



# Rockwood Stone News

Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

Visit our website at [www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com](http://www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com)



*"The little church with a big heart"*

**Stone United Church**  
5370 Fourth Line  
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0

## April 2019

**Minister: Rev. Heather Leffler**

[hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com)

519-265-7385

**Secretary: Sharyn Southworth**

[rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com](mailto:rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com)

519-856-4160



*"Live, Love, Laugh"*

**Rockwood United Church**  
119 Harris St.  
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0

Join us for...



Find us on Facebook. Friend "Rockwood Stone" and like our page "Rockwood-Stone United Churches" for updates and reminders about upcoming events.

**Worship on Sundays at Stone, at 9:45 am and at Rockwood, at 11:15 am September to June.**

Check our website for special services.

## Summer Worship Schedule 2019

All services will begin at 10:00 am

Sunday	Church	Worship Leader
June 30	Stone	Lisa Leffler
July 7	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
July 14	Stone	Lisa Leffler
July 21	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
July 28	Stone	Lisa Leffler
August 4	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
August 11	Stone	Finance & Stewardship
August 18	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
August 25	Stone	Lisa Leffler
September 1	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
September 8	Stone	Rev. Heather Leffler



**Rockwood-Stone Band Practices** are held on **Mondays** at **Stone** at 7 pm.

**Choir Practices** are held on **Thursdays**, at **Rockwood**, at 7 pm and at **Stone**, at 8 pm, September through June. If you would like to sing in a choir or play in the band contact our Choir Directors **Barb Eley** [jeanbarbara2880@aol.com](mailto:jeanbarbara2880@aol.com) at **Rockwood** or **Liz Guthrie** [lizguthrie@xplornet.com](mailto:lizguthrie@xplornet.com) at **Stone**.

For the **Stone Bell Choir** practice times, contact **Liz Guthrie** [lizguthrie@xplornet.com](mailto:lizguthrie@xplornet.com). If you are interested in the **Rockwood Chime Choir**, contact **Christine Wenger** [daelincw@gmail.com](mailto:daelincw@gmail.com).



Join us for a combined **communion** service on **Pentecost Sunday, June 9 at 11:15 am** and to celebrate **Rockwood United Church's**

**152<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary.**

Our Guest Preacher will be **Rev. Mary Elliott DM**. Mary is serving at Three Willows United in Guelph and is our Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Heather's Sabbatical.

Following worship, please stay for lunch and fellowship.

May 2 and every other Thursday through June

**For Women:** come to **Tea and Talk**

from 10 am to 12 noon,  
in the sanctuary at **Rockwood!**

Join us for tea (or coffee), a chat,  
friendship and goodies!



May 9 and every other Thursday through June,

**For Men:** you are invited to

**Coffee Connections!**

from 10 am to 12 noon,  
in the sanctuary at **Rockwood!**



Join in the laughter and lively conversation while you  
enjoy sweets and coffee.

May 10 and September 13 ladies are invited to

**Stone UCW**

Bring a lunch at noon. Enjoy tea and dessert.

Watch the bulletin for details or contact Marg Baker  
at [c.mbakker@explornet.ca](mailto:c.mbakker@explornet.ca) or 519-787-0219.

Friday, May 10 join us for

**A Games Night**

beginning at 6 pm, at **Rockwood.**

Bring your favourite pot luck food to share  
and a board game or play one of ours.

Contact Lisa at [lleffler@live.ca](mailto:lleffler@live.ca) or 519-574-8621.

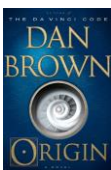
Wednesday, May 15

**Genesis Book Club**

will meet

at 7:30 pm, at **Stone** to discuss

**Origin** by Dan Brown.



Sunday, May 26, at 10:30 am,

at **Camp Brébeuf,**

8434 Brébeuf Path, Rockwood

join us for our combined



**Worship and our Annual Picnic**

Enjoy worship, joyful singing accompanied by our  
Rockwood-Stone Band, fellowship and games!  
Please bring something to share for our potluck lunch as  
well as your own plates, cutlery and lawn chairs.

Coffee, tea and cold drinks will be provided.

Sunday, June 2 to Saturday, June 8

**Week of Guided Prayer**

**What is guided prayer?** An opportunity for anyone  
who would like to grow in your relationship with God.  
For 30 minutes each day you will pray scripture using  
your imagination and then share your experience with a  
companion for 30 minutes at **Rockwood** or **Stone.**

This spiritual practice will be taught on Sunday at  
our **Opening Session** which will tentatively begin at  
**12:45 pm with lunch for participants on Sunday, June 2**  
at **Rockwood.** Our **Closing Session** will be on **Saturday,**  
**June 8 at Stone at 9 am.**

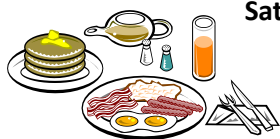
This year's theme is abundant life. Abundant Life  
comes from God and embraces light and  
dark. Our world often portrays light as  
good and darkness as evil. As children of  
Abraham our origin story tells us that  
God drew all that is good out of dark.  
Light and dark are gifts from our Creator  
to nurture us and all creation into  
abundant living.



In Learning to Walk in the Dark, Barbara Brown  
Taylor writes "I have learned things in the dark that I  
could never have learned in the light, things that have  
saved my life over and over again, so that there is really  
only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I  
need light."

Throughout this week, we will pray and explore gift  
and challenge in light and darkness and seek to  
recognize God's dream that all creatures would enjoy  
abundant life.

If you have questions or would be willing to provide  
lunch for our team meetings, please contact **Brian Mack**  
at **519-856-9783** or email [Lisa Leffler](mailto:Lleffler@live.ca) at [lleffler@live.ca](mailto:Lleffler@live.ca).



Saturdays, April 27 and May 25,

**Country Breakfast**

at **Rockwood,**  
from 8 to 11 am

Bring your family, friends and neighbours  
for a delicious breakfast and lively conversation.  
If anyone would like to **help serve, cook, clear tables or**  
**clean the kitchen afterwards,** please contact Marcia at  
**519-856-4968** to help with May's breakfast.

The next breakfast will be **September 28.**

## Letters, Notes and Emails ...

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*The Oxford dictionary defines reverence as a deep respect for someone or something. Catholic priest and Benedictine Monk, John Main says, "Christian community is in essence being held in reverence by others and in turn holding them in reverence." For me, our congregations of Rockwood and Stone are places of deep love and respect. Each Sunday through Lent, as you have responded to the invitation to share out of your spiritual practices, there has been a sense of the holy in our sanctuaries. You have shared your personal stories and those of others with reverence.*

*Preparing for my Sabbatical, I am aware of the deep caring for people within and outside our congregations. Listening to one another and reflecting on our differences respectfully is opening us to new possibilities. What a gift it was recently to have Dr. Rabia Khan, a Muslim woman, and Dr. Michael Grand, an orthodox Jewish man share how their clothing helps them connect with God. It was a privilege to be on the panel and share why our church has chosen to open ourselves to all different kinds of clothing in worship so that all people can feel accepted no matter how they dress. This rich conversation opened new possibilities for dialogue with our interfaith neighbours. Thanks to Karen Richardson and Mary Elliott for giving us this opportunity and their leadership in our Lenten Study.*

*Sharing our practice of discernment with Nancy Wilson of Edge Network, I was grateful to realize that discernment has indeed become our practice. Not only our formal discernment circles but our board, councils and committees are sharing ideas, seeking input of others, and waiting for the direction of the Holy One. For example, we sensed that honouring our First Nations brothers and sisters was more than acknowledging the territory we live on. We explored different ways of connecting, spoke with people within our United Church and First Nations organizations over a couple of years, took part in the blanket exercise in worship last summer and patiently waited. At the blessing of Arthur Churchyard and Matt Setzkorn's farm, the Spirit connected us with Stephen Jackson from Anishnabeg Outreach. From an energetic initial conversation in September, we have entered into a spirit building partnership with their organization. Your donations and fundraising have been a part of renovating their amazing new Family Centre at 236 Woodhaven Road, Kitchener. The socks that you gave at Advent will be added to their cupboard for people in need to help themselves. The washer and dryer they purchased with funds from Rockwood Outreach is used daily. I look forward to you meeting Stephen when he comes to be Stone's Anniversary speaker on Sunday, October 20.*

*Thanks to Bill Allen, our discernment circle on governance is reviewing final drafts of committee terms of reference and position descriptions and will have proposals to bring to the fall Board meeting. At our April Board meeting, we will be considering our Mission Trip policy. Our Affirming Congregations Discernment Circle has been formed including Brian Mack, Liz Guthrie, Lisa Leffler, Brent Stiles and Barb Eley. They will guide us in a time of learning what it means to be affirming over the next three years. At Stone, discernment circles are working on a plan to make the Jeanne Jackson reading room more comfortable and user friendly, and the Council is discerning what outreach might look like, while Barb and Tom Parker, Bill Allen and Paul May begin a Canadian Foodgrains Bank project. I have been grateful to the folk who have been discerning with me about on-line worship in an informal way. We have had wonderful ideas, but the busyness of our congregations has postponed this project. I trust that when we return to these ideas in the fall, the Spirit will offer us new possibilities we couldn't have imagined.*

*Thank you for your love and respect and for your encouragement to rest and find renewal during my Sabbatical. I know the experience of preaching each Sunday will be a blessing for Lisa. I pray that the spring and summer are a gift for you.*

*I will miss you but look forward to returning in September with new energy for the good work God has called us to do together at Rockwood and Stone.*

*Blessings,*



*Jesus often went away to pray and reflect in silence and meditation "on mountain tops and by lakesides."  
Take time for you and God this summer.*

Dear Friends,

When we open our Bible study sessions, we check in with each other by offering a short recollection concerning something that is happening in our lives. Quite often we find ourselves saying that “it was just an ordinary day.”

For Bible study participants, it was just an ordinary day this spring, when

- Grandchildren dropped in to visit and share freshly made cookies
- Two friends went walking in the Rockwood Conservation Park
- Sap buckets were filled and serious boiling took place
- Loads of laundry were done making everything smell fresh and clean
- Farm books and cemetery records were updated
- Loved ones were comforted at a funeral
- A behind the scenes tour of NASA was appreciated
- Time was shared with nieces, nephews, and cousins
- Income tax papers were electronically filed
- Noisy blue jays and squirrels quarrelled at a bird feeder
- Canada geese in the hundreds flew overhead in perfect “V” formation
- Delicious food and laughter were part of informal worship on a Friday night at Faith, Food, Friendship, and Fun

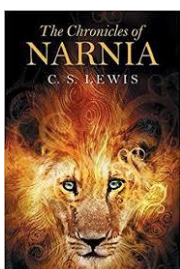
When the stories of our ordinary days are shared each Monday night, we find ourselves drawing closer to each other and to God. Without realizing it, we have been engaging in a spiritual practice that allows us to celebrate and give thanks for the small pleasures associated with daily living.

Upon further reflection, perhaps it is natural for all of us to think that our days are not very noteworthy. As Christians, we tend to go about our tasks in a quiet, selfless manner. We do not seek the limelight. We are satisfied with the realization that it is these unspectacular days that provide unique opportunities to enjoy God’s creation, share hopes and dreams with friends and loved ones, have a sense of accomplishment when a hard task is completed, be comforted or provide comfort, and give or receive love.

It is my hope that periodically this summer, you will be able to find a quiet moment to reflect upon your experiences on “just another ordinary day”. As you do so, may your thoughts and actions be guided by the following scripture: *“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24*

Blessings,  
Brian Mack,

Chairperson of Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge Board



Lisa will be leading a  
***Chronicles of Narnia Study***

for our churches or the wider community. If you are interested in engaging in this thought provoking series by C.S. Lewis, please contact Lisa at [lfeffler@live.ca](mailto:lfeffler@live.ca) so we can set a date and time to begin.



***Garage and Plant Sale***  
on **June 1** at **Stone** starting at **8 am**  
for the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** project.  
Fair or foul weather.

Donations can be dropped off at Stone or Amanda Smit’s 127 Division St Rockwood no later than May 25. (No clothing items please.)

## ***Why I Give***

*Submitted by Peter Guthrie*

One of my favourite Bible stories is about the poor widow who gave only two small coins yet was praised by Jesus for her generosity. In the early 1950’s, my family was poor, living in two rooms with no electricity or running water, yet like the widow, my mother taught us that even if we don’t have a lot, giving is important.

I believe that the desire to help someone less fortunate is a trait that has helped the human race survive. It is part of what makes us human. Giving is in our genes, yet this needs to be nurtured with stories and examples. At Stone Church, we hear Minute for Mission stories about teams of honest experts working all over Canada and the world helping people who really need help. In our church community, there are many who give time, money, food and love. Brent Stiles and Heather Leffler are very good examples, eh?

The stories help me imagine what my giving does, and the examples shown by so many in our church family make me think, “Hey I better get Bill Allen to increase my PAR giving a bit.”



## Committees and Groups ...

### **Rockwood Worship**

*Submitted by Barbara Eley*

The Worship Committee continues to organize greeters/ushers, coffee, scripture readers and media volunteers for each service. We give thanks for all those who volunteer for these tasks.

Liz Guthrie and Barbara Eley (chairs of the Stone and Rockwood Worship Committees) meet on a regular basis with Rev. Leffler to plan special services where lay leadership is required. We give thanks for Rev. Leffler's guidance in these preparations.

Rockwood's and Stone's Worship Committees meet regularly to plan together. Our latest meeting was April 9.

We welcome Brent Stiles back to the committee.

#### Summary of Work

January 6 – Epiphany-combined worship at Rockwood United, John Buttars as guest minister.

January 27 – after some cancellations due to illness and scheduling conflicts, Kids' Church was held, focusing on the story of Jesus' baptism.

February 3 – lay leadership in order to provide Rev. Leffler with administrative leave in order to prepare the annual report.

February 10 – Kids' Church was held and we learned about the story of the Good Samaritan.

February 24 – Stone's annual meeting, lay leadership at Rockwood for a service based on the Song of Faith.

March 1 – World Day of Prayer service was held Friday afternoon at Rockwood, with about 25 people in attendance. Readers from the four churches in Rockwood participated, and Rev. Leffler led the service. \$313 was raised for the Canadian Inter-church Council of Canada. The focus country this year was Slovenia.

March 3 – Rockwood Annual Meeting – service was based on the World Day of Prayer service for 2019.

March 31 – Kids' Church was moved once again due to March Break. The story for this session was "The Great Banquet." The choir sang the anthem "Jesus Knows".

April 7 – the Rockwood /Stone Band performed Handel and Purcell at both churches for the last Sunday before Palm Sunday

#### Band and Choir

The choir meets every Thursday from 7 to 8 pm at Rockwood, and continues to provide musical leadership every Sunday, and to perform special music each Sunday. Special music takes many forms, such as duets, solos, quartets, instrumental music and choir anthems. We give thanks to all who bless us with their gifts of musical talent.

The band meets every Monday from 7 to 8 pm at Stone, and provides music on a regular basis, such as at the picnic, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Carol Sing.

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### **Stone Worship**

*Submitted by Liz Guthrie*

March 3 – Worship led the World Day of Prayer service.

Thank you to Bill Allen, Brian Mack, Randy Dewey and Karen Richardson.

March 10 – Communion hosted by Christian Education.

The season of Lent began. During Lent there was a different spiritual practice for each week. This first week's was: Identify a person with whom you share your questions or doubts and reflect on the gift of sharing with this person.

March 17 – Lenten practice: Think of a book, movie, story or play that has shaped your life and deepened your relationship with God.

Baptism of Penelope Grace Peart, daughter of Jeff and Nicole (Paquette), sister to Jack and Blake. Worship presented Penelope with a book.

March 24 – Lenten service

March 31 – Lenten service. Coffee Hour hosted by Worship.

April 7 – Lenten service

April 14 – Palm Sunday. Communion hosted by Worship. Choirs from Rockwood, Stone and Speedside will meet at Barrie Hill United Church for lunch at 12:30 pm. Good Friday anthem rehearsal begins at 1 pm.

April 19 – Good Friday service at Barrie Hill at 10 am.

April 21 – Easter service

April 28 – Combined service at Rockwood. Heather Leffler's last Sunday prior to her Sabbatical. We wish Heather a time of relaxation and rejuvenation.

Looking Ahead ...

May 5, 2019 – Welcome Lisa Leffler to the pulpit as she covers Heather Leffler's Sabbatical.

June 23, 2019 – Barbecue hosted by Worship.

## **Stone Christian Education**

*Submitted by Lisa Leffler*

In March, Christian Education served Communion. Thank you to our youth who helped set up and serve.

Our young people led Sunday School on the Sunday of Penelope Peart's baptism.

Starting in May, Lisa will be leading a **Chronicles of Narnia** study open to anyone from both churches or the wider community, as there will be no Bible Study while Rev. Heather is on sabbatical. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lisa at [lleffler@live.ca](mailto:lleffler@live.ca). The date and time will be set with the participants.

There will be a garage sale and plant sale at Stone on June 1, starting at 8 am, organized by Amanda Smits. Fair or foul weather. Donations can be dropped off at the church or Amanda's house – 127 Division St Rockwood no later than May 25. (No clothing items please.) Proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank project.

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## **Rockwood Pastoral Care**

*Submitted by Ellen Thomson*

Our committee met April 4 with Rev. Heather to discuss several items of interest.

- Photo Directory: We will be participating with Stone in preparing a new directory for our pastoral charge. Dates to be considered are August 13 and 14; October 21 to 24 inclusive, with sign up in June.
- Broadview Subscription List, (formerly, The Observer), was reviewed. Each subscription is \$25.00.
- Cards: Ione Cox will continue to send out cards. She also volunteered to send "thinking of you" cards. Two lists were created. People who rarely worship with us will receive a card in June inviting them to Anniversary. Those members who live alone or are not able to attend for health or other reasons will receive cards every other month.
- Visiting will continue as required. Rev. Leffler tries to visit our shut ins twice per year. If you know of anyone who requires a visit or telephone let one of the committee know. While Heather is on Sabbatical Mary Elliot will be available for serious situations.
- Name Tags will be made for everyone and we will be encouraged to wear it every Sunday.
- We are considering another series, focusing on death and dying. Watch for plans.

At the Rockwood Council meeting, we made a motion to recognize the transfer of Jim and Susan Anderson to Siloam United Church, London, Ontario.

## **Stone Pastoral Care**

*Submitted by John Leffler*

The chairperson of Pastoral Care participated in the baptism of Penelope Grace Peart, daughter of Jeff and Nicole, by laying on of hands.

Patty Lancaster continues to send out cards and will arrange visits while Heather is on Sabbatical.

Marg Baker is arranging greeters.

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## **Rockwood Outreach**

*Submitted by Marcia Haworth*

We continue to provide support to three local agencies: East Wellington Food Bank, Rural Women's Support Program and Anishnabeg Outreach. To this end, we have already catered a baby shower and held an after-worship lunch. Our Lenten quiz is well underway. The Food Bank has asked for our help recently and we have helped to fill their freezer, and purchased fresh fruit.

A group representing both Rockwood and Stone recently visited Anishnabeg Outreach, where they were very warmly and traditionally welcomed. They toured the newly renovated and very beautiful outreach hub that incorporates so many Indigenous symbols, customs and original artwork. Not to mention appearing on CKCO news and being photographed with the fabulous washer and dryer that AO purchased with our donation last year. At this time both Stone and Rockwood delivered the donations for our Advent "Sock Sunday" and on behalf of RUC congregation donated a cheque for \$750.

Outreach is planning the following events:

On Easter Sunday instead of a traditional food drive, we hope to concentrate on the items the Food bank needs the most which are toilet paper and deodorant. There will also be the opportunity for people to make cash donations if they wish.

On April 29 our friendly competitors from Stone will be joining us for the Food Fight, after morning worship. Stone plans to support Anishnabeg Outreach and Rockwood will again support our three local agencies.

We will plan another lunch in the early fall. On 18 November we will hold a reimagined Silent Auction.

Our Mission and Service donations to the end of March were a little behind with our target when annualized but traditionally we tend to catch up towards the end of the year.

## **Rockwood Property & Finance**

*Submitted by Scott Jamieson*

- Furnaces have now been installed in both the House of Joy and Rockwood kitchen. Photographs have been taken of the newest furnace to be sent to the United Church of Canada who approved our grant application.
- Narthex repointing is completed, looks great.
- Rogers crew is coming again on Friday May 10th to help us in our many projects and we have lots of work for them to do that will keep them busy for a full day – we'll try and rent a chipper to clean up the brush at the back of the Church, as well drywall work, painting, lawn work etc.
- Our congregation will be invited to give Gifts of Gratitude from Easter to Pentecost. 50% of the funds raised will be used to support the general fund and 50% will be used for building projects.

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## **Stone Property & Finance**

*Submitted by Jack Ward*

- Windows have been ordered and will be installed when weather cooperates. The quotation for the windows was for \$21,680.74 including HST. We have received a grant from the United Church for two thirds of the cost before HST and will recover 70% of the HST from the government. After these adjustments, Stone's cost for the windows will be \$7,143.74.
- Water samples in January and April were okay.
- Maple Syrup fundraiser was late starting this year. Thanks to everyone who helps in taking orders, buying, picking up and delivering syrup.
- Will plan a yard cleanup in the spring.
- At this time of year, the Church is usually running an operational deficit since our major fundraising activities have not occurred yet. To the end of March, Revenue less expenses is running at a negative of \$8,882. This compares to a similar deficit in 2018 of \$8,528. Contributions to Church general operations is \$13,271, similar to last year and M&S donations at \$2,397, again similar to 2018. Over the past 12 months, we have signed up four more families as PAR contributors for a total of 19 families now registered on PAR. This has contributed to a more even cash flow throughout the year.
- Stone United Church is currently in excellent financial shape with a current account of \$33,578 and the Oakes Fund investment of \$77,987.

## **Finance & Stewardship**

*Submitted by Heather Leffler*

The committee met April 2.

Bill Allen and Amanda Hunter were thanked for the letters they wrote to accompany income tax receipts.

It was noted that to comply with Canada Revenue our treasurers will need to issue T4A's for anyone who receives \$500 or more from our congregations or the pastoral charge.

Heather Leffler thanked Bill Allen, Amanda Hunter and Roy Steinberg for assisting with the preparing the statistics for the United Church. It was noted that the format of the financial statements Bill used in the Annual Report was very helpful in completing this task.

Committee members were encouraged to write thank you notes to members of our congregations. We continue to seek ways to Invite, Inspire and Thank our members for their support.

Our committee will lead worship on August 11 when Heather is on Sabbatical.

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## **Rockwood Trustees**

*Submitted by Rosslyn Bentley*

The Trustees met April 11. We welcomed Christine Wenger to our committee.

Reviewing the insurance on the House and Church, we have a number of questions about our coverage. Christine will follow up with our current broker and Hub.

Darryl Nichol and Frances Jamieson are cosigners on our investment. Fierra's retail accounts were sold. Our investment is now with Canoe Financial. The \$5000 we borrowed from the investment in 2018 was repaid. The investment as of March 8, 2019 is valued at \$21,797.29.

We reviewed the terms of our lease with East Wellington Community Services. Their monthly lease payment is \$1391.50 for 2019. We also reviewed our mortgage held by Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council. The current balance is \$157,405.95. The lease and mortgage both end November 27, 2020.

*The place God calls you  
is the place where your deep gladness  
and the world's hunger meet.*

*- Frederick Buechner*

## **Stone U.C.W.**

*Submitted by Edie Ward*

- **Please note the change in dates of meetings – second Friday of April 12, May 10 and September 13.**
- Ladies meet in the church at noon with their bagged lunches. Tea and desserts are served. Our December meeting was a potluck at the home of Frances Jamieson.
- At our April 12 meeting Liz Guthrie spoke on her winter TOOLS trip.
- Due to Food Fight April 28 in Rockwood Church, we are planning our Bakeless Bake Sale in the fall.
- UCW will provide lunch for funerals, etc. of sandwiches, sweets, pickles, vegetables, fruit, tea, coffee and juice. Families are asked to make a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person for the number requested.

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## **Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

*Submitted by Heather Leffler*

Heather Leffler is serving on the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Commission which has met monthly since July 2018. Their role has been to set up the governance structure and hire staff, while carrying out the responsibilities of the regional council until the Annual Meeting in Port Elgin on May 24 to 26. Heather is also serving on the planning team for that meeting until the end of April.

Liz Guthrie and Sarah Leffler will represent us on the Regional Council. They will serve on a commission or in another role as well as attending the Annual Meeting. Communities of faith were sent a reminder that it is our responsibility to help fund the cost of sending members to the meetings of Regional Council.

The Commission set out a balanced budget covering expenses with the grants from Mission and Service and the assessment collected by the denomination. The salaries of all Executive Ministers including **Cheryl Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa** and Executive Assistants including **Sue Duliban** are covered from the assessment available to regions. The remaining balance is divided equally among regions. The grant amounts are:

\$289,000 – from Mission and Service which will be used \$157,000 for the region's share of salaries for its mission and ministry staff

**Kathy Douglas** -- Minister, Faith Formation;

**Kim Uyede-Kai** -- Minister, Right Relations and Indigenous Justice;

**Diane Matheson-Jimenez** – Minister, Social Justice;

**Kevin Steeper** – Minister, Pastoral Support.

\$132,000 was distributed to former recipients of Mission Support Grant (with the exception of Indigenous ministries which are being funded through the National Indigenous Circle); and former Presbytery and Conference grants for this year

\$325,000 – from Assessment Funds support the decision-making structure of the region such as working in partnership with communities of faith concerning:

- changes in their life cycle (creating, re-aligning, amalgamating, disbanding),
- the declaration of vacancies and forming and ending of pastoral relationships,
- the managing of real property (land and buildings) and personal property (major assets and renovations).
- This is also the budget that fulfills the obligations of the region.

It covers staff who resource decision-making

**Diane Blanchard** -- Minister, Pastoral Relations;

**John Neff** -- Minister, Congregational Support and Mission;

**Ruthanna Mack** – Hospitality Mission; **Pretima**

**Kukadia-Kinting** – Communications and Records

- the meeting of the region and the meetings of its decision-making bodies;
- the cost of operating the region: office space, IT, telephone, website, accounting, etc.;
- archives

Sharing of staff and office space with Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls Regions, allowed us to have more staff and still cover expenses within budget.

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## *Support **Anishnabeg Outreach***

*and help indigenous youth!*

*AO Home provides homes and businesses in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph, Stratford & surrounding areas with the best quality cleaning services for Window cleaning; Cleaning Siding on homes & businesses; Cleaning Eavestroughs; Pressure washing and repairing window screens.*

*Their goal is to take indigenous youth and offer them leadership development and enable them to obtain an education that ensures success in whatever path they choose. Profits from AO Home Services support*

**Anishnabeg Outreach.**

Call 1-866-888-8808 | Email [info@aohome.ca](mailto:info@aohome.ca) |

[www.aohome.ca](http://www.aohome.ca) for a quote.

