

ROOTS & SPROUTS

Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ

Dec. 2023



Our Christmas Market was a hit again this year! We sold all of the 5,000 cookies and loaves! There was a great turn out and so much to enjoy as the vendors had fabulous items for sale too. Our volunteers made this another successful year!

Thank you to all those who participated and all those who made purchases!



Mission

*To awaken the Christ light
in each other
and shine it in the world*

Bedrock Beliefs

*Through Jesus Christ our
Savior, we believe:
God's Love: Unconditional
God's Power: Miraculous
God's Vision: Peace
God's Grace: Forgiveness
God's Assurance: Hope
God's Ways: Mysterious
God's Help Line: Prayer
God's Promise:
We Are Not Alone
God's Hands: Us!*

Core Values

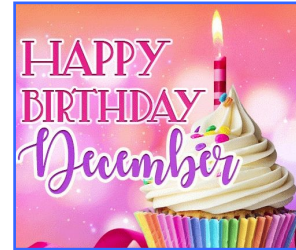
*Offer friendship and
fellowship to all
Joyfully engage in regular
spiritual practice
Uphold honesty and integrity
Reach out and serve others
with kindness
Care for the earth and all
creation
Give generously of our time
and talent
Seek and give forgiveness
Embrace diversity
Speak out for justice*



NOTICES/UPDATES

We wish all of those with birthdays in December a most blessed celebration.

Membership Committee



TIME, Talent & Treasure Auction

The Handy Bryans & Sams & Daves

Indoor or Outdoor Help at your Home

"God gave us time, talent and treasure and asked us to share them."

We will help move your furniture, down-size, do yard work, clean or paint! Try us out!

Minimum Bid/ Donation:
\$10 Per hour / Per helper

Contact:
Brian Hershey
519-658-6405



Brian Hershey is collecting old Broadview/Observer magazines to donate to prisons. You can drop them off at the church or give to Brian directly. *Please remove address labels. Thank you.



The Budget meeting will be taking place following church on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Pam Noël

Did You Know?

There is no Christian Book Store in Cambridge!

I just bought my Christmas Cards from Grand River Bookstore located at 5 Oaks. Besides a lot of books, they have 2024 United Church Calendars, Advent devotional booklets and Upper room disciplines for 2024.

You can phone them at 519-442-3366 or 1 888 668 0871 or go online sales@grandriverbooks.com

As I go there regularly, I would be happy to bring your purchase home.

God Bless,
Brian Hershey - 519-658-6405



Join Us For Board Game Café
Friday, December 8 - 7:30 - 11:30 pm
\$5 Admission for UNLIMITED play
Snacks available for purchase.

Please join us for the 3rd Annual Candlelight Walk

When: **December 15, 6:00 – 8:00pm**

Where: We will begin our journey at
Trillium United Church
(450 King St. E., Cambridge, parking lot)
We end our journey at
Trillium United Church
(stay for fellowship, cookies
and hot chocolate)

This is an outdoor event:
Bring a candle (real or battery operated)
Dress for the weather.
Join us for a candlelit advent walk and
carol sing.



Start Advent off on the Right Path

**We look forward to seeing you on Friday, December 15,
6:00pm at Trillium for our Annual Candlelight Walk!**

Results of Trillium's Special Thanksgiving Offering

In October congregants donated \$425.00 to the Young Adult programming for the Life and Work of Trillium.

A total of \$1,140.00 was donated for the Outreach portion, to support the Mission Trip to Guatemala.

Thank you for your generosity!

Submitted by SC&O

*Thank
YOU*



Stone Church Bookstore News

On Sat. Dec. 2 our Big Book Bonanza was a huge success. It was the largest one day event our Bookstore has had. This event brought the total sales for the year over the \$2000 mark! Since the book store has been operating it has sold almost \$4000 in donated books!

A big thank you to all our volunteers and supporters of our Bookstore in the community and congregation!

Book donations are continuing to be accepted.

The book store is open Sundays from 12 to 2 p.m. and again from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Stone Church Bookstore is located at Trillium United Church at the corner of King and Waterloo Streets in Preston. The store is operated by volunteers and the proceeds from the sales go towards the work of the church in the community.





Exercise

Stay Active, Build Better Balance!

Join our FREE Gentle Exercise Classes



Drop in: No Registration Required
Bring Your Running Shoes and Water!
Everyone is Welcome, No Experience Necessary!

Wednesdays at 1:00 PM Starting September 13!	Trillium United Church 450 King St E Cambridge	Seated options and standing balance to reduce falls!
----------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------

Phone: (519) 772-8787
Email: info@cscmow.org
www.communitysupportconnections.org

Blessing Bag Ministry

Help! Our Blessing Bags need your continued support.



A big **THANK YOU** for all the donations to the Blessing Bags.

With the fall upon us, the need for warm hats, gloves, scarves and socks are needed. We continue to require travel-sized personal hygiene items, lip balm, conditioner, protein bars, individual packages of raisins, nuts or cookies along with crackers, bandages, wipes, and hand sanitizer to fill the bags.

Please take some bags and hand them out.

God Bless, bch (Brian Hershey)

The FREE CSC Exercise Group runs on Wednesdays at 1:00pm. All are Welcome!

Our Fundscrip cards are always available. Pick some up on Sunday after the service or come by the church during regular office hours.

These are a great way to help give back to Trillium as a percentage of each card goes to TUC.



Call as needed:

- Earlene Peshnak 519-653-1553
- Sheila Matthews 519-653-1286
- Joanne Sarkisian 519-653-3955
- Brian Hershey 519-658-6405
- Sandra Daoust 519-219-0381
- Harold Matthews 519-653-1286
- Doug Stuart 519-653-0514



Interested in joining our prayer team? Call one of our members for information.



Mobile Food Market

Fresh Produce Baskets in Your Neighbourhood Every Week!

PAYING WHAT YOU CAN HELPS OTHERS AFFORD GREAT FOOD

Subsidized Rate \$10 Suggested Price \$10+

Weekly basket preview

 @Cambfoodbank 

450 King St East
Tuesdays from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Everyone is Welcome



In Person Monthly Caregiver Support Session

Trillium United Church
450 King St East
Cambridge
Come in the side door

To register please contact
Linda Flemming
519-503-8155 or
lindaf@cscmow.org

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 1 PM - 3 PM

Share caregiver challenges and joys. Learn about self care and much more



Mobile Food Market runs every Tuesday, 5 to 6pm. This is run by the Cambridge Food Bank and anyone can participate. There is a subsidized rate, \$10 (suggested price) and \$10+ .

We have a steady group of people coming these days to purchase delicious food!

Join in the benefits.

We look forward to seeing you there.




Have you updated your PAR support in 2023?

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST

Join us as we discuss and reflect upon the popular daily devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*

Thursday afternoons, 4:45pm to 5:45pm

If you are interested in joining the meeting, please contact Pastor Mark.

Generosity Team



Let It \$now 2023



We have an amazing church. Do you agree? .

Think about the ways that Trillium blesses the world.

- We celebrate God's love each week in Sunday worship
- We provide active spiritual growth opportunities for adults
- We support a vital ministry for our children and youth
- We have a Community Wellness program for Preston & beyond
- We are a caring community of support for one another
- We adopt refugee families in need
- We provide a safe space for those struggling
- We actively support the Cambridge Self-Help Foodbank
- We encourage local charities through generous grants



Your unselfish financial gifts make the blessing of Trillium possible!

Our goal this Fall is to unleash a storm of epic generosity at Trillium. We're dreaming of a White Christmas of big-hearted giving!



Step up and take some snowflakes from the Step Up Boards and **Let It \$now** as an extra gift to Trillium! If you can't get to the building just add a note about **Let It \$now** to your additional payment and we will take the snowflakes off the board on your behalf.

Your Generosity Team



Poppies of Remembrance



This article is written by the quilt maker,
Helen Martin.

Poppies of Remembrance is a commemorative quilt.

I love poppies so when I found a quilt kit of poppies, I just had to have it. Kits are wonderful -- no decisions to make, maybe, no fabric to buy, maybe, just open the package and sew, but it will be one of many quilts exactly the same. The pattern was designed by Pam Bono, a pattern designer from Colorado, USA, to honour Colonel John McCrae, his poem "In Flanders Fields"; and all troops, veterans, their families and friends all over the world.

The kit, which was purchased in 2008, included the instructions for cutting the fabric and sewing all 944 pieces back together again. Included was fabric for the top. Before work was actually started on the quilt, I had seen several completed quilts at various quilt shows. Each has a very bright yellow fabric which was not my favourite. So, I decided to replace it with a softer yellow colour. While purchasing this new fabric, the salesperson said that by replacing the original fabric the value of my quilt would be greatly decreased. Since I had taken away most of the value of the quilt by replacing this fabric, according to the salesperson, I changed the placement of the stems and added buds making the quilt totally worthless but uniquely mine. I was able to find some amazing fabric for the backing which has a field of wildflowers including poppies.

I actually sewed the quilt top together in 2011 (110 hours) and then it became a UFO (unfinished object) until 2015 when the 100th anniversary of the poem's creation was being celebrated. I decided that it had to be quilted by November 11th. And, it was. The quilting took 261 hours. This is one of my favourite quilts.

@trillium

Special BGC
New Year's Eve Party

Cherry's Kitchen Open
7:30 to 10 pm

Sunday, December 31, 2022
7:30 pm to 12:30 am
\$5

Trillium Christmas Day Meal and Party December 25, 2023

Gathering 3 pm
Meal 4 pm
Games 5 to 7 pm



RSVP Sally White



Saturday January 13, 2024

2 pm Start Time

Trillium United Church, 450
King Street East, Cambridge
(Preston)

Admission: \$10.00

Snacks provided

Door prizes

Fundraiser for DIG- Dream, In-
vest, Grow. [https://
www.dreaminvestgrow.org/](https://www.dreaminvestgrow.org/)

Missionaries in Guatemala that support the Mayan people in the mountains. They also have a special needs school and are currently teaching blind children how to read and write using Braille as well as other things they need to learn.

For More info contact
vthielking@gmail.com

If you can help with donating door prizes please contact Don Martin at 519-620-2224.

Parish Nurse



How to Grow in Faith – Part 4 of 5

Grow Your Faith by Trusting Him in the Storms

People can go through hard times and their faith doesn't grow at all. The winds and rain beat them down. But storms can strengthen and grow our faith when we lean on Jesus to comfort, guide, and protect us, and give us answers to our problems.

Hold tight to your faith, especially in the storms!

James encouraged the churches to “consider it pure joy” whenever we face trials because “*you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.*” James 1:1:2-3 NIV.

The joy is not “happiness”, or pretending to be, but looking at what positives may come from the trial. Not one of us is immune to storms.

There are lessons to learn in every trial we go through. They can strengthen the unique aspects of our character. God walks through every trial by our side. Ask him for strength, patience, endurance, wisdom- whatever you need. He will help you grow your faith in the rough spots in life.

We water our grass, plants, and flowers through droughts. We cover up tender plants when frost is coming. Plants that get leggy and scraggly need to be pruned to produce a healthier plant. God cares for us the same way when we need watering (through the Holy Spirit), tending (loving us), and pruning (ouch!), and He always does it for a good purpose.

AnnMarie Anderson – Busy Blessed Women - <https://busyblessedwomen.com/category/spiritual-growth/>

Trillium Parish Nurse

Confidential phone number: 519-653-6601 ext. 4

Email: trilliumparishnurse@gmail.com

Please call for an appointment

Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ



Our pie makers have had a very successful year! Thanks to all their time and energy they have sold \$1,800 worth of pies this year. Helen Martin let me know that since they have started making pies in the spring of 2018 they have sold \$8,453 worth of pies to date.

There is quite a process to the pie making. Starting with purchasing the turkeys, roasting, removing the meat and then putting them into the pies, cleaning up etc. They require many hands to make this all work. If you are looking to help out on this ongoing project please contact the office or Helen Martin at 519-620-2224.



Our CYMT table sold many of their hand-crafted items at the Christmas Market on Dec. 2! Thank you to our great volunteers!



CYMT UPDATE

1. The children and youth have been busy crafting for the Christmas Market. With the help of Carol Fleet and the knotting group, the youth have made hair scrunchies and head wraps. The youth have created and bottled Bubble Bomb Bath Dough and created many ornaments and gift tags. The money raised will go to support our World Vision sponsor child.
2. Join us for the 3rd annual Advent Candlelight Walk. This year, we will hear the stories of the animals who were present at the birth of Jesus. How did they get there? What role did they play? And what gifts did they offer to the newborn saviour? We will begin at Trillium, walk the route past the other Preston churches stopping to hear from another animal and sing a carol. Technology will aid in the story this year as a What's App group will be available to access song lyrics. We will return to Trillium for Hot Chocolate and treats. Join us for an evening of hope, joy, peace, and love.

Change is inevitable but also a necessary part of growth. The Children and Youth ministry is always changing as are those who take part in the activities. Over the past year, there have been many changes. We have welcomed a large group of young adults who have enjoyed sharing their love of God with each other and the congregation as a whole. We have seen our teens grow and begin their journeys to adulthood as they get jobs and participate in sports. Our younger youth are growing into teens, finding their way in their faith. We are so proud of each and every one.

The church is seeing change also. The youth room is being moved to the SKA room beside the nursery. This room will be a place for the youth to gather for special events such as movie nights and game nights. A Wii system has been donated so that the youth can use technology in a way that allows them to connect with one another while having fun. Wii bowling and dancing games will begin in the new year. The youth room downstairs will be made available to the young adult group so that they have a space to connect and hold their own activities, such as bible study and games.

We at Trillium are so blessed to have such a diverse group of children, youth and young adults, and many young at heart. They enrich all of our lives here as a congregation and individually with their love of God and their youthful wonder and wisdom.

Submitted by: Pauline Duchesne, Youth Pastor



Pastor Mark's Musings

Dear friends,

I went to my bank recently. The young man I worked with had an interesting name so I asked him where he was originally from. He teasingly invited me to guess. I was wrong but not by too far. It turns out that he was born in Northern India, in the state of Gujarat, near the Pakistan border.

This interaction reminded me again of the cosmopolitan, multicultural society Canada has become. Certainly, in southern Ontario we have many people from many places coming together. And considering this variety of cultures I think we've done a pretty good job of creating a community that welcomes all. Not a perfect job by any means and we still have a long way to go for sure. But considering that there are few places like Canada in the world that have so many different peoples coming together we need to remember that this is truly a most unique human experiment going on right in front of us.

Last week there was a discussion paper on the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) website about religious intolerance in Canada. The paper claims that Canada is fundamentally a racist country built on a "settler colonial" mindset. This racist attitude spills over into religious tolerance. Is that a fair evaluation of the current Canadian mind set?

It is not that we haven't had our places of failure as a country or as a society. We could point to the Government of Canada and its attempt to assimilate First Nations peoples through education and religion. Or the Government of Canada turning away boatloads of German Jews fleeing Nazi Germany in the late 1930s. We could add the internment of Japanese Canadians in the early 1940s. In fact, if we wanted we could make a long list of racial and religious injustice brought about by various Canadian governments throughout our 150+ years of existence.

For me I see that history of injustice as a failure to live up to basic Canadian values that have been with us from the beginning. It is not that our values were or are fundamentally flawed but that we failed to live them out in practice. We missed the mark many times as a country and as a people. That doesn't mean that what Canada has been, is or is moving towards is wrong. Quite the opposite. The fact that we can recognize error in this regard is a sign that there is deeper truth at work in our society. This is something to be celebrated.

Canada has been a religiously diverse country from its founding. Canada found a way to reconcile Catholics and Protestants in one country. We shouldn't take that for granted. Europe fought over religion for centuries. Canada's first mosque was built in Alberta back in 1938. Canada's first Jewish synagogue was built in Montreal in 1768 and the first Sikh temple in 1908. In 1851, before Confederation, the Freedom of Worship Act was passed in Ontario and Quebec and it protected the "free exercise and enjoyment of religious profes-

sion and worship, without discrimination or preference." Interestingly, the discussion paper on the CHRC website failed to acknowledge this history.

The discussion paper claimed that the two statutory holidays based on Christmas and Easter (technically they should have mentioned Good Friday instead of Easter) are examples of systemic religious discrimination. But isn't today's Christmas holiday really more a legacy of Canada's Christian heritage than an example of current systemic religious intolerance? And a Leger poll from 2022 asked Canadians who grew up non-Christian whether they were offended by the greeting "Merry Christmas." Of respondents, 92 per cent said "no." That same poll also asked Canadians of all religions whether Christmas and other "religious" holidays should be struck from the country's official statutory holidays. Only six per cent said "yes." There is certainly strong support in the broad Canadian population for Christmas and this support undercuts any claim to systemic discrimination with respect to it.

Let's be frank. There are certain advantages or privileges that come with being part of the majority. That is undeniable. Every society today or which has ever existed in history gives certain benefits to the majority population. That is just life and I think most people understand this. What makes Canada unique is the degree to which the minority voice and perspective is included in the public square.

What does this all have to do with following Jesus? For one thing, Canadian values that we hold most dear come from the Christian faith. It is Christian values which undergird our society. Our respect for the dignity of the individual. Our embrace of diversity of human beings. The commitment to see all people as having worth. Our commitment to the principle of equal justice under the law. At their core these are Christian values and I am happy to live in a country that rests on Christian values. It turns out that there are lots of people from around the world that want to live in a country that rests on Christian values too.

I am glad that we changed the Holiday Market to the Christmas Market. I think it is important that churches claim their Christian heritage. I am glad to see that Christmas is no longer a dirty word in the public sphere. I think we should be bold in our presentation of our Christian ways to the world. We have a great story to tell. It is about how God became one of us and was born as an infant in a backward little town in a distant province of the old Roman Empire. It is a story that reminds us to see everyone as our brother and sister. It is a story that tells us again and again that we are not alone.

Your friend in Christ,

Mark

TRILLIUM UNITED CHURCH

Our Mission: *To awaken the Christ light in each other and shine it in the world!*

Pastor: Mark Rutledge
Youth & Outreach: Heather Margerison
Parish Nurse: Sally White
Office Administrator: Jo-Anne Hennig
Bookkeeper: Mandy Townsend
Custodian: Steve Vargas

450 King St. E., Cambridge, ON N3H 3M9
Telephone: 519-653-6601
Web: trilliumchurch.ca
Email: office@trilliumchurch.ca
Bookkeeper: trilliumfinances@gmail.com
You Tube: [youtube.com \(trilliumunitedchurch\)](https://www.youtube.com/trilliumunitedchurch)

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 10 am to 3 pm

Our Vision: *Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ*



Members of Church Council

- **Chairperson:** Paul Reeve
- **Secretary:** Vacant
- **Adult Spiritual Growth:** Ruth Thompson
- **Children & Youth Ministry:** Brian Hershey
- **Financial Liaison:** Kevin Uebele
- **Generosity:** Co-Chair - Pam Noël
- **Ministry & Personnel:** Phil Hankins
- **Property:** Co-Chair - David Reed
- **Social Concerns & Outreach:** Brian Hershey
- **Staff:** Pastor Mark Rutledge, Interim Youth Pastor - Pauline Duchesne
- **Worship:** Vacant

Other Teams

- **Agape Connections Team:** Selma Webster
- **Board of Trustees:** Paul Mundy
- **Children & Youth Ministry:** Interim Chair - Vacant
- **Generosity:** Co-Chair - Karen Atkinson
- **Golden Years Worship:** Earlene Peshnak
- **Health & Wellness Team:** Interim Chair - Sally White
- **Membership:** Joan Joyce
- **Property:** Co-Chair - Steve Jennings
- **Social Concerns & Outreach:** Co-Chairs - Liz Reed & Susan Balfour
- **WOW:** Doug Stuart

ROOTS & SPROUTS

ROOTS & SPROUTS is produced monthly from September to June by:

Trillium United Church

450 King Street E.

Cambridge, ON N3H 3M9

Editor: Jo-Anne Hennig

Send articles to: office@trilliumchurch.ca

The deadline for the next issue of *ROOTS & SPROUTS* is

December 29

The next issue will be available on January 5, 2024.