



# News from the Pews Durham Presbyterian Church

Edition 03-24

## Christmas Bazaar

The annual Christmas Bazaar is set for Saturday, November 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be baked goodies, candy, treats, crafts, knitting, sewing and lots more. A luncheon for purchase will be served.


## Christmas Music Night

The Music and Worship Committee is presenting a Christmas Music Night on Thursday, December 12 at 7 p.m. This is always an enjoyable evening with lots of talent. Admission is a free will offering with funds raised going to the West Grey Youth Centre. Refreshments will be served following the performances.

## Christmas Eve Service

One of the most enjoyable evenings of the year is our Christmas Eve Service. This year is it on Tuesday, December 24. The service begins at 7 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.


## Truth Seekers make donation



The children of Truth Seekers made the decision to donate their weekly donations to the Durham-West Grey Food Bank. Marlene and Charlie Lough, members of our church, who serve on the Food Bank visited the children to explain to them the work and needs of this organization. Following this the children presented the Loughs with their donation of \$65.00.

For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son

John 3:16



## Other Christmas Events

**Advent** begins on December 1. We will celebrate the beginning of this special season with the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of our regular church service at 10:30 a.m.

**The Annual Tree Lighting** for our community will be at the Heritage Walkway Bridge on Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m.

**The Durham Santa Claus Parade** will take place on Saturday, December 7 at 12:30 p.m.

**The ladies of the church** are all invited to a Christmas luncheon. The meal is turkey with all the dressing. The cost is \$27 per person. Tickets can be purchased from Eleanor Marshall at 519-369-3787.

**The Next Gen Service for December** will be at seven on the evening Of December 15.

**The children and young people** of our church will be presenting their Christmas pageant as part of the regular service on Sunday, December 22. This will be followed by a potluck meal in the hall.

**Community Christmas Dinner** will be on Christmas Day at the Durham and District Community Centre. The doors will open at 1 p.m. with the meal served at 3 p.m. There will be entertainment and carolling. This is a free meal. Don't be alone for Christmas - come out for a fun day with others.



### Saying Good Bye

It was a bittersweet Sunday in October when we had to say good bye to Carl Abrahamson as he moved on to a new home provider outside of our community. Carl had lived with Dawn Erison full time since 2021 and, for seven years previous to this, he visited when Dawn served as his respite worker. We will certainly miss Carl in the congregation and as a member of our music and worship team.

### Welcoming a little one to our family

John and Chanelle Nixon were blessed on August 30 by their first child, Archer Kent. He is a first grandchild to Rob and Susan Nixon. It was a joy to watch as Archer was baptized on November 3.



### Wedding blessings

Rev. Will (left) had the pleasure of officiating at the wedding of Millie and Wilf Caughill on September 14. The wedding took place in Barrie.

## Happy Anniversary!

Wayne and Wilma Sharpe celebrated their 60th Anniversary in August. The couple now reside in Hanover.



## The Building of the Church

Recently, I heard someone being upset with the town council about not making their facilities available to community projects. I can understand this as a town council is supposed to serve the community, right? Yes, the criticism might be justified on the grounds that purpose for public facilities are not realized. I'm sure there are reasons for a council's stance - reasons that might be relevant or not.

It is ironic that Christians would criticize a town council for not making buildings available for the community to use and yet the use of church buildings remain exclusive to religious activities. Just think about this for a moment - the town of Durham has at least five church buildings that are mainly unused for most of a typical week while there are initiatives in our community that are struggling to find spaces to utilize.

Some would say that a church sanctuary is a holy space that should not be violated by worldly activities. Kind of an Old Testament understanding of the temple. Yet, in the early New Testament times of the church, the spaces where Christians gathered were homes and strangers were welcomed with open arms.

We should remind ourselves that what we have in a church building is a gift from God. It is God's building, given by God to us with the purpose determined by God. It is not just for the benefit of the members and the congregation. We can do good in being open to opportunities where we could be part of God's work in our community, through being more open and welcoming. Can we really afford not to be part of the work God is doing in our community?



Of course we have the responsibility of taking care and maintaining the gift that God has provided, but we must not allow ourselves to become selfish and exclusive when it comes to our church building. What makes a church building holy is the way it is making the coming of God's kingdom a reality.

## Rev Dave's Sermon

On September 22, Rev Dave Nicholson led the service at DPC. He said that this would be the last sermon he would deliver in a long career as a minister. Rev. Dave has a long history with DPC, having served here as minister in a very challenging time in the history of DPC. His sermon was on Ecclesiastes 3 with the theme: "Accepting the Seasons of Life." DPC is honoured to be blessed with the presence of Rev Dave in our midst.



## Our Departed



**Elinor MacEachern** passed away November 4, 2024. A wife, mother, grandmother and great grandma, she leaves behind her husband Murray and the extended family to mourn her loss.



**Jean Wells** died on October 26, 2024. A mother, grandmother, and great grandma, Jean was predeceased by husband, Norm. She was the sister of Clara McFadden.



**Nelly (Chinelo) Ezeogu** passed away suddenly on September 3, 2024. Wife of Lyon and mother to Eva, Ariel and Jesse, she leaves behind family and friends here in Canada and Nigeria.



**Glen (Punch) Marshall** died on July 29, 2024. A husband, father, grandfather and great grandpa. Glen leaves behind wife Marie, seven children and many extended family members.



**Murray MacDonald**, died on July 24, 2024. He was predeceased by wife Shirley. He was a father, grandfather and great grandpa.



# DURHAM GOOD FOOD BOX SCHEDULE 2024/25



**\$22 PER BOX**

ORDER DUE BY **LAST THURSDAY** OF THE MONTH (\$22/BOX IN AN ENVELOPE WITH NAME AND PHONE NUMBER ON IT) DROP OFF AT GODFATHERS PIZZA 137 GARAFRAXA ST. S.

PICK UP **FIRST THURSDAY** OF THE MONTH 5:30-6:30PM AT DURHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 205 LAMBTON ST. E

## **2025 SCHEDULE**

### **ORDER DUE:**

NOVEMBER 28  
DECEMBER 26  
JANUARY 30  
FEBRUARY 27  
MARCH 27  
APRIL 24  
MAY 29  
JUNE 26  
JULY 31  
AUGUST 28  
SEPTEMBER 25  
OCTOBER 30  
NOVEMBER 27

### **PICK-UP DAY:**

DECEMBER 5  
JANUARY 2  
FEBRUARY 6  
MARCH 6  
APRIL 3  
MAY 1  
JUNE 5  
JULY 3  
AUGUST 7  
SEPTEMBER 4  
OCTOBER 2  
NOVEMBER 6  
DECEMBER 4

### **GOOD FOOD BOX**

**is available for everyone,  
purchase as many as you like!**

- It's a collective buying program provides a grocery bin of fresh seasonal produce at a low price.
- Encourages healthier eating and promotes fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Produce is purchased in bulk at wholesale prices and the savings are passed on to participants

### **For more information**

**Call Durham Presbyterian**

**(519) 369-3349**

**OR**

**Call Robin at**

**United Way Bruce Grey**

**519-385-5177**

**food@unitedwaybg.com**



**United Way  
Bruce Grey**



# Grey Bruce Good Food Box



\$22/box

- This program is open to everyone, you can order as many as you like.
- Program is not based on income qualifications.
- Co-operative buying program with savings passed on to participants.
- Value of the monthly box at a grocery store is on average double the cost at

**\$44!**

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