



Emmanuel Newsletter April, 2026



**Celebrate the risen Christ! Our Easter Sunday communion service, at 10:30, will include 2 Baptisms and 2 Confirmations. Join us in welcoming these 4 newest members of our church family.**

### **Minister's Message**

The passing of the peace is getting longer and longer on Sundays.

Right after children's time, we greet each other, some of us moving around and others in their seats. Exchanging hugs and handshakes, or fist bumps, waves, and smiles. Sometimes I go down the middle aisle, which takes the longest, and other times I go around the outside, which is quicker. I pass by and through a few dozen conversations. Always with the words (but not only the words): Peace be with you.

Of course, we didn't invent this. It was the Sunday night after they found the tomb empty in the gospel according to John. The disciples were in the upper room, afraid for their lives (rightly so), and Jesus walks right through a locked door and says to them, "Peace be with you." It always struck me as a mild greeting for such a moment, but they were friends, they had been through a lot, and had much yet to do.

By the time I make it back to the pulpit, three-quarters of us have got back to our seats, but there's still plenty of peace getting passed. These little check-ins, a kind word or two, expressing a concern or a thank you, a hand on a shoulder, a laugh. We say, "Peace be with you," but it just as well may be "I see you," or "I know you," and "I care about you."

In those few moments waiting, I imagine what might happen if the organ didn't stop and we didn't begin our prayer of confession. Running out of people to greet in the sanctuary, we would pass the peace to our neighbours on Lincoln Rd. and perhaps to our neighbours at home. Later, grocery shopping, greeting those in line – then a walk in the park, greeting the birds and the trees – at a stoplight in traffic – at choir practice – peace be with you, I see you, I care about you.

We celebrate the resurrection on Easter morning, but the challenge to affirm it is met each day. Let it begin with the words with which Christ met his disciples, that we may be transformed as they were. Peace be with you.

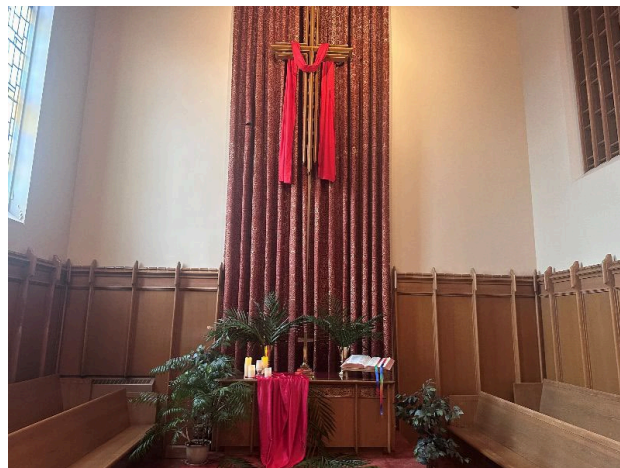
***Ever considered leading worship on a Sunday morning? Are you interested in how worship services are structured and planned? During times when Rev. George is away, the Worship Committee recruits volunteers to lead us in worship. Rev. George and Mary Dagenais, chair of the Worship Committee, are presenting a **Worship Leadership Workshop**. If you would like to participate, please email George at [georgebozanich@gmail.com](mailto:georgebozanich@gmail.com)***

**Thanks to our Coffee Hour hosts** for the month of April: the Executive Committee and the Affirm Committee. They could use your help with serving and cleaning up! Please sign up at the Community Table in Central Hall.



The Council and Trustees were acknowledged for the upcoming year. Thanks to all who serve on Council and committees to further the work and ministries of the church. In addition, we welcome Paul Stewart as the new chair of the finance committee.

## **Palm Sunday**





On Palm Sunday, 40 choir members performed a cantata, "Out of the Shadows", telling the story of Easter, under the direction of Nicholas Morvay. We appreciate the work and dedication of the group as they shared this beautiful and moving music.



The first annual Chili cookoff was a delicious success! Congratulations to Bon who was the champion. Thanks to all those who prepared chili and to those attending. \$800 was raised for the general fund.



Irene Alexander and Cheryl Clark sold lovely handmade cards, with proceeds to the church.





Thank you to congregational members for coming up with creative ways to raise funds and build community in our church. This past month, there were three events that benefited our general fund: the chili cook-off, selling homemade cards, and a soup lunch. Each event brings together a spirit of generosity, warmth, and commitment to Emmanuel. Our next event is the Rummage Sale. If you have an idea you would like to propose, please let us know. Thank you from the Finance Committee.



PIE Day: Once again, we confirmed our commitment to being an Affirming Congregation as we participated in PIE Day (Public, Intentional, and Explicit) inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ in our faith community and beyond. Of course, there was pie!

**Bible in a Day**  
A group gathered for a very interesting session with Rev. George to discuss the stories, context, and timeline of the Bible.



**Future Committee**

A committee has been formed by Council to look at future planning for our church. This group will be developing ways to engage members of the congregation and community in discussions and planning. The Future Committee held its inaugural meeting on March 23rd, reviewing the committee's Terms of Reference. Chairs of this committee are Simon du Toit and Anneke Smit. Members to date are Annette Dufresne, Dayna Cornwall, Grant Jonsson, Cathy West, and Cathy Shanahan. The goal is to look at positive ways to use our building and our ministries.

## Affirming Corner

March 31st is the annual International Transgender Day of Visibility, dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by them, and acknowledging their contributions to society. In the spirit of the day, we'll remind you of the good work being done in our own community by [Trans Wellness Ontario](#). TWO's mission is to enhance and sustain the health and wellness of transgender, genderqueer, two-spirit, non-binary, queer and questioning communities and their families. If you would like to donate to TWO and help support their cause, [you can do so here](#).



Thanks to the young chefs from Family Respite Services who have been using the kitchen with Chef Robert, for making soup and donating it on behalf of Emmanuel to the Soup Shack.

### **Mark Your Calendars:**



It's spring cleaning time! **Our annual rummage sale will be held on Saturday, April 18.** This is a wonderful time to connect with our community. Donated items in good, clean condition will be received on Thursday, April 16, and Friday, April 17. Many volunteers are needed for this important event. Please talk to Michele.

