Rev. Kate Crawford attended the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Fall 2020 Virtual Meeting on Thursday October 15th to 17th, as well as The Celebration of Ministries Service (Ordination) on Sunday, October 18.

The theme of the Conference was 'Honey from the Rock' from Psalm 81: 16. As in the scripture, we gained a 'taste of sweetness' or 'Honey' from our experiences. The moderator, The Right Rev. Richard Bott, suggested that although the space was virtual: the worship, the gathering and the work was real as he asked us to find ways to live out God's call in this world and to take a moment to taste the goodness of God.

We voted on and passed seven proposals, heard information on the budget for 2021, learned about access to information regarding Mission and Service, promotion of PAR and Stewardship; as well as; 'Tool Kits' to support congregational life such as Covenanting, Community of Faith Profile, Church Hub, Property Matters and information on assessments, agreements and compliance. Jubilands (those ordained 50 years or more) and retirees were honoured and ministers no longer with us were remembered.

The high point for many was the Celebration of Ministries Service on Sunday October 18, live-streamed from Avondale United Church in Stratford where candidates for ministry Kellie McComb, Gail Fricker and Rebekah Duncan were ordained.

Continuing their work for our church, Regional Council Representatives, are revising and updating HSUC information on the Church Hub and planning a virtual covenanting service between HSUC and WOW for early 2021.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve our congregation as Regional Representatives to the wider United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted by,  
***Ruth Ann Eagleson***  
***Rosalind MacDonald***  
***Bob Illman***  
***Rev. Kate Crawford***  
***Marilyn Beattie and Bryan Beattie (alternates)***

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Representatives





## MEMBERSHIP

### Transfers Out

Johanna Eagleson

Anna Eagleson

Joyce Duchesne

Ann Brandsma

Julie Bullock

Glenn Bullock

Chelsea Alderson

Mary Alderson

Thomas Alderson

Victor Alderson

Chelsea Alderson-Fowler

### Removed

Julie Bullock

Glenn Bullock

Pam Walker

Bill Woodburn

Carolyn Woodburn

### Transfers In

Jacqui Kretch

### Baptisms

NONE

### Weddings

Bill Morley and Jean Leng

December 18<sup>th</sup> 2020



NORMA BAIRD

ROSE FRIM

TONY GAUDIO "FORMER CUSTODIAN IN  
GRAND BEND"

KEITH GILL

BURT HULL



KEN ISAAC

JIM LOVE

BRUCE STANLAKE

JOYCE THOMPSON

ORWELL THORNTON

## TRUSTEES

Covid-19 has challenged us in many ways this year. We continued to manage issues as they arise.

Special thanks to the current group of Trustees; Norm Harris, Bob Illman (Chair), Doug Kyle (Secretary), Rosalind MacDonald, Glen Miller, John Scott, Larry Taylor and our spiritual leader Kate Crawford with Elise Feltrin filling in as required.

The Trustees appointed our Grand Bend United Church Cemetery Board of Directors; Dan Gill, Donna Lovie (Secretary/Treasurer), Glen Miller, Matthew Miller, Doug Russell, Larry Taylor and Donald Walper.

We presented to your Council two documents for approval;

1. Grand Bend Place – Memorandum of Understanding
2. Privacy Policy

Our task list for 2020 was considerably smaller than in years past. We completed all items with the exception of training and evacuation according to our Emergency Action Plan, we can blame Covid-19 for this, there was no need, we were not in the building.

Our Legacy Fund, managed by the Trustees, is an opportunity for members of our church and community to donate long term monies and gain taxable benefits and ensure financial stability of HSUC. Please contact any of the Trustees if you wish to have information for your financial advisor.

Your Trustees were represented as always on the Finance Team, thanks to Norm Harris. A Covid-19 Reopening Working Group was created by Council and Bob Illman represented the interests of the Trustees with an eye to risk management. Due to the closure the Trustees arranged to check our building (inside and outside) on a regular basis in compliance with our insurance policy, thanks to Bob Illman, Charles MacDonald and Debbie Proctor for providing this service.

Risk management is important. We are aware that the Ministry and Personnel Team has reviewed a number of policies with staff and volunteers in compliance with United Church of Canada policy. We were also represented in the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Community of Faith Self-Assessment Checklist to ensure we are covering our responsibilities as Huron Shores United Church.

Proposed Trustees for 2020 will remain the same individuals as in 2019 with the exception of Rosalind MacDonald, we will miss her wisdom.

We thank our congregation for your support.

Respectfully submitted by **Bob Illman** - Chair of Trustees

## CEMETERY REPORT

YEAR ENDING December 31, 2020

<b><u>BANK ACCOUNTS &amp;</u></b>	<b><u>OPENING BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>CLOSING BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>NOTES</u></b>
<b><u>INVESTMENTS OWNED</u></b>	<b><u>Jan. 1, 2020</u></b>	<b><u>Dec. 31, 2020</u></b>	
<b>Community Account</b>	\$ 9,315.29	\$ 4,923.31	as per bank statement
#2 BMO G.I.C.	\$3,945.22	\$ 3,023.60	Matures 20 Mar. 2023
#3 BMO G.I.C.	\$ 5,489.41	\$ 4,094.83	Matures 20 Mar. 2023
#4 BMO G.I.C.	\$13,491.22		
#7 BMO G.I.C.	\$ 1,700.03	\$ 1,740.00	Matures 8 March 2021
#8 BMO G.I.C.	\$ 8,637.49	\$ 8,662.96	Matures 8 March 2021
#9 BMO G.I.C.	\$6,950.59		
#10 BMO G.I.C.	\$8,074.08	\$8,242.27	Matures 04 Jan 2021
#11 BMO G.I.C.	\$8,000.00	\$ 8,004.87	Matures 23 Jan. 2023
#12 BMO G.I.C.		\$8,053.52	Matures 06 June 2022
#14 BMO G.I.C.		\$13,466.92	Matures 28 July 2021
#15 BMO G.I.C.(Columbarium)		\$9,073.16	Matures 28 July 2021
	<b><u>\$65,603.33</u></b>	<b><u>\$69,285.44</u></b>	
Scotia Wealth Management	<b><u>\$52,444.71</u></b>		

**During the year 2020 there were 16 burials – 6 cremations and 10 full burials**

### **Cemetery Board Members**

Dan Gill	238-5871	Larry Taylor	238-8732
Glen Miller	238-8259	Donald Walper	238-8810
Matthew Miller	237-3772	Donna Lovie	238-8395
Douglas Russell	238-8283		

Respectfully submitted by **Donna Lovie** - Secretary/Treasurer

## GRAND BEND PLACE

Your members of our working group; Christine Bregman, Bob Illman, Debbie Procter, Paul Rivard, Janice Sinker, Rev. Kate Crawford and Tom Taylor. A very special thank you for the many volunteers that have enjoyed being a part of the Grand Bend Place concerts and their many talents.



We were able to have several concerts in 2019 and 2020 before our world was shuttered. Your working group has been meeting and planning for the day we can reopen, gather and enjoy the concerts and events that a variety of community groups are planning.

**First, our new sign!** We are busy planning putting administrative pieces in place; marketing, communication, volunteers and future concert possibilities. We are developing a new website to provide information, future concerts, events and ticket information.



We applied to the Grand Bend Community Foundation and to the Grand Bend Rotary Club for grants to complete the Fellowship Hall audio/video plan and introduce the ability to live stream from our facility. It is a three way partnership, our contribution is the current audio/video infrastructure we have in place throughout our facility. The foundation has already generously granted funding to complete the Fellowship audio/video plan, which is similar to the sanctuary; TV, microphones and speakers.

Bob attended the Rotary meeting in December for an update on GBP and to discuss our grant request for the live streaming initiative for the church and community. We are hopeful that Rotary shares our vision of preparing for the new normal and how live streaming will be a benefit for our communities.

The Church Council has been reviewing the process for booking our facility. After careful consideration it was approved at the December Council meeting that Grand Bend Place would be responsible for the booking of space at our facility for church and community groups.

With the Covid-19 downtime it was a good time to review the booking process and the role of Grand Bend Place. Our vision planning session way back in 2014 was right. Huron Shores United supported, planned, constructed and renovated our church to invite the community with our "open the doors" policy! In the period before Covid the community embraced our vision, the concept of sharing and creating a better community.

Upon reflection it was decided that Grand Bend Place can improve the management and administrative abilities of the booking processes. We will update the processes in the coming months and advise the church and community groups when the changes are complete.

Grand Bend Place looks forward to putting Covid-19 behind us and once again we can plan concerts, events and meetings in our facility for our communities. We are blessed to live in such a vibrant community who wants to get together to **"Play, Listen, Learn and Meet"**.

Respectfully submitted by **Bob Illman** - Administrative Co-ordinator



# GRAND BEND PLACE FINANCIALS



**GRAND BEND PLACE**  
Centre for the Living Arts

December 31 2020

## REVENUE

Ticket Sales		
	Local	7554.00
	Ticketscene	225.00
Refreshments		525.70
Grants		6470.86
Donations		41.83
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14817.39</b>

## EXPENSES

Event Entertainment		3490.00
Food		
	Performers	293.80
	Reception	0.00
Marketing		735.51
Lodging		237.81
Sound		600.00
Refreshments		
	Beer	213.90
	Wine	815.40
	Other	17.90
Licence		150.00
Insurance		324.00
Administrative		137.30
Bank Charges		54.74
Misc. (Ticket Refunds)		869.93
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7940.29</b>

**BALANCE 6877.10**

Respectfully submitted by **Bob Illman**

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### Contribution Range Report Huron Shores United Church For Period: 01/01/2020 to 12/31/2020

<u>Contribution Range</u>	<u># of Givers</u>	<u>Total Given</u>	<u>Average per Giver</u>
0-	0	33	0.00
0.01-	100	51	59.19
100.01-	200	15	173.07
200.01-	300	7	276.43
300.01-	400	10	382.48
400.01-	500	9	466.00
500.01-	750	18	619.83
750.01-	1,000	11	948.05
1,000.01-	1,500	14	1,249.36
1,500.01-	2,500	19	1,954.96
2,500.01-	5,000	21	3,357.16
5,000.01-	10,000	6	6,566.72
10,000.01-	15,000	1	10,562.50
15,000.01+	0	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>\$212,252.35</b>	<b>\$987.22</b>

The **215** contributors are divided into the following groups:

Envelope Holders: **65**  
 PAR: **62**  
 Adherents &  
     Supporters: **45**  
 Visitors: **43**

As the Envelope & PAR Coordinator, it is my responsibility to receive the church offering, enter the donation amounts into the computer and issue tax receipts. In the past, I deposited any money received, that was not deposited by the counters on a weekly basis. This has been a much different year for us all. I would like to thank everyone who has continued to support the church on a financial basis by sending your contribution through the mail, using the drop box outside the Church St. entrance or coming by my place (mask on, physically distancing) with your offering. I would especially like to thank Janna Oud, the church office coordinator and Charles MacDonald, the M&P chair, for the weekly deliveries of church donations, to my front door. All of you made the process smoother and more efficient. Thank You.

If you are interested in Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) or have a question about your tax receipt, please contact me at: **519-238-8566**, or at [careeddy@hay.net](mailto:careeddy@hay.net)

Respectfully submitted by **Carey Eddy** - Envelope & PAR Coordinator

## GROCERY CARDS

Although COVID 19 has disrupted our lives in many ways, one thing hasn't changed – we still eat every day. For most of us, that means that grocery "gift" cards are still a convenient way to pay for our groceries. Even if someone else goes to the store for you, payment can be made using a gift card.

Throughout 2020 we have continued to take gift card orders and have raised \$5464.25, even slightly surpassing the 2019 total. What a feat! Thanks to everyone who disregarded the inconvenience of being unable to meet in church to give and receive orders and came to our house instead. We enjoy your brief porch visits while observing COVID precautions.

A number of families are now using what we call PAP. They are placing one repeating order at the beginning of the year along with 12 post-dated cheques for monthly orders. No monthly cheque writing or forgetting to place your order. It works for them, maybe not for you. Either way, when the cards are received, they are left on a table on our front porch but only after you have indicated that you are picking them up at a certain time. There is no direct contact between people, and social distancing is observed. Steve Northey & Charles MacDonald have been very helpful in delivering cards to anyone in Grand Cove and those who might not be able to pick up their cards. Thanks Steve and Charles.

So far, this fundraiser has netted more than \$46,500. That's why we keep doing it. In 2020 we had participation from 46 families. We aim for at least \$5000 in orders from each of the two companies, Sobeys and PC, since the percentage discount is greater at that level. We usually meet that objective but with the participation of more families, we could be assured of reaching that target every month. If you are not participating and would like to give it a try, you would be supporting our church financially at no cost to anyone. And you benefit from a tax break for your contribution to the congregation.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to join us in this successful fundraiser.

Respectfully submitted by ***Doug and Debbie Procter***

## FINANCIALS

**Distributed Separately**