



# Avondale United News

ALL IN...Wherever our Faith Journey Takes Us... OCTOBER 2020

## A Message from Keith:

*"We live in a liminal time. It is a threshold to something new. We are moving to the late fall in the middle of a pandemic that looks to be longer than many hoped for or even expected. Some of us are worried, irritable or tired. Others of us are doing okay and finding ways to live fairly well. A liminal time points to a transition, a way of being that is different than before and stretches us in unfamiliar directions.*

*Faith can be expressed in a liminal time. It asks us to trust and hope through an in between season. Faith encourages us to go gently. Humour is also a significant part of faith. A little laughter goes a long way with a good joke, funny story, movie or television series. Keeping a sense of humour has helped me a great deal over the past seven months.*

***In this season we are experiencing together what is helping you stay on the lighter side of life?" Peace.***

~Keith

## FROM YOUR WORSHIP TEAM ...



**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>** is our Remembrance Day Service. Avondale was scheduled to host the Legion service this year; however as a result of pandemic restrictions we have been moved ahead to 2021 on the rotation.



**Thanks** – we extend our ongoing thanks to Dan and the choir for continuing to provide beautiful and worshipful music for our services. Embracing technology is not always easy. We know you are putting extra efforts in for Avondale and we appreciate it. Choir YouTube videos can be accessed on the Avondale website ([www.avondaleunitedstratford.com](http://www.avondaleunitedstratford.com))

## From Your Council Chair:

As Chairperson of Council I am re-sharing some of the remarks I made at our re-opening worship service on September 20<sup>th</sup>:

"It has been six months that we have not been able to conduct our ministries in the usual way. It is important that we pause and give thanks for the many ways in which we found we could carry on and minister to one another. I will endeavour to list all that I can think of and ask for your forgiveness if I miss anyone:

- **Our staff team** who have pivoted to work together – Keith, Kathi, Dan, Yvonne, Roger and Mike
- **Our Worship Team** that continued to work with our Ministry staff to bring meaningful worship experiences to us each week
- **Our Technology Team** who has supported us to use technology to continue work and worship virtually; Zoom is our friend!
- **Our M&P Team** who have ensured that our staff have been well supported
- **Our Outreach Team** that has led us to redirect our support to foodbanks that could operate safely to meet community needs
- **Our Pastoral Care Team** that have made regular calls, sent cards and delivered bulletins and weekly news editions to our special care members and friends
- **Our Congregational Life & Work Team** who have made regular calls to members to help them stay connected and have also produced an Avondale Cookbook with 282 recipes and 22 sponsors!
- **Our Stewardship & Finance Team** who have closely monitored our financial situation, encouraged teams to be



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cautious in spending and have kept us all apprised

- **Our Faith Formation Team** that has provided some materials to families with children and continues to ponder ways to help us grow
- **Our Affirming Team** that continues to deepen our understanding of what it means to be truly welcoming
- **Our Property Team** who has used the time to complete a number of improvement projects to our facilities and ensure that the grounds have been well cared for
- **Our Trustees** who have funded the minor capital projects overseen by our Property Team
- **Our Rental Team** who has stayed in touch with all who use our space so that they are ready to return when it has been deemed safe to do so; some groups including the Avon Nursery School have returned this fall
- **Our UCW** who have focused on keeping in touch with their members, and are poised to offer us their annual Bazaar and Tea in a virtual form
- **Our Executive Team** including Our Accessibility Officer who have provided conscientious leadership
- **To ALL OF YOU – our members who have stayed connected, provided additional support and loads of encouragement, and listeners who have sent donations to support our work**

For the last six months we have joined the world to focus on our physical health and the need to institute important protective measures against the coronavirus. **Your Re-entry Team** has been hard at work since June to find ways for us to

return to in person worship and our many ministries. Some activities remain on hold. The Re-entry Team has produced a number of materials to help support us all to follow safe practices. Please pick up a bookmark that offers simple reminders to help support safety. You can also view written materials on our website.

All of these things are vital for us to follow but they only attend to the infection aspect of COVID-19. It is as vital for us to consider the long term impacts of the pandemic and being in prolonged isolation from one another. It is as vital that we focus on our mental health and wellbeing. We are social beings and we need connection. I now invite us to take a moment to transition our thinking to the next six months. It is critical that we approach the coming months in a very intentional way, focusing on ways to transcend loneliness, feelings of anxiety and depression. Cultivating new interests, continuing safe in person contacts, engaging in activities, fresh air, and exercise. These are but a few things to build into your days. A small group of members are gathering later this month to contemplate ways in which we can support each other to remain connected in the coming months.

I thank you for the privilege to provide leadership. This time of service has been one of growth – growth does not come when times are easy; it comes when life offers us challenges and adversity.”

~ Terri Sparling, Council Chairperson

## Deeper engagement with Avondale

At the October Council meeting we noted that there have been times when we have missed including someone when they have offered to help. It can be difficult to break into established groups of people and Council can be one of those. All Teams have been urged to look for ways to include new people. A huge thank those who have been courageous to



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share their experiences when they have felt left out.

We invite you to complete the Volunteer Form that will come out with your S&F Letter later this month.

## A NOTE FROM YOUR S & F TEAM:

A Message from your Stewardship & Finance Committee

We are filled with gratitude for the incredible support of the members and friends of Avondale. Normally at this time we are focused on the year's deficit and asking for additional support. This year we are simply marveling at the ways all Teams of Council have worked to continue ministries and minimize expenses and the many ways that each one of you have found to support Avondale's work. At this Thanksgiving we give thanks for your generosity.

Later this month you will receive a letter, a statement of givings and a Commitment Form for 2021. Whatever you choose to give is deeply appreciated. Please consider completing the Commitment Form as this helps us to plan for next year.

Bob Malcolmson, Chair and members: Heather Dyer, Eva May Gray, Emily Rooke, Barb Schoch, Terri Sparling and John Wright

## An Update from our Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team meets by zoom call/telephone monthly. The Team has continued their important work during this time of COVID-19. As we currently are not doing in person visits, we make regular phone calls to stay connected to our Special Care Avondale Members; deliver 40 bulletins every week for those with no computer and send out thinking of you cards to our members recovering from illness or had a loss in the family. We have connected many without a computer to listen to the weekly Sunday service and encourage others to do the same. We are looking for 2 new

members to join our team next spring. If you would like more information, contact Doris.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team: Kathi Urbasik-Hindley, Doris Barkley (chair), Nancy Burnett, Heidi Dey, Sally Hengeveld, Marg Scott, Elaine Strawbridge & Mary Tolton

## Tech Team Update

The W.O.W. service was a great success and technology, for the most part, worked well. The W.O.W Regional office provided their own video stream that worked off of the Wi-Fi signal. It is possible that the number of cell phones in use for pictures and recordings may have caused the signal to drop for a short period of time. The Avondale Tech Team is working on providing You Tube video streaming of services that will be hooked up directly to a computer that is directly wired to the internet. Therefore we should not experience the same issue.

Before we do offer video streaming we do need to look at ethical issues including filming when children are present. We also need to look at the logistics of operating computer software and two cameras. Quite a bit of work has gone into researching and acquiring equipment so that we can, when ready, offer this opportunity.

We still have work to do but progress is being made. Special thanks goes to our own Dan Van Winden whose expertise with You Tube has been most helpful.

The tech team is composed of dedicated people who are great problem-solvers. We will continue to support our Ministry because we are "all in - wherever our faith journey takes us".

*~David MacLennan, Tech Team Lead*

## New Members

Are you looking for a place to belong? Is your faith journey something you value and want to



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explore? If you are interested or have questions please be in contact with Rev. Keith.

## READ ABOUT THE IMPORTANT

### AVONDALE MINISTRIES – where our mission is:

*As a community of equals we believe in God and Jesus of Nazareth who teaches us to respect, care for, love and forgive one another as we continue to ponder our faith.*

#### Our mission is directed toward:

- Inclusiveness of all
- Service that reaches beyond ourselves
- Being guardians who care for

## WORK OF OUR OUTREACH TEAM!

### Outreach Mandate:

To provide the members of Avondale United Church with opportunities to financially support, volunteer and assist with a variety of needs in our community, country and worldwide.

### Team members:

Anna Meusel (Co-Chair), Sheila Wolfe (Co-Chair), Brenda Carr, Meghan Creech, Craig Merkley, Carol Patrick, Bernice Sandham, Patti Schellenberger, Karen Scott, Ruth Sealey, Janice Ward

### Food Shelf Support Team:

Carol Anne Doughty, Karen Edmonds, Marilyn Finnigan, Dawn Flowers, Eva May Gray, Anna Meusel, Maureen Pratley, Susan Rae, and Kathy Wreford.

Additional volunteers are involved as occasional Costco shoppers, back-up drivers for The Local & House of Blessing pickup, and spice and meal kit preparation: Brenda & Alan Carr, Sharon Crozier, Cheryl Jacobs, Gwen Kushko, Ruth MacLennan, Anna Meusel, Joanne Rees, Sheila Wolfe.

Are you interested in joining the Outreach or Food Shelf Teams? Please feel free to contact any of the team members.

### Food Shelf Update:

Although our Avondale Food Shelf has been closed since March, committee members have been in correspondence weekly. Thank you to Eva May Gray for her Friday messages that have encouraged our spirits during this uncertain time.

During this time, several meetings have been held to assess the position of the Food Shelf and discussing the question of re-opening during this pandemic. The most recent meeting was held in September and the conclusion was that the Food Shelf would continue to remain closed for the remainder of 2020. We are closely monitoring the needs of the community and considering options for re-opening when we can safely do so. The Food Shelf Committee is working on a project that would support other Food Banks in Stratford; these plans are still in the beginning stages.

We ask that Avondale members please consider supporting other local Food banks: House of Blessing, Salvation Army, St. James Anglican Church, St Paul's Anglican Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church by making food or financial donations or by becoming a volunteer. Both the House of Blessing and the Salvation Army accept financial donations via mail. Donations to House of Blessing may also be done on line through their website or via credit card over the phone. Your support and understanding is greatly appreciated.



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**Volunteer opportunity:** The Stratford House of Blessing Food Bank model has changed; they now provide home delivery of food hampers. They need positions to fill: Volunteers to package the Food Hampers, Delivery Drivers and Delivery Assistants.

### Community Meals Update:

At the present time many Stratford Churches have discontinued their Community Meals programs – including Avondale. We are mindful of the church’s re-entry program as well as the health and safety of our volunteers and those from the community who attend the meals. Meetings have been held with the various organizations/churches that host meals to discuss options, next steps, etc.



The Local on Erie Street is another option for either volunteering or making donations. They have been adapting to the pandemic conditions and are providing take-out meals to supplement the urgent need for meal service in the Stratford Community. They have been providing approximately 1,200 to 1,500 meals weekly during the summer and early fall.

They are looking for volunteers for the following duties: helping to deliver meals; assisting staff and other volunteers in packaging and organizing meals; light dishwashing; assisting the storehouse manager with purchasing runs at the Elmira Food Auction; assembling boxes for the healthy babies program; and general help during their community access market. There are more details about these volunteer opportunities described on their website.

Please take a few minutes to explore the Local website. It is very informative about their outstanding work that they do in Stratford. <https://thelocalcfc.org/>

### Meals on Wheels:

- Thanks to Emma Carruthers, Avondale is able to provide volunteer drivers and delivery service for two weeks each quarter (Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.).
- Procedures have been modified due to Covid to ensure the safety for all.
- Many thanks to the volunteer drivers, with some having done additional requests during this time.
- Want to become a volunteer driver – please contact Emma at (519) 271-8635

### Minute for Mission:

- With the return to attending services in the sanctuary, we will be re-starting the monthly video clip showing where your M&S donations are used.

### Hope Community Centre, Kenya:

- We hope you enjoyed reading about Hope Community Centre in the weekly newsletters earlier this year.
- If you missed them or would like to reread about the history of Hope, Lucy’s vision for Hope and how our church became connected with Hope, please find the stories on our website. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lucy and the children of Hope as they deal with the pandemic.

### Donations:

Balancing the needs in our community with the Church’s financial situation your Outreach team along with Council approved the following:

- March, 2020 - \$300
  - \$150 to House of Blessing Food Bank
  - \$150 to Salvation Army’s Food Bank





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- This represents the remainder of the monthly budgeted amount that would have been spent in March had the Food Shelf not closed
- March, 2020
  - Remaining food from the Food Shelf (which had expiry dates within the next few months) was given to the House of Blessing
- May, 2020 - \$1,000
  - \$500 to House of Blessing Food Bank
  - \$500 to Salvation Army's Food Bank
  - This donation came from money that was carried over from 2019 and/or was specifically donated to the Food Shelf.
- May, 2020 - \$400
  - \$400 to The Local for their community meal program as they had taken on extra community meal preparation when churches had to shut down their programs
  - This represents the budgeted amount we would have spent for our community meals in April and May
  - Meat that had been purchased for an upcoming meal was also donated to The Local
- June, 2020 - \$1,000
  - \$1,000 to Hope Community Centre, Kenya
  - This donation came from money that was carried over from 2019 that had been donated to Outreach. It represents a portion of the amount that is typically donated each year.



## Covid & Christmas, 2020

The Outreach Team would like the Avondale congregation to know that we are in the process of planning and revising our annual campaign of **Alternative Gifts** for purchasing in November as Christmas gifts for your family & friends. With restrictions & physical distancing, selecting gift cards in-person is not possible this year, so we will be creating a system of **pre-ordering, pre-paying, pickup at office or home delivery.**

**FIVE different charities / organizations will be offered:**

- ~ Sleeping Children Around the World (bed kits),
- ~ Days for Girls (personal hygiene kits),
- ~ HOPE Center (orphanage in Kenya),
- ~ Camp Bimini,
- ~ "Gifts with Vision" (United Church gift catalogue)

**"Alternative Gifts" may be the perfect solution for your Christmas shopping during COVID. So... please watch for specific details in early November (in newsletter and Sunday bulletins) Avondale's First Car Rally - Sept. 26, 2020**

### Upcoming Outreach Activity:

**SEEKING VOICES OF YOUTH!**  
Please consider sharing this invitation for youth grades 7-12 to provide their ideas on some kind of youth activity/ministry. Let Keith or Terri know and a date in November will be set based on schedule of participants.



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A huge thank you to all who participated in the Car Rally. It was an awesome day. The weather was beautiful. The participants were eager. No one got lost. Everyone returned for a delicious chili dinner.



The event raised \$830 for Avondale. A shout-out goes to the Rally Committee – Doris Barkley, Beth Gleadall, Judy Hart, Grace and Heather Herman, Ruth and David MacLennan.

During the rally, participants were asked to write a rhyming couplet which included the word “pandemic”. Who knew that Avondale is home to such a creative group of wordsmiths? Our poets produced amusing rhyming couplets as well as a limerick and a wordplay poem. And...some poets even managed to find words that actually (well, almost) rhymed with “pandemic”. Not all participants submitted poems. There WAS a “ton of stuff” to keep participants very busy!!

### Here are the teams’ poems...

#### **The PK’s (Julie Patterson, Marlene Kaufmann, Nancy Patterson, John Patterson)**

When the pandemic is over, we’ll be hearty and hale.

And we’ll be busy, busy again at dear Avondale.

#### **Tom Crozier and Gerry Wigan**

There once was a pandemic  
That got past the academics.

#### **The Put-Putts (Margaret and Ken DeLaat)**

A pandemic makes us wear a mask  
But it doesn’t make us carry a flask.

#### **The Rocky Roadians (Grace, heather and Steve Herman)**

When in the midst of a pandemic  
Always consult a medic!

#### **Vroom, Vroom, Venza (Glee Balmer and Don Scott)**

Pandemic  
Twelve hours a day most pandas eat  
But even though we have no seats  
In restaurants, we search to feed  
In order to fulfill our needs.  
We eat all day. It’s really epic  
That’s why it’s called a panda menic.....or pandemic

#### **The M and M’s (Megan Malcolmson and Marney Malcolmson)**

I’d love to spend time in a hammock  
To while away this pandemic.  
Instead I must drive  
So Megan can strive  
For the trophy without any panic.

#### **Friends 86 (Bert and Mary Helen Clifford, Ron and Joyce Rogers)**

To avoid getting sick  
Take a drive in the “sticks”.

#### **H & M Formula 1 – Fowler (Henia and Mick Fowler)**

Mick is driving in the Avondale Rally.  
It’s not a gimmick  
It’s a fundraiser during this pandemic!

#### **Fabulous Four (Joan McIlwain, Lorna Switzer, Peter and Audrey Switzer)**

We are all in this together.



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At least we've had lovely weather!

### Are We There Yet? (Noella and Keith Reynolds)

Amidst a pandemic, a couple took a ride.  
And the husband soon discovered  
His wife refused to abide!

### The A (cadia) Team (Art and Margaret Duboyce)

The world of viruses is systemic  
Which has led to this universal pandemic.

### Room 1 A No-Bake Bake Sale

In this room you will tell us about the goodies you would have baked for the bake room or made to serve in the tearoom. Send us a note or picture telling us about what you made along with the amount of money you would have spent on the ingredients to make the goodies. Or if you would have simply purchased goodies in the bake room...tell us about your favorite past purchases and send us the amount of money you would have spent to make the purchase.

### U.C.W. NEWS BREAK!



### UCW CHRISTMAS TEA & BAZAAR – NOVEMBER 21, 2020



Covid-19 may have sidelined many events this year...but one of the longest standing traditions in our United Church will continue...well...

### Welcome to the 2020 UCW Virtual Christmas Tea & Bazaar

Yes...we are going virtual this year. There will be three (3) bazaar rooms available for Fellowship and your Shopping Pleasure.

### Room 2 Tea Room

Do not miss out on the opportunity to share fellowship with your family and friends. Our tearoom may not be open this year, but yours is. **Arrange with friends or family members to share tea over the telephone or Skype, or Face Time or Video Chat or Zoom from 1:00 to 3:00 on the afternoon of Saturday, November 21st...** just as if you were seated in our beautifully decorated Emmanuel Hall. Visit your favorite bakeshop ahead of time and include a yummy dessert with your tea. We would appreciate a donation of \$5.00 per person be forwarded to us with a note telling us who and how you enjoyed your teatime.

### Room 3 Silent Auction

A new feature of the bazaar this year will be a silent auction. You will have the opportunity to bid on real baked goods, deli foods and other items. This auction will be done in conjunction with an On-Line Auction being held as a Fundraiser for our Avondale General Operations and therefore, watch for the items specific to the UCW. Collection and payment of these items will take place on the day the auction closes.

Watch for more details coming in the bulletin, emails and on our website.





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The UCW thanks everyone for participating in the 2020 Christmas Tea & Bazaar. Fellowship with our church family is so important to our UCW purpose. All funds raised at the bazaar will be used to meet our 2020 budget which includes financial support to the following organizations:

- United Church of Canada - Mission and Service Fund
- United Church of Canada – World Development
- United Church of Canada – Medical Electives
- Camp Bimini
- United Church of Canada – Resource Centre in Mitchell
- Avondale United Church

Cheques should be made out to **Avondale United Church Women** (please note on the cheque it is for the UCW bazaar) and drop off or mail the cheque in an envelope (Attention: UCW) to the church office.

For more information please contact Barb Schoch at (519)272-0764 or [theschochs@rogers.com](mailto:theschochs@rogers.com).



**Thank you to all who support the UCW and remember...everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings or events at any time. All Are Welcome!**

*~ Barb Schoch, UCW President*

## UPCOMING FUN & FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### ON-LINE AVONDALE AUCTION November 16-26, 2020

We are pleased to offer this on-line shopping event in collaboration with our U.C.W.

#### **SEEKING ITEMS FOR SALE**

Donations of time, treasures and/or talents – email Terri at [terris@hpcentre.on.ca](mailto:terris@hpcentre.on.ca) if you have items to donate. Instructions on drop off will be provided at that time.

The auction will close on Fri. Nov 26 @ 5pm; pick up and payment will be from Doris Barkley's home.



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## Avondale United Church Cookbook!

Only \$20 each or 3 for \$50



The Avondale Cookbooks have arrived! Nearly 300 delicious recipes submitted by our own Avondale congregation, businesses and celebrities. The quantities are limited so call or email to order yours now! Christmas gift giving is around the corner. This is also the perfect gift for birthdays, or as a gift for young people getting married or leaving home for the first time for school or work.

**Please consider supporting this Congregational Life & Work (CLW) Avondale Fundraising project!**

Pick up yours now from the church office!  
**Questions?**  
**Call Yvonne (church office ~ 271-7946) or Susan at 271-1314**

### Avondale's First Own Music Series!

**Friday, November 20** – listen to the beautiful music of classical guitar with **Andy Cloutier**

**Friday, December 4** – our own **Dan Van Winden** will sing and play a range of music to lift your spirits and celebrate the Season

**Friday, January 15** – a Variety Show featuring talent from the members and friends of Avondale! If you are interested in performing email Terri @ [terris@hpcentre.on.ca](mailto:terris@hpcentre.on.ca)

\$20/concert or 3 for \$50  
To Register call Yvonne at 519-271-7946 or email Yvonne at [Yvonne.avondaleuc@wightman.ca](mailto:Yvonne.avondaleuc@wightman.ca)  
Link will be sent on the day of the event.



And don't forget F  NDScript

This program offers the sale of gift cards to all sorts of stores, restaurants and services. Orders and payment are due on the first Wednesday of every month.

**Another great way to shop for Christmas and support the life and work of Avondale!**

~Susan Wigan at 271-1314