

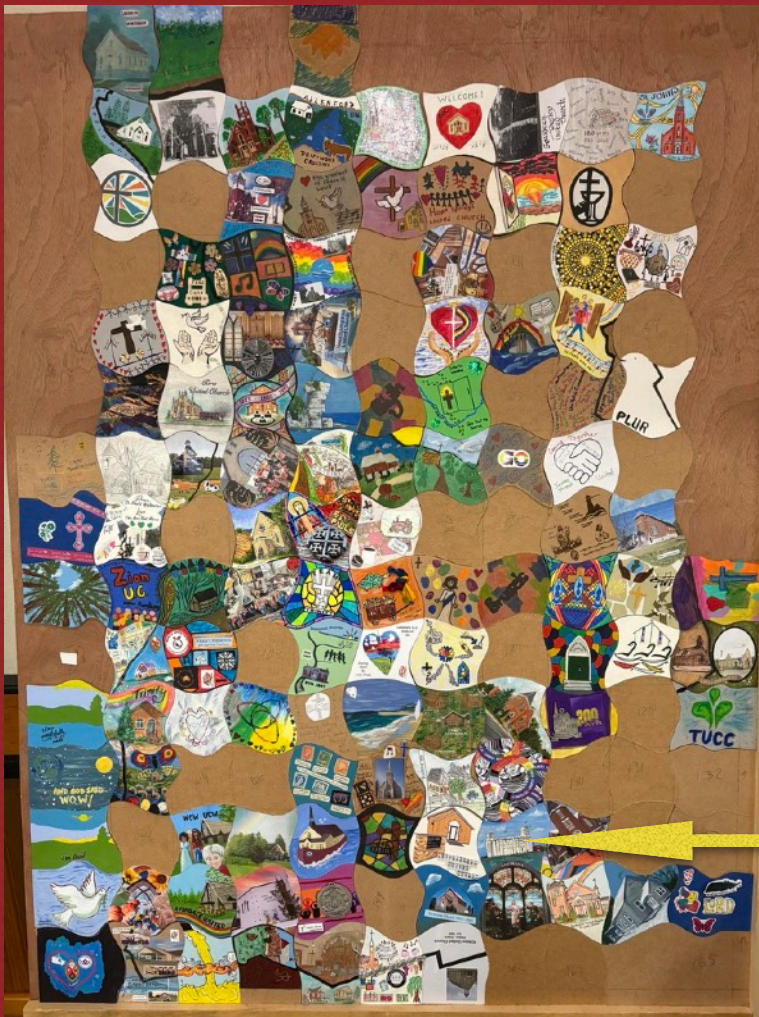
Trinity News - May 2025

705 445-3901



100 Years!

Trinity will be the host site with for a grand celebration that will include the congregations from Stayner Centennial, Creemore and New Lowell on Sunday June 8. Should be a memorable occasion. Let's be part of history.



In one Regional initiative for the centennial, congregations were invited to contribute something representing their community. Each would then be joined in the fashion of a quilt.

Trinity's contribution is indicated by the yellow arrow.

Our thanks to Dave Saunders for his painting of the grain elevators.

For 100th Anniversary items go to:

[ucrdstore.ca](http://ucrdstore.ca)

# WORLD MUSIC FOR WORLD PEACE



**SUNDAY MAY 25,  
3:00PM  
TRINITY UNITED CHURCH  
COLLINGWOOD**

**Creemore Drumming Collective  
Beaver Valley Concert Band  
Trinity Choir & Community Singers  
acc. Paul Sloan**

**Mila Filatova Piano  
Keiko Yoden-Kuepfer Piano  
Susan Connolly Violin  
Sonja Ferris Vocalist Flute  
Sally Bruce Vocalist**

**FREE WILL OFFERING  
IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
& HOME HORIZON YOUTH SUPPORT, COLLINGWOOD**



### From Rev. Beth Kerr Who Joins Us Sept. 2 As Our New Minister

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself briefly and look forward to getting to know all of you starting in September when I begin ministry with you.

I was commissioned to Diaconal Ministry in the United Church of Canada in 2002 and Trinity-Collingwood will be the fourth Trinity Church I have served and my fifth pastoral relationship. I have served churches in Terrace Bay and Schreiber on the North Shore of Lake Superior, Elkhorn Manitoba, Portage la Prairie Manitoba and am currently wrapping up my ministry with two congregations in Listowel and Atwood Ontario. Each of those contexts has been unique and taught me something about what God is up to in the world. I have no doubt that Trinity-Collingwood will prove to be the same.

My deepest passion in ministry is for nurturing soulful living which enables us to connect deeply with God, with ourselves, and with one another. Soulful living is becoming increasingly challenging in our busy, often divisive world. Yet, it is my firm belief that our lives and our world are richer when we create space for the holy. When we listen to our own souls, our ability to love others and to work for justice in the world is strengthened.

My household includes my wife, Sarah, who is also a United Church minister currently working for the national church in the Office of Vocations and two crazy cats (look for lots of photos of cats if you follow me personally on social media). My ideal nice day involves a lovely hike or bike ride in some beautiful part of God's creation followed by a great meal. My ideal stormy day includes a good book, a big cup of herbal tea (ideally vanilla or raspberry rooibos), a warm blanket and snuggles from the cat with chocolate or delicious baking being an extra bonus. Both Sarah and I are looking forward to new opportunities to explore beautiful places once we move to Collingwood.

### Search Committee

Can't find a new minister without a search committee so we give thanks to: Betty Hancey, Martin Hastings, Gord Llewellyn, Irene McGhee, Ray Piercy (Chair), Patti Watson.



Community Dinner - Wednesday May 21  
5 p.m.



## Affirming Exploration Group

On **Sunday, May 25**, in addition to the lovely sounds of our Alleluia Ringers bell choir, we'll have an inspiring reflection by members of the Affirming and Inclusivity Team at Trinity United Church in Newmarket. Beth Theis and Barbara Downie will lead the service on behalf of our group.

After the service, our guests will be in the Banquet Hall for conversation with people attending *our* Trinity United that day. Please plan to say hello to them, ask them questions, etc. - and enjoy **rainbow cookies!** (We're not sure what our rainbow cookies will look like—come and see.)



*Beth Theis, Lead Contact, on behalf of the Affirming Exploration Group*

## Affordable Housing: first Collingwood Talks Housing event, Wednesday May 21, 6:00-8:00 pm at Collingwood Public Library, and YIMBY flag raising at the Library Tuesday, May 20, 4:00 pm

This public conversation is part of the Town's Affordable Housing Task Force's YIMBY (Yes In My Back Yard) week celebrations, a dynamic discussion about how we can shift public opinion to encouraging growth, density and affordable housing, rather than objecting to these needed changes. If you're interested in being part of this important conversation, go to <https://www.collingwood.ca/housing> or contact to Collingwood Housing Development Coordinator, Claire de Souza, at [cdesouza@collingwood.ca](mailto:cdesouza@collingwood.ca) or 705-445-1030 ext. 3242 for information about how to register for this event and/or sign up to receive the Affordable Housing Task Force newsletters.

The first newsletter says:

The Affordable Housing Task Force welcomes you to participate in the Collingwood Talks Housing conversation series. Join us for regular discussions on housing to:

- Foster dialogue and connect with neighbours
- Shift your mindset regarding growth & affordable housing
- Co-create affordable housing solutions for all
- Contribute to a more compassionate and inclusive Collingwood.

Town Council will proclaim May 18 – 24, 2025 as YIMBY Week and the YIMBY flag will fly at the community flagpole in front of the Collingwood Public Library. Join us for the flag raising on **Tuesday, May 20 at 4:00 p.m.** YIMBY lawn signs are already popping up on lawns across the country.

We at Trinity helped to further these public conversations in our two Trinity Talks on housing in the fall and spring of 2024.

*- from Beth Theis, on behalf of Trinity Talks and the Outreach & Social Action Committee*



## Outreach and Social Action Committee Report to the Board for May15th Board Meeting

- **Community Dinner** - Next dinner on May 21st serving macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, buns, with carrot cake for dessert.
- **Food Pantries** - Fresh food is in high demand. \$2000 donation received from Oddfellows from Collingwood Lodge 54 approx. \$2000.00. Ruth has sent the thank you letter. Patty McVitty has been helping with shopping also.
- **Affordable Housing: first Collingwood Talks Housing event, Wednesday May 21, 6:00-8:00 pm at Collingwood Public Library.** - Beth Theis  
This public conversation is part of the Town's Affordable Housing Task Force's YIMBY week celebrations, a dynamic discussion about how we can shift public opinion to encouraging growth, density and affordable housing, rather than objecting to these needed changes. If you're interested in being part of this important conversation, go to <https://www.collingwood.ca/housing> or contact to Collingwood Housing Development Coordinator, Claire de Souza, at cdesouza@collingwood.ca or 705-445-1030 ext. 3242 for information about how to register for this event and/or receive notices of other chances to join in the talks.
- **Warming Closet** - Spring&Summer clothing collection has started
- **Susan Wells Crockpot Program:** Barb and Bev did a class several weeks ago for 9 people from Tracks. Will be planning another.
- **Trinity men's coffee club:** Continues to meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
- 

Submitted by Betty Hancey

### Camp Simpresca

The work party will gather at the Church Parking Lot at 9am on May 22nd for departure to the camp. If the participants want to come armed with work gloves, a paint brush or a leaf rake that would be great. We will be painting the Trinity cabin interior and doing a general clean-up. This usually takes a couple of hours after which we will adjourn to the Midland Pier for a Dock Lunch.



Mother's Day carnations last Sunday from the Spiritual Committee with a special thanks to Joan Rainbird.

(A) Quote from an Affirming Workshop held online at conference:

*"It is important to **not just** be **welcoming** but to be intentional, public, and explicit. We, as a congregation, need to stand tall for those who are marginalized and racialized in order that all feel safe and welcomed for who they are."*

(B) Quote from the moderator, Rev Carmen Lansdowne on **volunteering** within our church community:

*On behalf of the whole of the United Church, Rev. Lansdowne offered "a humble and sincere thank you" in her message of "profound gratitude" to the many United Church volunteers as "we sing of God's Good News Lived Out".*

(C) **Online Workshop opportunity**, June 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. to help us recognize misinformation and disinformation on the internet.

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

From The UCW

1. Barbara and myself attended the Wow UCW gathering on April 28 by Zoom. Lots of singing and stories of women in the church.
2. The National UCW voted in favour of becoming Affirming.
3. UCW 65th Anniversary to be held in Ottawa from July 19-23, 2027
4. Celebration of Life lunch to be catered on June 16
5. Retired teachers lunch on May 7 was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all those in the congregation who step up to help the UCW in preparing and serving these special events.
6. June meeting will be on June 23 and will be a lunch out.

Joy Barr

### Celebration Time!

Barb and Ralph are celebrating their 80th Birthday Parties at the Collingwood Legion between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday May 24, 2025. If you feel inclined, come and join in the festivities that are being put on by Andrew and Tracey.



## Rev. Lesley's Retirement Message To Regional Conference

Looking at my submitted photos, you'll likely think "Lesley is not your average minister" not that there is a specific mold out there but if I had a nickel for every time someone said "you don't look like your average United Church Minister a minister" I could have retired a lot earlier.

As a narrative preacher, let me begin with a story. I spent a large portion of my career in military chaplaincy. One day I was travelling via bus from Riga, Latvia to Tallinn, Estonia. Upon arrival in Tallinn, I spent my time visiting my Canadian members and also the British soldiers.

I happened upon one of the Estonian chaplains who was very excited to see me, since he thought I had arrived specifically for their special anniversary celebration. He invited me to an Orthodox service downtown, and I pleaded with him to get back to the hotel to change, but he said there was no time. It was a stunningly inspirational service highlighted with 7 Orthodox priests in tow, fully vested in a lot of black and gold, and yes, also at the front, representing Canada, was the sole female, a Canadian chaplain, in her blue jeans, her winter toque, red parka, and a pair of heavy Sorel boots. My motto in ministry, thus, has always been, "expect the unexpected."

In my 37 ½ years of vocational ministry, I have been honoured to work with the good people of Valley Pastoral Charge, Niverville Pastoral Charge, Alton Pastoral Charge, St. Andrew's River Heights United in Winnipeg, Trinity United in Collingwood, as well as our Canadian Armed Forces Members at CFB Wainwright, 17 Wing Winnipeg, CFB Borden, and NATO members overseas. I have been honoured to receive both the Special Service Medal (NATO), and the Vice Chief of Defense Staff Commendation for supporting not just Canadian members, but also our allies from the United Kingdom and the United States during those horrific pandemic years.

My hardest times in ministry have been dealing with tragic deaths, military notifications, accidents, and ongoing bouts of sexism and ageism. But my greatest joys have been sitting on the ground with children for children's moments, representing Canada at Vimy Ridge for the Remembrance Day Service, clowning and doing puppet shows in worship, study groups and evocative Lenten services, representing Canada at the St. James Palace Advent Service, flying a helicopter, and conducting a committal service from the back of a Hercules plane.

Let me offer my heartfelt thanks to my children, Talitha and Graham, who have been a constant source of support in my ministry, and as a result of mom's job are the most gifted public speakers in their chosen professions with a high sense of social justice and compassion! Thank you to my husband, Rob, he has been my rock and listening post. And thank you to everyone whom I have met along the journey. I look forward to mentoring the next generation of United Church ministers, and to continuing my art career and my love of volunteering. I will be retiring in Brighton, Ontario, so do pop in for a tea (as my British hubby would say) if you happen to be in the area.

Rev. Lesley Fox





# FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

**"GEORGIAN BAY RISING STARS"**

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH  
COLLINGWOOD**

**JUNE 8, 3:00 PM**

**SPECIAL GUESTS  
FROM THE  
STUDIOS OF**

Lesley Joosten  
Mila Filatova  
and  
Susan Connolly

**FEATURING SONJA FERRIS**  
VOICE and FLUTE

VOICE, PIANO, FLUTE, VIOLIN, BASSOON



Free Will Offering in Support of  
Trinity Music Program



## Friends of Meaford Library 2025 Summer Concerts



### Concert #3 by Beaver Valley Concert Band on Sunday, 13 July 2025

It has been a long tradition in smaller communities for musicians to gather and share their love of music and their talents by forming small groups and bands. The Meaford Citizen's Band was a fixture from the late 1800s until the very early 1970s. There are pictures in the Meaford Museum of the band from 1967 and 1968 concerts plus the band was resurrected in 1974 to play for the Meaford Centennial. Charlie Strimas was the last director of the band, late 60s into the 70s. There are still a couple of that group around, one of whom is Kevin Knight.

The current incarnation is the Beaver Valley Concert Band which started in 1990 when a few musicians in the Blue Mountains got together to jam. Originally called the Valley Concert Band, the group had a name change and became the Beaver Valley Concert Band 15 or 20 years ago to identify with the larger area the current musicians are drawn from. The band was originally based in Thornbury where it rehearsed until 2020 when the pandemic shut the world down. When the band was able to restart in Sept 2022, the decision was made to locate in Collingwood, a more central location for band members and, the move provided a larger catchment of potential players. The band is well on the rebound and anxious to carry on a long-standing tradition of local musicians enjoying music and performing for the entertainment of their neighbours and friends. Rehearsals are at Trinity United Church in Collingwood on Monday evenings from 6 to 7:30 under the direction of Lesley Joosten. The move has been very rewarding and has resulted in a significant increase in musicians.

## Pot Luck - June 29

Our next Pot Luck is scheduled for June 29. We will thank Rev. Mary Elizabeth for holding the fort once again as we searched for a new minister and celebrate Canada Day.

### Directory

Ministry of Music: Paul Sloan, 705 730-3121 (cell)  
Choral Conductor: Lesley Joosten 705 984-3243  
Handbells: Maryellen Burgess, 705 443-1422 (cell)  
UCW President: Joy Barr, 705 445-0726  
Custodian: Michael White 705 445-3901  
Office Assistant: Lori Forsythe 705 445-3901  
Church Office: [office@collingwoodunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@collingwoodunitedchurch.ca)  
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon  
140 Maple Street, Collingwood, ON L9Y 2P8 Tel: 705 445-3901  
Website: [www.collingwoodunitedchurch.ca](http://www.collingwoodunitedchurch.ca)  
*Trinity News*: [johnbrown5@rogers.com](mailto:johnbrown5@rogers.com)

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