



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SUNDAY 5th JULY

Pentecost VI

8:00am Holy Eucharist

Traditional (BCP). Said service

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Contemporary (BAS) with Music, Choir, & Sunday School
Refreshments & fellowship follow in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY 8th JULY (Chapel)

10:30 am Holy Eucharist



UPCOMING EVENTS

TUE 07 th JULY	Tai Chi Foundations	9:00am
WED 08 th JULY	Contemplative Prayer	9:15am
THU 09 th JULY	Caring for the Core	11:30am
THU 09 th JULY	Migrant Farm Workers Ministry	2:00-8:00 pm
FRI 10 th JULY	Tai Chi Foundations	9:00am
FRI 10 th JULY	Migrant Farm Workers Ministry	2:00-8:00 pm

Jake Owensby

The Woodlands:

A place to explore the way of Jesus.

Sweet Tea and Jesus

Wearing my clerical collar and pectoral cross, I was ordering lunch at a Southern big-city restaurant with a friend. No tables were available, so we sat at the bar.

When our twenty-something server asked for our drink order, I asked for sweet tea. Tongue in cheek, I added, "I'm not sure Jesus will love you if you don't have sweet tea." Without missing a beat, she smiled warmly and said, "Well, I'm an atheist, so that really doesn't matter to me. But we do have sweet tea."

I immediately liked this woman. More for her response than for the sweet tea. And she seemed to enjoy the brief exchanges with my friend and me each time she stopped by to check in with us. If time had allowed for a serious conversation, I might have asked her about her beliefs.

I believe that we all want to lead a full-hearted life. We need to have a sense of identity: a sense of who we are and that we are worthy of love and respect. Authentic relationships are vital to a meaningful life, and we flourish when we're passionate about some purpose. These are the elements of a joyful life. And all of these elements arise from our foundational beliefs.

You see, our waitperson was no unbeliever. Everybody believes something. And that offers us a key to living in this secular world of ours. We will regularly encounter others who believe something other than our own Christian faith. Instead of perceiving those beliefs as a disrespectful challenge or a threat to our faith, we can recognize them as different. And difference is an opportunity to be curious, not judgmental or defensive.

In my book *A Full-Hearted Life*, I shared my memory of a conversation with one of my philosophy students named Ellen. Her family of origin had been thoroughly secular. She had grown up with no personal experience of religious traditions and no acquaintance with traditional spiritual practices.

But you could see that she navigated her way through this world on the basis of a belief system. That belief system did not include God, but I'm convinced that it was in essence a faith. A non-religious faith. But a faith nonetheless. To draw

on William James' definition of faith, she believed in "an unseen order, and [that her] supreme good lies in harmoniously adjusting [herself to it]." She had been shocked by the suggestion that I was, at least symbolically, a cannibal because I ate the Body and Blood of Christ. The idea violated her moral code. And since I taught philosophy and commended the importance of rational analysis to my students, she judged my attachment to an apparently irrational superstition to be hypocritical. From her perspective, hypocrisy counted as a serious sin, even if she wouldn't have used the word "sin" to describe it.

In other words, she had basic convictions about how we should treat one another and about what counts as a virtuous character. Her judgments rested upon a story she had about the grand scheme of things, about how reality works.

The principle I try to follow is this: any friend of Jesus' is a friend of mine. And Jesus has befriended everybody, whether they realize it or not.

That theory of reality leaves no room for the supernatural. Psychology, social science, and natural science tell us all we need to know about the human condition and how best to lead our lives.

What I discovered is that she was not anti-religious. Her story of reality simply made no room for the supernatural and told her that religion was passé: an artifact from an era plagued by primitive thinking.

Crucially, she had received her secular faith passively. From parents, friends, media, and teachers.

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She hadn't yet done the hard work of asking whether or not her faith story really held existential water. If it supported her distinctions between good and evil, provided a purpose in this life, or gave her an authentic sense of self. She hadn't asked, does my story really work?

For instance, how can someone insist on the equality of every human being when their perspective is limited entirely to the natural world? Individuals are clearly unequal in physical strength, eyesight, hearing, and intellectual ability. We Christians, by contrast, can say that everyone is equal because we believe that everyone is created in the image of God and that God loves each of us infinitely.

Here's how my faith urges me to approach the Ellens of the world and everybody else I meet. Remember that Jesus loves them. And so, I should, too. An important expression of love is to take the time to listen to another person's faith story respectfully and to engage with it honestly on its own terms. In other words, does their story really work?

That's what I did with Ellen throughout her college days. It's what I imagine would have been interesting to do with our busy atheist server that day. Additionally, once we've listened, we may have the opportunity to explain how the story of Jesus helps us to make sense of our life and to navigate its complexities.

Or, as C. S. Lewis once put it, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." In this way, we may be able to convey how Christianity could help them to make sense of their own lives. But remember, all of this begins by listening respectfully and actively.

The principle I try to follow is this: any friend of Jesus' is a friend of mine. And Jesus has befriended everybody, whether they realize it or not. Now I admit that this is easier in some cases than others.

A priest friend of mine once told me about a meth addict who violently disrupted a worship service she was leading. He stormed into the church, threatened her with a string of obscenities, and eventually slammed the door on his way back out. Her prayer in that moment has proved helpful to me a few times: "Well Jesus, you better show me what you love about this guy, because I'm really not seeing it right now."

Following Jesus means to navigate our way through life with the Spirit of love, because we know ourselves to be loved beyond reason. The way of love is a way of intentional response to the risen Christ who walks along with us as the Good Shepherd. Through thick and thin. In moments mundane and exhilarating.

The Way of Jesus is a radical alternative in this world. We are God's beloved, and so is everyone we encounter. However bruised and battered and disfigured by circumstances they may be. No matter the language they speak, who they love, their country of origin, the color of their skin, or the beliefs they hold dear.

Each step we take can be a response, a response to the love we've been given as gift. Pure, unearned, unachieved, unconditional love. That is the essence of the full-hearted life.

And to be clear, we do not achieve a full-hearted life by loving hard enough or loving just the right way. We participate in that life, the life that the risen Christ shares feely with us, when we open ourselves to his love and have the courage and the humility to pour that love out to the world.



NOTICE

A Special Vestry Meeting will be held on Sunday July 12th after the 10:30 service to obtain approval to purchase two (2) new gas fired boilers.

We hope you can attend this Special meeting.

**Thank you,
The Wardens**



Cup of water

*You can be a flower by the side of the road. You can be a fountain for whoever passes by.
You can be a lighthouse where the coast is uncertain. You can be a handrail, a park bench, an umbrella.
You can be the voice that does not jeer, that calms, encourages, or thanks.*

"Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones will not lose their reward." (Mt. 10.42)

Prayer Shawl Ministry is moving!!

Starting July 11, our Prayer Shawl Ministry will be moving its meeting time to the second Saturday of the month at 9:30 am in the Mixer Room. This will allow us to stay longer for fellowship and instructional help, if needed. If anyone wants to learn to knit or crochet, this is also a perfect place to start.

We have also joined with Blankets for Canada so we are in need of people who enjoy knitting and crocheting or quilting, as well as any who can't knit, crochet or quilt, but can sew squares together!! We have lots of yarn and material upstairs and squares are a perfect summertime activity!! Quickly completed and not hot and heavy on your lap.

We want to send a **BIG** thank you to all who have donated yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks, shawls and lapghans. We really do have LOTS of beautiful yarn of all shades and colours upstairs, now sorted by colour so easier to see.

For more information Contact Rose Langley @ furbabiesmama123@gmail.com



Check your Closets and Purge.

It is once again, time for our Migrant Workers to come back to Ontario to work in our fields and greenhouses to plant, prune and prepare our crops for the season. Most come back unprepared and need help with work clothes. Huron Farmworkers Ministry offer the workers a free warm dinner on Thurs & Fri nights plus a table of good used clothing. If you could donate any clothing that you no longer need, we would be very grateful. We need MEN'S CLOTHING, SIZES SMALL – LARGE. Coats, shoes, boots, hats, socks, rain protection, whatever you have they will use. If you can't help with clothing, we sure could use some help serving the dinners and setting up and down the tables and chairs. If you can't help by volunteering, a cash donation would also be gratefully accepted. Check your closets and purge. It is such a good feeling to clear out unused stuff and it goes to such a good cause. **THANK YOU!** Donations can be dropped off at the church, TUESDAY-FRIDAY mornings or THURSDAY & FRIDAY afternoons FROM 3-7 P.M.

Judy Bannister.



*Contemplative Prayer Gathering – Wednesdays, starting **July 8th 2026**, at 9:15-10:15 in the Mixer Room*

In the midst of busy schedules, constant demands, and the stresses of daily life, it can be difficult to find time to nurture our spiritual lives. Yet it is often during these very seasons that we most need to pause, be still, and rest in the presence of God.

Please join us to come and discover the gift of simply being with God. We will learn about and practice Contemplative Prayer, a gentle practice rooted in the rich tradition of Christian spirituality. Often known as Centering Prayer, the prayer of silence, the prayer of stillness, or the practice of the presence of God, this form of prayer invites us beyond words and thoughts into a deeper awareness of God's loving presence.

In contemplative prayer, we are not asking God for anything, nor are we listing our concerns, joys, or shortcomings. Instead, we simply rest in the presence of the One who loves us. As we learn to be still before God, that awareness of God's presence gradually begins to shape and sustain the rest of our lives.

This tradition has been embraced by generations of Christians, including John Cassian, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Thérèse of Lisieux, Thomas Merton, and many others. It remains a profound way of opening ourselves to God's transforming grace.

Why practice contemplative prayer? Contemplative prayer helps us to create space for God amid the busyness of life; to cultivate inner peace and spiritual renewal; to deepen our relationship with Christ and to develop a greater awareness of God's presence in our lives.

Whether you are new to contemplative prayer or have practiced it for years, we hope to see you there.

Save the Date

Calling all friends of Phyllis Kite.

Your presence is requested to help celebrate Phyllis'

90th Birthday.

Saturday July 11th, 2026

2-4 pm

Parish Hall Trinity Anglican Church.

Best wishes only

**PATIO THURSDAY'S
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
6PM TO 9PM**

JULY 9TH - Shane Pinchen
JULY 16TH - Dan Fewings and
Mike Catarino
JULY 23RD - TRIVIA NIGHT IN THE
CLUB ROOM
JULY 30TH - Marco and Tony
AUG. 6TH - Maddie Ball and Jesse
Murphy
AUG. 13th - R and R - Mercer and
Harten
AUG. 20TH - TRIVIA NIGHT IN THE
CLUB ROOM
AUG. 27TH - Amber Banks and
Nolan Gibson

Food Available

Legion  1926 · 2026
Br. 79 Simcoe, On.
200 West Street



PRESERVE US, O LORD



We Can Provide the jars.

If anyone is doing any jam making or canning over the summer please consider doing a bit extra for the bazaar. Things like pickles, chutney, jams, marmalade, salsa, pasta sauce, lemon curd etc. We would be most grateful. For more information please talk to Deb Vankerrebroeck at church or give her a call ☎ 519-582-2292. Many thanks.



Indwell

You're invited

**SIMCOE HOPE & HOMES
BBQ & HAMBLETON HALL'S
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

co-presented by 

- Open house — see Indwell programs in action
- BBQ meal by Gator BBQ
- Learn about Indwell's current and future plans
- Ice-cream from Indulge Ice-Cream truck

 

July 16, 2026
4:00 - 6:00 pm
Hambleton Hall,
203 John St, Simcoe

BBQ tickets: \$50
Open house and games: FREE
RSVP by July 2
indwell.ca/events
905.529.0454x283




Someone is a little grumpy about vestry duty this Sunday!

Legion  **100**
1926 · 2026

Branch 79, SIMCOE
**Wednesday, July 8
4:30-7pm
Fish & Chips
Coleslaw, Rolls & Butter**

**1 piece—\$11
2 pieces—\$14
Chicken Fingers—\$14
In the Memorial Hall**



THE DIOCESE OF HURON

The Rt. Rev. Dr. R. Todd Townshend
Bishop of Huron

1-800-919-1115

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Parish Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday

9:00am-12:00 noon

Visitors always welcome.

