

# ***ERIE STREET UNITED CHURCH NEWS***



## *The United Church of Canada Turns 100 Years Old!*

SUBMITTED BY SARAH HART  
COATSWORTH

On Sunday, June 1, 2025 Erie Street United Church joined in worship and celebrated the United Church's 100th birthday. As Reverend Lynne Wilson was attending Antler River Watershed Regional Council's Spring Meeting, Beatrice Fleming led proceedings. For the lighting of the Christ candle, as is usual for the church, a young member lights the candle.

This Sunday, however, an elder and junior member lit the candle together - their years adding up to 100 in recognition of the special anniversary!



(Continued next page...)

## ***IN THIS ISSUE***

The United Church of Canada  
Turns 100 Years Old!

Missions Report

A Note From the Official Board  
Chair

Stewardship and Finance  
Report

Ministry and Personnel  
Update

Property and Maintenance  
Report

Communications and  
Outreach Report

## ***100th Birthday continued...***

The Archives Committee organized a display to celebrate the anniversary. The display includes several scrapbooks, a picture of the silver pitcher and chalice (at right) which was presented to the Board of Trustees in 1877 by Mrs. Woodsworth, the wife of the first minister of the Methodist Church in Ridgetown. There is also a copy of the cheque which was paid to Charles Scane for the construction of the church building on Erie Street South.

The GAP (God's Awesome Place) Sunday School group regaled the congregation with a rousing performance of "happy birthday" to the United Church with the newly acquired boom whacker instruments. They did a great job!



The guest speaker was local historian, Tom Button, who spoke about the United Church's history in Ridgetown, using historical documents and photographs to bring that history to life.

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## ***Missions Report***

BY CHARLES ALFANO

### **LUNCH BUNCH - MAY 8, 2025**

Soup and sandwiches were served and 16 people attended.

The next lunch is June 26, and soup and sandwiches will be served. This is the last Lunch Bunch before summer break. A big thank you to the members of our church family who provide food and help with serving and clean up for this important outreach activity.

On a weekly basis ESUC provides a safe and inviting space where people can share a sense of belonging and community.

Missions fundraising project: ESUC Yard Sale, June 21  
We are starting to receive lightly used items that can become someone's treasures in preparation for sale at our yard sale.

Left over items to be sold at the Ridgetown town-wide yard sale in July.

Thank you to Margie Johnston and Joyce Campbell for their dedicated leadership of this project.

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### ***UPCOMING LUNCH BUNCH DATES HOSTED BY ESUC***

Thursday, June 26

*Lunch Bunch Breaks for the Summer Months*

Thursday, October 16

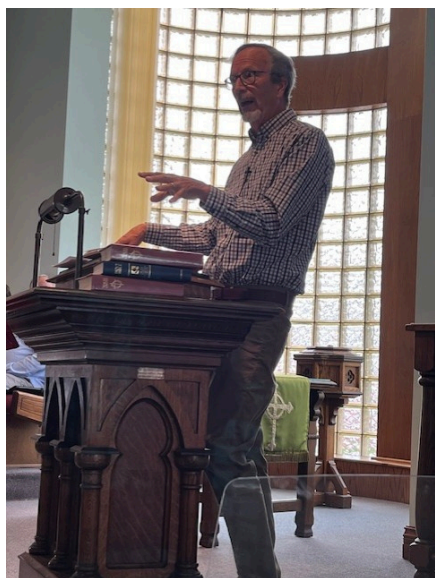
Thursday, December 4



## ***Birthday Continues...***

Erie Street United Church began in 1875 with the founding of the Ridgetown Methodist Church. In 1925, with the formation of the United Church of Canada, that Methodist Church became Erie Street United Church. Tom discussed what the Ridgetown community was like in 1925, the concerns and the growing debate about amalgamating church congregations.

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PICTURED ABOVE: TOM BUTTON  
SPEAKING AT ERIE STREET - JUNE 2025  
PICTURED BELOW: CHURCH BELL FROM  
THE ERIE STREET UNITED CHURCH



## ***Missions Continued...***

The Missions Committee hopes to invite Margaret Campbell from Canadian Aid for Chernobyl to come and give an update to our congregation in the fall as part of a Missions Sunday. Date to be determined. 

## ***A Note from Erie Street United Church's Board Chair***

BY SUSAN LITWIN

A few Sundays ago, I had a quick chat with someone just before the start of our Sunday worship service. We both noted that our lives seemed to have become busier than ever. We also agreed that it was more important than ever to be in church, to pause the craziness for an hour, and to focus on what matters most.

In my younger days, it was much easier to opt out on a Sunday morning if I was "too tired to go to church." But now, with weekly responsibilities at Erie Street United, skipping church is not often an option. Some might see that as a burden, but it's really a blessing – weary or not, ...

(Continued on page 6...)

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS AT ESUC - JUNE***

June 1  
100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the United Church of Canada - Guest speaker, Tom Button

June 8 - Special Guest - Kenesserie Camp

Saturday, June 21  
Yard Sale and Bake Sale

June 22 - Sundae Sunday  
We welcome guest soloist Scarlett Goldhawk (last GAP before summer break)

June 29  
Communion

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## *Birthday continues...*

After service, Stephanie Hayes and the kids rang the church bell 10 times to celebrate 100 years (that's hard work!).

The bell is from the steeple of the church building on Erie Street and the plaque reads, "Calling the faithful to worship 1876-2009".

All members of the congregation then rang the hand bells and counted 100 chimes for 100 years of the United Church of Canada. After that, there was a selection of 100 cupcakes for the congregation to share in fellowship.

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the United Church of Canada! 🕊

## *Worship and Music Report*

SUBMITTED BY BEATRICE FLEMING

June 22 - GAP final Sunday

Guest soloist is Scarlett

Goldhawk

June 29 - Communion

July 6 - Mount Zion church will join us

July 13 - Mt. Zion church has invited us to join them

July 20 - join Mt. Zion church

July 27 - join Mt. Zion church

August 3 - Mt. Zion will join us

August 10 - Mt. Zion joining us

August 17 - joining Mt. Zion

August 24 - joining Mt. Zion

August 31 - Mt. Zion will join us

Sept. 7 - Mt. Zion will join us

Erie Street United Church

congregation will be joining

Mount Zion for Sunday services

for July 13, 20, 27 and Aug 17, 24. 🕊

## ***JULY AT ESUC***

July 6

Erie Street hosts Sunday Service - all are welcome  
We welcome guest soloist Ashley Gifford

July 13, 20

Mount Zion hosts Sunday Service - all are welcome

Vacation Bible School  
July 14-18

July 26

Town Wide Yard Sale - ESUC is participating

July 27

Mount Zion hosts Sunday Service - all are welcome





## *Stewardship & Finance Committee Report*

BY ROGER KELLAM

Within the next month, we will complete the first 6 months of our church's fiscal year. To provide you with a current picture of our financial position, the information provided below is current as of May 27th. Comparing our finances to last year for the same time period reveals some positive results. Both weekly givings and various fundraisers are ahead of last year however donations to our special canvass objective lags behind at this time. Overall expenses are being carefully managed. As a result, to date the overall shortfall is only \$3,335.00 which is \$2,286.00 better than for the same time frame in 2024. However I should remind everyone that July and August is fast approaching and historically results in lower revenues being received. I will also remind you that the church's expenses do not stop so your continued support is needed to get us through until September when attendance and revenues normally improve. Enjoy your summer and stay healthy. 🕊

## *Ministry and Personnel Update*

BY MARIANNE FENTON

The M&P Committee brought forward recommendations to the May 6 Board meeting which were approved. Custodian duties will be minimized during July and August to reflect the reduced summer activity in the facility and budget constraints. Ad hoc cleaning during the summer will be handled through volunteers or special request to the custodian on a call-in basis. Custodian contracts based on the revised job description will be issued from late August through late June annually starting August 2025.

The committee will complete annual reviews and job description reviews for all positions in the fall. Anyone with agenda items they wish to bring forward to the next M&P Committee meeting can email them to [fentonfarmsltd@gmail.com](mailto:fentonfarmsltd@gmail.com). We hope all of our valued employees and volunteers enjoy a well-deserved break with family and friends and a slower pace during their upcoming summer vacations. 🕊

### ***JULY AT ESUC***

July 7

Erie Street hosts Sunday Service - all are welcome

July 13, 20

Mount Zion hosts Sunday Service - all are welcome

July 14-18

Vacation Bible School

July 26

Town Wide Yard Sale - ESUC is participating

July 27


Mount Zion hosts Sunday Service - all are welcome

## ***Board Chair's Message Continues...***

church is exactly where I'll be reminded of my spiritual needs and how the rest of my worldly responsibilities are of lesser importance.

For those who are unable attend in person, our weekly online worship video is the next best thing, a way to share in the experience as part of our broader congregation.

Our connections within Erie Street United provide an immeasurable sense of belonging and support. As part of our family of faith, we receive God's inspiration and guidance (through scripture, music, and Rev Lynne's messages), and we lift each other up through prayer and fellowship. When it comes to supporting one another, Rev Lynne may just appear to be the one overseeing the process, but in fact, she is part of the circle. Just as she is there for us in our challenging times, we are there for her when she needs support. When she recently lost her mother, we shared her pain. Even though she was miles away, she was in our thoughts and prayers. We are pleased that she is now back with us in Ridgetown (but the thoughts

and prayers will continue). That collective support is part of being a member of our church family. Unfortunately, outside of our faith community, there appears to be a growing need for mental health support. There are 1-800 help lines, online resources, printed materials, professional counselling, etc., all intended to provide solutions for the stress of life. Is life these days so much harder than in days gone by? Or is our society just different now? My guess is that (to at least some extent) it's because fewer people believe in God, fewer people attend church, so it's more difficult for them to have hope. By contrast, as Christians, we know our lives are part of a greater plan, a plan where good triumphs over evil, sins are forgiven, and our faith in Jesus is rewarded with eternal life with God in heaven. So, if you encounter someone in your life who is run ragged by the pace of everyday life or who has lost their sense of hope, ask them if they'd ever consider trying "church". It's effective and rewarding, and there's definitely a place for them at Erie Street United Church. 

## ***FUTURE EVENTS AT ESUC***

August 3  
Erie Street United hosts Sunday service - all are welcome

Friday, August 8  
Burn's Broasted Chicken Takeout Dinner

August 10  
Erie Street United hosts Sunday service - all are welcome

September 1  
Erie Street United back to regular Sunday services

Welcome Back Breakfast  
September  
Volunteers Needed

## *Communication and Outreach Report*

BY SARAH HART COATSWORTH

Erie Street United Church submitted information to the Antler River Watershed Regional Council to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Churches were invited to submit a picture of their building and congregation, give a brief history of the church, and offer a few trivia questions for those interested in the church. You can see those entries on the Council's website. After Erie Street's celebration of the anniversary of the United Church of Canada, an article and some pictures were submitted to the Ridgetown Independent News.

Did you know that Erie Street United Church is on Facebook? Follow us @Erie Street United Church for updates, events, pictures, etc!

I've begun a very slow process of editing the Erie Street United Church's website. I will be reviewing some online tutorials to help me with a few snags I've encountered.

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PICTURE OPPOSITE: ADAM HAYES DOING YARD WORK AT THE CHURCH - MAY 2025

## *Property and Maintenance Report*

BY ADAM HAYES

Since the beginning of April the committee has been busy with the following:

- The dishwasher was repaired in time for the Palm Sunday brunch and has been working well since. Thanks to Ecolab for repairing the dishwasher.
  - One of the downspouts fell down and was put back in place
  - A spring cleanup of the yard included cleaning up the gardens, trimming the shrubs, cleaning out the eavestroughs, trimming trees back from the building and clearing out the trees growing among the shrubs beside Yeck's Other Place
- Thanks to Wayne Snary, Wayne Cole, and Bob Todd for your help with the work. 🕊



## **WAYS TO GIVE TO ERIE STREET UNITED CHURCH**



### **E-Transfer**

Email:

[eriestreetunited@live.com](mailto:eriestreetunited@live.com)

Auto-deposit enabled

(No password required)



### **Cheque**

Payable to:

Erie Street United Church

7 Erie Street North,

PO Box 247

Ridgetown, ON N0P 2C0

### **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)**

Contact the church office to set this up in person. Call

519-674-3453 or email


[eriestreetunited@live.com](mailto:eriestreetunited@live.com)



## *Outreach Report Continued....*

I am happy to work with event or fundraising leads to create posters or advertising, I just ask that the leader get in touch with me so that I know what work I can help with!

As always, feedback is welcome on the format and content of the newsletter, or other marketing ideas for the church - please feel free to get in touch:

sarahjoy60@hotmail.com 



**ABOVE:** ADAM HAYES, STEPHANIE HAYES AND WAYNE SNARY DOING YARD WORK AT THE CHURCH

**BELOW:** WAYNE COLE AND BOB TODD ON RAKING DUTY AT THE CHURCH - MAY 2025



Note to church members:  
Please remember to take recycling home with you. The church does not have access to recycling services.


### ***Online Workshop: Recognizing Disinformation and Misinformation***

Online workshop June 24, 2025,  
10:00-11:30 am, EDT.

Christ calls us to love our neighbours, but disinformation and misinformation all too often drive a wedge between us and others. This workshop will help you:

- be alert to disinformation and misinformation
- reduce the harm caused by false and misleading information
- and model truth-seeking online behaviour

Facilitator: Sara Speicher of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC)

For information contact Thérèse Samuel, Minister for Right Relations and Social Justice  
[tsamuel@united-church.ca](mailto:tsamuel@united-church.ca) 

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on Facebook

Watch videos of church services on Vimeo