

In the Orchard

Holy Week Services and Events

Apr. 2 Palm Sunday
10 a.m. Worship Service

Apr. 7 Good Friday
7 p.m. Worship Service

Apr. 8 Teen & YA Service
4 p.m. (Good Friday
worship on Holy Saturday)

Apr. 9 Easter Sunday
10 a.m. Easter Worship

In this Issue:

Minister's Easter Message	2
Pastor's Easter Message	3
Chair's Easter Message	3
Renovation Report	4-5
PIE Day	6
Moderator to Visit OVU	7
Sherbrooke Lake Camp	8
Easter Music	9
Voyagers' Report	10
Children's Activity Pages	11-12

A Dream Fulfilled

by Jane McDonald

It has always been my dream to be able to see the Passion Play. I signed up in the fall of 2019 for a tour of Eastern Europe to take place in the fall of 2020. Part of that tour was the culmination of the trip in Oberammergau, Germany where we would stay for two days to see the Passion Play. I was so excited that finally I was going to be able to tick something off my Bucket List! To my dismay in the spring of 2020 COVID struck. The Passion Play is only performed every 10 years. Was I going to miss my chance to go? I was so upset. Upon further investigation the beautiful town of Oberammergau had chosen to postpone the play for 2 years in hopes that the Pandemic would be under control, and they would again be able to perform the much-applauded Passion Play.

If you know nothing about the play it is performed every 10 years by the residents of Oberammergau, Germany. If you google the Passion Play, Oberammergau, you will see several write-ups from travel companies and other sources. The gist of the story is that in the early 1630s the Bubonic Plague was ravishing Europe, and that the small village of Oberammergau was being decimated by the plague. Many deaths were recorded as much as half of the population of the village. (Numbers vary depending on the source). The village vowed that if the Lord would protect them, they would perform a play depicting the life and death of Jesus every ten years. From the time of the vow, October 1633 no one has died of the plague and the villagers have kept their word with the first iteration of the play taking place in 1634. All the village participates. We spoke to one



shopkeeper whose husband played in the orchestra, whose son and daughter each sang solos in the performance and she herself was in the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

The play has been performed initially in an open-air theatre but in 1899-1900 a more lasting structure was built. It is unique in that you are still in an open-air theatre but with a roof over your heads. If you are there in October as I was, you need a warm coat and perhaps a blanket to keep the chill off. The theatre will hold 4500 people. What a wonderful experience it was! The play is performed in German. Although each of us know the story of Jesus' last visit to Jerusalem and his subsequent crucifixion, the language barrier does not take away from the poignancy of the story. Over 1800 amateur actors, musicians, and singers as well as live animals take part in the play and last year, they performed the play over 110 times from May to October. Imagine the amount of time this takes away from their

story continued on pg. 2



*Oberammergau Passion Play Theatre
in Oberammergau, Bavaria in
southern Germany.*

The scenes below depict Jesus at his trial and Jesus with the disciples at the Last Supper.

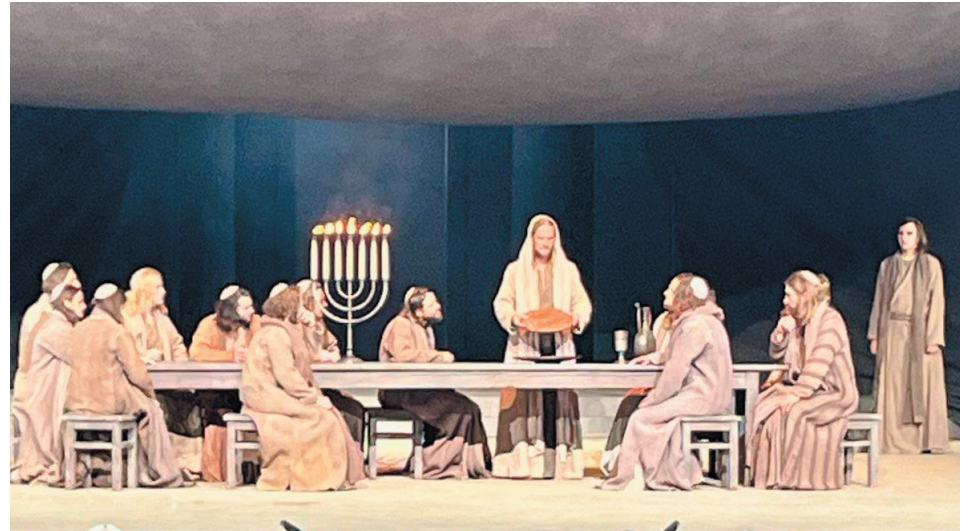


businesses during the most productive time of the year. It has been written that over five hundred thousand people visited the village last summer to see the Passion Play.

The reality of the experience was transcending. The dedication and performance were awe inspiring. It took our breath away as we experienced the life and death of Jesus during that fateful trip to Jerusalem. The feelings that were elicited from the audience, as a human

being was raised on the cross in front of us and then spoke to us, transformed the Easter story that we had so often heard. It brought the Easter story to a different level of realization for me and it will be my vision of this performance which will reflect how I see the story of Easter from now and forever forward.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit this quaint little town and see the Passion Play, take it! The next one will be in 2030.



Rev. Don's Message: A Crocus' Endurance

Here we are well into the season of Lent. I have been recording my Lenten reflections and many of their themes have come back to me. More snow to test my repaired snowblower. Then rain to test how well my repaired snowblower works in the rain. The lengthening of days does give hope that I will soon be able to put it away for a few months.

It is appropriate that Lent begins by acknowledging our mortality on Ash Wednesday and joining Jesus in the wilderness. Lent is an old English word that means "Lengthening of the days." Literally the days are getting longer and spring is coming. It is also about the "lengthening of our souls."

It was during Lent that we entered into a type of pandemic wilderness three years ago. Things were going well in the church with growth and enthusiasm abounding. Instead of crumbling under

the stresses and changes of this wilderness suddenly thrust upon us, we said, "we've never done it this way before", but they were not the last words of the church! Through the twists and turns, we clung



to one another and found our souls not diminished but strengthened and lengthened, the true meaning of Lent.

And a year ago, almost to the day, we left our church home and entered a type of exile which began with a Palm Sunday

Service here in our temporary sanctuary. But this wilderness exile was by our choosing. Amid so much uncertainty in the world, you never lost your vision for our future. Lent itself is all about inviting change, and that you did.

When the world claimed that uncertainty and chaos should be the order of the day, you chose love, perseverance, and faith, and sealed it with a promise. We kept our hearts open and our outlook positive.

As I look through the new recent snowfall, I see the endurance of our spring crocuses and other planter greenery poking through, proving that they, like us, know that at the end of Lent, there will be the cross, not of death, but of life filled hallelujahs, for we are an Easter people.

Rev. Don

Pastor Katie's Message: A Time to Celebrate

Happy Easter, Orchard Valley! What a time to celebrate! Life has treated me very well these past few months; however, as many of you now know, my time at Orchard Valley United Church is coming to an end in June.

Honestly, I've put off writing this because I didn't want to write my last message as your youth and family minister. The time, however, is here, and the months I have left seem to be slipping away too fast. As the saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun." However, even though the Wizard of Oz quote, "Now I know I have a Heart because it's breaking," keeps floating through my head, this really is a time when we can celebrate.

The time we have shared together has been incredible, and I am (after three long years in school and two left to go) finally

able to begin the next step in becoming a full-fledged ordained minister with the United Church of Canada, a dream I've had for quite some time now.



So I will celebrate the time I have left by fitting as much as we can into the next few months and putting out as much love as I possibly can to everyone

here. Orchard Valley is also in a time of celebration; we start our move back to our renovated home very soon!

We also have new people attending worship, new folks joining committees, new kids shining their light, and more. What a time to be here! Change is always a bit frightening but there are so many reasons for us to be excited and to look forward to the next steps we are taking. Orchard Valley is a special place, and the people here have become like family to me, and the bonds we've formed will go with us wherever we are and the spirit of Christ like the wind at our backs.

If I could offer you anything this Easter season, it is celebration, joy, and light. Thank you Orchard Valley, you are one of a kind!

Pastor Katie

Mindy's Message: From Light into Darkness

There are many times in our lives, I think, when we find ourselves moving from darkness into light – or at least in my own life, I have seen many. I think anyone undergoing the despair of a negative work environment can relate to the relief when your next job proves more positive. When a relationship falls apart, and you feel like you are never destined to experience a positive one, and suddenly loves blooms again. When finances are so difficult your stomach hurts each month as you try to figure out how to pay your bills and feed your children, and a sudden helping hand makes that month easier. When you are feeling unwell and afraid because you don't know why you are unwell, but suddenly there is a diagnosis and an understanding and (hopefully) a treatment option.

I think everyone's perception of darkness differs...what is dark to some, is only dim to others. We all have different triggers, different fears that give us a

more intense reaction. Imagine Easter time – Jesus was lost to us, our early brothers and sisters immersed in darkness and sadness, confusion and loss – there cannot be a darker moment in the heart of these poor people, for themselves and all of humanity. Yet the rock was rolled



away from the door of the tomb, the cloths left behind, the reassurance of Jesus' love and ascendance was shown.

Imagine Jesus' perspective – knowing what he was to suffer to follow God's promises, and even though willing to do

so, knowing that his body was human and the suffering would be real ...yet he did this, knowing he would BE the light.

We all have the power to be light to someone in their darkness, and I am so very proud that this church has done so, over and over. Baskets of care at Christmas and provision to the food bank for those whose stomach's hurt at facing bills while trying to feed their children. A benevolent fund to support others in so many other ways. As an affirming church, acceptance that all love is valid and valued and to be treasured, regardless of the package it comes in. Our Pastoral care team bringing comfort and love during times of illness. An outreach for foot care and human kindness.

YOU are a light in the darkness for so many...and each time you show that light, you roll the rock away from the door once again. I wish you all Easter Blessings!

Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk, Chair, Orchard Valley Church Council

“Get Out Your Calendars and Start Counting”

by Jane McDonald

Are you getting excited? I am. We are stepping closer to being able to move back to our newly renovated facility. There are lots of moving pieces that still have to be resolved before we can worship again at 130 Cornwallis Ave.

We have great teams working on preparing for the move. Some are

refreshing some furniture, some are organizing moving our “stuff” and some are working on appropriate furnishings for our staff to make their workspaces ergonomic and comfortable. All the while we wait for the last piece of the construction puzzle, our major heating unit. We pray that the manufacturer can meet their timelines and we will see it

by the middle of May. With appropriate time to install and balance and have our facilities inspected for occupancy, we at the best are looking at early June.

So get your calendars out and start counting! We will keep you posted if timelines change for better or worse! Check out what some of the spaces look like now!



Top left: Exterior of church.

Top right: Don's office.

Bottom left: Katie's office.

Bottom right: Front meeting room.



Top left: Looking into the kitchen.

Top right: In the sanctuary looking toward the chancel.



Bottom right: Choir/Meeting room.

Bottom left: Voyagers' area.

The Intentional Piece of the PIE

by Vicky Austin & Dale MacArthur

ALL people are welcome to worship here. The Affirm mandate is expressly for the LBGTQ2S+ community, but the literature invites us to work with ALL individuals and/or groups who need extra support and inclusion. This year's PIE theme is on the INTENTIONAL piece of the pie. So, this is a thank you message to each and every member of the congregation. The Affirm Committee celebrates the inclusive, supportive and uplifting

Intentional activities of the church. These are a very few examples of what you do: Prayer Shawls, fundraisers for Open Arms, The Steeple Strummers where all abilities are welcome and included, Christmas Hampers, Meet Your Feet, live streaming for those who

can't attend church, a wheelchair waiting at the entrance of the Mall, monthly Food Bank Sundays and Canucopias. So, from the Affirming Committee, this is a big THANK YOU to this awesome, affirming, inclusive, uplifting congregation. You ROCK!!

Pastor Katie gives the message of intention and later in the service Dale MacArthur gives a message of thanks.

Chris Seymour plays "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" on his harmonica.



Pastor Katie, Rev. Don and OVUC youth open the service with the Tibetan singing bowl. The Morning Altar, is a prayerful, artful practice of foraging and gathering natural materials to create an altar. Youth wait to cut the PIE cake.



United Church Moderator to Visit Orchard Valley on April 16



The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

We are very pleased and excited to have as our guests at our worship service on April 16 The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada and Rev. Faith Marsh-MacCuish, the Executive Minister for Region 15.

Carmen is the elected national spiritual leader and public representative of the United Church until the 45th General Council (2025).

As Moderator, Carmen chairs the governance bodies of the UCC, including its General Council, General Council Executive and Sub-Executive Committees. Through Spring 2023, she also sits on the board of the Vancouver Foundation – Canada's largest community foundation.

She has previously held a number of important governance roles, including The Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre,

the national Indigenous Candidacy Board for the United Church of Canada, the Pension Board of the UCC, Executive of the UCC's General Council, as United Church representative to the Executive and Central Committees of the World Council of Churches, and the Theology, Inter-church, Interfaith Committee of the UCC.

Prior to serving the national church, Moderator Carmen was the compassionate, thoughtful, and creative Executive Director of First United Church Community Ministry Society in Vancouver; she is on a three-year leave of absence while she serves the national church. Moderator Carmen joined First United in February 2017 and led an organizational turnaround resulting in increased stability and capacity. She has also facilitated the design and permitting process for an

11-storey redevelopment of its main site at 320 E. Hastings St – construction began in July 2022. Although away on leave, she continues to pay close attention to the successful completion of the construction and capital campaign related to this redevelopment.

The Moderator is known as a leader who takes on large projects and extends herself in many directions, largely (although not always) pulling it off while maintaining academic interests, church ministry, indigenous way of being, parenting and partnering.

She holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA and is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation. She is passionate about creating a life with great stories and amazing adventures with her family.

Sherbrooke Lake: the United Church's Camping Ministry

by Donna Murphy

Sherbrooke Lake Camp is a camping ministry of the United Church of Canada and supported by Mission & Service. Established in 1964, it is located on Sherbrooke Lake in Lunenburg County and partners with all the United Churches along the South Shore and in the Valley.

This camp with its Summer Camps (ages 6 - 16), Family Camp Weekends and Church Weekend Camps is known to many Orchard Valley United Church families and often includes generations of participants within those families.

Nine new cabins were built in 2017 with the help of many volunteers. Close to each cabin is a set of latrines. Camp programs include canoe, craft, outdoor living skills and faith formation & vespers. The camp includes a kilometre-long sandy beach. The webpage states "Although there is no wifi and poor cell service, the connection to nature is strong".

The 2023 youth camp registration, for various ages, opened on February 10th and there are only a few spots available.

The family camps, which are held on the long weekends during the summer are scheduled for August 4-7 and September 1-4, 2023. A cabin may be booked, beginning in April,

for a maximum of eight per cabin at a cost of \$100 per night per cabin.

A booking may be made and more details found at the website as listed below:

Email: info@sherbrookelakecamp.org

WebPage: www.sherbrookelakecamp.org

Phone Off Season: 902-476-9973

Phone Summer Season: 902-644-2479.



The cairn was refurbished on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Camp. One can see on the left the Orchard Valley stone.

Chef Gary Dunfield sits with two youth of the church, Joy Waterbury and Jean Millett during a OVUC Family Camp in 2018.

The Arthur Harvie Lodge (named after a former member of our congregation) is where campers eat and gather.

Every day at camp ends around the campfire.



Music Ministry Enjoyed by Many

by Donna Murphy

It seems not that long ago that the choir, under the direction of Interim Director, Thea Koenig Burton and pianist Carmen Peng, was enjoying the Christmas Season and the wonderful music it brings.

Members of the choir were introduced to the set of chimes, and joined by former Chime Choir members, in a debut performance during Advent. Another highlight was the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at the historic Covenanter Church in Grand Pre.

Orchard Valley's very own Steeple Strummers continue to meet once a month and provide music on occasion.

The anticipation never ends as we are now in Lent and Easter is fast approaching. The choir is working to provide very meaningful and special pieces during this season.

As well, Thea and the choir will

be providing special music for the United Church Moderator's visit to our church on April 16.

In her search for special music, Thea has gone through and sorted, purged and re-organized, by season and title, all the music available to OVUC. Our extensive music collection comes

from the amalgamation of five United Churches in this area. It was gone through initially by our former Music Director and various choir members. It was a big job which introduced Thea to many old and familiar pieces and took days to complete. It is now ready for the move to our permanent home.



Choir director Thea Burton leads the choir in the anthem during the March 19 service.

Summer Services Return to Covenanter

by Donna Murphy

The 219-year-old historic Covenanter Church is located at 1989 Grand Pre Road. It is with excitement that the OVUC Covenanter Church Committee has planned its summer services schedule for 2023 ... the first in three years. Dedicated members of this committee include members of our congregation, a trustee, as well as community representative members and is chaired by David Murphy. Each Sunday Summer Service will be held between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon followed by lemonade on the lawn. A service schedule with

pulpit supply ministers is as follows:

July 2	Rev. Gloria Churchill
July 9	Rev. Don Sellsted
July 16	Rev. Gary Manthorne
July 23	Rev. Bruce Matthews
July 30	Rev. Don Sellsted

August 6	Rev. Robert Chapman
August 13	Rev. Krista Anderson
August 20	Rev. Barry Morrison
August 27	Rev. Rob Hankinson

Hope you are able to attend some or all of these services!

Views of the interior and exterior of the church.



Voyagers Have “Had a Blast Since Christmas”

by Pastor Katie Logan

We’ve had a blast since Christmas! Our youth and kids kept busy this winter with our “Coldest Night of the Year” fundraiser in support of those struggling with homelessness, hunger and hurt. We started out with our bake sale in January which was supported with much love (despite a snowstorm!) Then in February we held our “It’s Cold Out There” concert featuring the Dukes of Kent, Doug MacKinnon, Dave Murphy and the band Rewind! It was organized by our Andy Pitter and we filled the church and then some! Our youth then took on the task of fundraising and did a phenomenal job!

On February 25 we walked in the freezing cold to show our support. Our crew of 16 walked in Kentville along the path with hundreds of other walkers! We quadrupled our original fundraising goal at \$4000! Then this March we held a huge Easter Egg hunt and had a great turn out, 15 youth and kids hunted for eggs around the church and

celebrated following the hunt with some treat bags and snacks! Outside of our big events we’ve been gathering on Sunday mornings for Voyagers and learning about Jesus’ miracles and parables! We’ve even been lucky enough to welcome some new friends! We’re very excited for the upcoming Easter season and are sending all our blessings to our church family and beyond! Happy Easter everyone.



The Voyagers Coldest Night of the Year team raised \$4000 for Open Arms.



Every Sunday Pastor Katie leads the children and youth in Children's Time before they heading off for fun and faith at Voyagers.

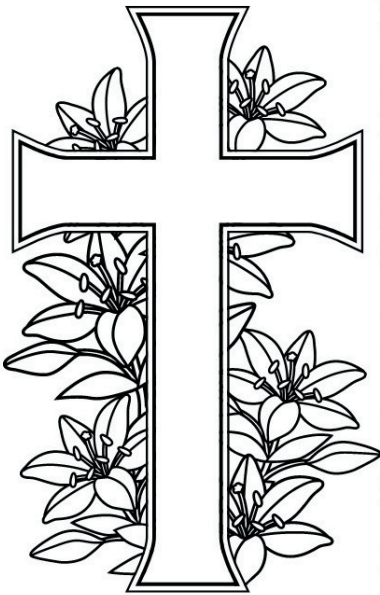


Voyagers have had lots of space to learn, craft and play at our temporary location in the Mall. The Coldest Night of the Year walk was a family affair for many Voyagers.

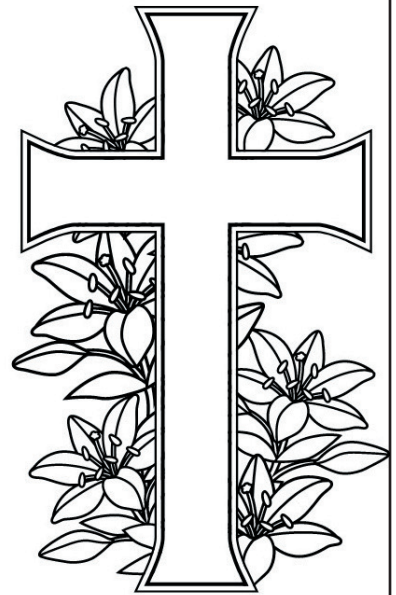
He is Risen!



Easter Search



G F G O O D F R I D A Y Q W S
 W W R Z Q H V A F M V C K Z B
 P Q H I X F G W Q R U L J G W
 W A K O S M J A W Q U A S L G
 V Q L P L E P F R N E M V V J
 B K L M B Y N Q A D U B J R A
 D E E P S C W H C I E K E X E
 H M N Z B U A E L R T N R P A
 H P T B F V N U E M L H U N S
 O T K Q G O D D G K J Z S Q T
 P Y C F E A R D A S Q E A N E
 E T R G J L J G M Y X S L U R
 P O Y Z W A Y G I U B R E F B
 R M X V M V C C L V T R M O R
 A B G Q Q A I O O C E B A K H
 Y Y H M L A R K V H Y N I J O
 D J E S U S X Y E R U T E Z D
 R F F C R O S S E I A U S S V
 R A E X A R A Y J S G O D Z S
 V M B F W V G M Y T D B E E U



Forgiveness

Palm Sunday

Easter

Garden

Lamb

Hope

Good Friday

Jerusalem

Jesus

Cross

Faith

Lent

Empty Tomb

Holy Week

Christ

Risen

Mary

God

Pray

Love

