



Orleans United Church

believe. belong. become.

OUC Newsletter - Spring 2018

With the beautiful strains of “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” still ringing in our ears, it is our pleasure to have this newsletter to connect with our faith family in this season of Easter. As we all anticipate the arrival of spring (please let it be soon!), we give thanks for the meaningful Lent and Easter season we have experienced together and look forward to all the opportunities we have for sharing God’s goodness in the coming months.

During the season of Lent, we were intentional at OUC in spending time with God. Each week we considered a different spiritual practice, sharing it in worship and then offering us all opportunities to grow into it at home through practical exercises. Our Lenten journey culminated in our Holy Week services, where we were able to explore the last days of Jesus’ life together in our Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter worship. As worship leaders, we found this season to be particularly meaningful for us, and were moved by the testimony we heard from those of you who chose to participate in the full complement of services with us. We are heartened by your positive feedback and are grateful for the ways that you have found new life and possibility through the Easter story. We are grateful for the privilege it is to journey with you to the tomb, in the waiting, and beyond.

As we look ahead to Spring, we are excited about all that is happening in our faith community. On April 22nd, our worship theme will be Creation Care in celebration of Earth Day and we will have a guest speaker from Faith and

the Common Good share the pulpit on that day. The whole service will be in praise of God’s Creation and we look forward to sharing it with you. Also on April 22nd, we will welcome Rev. Tom Sherwood and Faith & Arts Ottawa as they put on their production entitled “Hope?” It is sure to be a thought-provoking and inspiring evening and we encourage you to attend. Admission will be by donation.

Other special service dates include April 29th when we will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism, and June 3rd when we will share in the sacrament of Communion.

Eastertide reminds us that there is always new life emerging even as there are endings. While we have recently said a sad goodbye to a few beloved members of our faith family as they venture off to different parts of the country, we also see many signs of new life around OUC. We have been blessed to welcome newcomers to our community. We are delighted to see new initiatives and ministries, like Girls on the Spectrum, The Healing Pathway, and opportunities for Spiritual Direction beginning to bloom and for all this we are grateful.

Finally, we have many exciting fundraising events and campaigns underway. Over the next few months, you will be able to go on a “book blind date”, contribute in various ways to the “40 in 40” campaign, and attend the Spring Home and Garden show, just to name a few.

All in all, we have an exciting season of worship and community life before us! We hope that you will find it meaningful and uplifting.

We give thanks for this community of faith and the chance to serve you together as a team.

Faithfully,

Revs Caroline & Molly



Message From OUC Council

Our church has been busy lately.

In worship, we have passed through a deeply meaningful Lenten season to a joyous Easter. The spiritual homework during Lent - Keeping Sabbath, Prayer, Letting Go, Embodiment, and Embracing (practicing love) – helped us work on our personal connection with God. Many of us further deepened the experience by attending extra church services during Holy Week.

We have been active in the church in other ways too. We have attended congregational pot-luck suppers, soup lunches, bible studies, book clubs, craft and sewing groups, and spiritual counseling sessions. The wider Orleans community has come to OUC for worship, weddings, Scouts, yoga classes, tai chi, club meetings, dance, music practice and performance...

It is natural to think of the OUC building when we think about “church”. As the physical centre of our community of faith, the building supports us and the people around us. It helps us to help others, and it helps us and others to find community and faith. The building is important,

and in maintaining it we maintain our ability to serve God.

But we are not just a building - we are the church wherever we go. We are the church at men’s breakfast, at retreats, and in the community as volunteers. We share God’s goodness anywhere, as He is with us everywhere.

I encourage you to think about our presence in the wider community, and how much our church serves as the hub of that community.

On behalf of the OUC Council,

John Gibson

Council Chair

OUC Video Outreach Project

By David Clemis

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) Jesus is asked who our neighbour is. At the end of the parable, Jesus asks questioner who he thinks is the neighbour to the injured man. The questioner responds, “The one who showed mercy.” Jesus told him – and us – to do likewise.

And Orleans United Church has embraced this in our neighbourhood. The question is, how far does our neighbourhood extend; around the church, around Orleans, in Gatineau-Ottawa, or beyond? We have always taken the challenge and expanded our reach of mercy and good news beyond those we know to those we have not yet met.

Part of that outreach is in sharing the good news with our neighbours. We do this through reaching out to those who are beyond our doors but unable to be with us. We provide care, support and the good news to those who are undergoing medical care, those who are in

senior's residences, as well as those who are housebound. We have done this through personal visits as well as providing recorded media of our services.

Over the past few years, we have helped families celebrate special moments in their lives from baptisms to weddings to funerals. Through the use of electronic media, particularly video outreach, we have been able to connect to families and friends who could not be here but want to participate in these special events.

Last year, Orleans United Church Council commissioned a task group to look at both the opportunities and implications of such a service. The task group reached out to all the various groups to get their opinion and support, specifically Worship Committee, Outreach, Communications and CST. As a result, the task group confirmed that video outreach was a positive way to reach out, in particular in three areas, they are:

1. Support to the Pastoral Charge – At present, we offer outreach to those who are unable to attend regular worship at Orléans United Church through audio recordings made available on digital media. The demand for audio recordings has increased significantly over the past years. As well, over the past five years, special services have been recorded and placed on the Orléans United Church Youtube channel.
2. Support for Special Events – We provide AV support to events include weddings, funerals, baptisms, and events put on by local arts and theater. Increasingly, we are being asked if it is possible to broadcast these events on the Internet. Recently, for example, we received two requests to broadcast funeral services for the benefit of relatives who live abroad. Before the realization of our video outreach project, we have had to turn down requests to

broadcast funerals because of limited resources; and,

3. Support to Presbytery and Conference Courts – For the past 7 years, our AV team has produced live webcasting of the Montreal and Ottawa Conference AGM and organized the production of last year's AGM using clustered venues linked by live video. The AV team also provides technical advice to the Ottawa Presbytery through AV support of the monthly Court meetings.

OUC made a submission to the "Embracing the Spirit" grants program for funds to purchase the necessary equipment to provide video outreach. This grant was received in the summer of last year and over the fall and winter, we have installed the equipment and have been testing it out. To test out the equipment and to gain experience in using it, the AV team has been recording the sermons during the Lent period. Only the pulpit and the chancel are being covered at this point. We will take baby steps with other recordings, and, hopefully, live webcasting as and when we are ready. We will be offering recording and webcasting of special events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals as requested by family.

As part of the work of the task group, a video policy was created that covers both the intellectual property aspects (licensing for music, visuals and text) as well as a privacy policy, the first of its kind in any United Church. This policy is now being actioned and you will begin to see this visually with the signs at the entrance to the sanctuary. This policy covers the appropriate due diligence on consent and protection of vulnerable individuals from identification. To have a better understanding of what this policy entails, you can view it at the OUC website.

Announcements

FUNDRAISING FOR TOWER TAKEDOWN

As you know, the brickwork on the tower has been deteriorating for several years. Last year, Council decided that the only cost-effective option was to take the tower down. At this year's Annual Congregational Meeting, the target date was set at early 2019. Some funds have already been set aside, and it is now time to complete the required fundraising to pay for the project. The "40 in 40" campaign (\$40,000 in OUC's 40th year) has already begun. Three fundraising events have already been held, which have raised over \$3000. In April, announcements will be made about further opportunities for the congregation to financially support this important project.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

- Every second Sunday is Second Sunday Social at Boston Pizza following the service. Leave your receipt at the hostess stand and OUC receives 15% back.
- Don't judge a book by its cover. Support OUC with its newest 'blind date' fundraising initiative in the hall every Sunday after the service, by purchasing gently used books which will be wrapped with a few description words on it to give you clues about the plot as well as a price.

Spring Church Activities

29 APRIL – ANNUAL OUC BIKE SWAP

Have a bicycle that is too small, or that you don't want anymore? Drop it off! Someone else may need just that bike. Looking for a bike to get around, or for a child? Pick one up. You may find the ideal ride! Any leftover bikes will be donated to one of two local bike-related charities. Questions? Contact John Gibson at (jhgibson@gmail.com).

12 MAY – OUC SPRING SHOW (9:00 am to 2:00 pm)

The theme this year is Mother's Day gifts. We are planning on selling beautiful potted flowers which will be well received by all the important women in your life. OUC will also have a table with woodwork from Rick Turnbull and crafts offered by our bazaar staff, and a Bake Table. The canteen will be offering tea and coffee with Joan's wonderful sticky buns for breakfast and homemade pizza slices, made by Dianne Arril, will be offered for lunch. Gloria, Rob and Mike will offer wonderful Springtime musical entertainment.

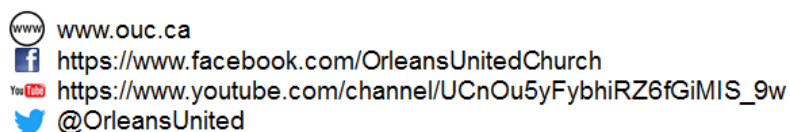
Mailing costs for this newsletter are approximately \$200. If you think these newsletters represent a worthwhile expenditure, please let us know by calling the office at 613 837 4321.

Ministers: All the people of our congregation together with:

Rev. Caroline Penhale	613-837-5261	ouc.carolinepenhale@rogers.com
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Scott Richardson	613-837-4321	cscottrichardson@rogers.com
Kim Gratton	613-837-4321	orleansunited@rogers.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 12:30, Wednesdays until 2:30



CST Tidbits of Advice for Grief

OUC Care & Support Team has been invited to share tidbits of advice for people who visit those who are grieving or have experienced a loss of job, marriage, etc.

Please keep in mind that they are likely very sad and perhaps in a state of shock, disbelief or even angry at their loss. At a funeral, simply say, "I am so sorry for your loss". If you know the person well, you might add: "Please let me know if I can help in any way". It is important to refrain from asking what happened or sharing personal remarks (eg. he/she is in a better place or there is a reason for everything).

If the loss involves a child or infant, phrases to avoid are suggesting they have another child or that they are lucky to have other children. We all know that the child lost cannot be replaced. Also, please refrain from saying, "I know how you feel" because we have no idea of how they feel. Quite often, you can be most helpful by simply being present and listening.

Regarding job loss, ending of a marriage, etc. listening is the best action. Avoid offering advice. Simply allow the individual to share their story. Encourage them to keep in touch, spend time out of the house and, most of all, take care of themselves. Inviting them for coffee or a walk is helpful, as sometimes it's easier to talk to an impartial person, rather than burdening a family member.

Suggestions/comments are welcome. Please leave them in the Alcove box or

Email: judith_tompkins@rogers.com