



## Emmanuel Newsletter February 2026



Assumption University and representatives from 12 Christian branches held the second annual Ecumenical Prayer Service at St. John's Anglican Church. Rev. George participated with the clergy. Money was raised for three local food banks at the service. "Together and in unity, we demonstrated that there is more that unites us than separates us."

### Upcoming Events

**EMMANUEL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** and lunch will be held following the Worship Service on **Sunday, February 22**. There will be a free-will offering to cover the cost of the catered lunch. If you would like to be involved with the Emmanuel Council or one of the committees, talk to Simon or any member of Council.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and have a chat after the Worship Service on Sunday mornings. Each committee of our church council takes a month as coffee hosts. This involves setting up, making, and serving the drinks, laying out cookies, and cleaning up afterwards. They would welcome your help! There is a sign-up calendar on the Community Table in Central Hall. Put your name down for an upcoming Sunday and lend a hand with this fun and important time of community at Emmanuel.

**The Ash Wednesday service is on February 18, at 10:30 a.m.**



## **SHROVE TUESDAY**

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is  
Tuesday, February 17, from 5-7 p.m.  
Dinner includes pancakes, sausage, a drink and dessert.  
Free Will offering.

### **Finance Committee**

We are so pleased to be able to report that we ended 2025 with a small SURPLUS.

Total Income \$218,908

Total Expenses \$216,962

Surplus achieved \$1,946

The Finance Committee and the Council extend thanks and congratulations to every member and adherent of the congregation whose generosity is responsible for this achievement. We 'turned a corner' in 2025 and hopefully we will be similarly blessed in 2026. Please join us at the Annual Meeting on February 22, 2026 following the service for additional details, and the fellowship that Emmanuel is known for.

## Outreach at Emmanuel



A group of us from Emmanuel will once again be participating in the Coldest Night of the Year event on February 28 at 6 pm. This is a great cross-Canada fundraising event, with the funds raised locally supporting the Downtown Mission. Please consider joining our team of walkers, The Emmanuel Striders, or donating. Talk to Annette or Michele if you are willing to join the team or want more information. You can donate to any team member or directly on-line at the link below:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1039628&langPr ef=en-CA>



## Affirming Corner

It's February, and that means Black History month - with many ways to celebrate, and learn. One great upcoming opportunity is an online discussion on February 27th with Paul Douglas Walfall, minister at Pilgrim United Church in Edmonton, and an organizer of the "Here from the Beginning" travelling exhibition highlighting the often overlooked contributions and experiences of Black people in the United Church of Canada. This workshop will be hosted by the Centre for Christian Studies; click this link for more information and to register: <https://ccsonline.ca/2026/01/february-ccs-friday-here-from-the-beginning/>

## Antler River Watershed Regional Council

Emmanuel United Church is one of nearly 160 communities of faith in the Antler River Watershed Region of the United Church of Canada. The Antler River Watershed Regional Council (ARWRC) is a decision-making body responsible for serving and support Churches within its bounds as well as providing necessary oversight. It encompasses the counties of Elgin, Essex, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex and Oxford and is pleased to serve alongside the Indigenous ministries of Kettle Point United Church, Moraviantown United Church, Oneida United Church, St. Clair United Church and Walpole Island United Church.

In 2019, the United Church of Canada underwent a significant restructuring, replacing its previous 88 Presbyteries and 13 Conferences with 16 new Regions. This change was hoped to create a more streamlined, adaptable , and potentially less costly organization by centralizing some functions. ARWRC is one of the 16 Regions.

The ARWRC has an Executive and three main Commissions:

- The Congregational Support Commission carries primary responsibility for the relationship between churches and the region and their partnership on matters requiring a decision by both the community of faith and the regional council, other than the pastoral relationship.
- The Discipleship and Justice Commission provides information, education and opportunities for churches and their members to deepen faith and strengthen service and witness.
- The Pastoral Relations Commission carries responsibility for the formation and nurturing of healthy pastoral relationships, and the equipping and licensing of lay worship leaders.

Each Church in the ARWRC elects members to be part of ARWRC.

**Emmanuel United needs and would benefit from full representation at this wider level of church leadership. There are two seats allotted to Emmanuel. Currently, only one of these seats is filled.**

Both should be! Representing Emmanuel as part of the wider church is an opportunity to learn more about our United Church, connect with other communities of faith, and be involved in the business of our region. There are two meetings each year, which can be attended in person or online. If you'd like to know more about the role, please speak to Jim Drummond or George Bozanich if interested.

Or for more information <https://arwrcucc.ca>