

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 1 of 11

SIGNS OF THE EMERGING CHURCH

New Learnings. Gratitude. Humility. Love.

As we begin to learn to live with the uncertainty of when we will gather again as families and communities of faith to celebrate, we are learning that **connecting is more important than gathering** – as important as that is and will always be. But for now, we are connecting in new ways – to worship, to do business, to celebrate. Inside this issue, amidst the pain and disappointments of the real-life impact of COVID19 on our communities, you will also find small but significant signs of the emerging church:

- **The story Jonah** to our present experience
- the power of **prayer**
- **new words** to reflect home worship
- the Spirit at work in the **legacy fund**
- Five Oaks housing **Migrant Workers**
- gratitude for the commitment of staff and volunteers keeping **Operation Sharing** viable and safe
- receiving expressions of gratitude both from the **family in Ethiopia** to whom we've given the gift of hope for a new life and from **a student whom we supported in her Diaconal Ministry training**
- Digging Deeper to learn about **Q – the Hidden Gospel** from Rev Stan Stanhope; and an alternative vision of the world called **Eco-commoning** (a down to earth way of living) in which we appreciate the importance of language.
- **See page 6 for details of worship services available in Oxford.**



FOOD FOR THE SOUL Signs of the Times

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, in looking for a Biblical image that might describe the time in which we find ourselves, turns to the folk tale of Jonah. He says that **it feels like we are in the belly of a whale.**

It does feel like we have been swallowed by this whale of a virus, and like Jonah are wondering when we might be delivered to firmer ground. **It was a time for new learning.** Jonah learned that there was a **high cost attached to running from the vision that God had for the world** and that occasionally one needs a little softening up.

If that trapped feeling created by Covid-19 wasn't enough, **another wave of grief that began in Portapique, Nova Scotia** swept across the nation and into our hearts. **With the combined grief came new learning.** We learned about wet markets and the deadly consequences of pushing their boundaries. We learned about flattening the curve, about PPE and not having enough. We learned about test, track, trace and treat. We learned that early warnings save lives. We learned of the flaws in Long Term Care. **What we did not learn and now may never, is what there is in, or missing from, a human being that would motivate such senseless carnage as happened in Nova Scotia.**

We see the signs that emerge when words fail; broken hearts; hearts for Heidi; heart patterns from lit windows on empty office buildings. We see flowers and flags on makeshift memorials. We are moved by the rich heritage of Nova Scotian music; all signs of deep sadness and heart felt love.

Just when we were needing a hopeful sign from a world beyond Covid-19,

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

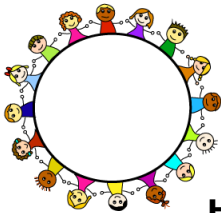
Page 2 of 11

one came. A grand nephew was born!

Two weeks later came the baby shower online gift registry. There were no toys, no clothes, just a list of book titles, bamboo baby bowls and boxes of "green" diaper detergent. We chose the bowls and the detergent. **Our niece and nephew are determined to do all they can to see that if baby Theo needs to face another world crisis, it won't be an environmental one.** If that means searching for biodegradable bowls and washing diapers, then so be it. **That too, hopefully, is a sign of the times. If it is, the future is in good hands. GW**

PRAYER CHAIN

Contact Olga McKellar for on going prayer concerns. o.mckellar@sympatico.ca



How frustrating it is for all those waiting for formal ordination or commissioning or designation this spring.

How awkward to begin on a charge when services are only online, when meeting one's congregation is on the phone, etc.



How blessed Christina Crawford was that Forest UC had a graduation parade using choir gown, homemade mock diploma and cap.

Across the Church there are many others for whom our prayers are also important. Think, even, of financial boards trying to keep the budget balanced when few people have even met their new minister in person, when that new person needs to give grief support without close physical contact, etc. It boggles the mind!

Then there are **the funerals**, Virus or not, which can not be done in the 'normal' face-to-face fashion. **All our ministry personnel need our prayers that they may have the wisdom, the empathy to comfort and encourage their people as they grieve** and to inform the **whole community of faith about losses that have occurred.**

We need to continue to **pray for congregations who are seeking new leadership of all kinds**, that they will be guided to the person best able to provide what is needed for a time like this.

Thank God for our Young people and for Camp Tanner and Bimini Camp. Both Camps are trying to plan ahead knowing that this summer they will probably not be running the usual programs. This affects both staff and potential campers. It also affects groups like congregations, UCW's, Men's Groups-many who give money to our camps regularly. **Those who run the camps know that there are ongoing costs to maintain the property even when regular programs are not running.** How do they get the facts out to those who would want to help?

Similarly, **Five Oaks** is not able to run its programs but still has expenses to meet.

We can all be thankful for the leadership of our Moderator and for all those on the national and regional staff. They are doing Trojan service as they try to install and develop a new structure in a Pandemic Year. The coincidence of doing both at once makes for a load only God can carry. **All of us need to pray without ceasing and support one another.**

We are ALL in this TOGETHER.

Olga McKellar

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 3 of 11

Congregations seeking Ministerial Leadership:

Avondale UC (Tillsonburg) working with Otterville UC; Hickson UC, Norwich UC, Oxford Centre-Curries Pastoral Charge, Sweaburg - West Oxford Pastoral Charge, Foldens UC, Burgessville UC.

Dundas Street United, Woodstock has called Rev. Sherpherd Munikwa, effective July 1, 2020.

Innerkip UC - seeking short-term Ministerial Leadership while Rev Karen Low is on Medical Leave.

Richwood UC - Rev Mary Elford has given notice for June 28, 2020.

CHANGES IN OXFORD:

Congregation of **Curries UC** is in the process of closing and selling their building.

PRAYER CYCLES

1. Former Oxford Presbytery (<https://tinyurl.com/Oxford-prayer-March-11-2020>).
- United Church of Canada - Antler River Watershed (<https://www.prayercycles.ca/antler-river-watershed26c697c9>)



OXFORD UCW
"With Corvid 19 concerns Oxford County UCW will be cancelling all events till the end of June.

Be safe and stay home. God Bless."

Lorna Gardner, President-Elect of Oxford UCW, from Hebron UC

CAMP TANNER UPDATE

Important Update from Camp Tanner (as of May 9, 2020):

All 2020 Summer Camps (including May Weekend) Are Cancelled. Full refunds will be issued by May 31st. Parents of registered campers should check their email for details. Shoot us an email (camptannercoordinator@outlook.com) or a direct message on Facebook if you have any questions or concerns. Stay safe!

COMINGS AND GOINGS AROUND OXFORD...

OXFORD UNITED REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP (OURS)

ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, June 7, 2020
St. David's United Church @ 1:30 p.m.



WE NEED YOUR HELP to continue in this area of God's work, to free refugees from war and oppression.

Meetings are few but rewards are great!

If still social distancing in June, please contact Carol Ewing (519 537-7462) pcewing@sympatico.ca to attend this meeting. An invitation via ZOOM will be extended to you.

Carol Ewing - Chair of OURS

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 4 of 11

'GATHERING' for Worship - REWRITING THE HYMNS

These days of pandemic have many of us stretched thin in various ways. For some, there are **steep learning curves with technology and working from home**. For others, the sudden act of abandoning all social gatherings has hit us hard. For me, putting together online worship has been both blessing and challenge. **One of the small challenges is that our music director is not able to record hymns for us, so we access music in the public domain**. And while the melodies are good and familiar (which is great if you are singing alone at home!), the lyrics don't always feel right. Inspired by the work of another musician, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, **I set out to rewrite the lyrics to "God is Here"**, as "Here are symbols to remind us of the need of grace; here are table, font and pulpit" really don't fit our current reality of worship.

It seems a small thing, perhaps, in light of some of the bigger contributions that so many others are making, **but I hope and pray that a time of worship does bring comfort, peace and hope to those who choose to tune in**.

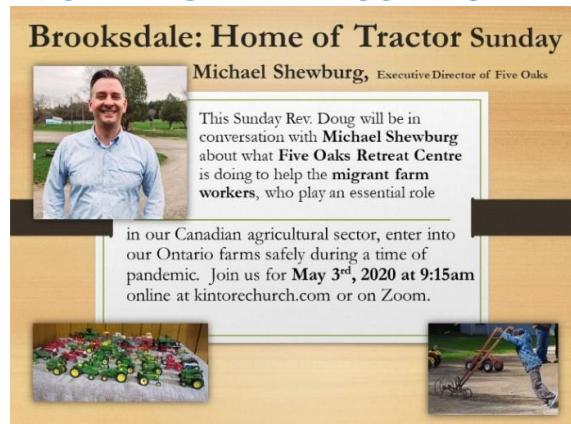
VU 389 God is Here (with revised verses 2 and 3 by Lori Minler, Mt Elgin U.C., April 26, 2020)

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

2. Here we gather hearts in worship though we can't meet face to face. There's no table, font or pulpit And yet, there is still grace. As we pray and seek and listen from the safety of our home, may we know that you are with us we don't ever go alone.

3. May our hearts be lit on fire with the wonder of your word. May it fuse our lives with meaning, may our souls be deeply stirred. We have all we need within us; help us know that to be true, as we seek to be a witness in all we say and all we do. *Lori Minler*

FIVE OAKS – Brooksdale UC WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY



Brooksdale: Home of Tractor Sunday

Michael Shewburg, Executive Director of Five Oaks

This Sunday Rev. Doug will be in conversation with Michael Shewburg about what Five Oaks Retreat Centre is doing to help the migrant farm workers, who play an essential role

in our Canadian agricultural sector, enter into our Ontario farms safely during a time of pandemic. Join us for **May 3rd, 2020 at 9:15am** online at kintorechurch.com or on Zoom.

On May 3, rural Life Sunday in Brooksdale UC featured an interview with Michael Shewburg, Executive Director of Five Oaks. Five Oaks is hosting migrant workers so they can enter Canada safely. Watch it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/150005878421607/videos/2115861415226269/>

Further @CBC KW featured Five Oaks for its work supporting our Ontario farms and food security by providing temporary shelter for migrant workers. Click here to hear it:

<http://sqz.co/3AtasBT>

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020 Page 5 of 11

OXFORD¹ LEGACY FUND

In November 2018, Oxford Presbytery created a Legacy Fund with half of the financial assets remaining as of the closing of presbyteries on Dec. 31, 2018. After all financial obligations were met, **this Fund received approximately \$55,000, held now in trust by Antler River Watershed Regional Council (ARWRC).**

Purpose of Fund

1. to promote the work of clusters and networks that include Oxford United Church communities of faith.
2. to provide financial support to candidates for ministry who are connected to Oxford United Church communities of faith.

Administration of Fund

That up to one-half of the original fund be allocated for financial support for Candidates for Ministry who are currently connected to Oxford.

That at least one-half of the original fund be allocated for the work of clusters/networks linked with Oxford.

That ARWRC appoint a Committee comprised of 4 people from Oxford - ideally 2 ministry personnel and 2 lay reps to the ARWRC and ideally representing both north of 401 and south of 401.

That this Committee's work would be in effect from Jan. 2019 to Dec. 2021 with an option in 2021 to request that ARWRC extend the mandate of the committee by one year to Dec. 2022. Any monies remaining at the end of the mandate of the Committee are to be turned over to the Regional Council as unrestricted funds.

Guidelines for Applications to the Fund

1. Clusters/Networks
 - That grants be available to clusters/networks for proposals that would further the faithful work of

clusters or networks that would include as part of their makeup Oxford communities of faith with a further requirement that these clusters/networks would include a minimum of 3 pastoral charges.

2. Financial Support for Candidates for Ministry

- That up to \$4000 per calendar year be available to each full-time student enrolled in a ministry pathway. That a pro-rated amount be available each calendar year for part-time students enrolled in a ministry pathway.

What Has Happened to Date

A committee of four (Lori Minler, Lloyd Bennett, Celia Orth and Lynne Dunlop) was appointed by ARWRC in November 2019.

This committee approved funding of \$4,000 to Christina Crawford and \$2,000 to Nancy Vandenberghe (pro-rated for 1 semester) for 2019 studies as candidates for ministry.

The committee has established guidelines for applications for the work of Clusters/Networks.

- To support the publication of CONNECTIONS – news and views of Oxford County United Churches, the monthly newsletter produced by Marg Murray and Glen Wright - e.g. online site licensing.
- To support the Friends of Oxford gatherings - e.g. guest speakers' expenses
- To support projects/special events of Clusters/Networks (a minimum of 3 pastoral charges).

As the Committee would like to be as fluid as possible in offering funding, they will accept requests at any time (no set deadlines) for funding of up to \$1,000 for

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 6 of 11

any one request with a total maximum funding per year of \$10,000 for these requests.

Please submit requests - outlining the plans, costs etc. - to Lynne Dunlop lynndunl@execulink.com

¹ Oxford or Oxford County is understood to include the boundaries of the former Oxford Presbytery 2018

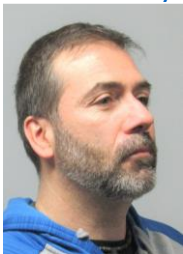
Lynne Dunlop, Chair of Legacy Fund



<https://www.operationsharing.ca/>

Masks, hands sanitizing, and social distancing are **even more difficult for all participants** (patrons, staff, volunteers) of Operation Sharing during this pandemic. We are deeply appreciative of the commitment shown by all as Operation Sharing is **HELPING TO WEATHER THE PANDEMIC STORM**. Read about how they are keeping all their programs going in their June newsletter found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/Helping-in-Unity-June-2020>



Daryl Watson, Inn Co-ordinator says up to 14 people stay at the Inn each night. **"We thank those who have donated.** It's really made a difference," Watson said.

You can forward Financial donations for Operation Sharing to Treasurer of Operation Sharing, P.O. Box 20081, Woodstock, Ontario, N4S 8X8.

AVAILABLE IN OXFORD

- **Services**
- **Dundas St. UC**
<https://www.facebook.com/dsuc285/>
- **Kintore/Brooksdale UC Facebook live feed at 9:15 am:**
<https://www.facebook.com/morethanSundaymorning/> or www.kintorechurch.com
- **Mt Elgin UC website:**
<https://www.facebook.com/MtElginUnited>
- **Peace UC, Plattsville at 10:am**
<https://www.peaceunited.ca/>
- **Trinity United, Ingersoll**
<https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-United-Church-221257104611009/>
- **Westminster UC, Thamesford 10:30 am**
<https://makingconnexions.com/live/>

Services (message and/or video available by email request.

- **College Ave UC** pastorlloyd@collegeave.ca
- **Hebron UC** - rsstock@execulink.com
- **St. Paul's UC, Tillsonburg**
stpaulsunited@execulink.com
- **St. David's UC, Woodstock**
stdavidswoodstock@gmail.com,

Tribute to frontline and essential workers

ALONE TOGETHER

Video of London, Ontario
"It's easy to fear the unknown, but the miracle of humanity is its ability to come together in times of need.
JJ Sereday, New York City filmmaker
Find both the CTV story and his video here.

<https://tinyurl.com/CTV-Alone-Together>

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 7 of 11

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!

It is with gratitude that I share with you my success in completing the **Centre for Christian Studies (CCS) Diaconal Ministry program**, required for my **commissioning into ordered ministry**, which will take place the next time the Region is able to meet and hold the service of celebration.

I am a member of Dundas Street United Church, currently serving at Forest United Church in Forest. When I entered the Diaconal Ministry program at the Centre for Christian Studies (CCS), I was living out my passion for spiritual care and teaching by offering treatments and classes in natural healing, through my business, Alternative Wellness, and I had become certified as a Spiritual Director through the Ontario Jubilee Program to enhance and expand that work. At that time, I was living out my gifts volunteering at Sakura house in Woodstock, Ontario, offering spiritual care and hands on healing to the patients in hospice. My passion for social justice work was fulfilled while employed as a support worker at **Domestic Abuse Services Oxford**, and I had previously worked with impoverished families at **Operation Sharing** in Woodstock, through their award-winning program, Extended Families Project. **I entered Ministry because I wanted to integrate those passions and offer service through the United Church.**

My interest in church ministry began a few years before entering the CCS program, working in family and youth ministry at St. David's United Church in Woodstock. This followed years of volunteer work in **Christian Education** at my home congregation of Dundas Street United Church.

When I first started at CCS, it was like coming home. The style of learning, values, and ethos of CCS was similar to my own and the school offered a supportive

and challenging environment for me to explore my growing sense of call. During the program, I completed a year of field placement working with the **Oxford Coalition for Social Justice**, and I ministered as a student at **Newark and Otterville United Churches**. Following the CCS program, I plan to complete my education at St. Stephen's College in Alberta by obtaining a BTS in Diaconal Ministry.



I am thankful for all of the support that I received from Oxford County; including those who participated in my discernment process (twice); the former **Education and Students Committee of Oxford Presbytery**, who supported me during most of my education; **Olga McKellar** who served as my learning facilitator for 3 years of field placement; **Rev. Jane VanPatter** for her leadership at St. David's and **Rev. Bonnie Pilkey** for her support as my Minister and Spiritual Director. I appreciate the support I have received from **the congregations** I have served, and **the financial support I received from Oxford Presbytery and the current Oxford Legacy Fund. Your support and encouragement has been invaluable!**

Christina Crawford

This pandemic has nothing to do with rights. It has to do with responsibility. We have responsibilities to one another. No one is taking away anyone's rights. We are being asked to shoulder a responsibility so that vulnerable members of society are protected.

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

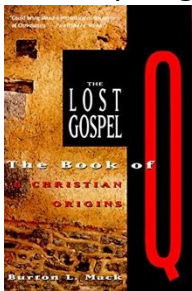
Page 8 of 11

DIGGING DEEPER

"Q" The Hidden Gospel: Now, A New Source of Inspiration

As one Biblical Scholar put it, we know what went into "The Funnel" and what came out; but we don't know how it was mixed. For many centuries Biblical Scholars had followed the Augustinian hypothesis that the Gospel of Matthew was first; followed by Mark's Gospel and finally The Gospel of Luke. **It was assumed both Mark and Luke used Matthew's Gospel in the construction of their own Gospels.**

During the last two hundred years, Protestant Scholars have examined the two "Q" parallel passages found in the Gospel of Matthew and Gospel of Luke. By 1900 it was assumed by many that a major overhaul of The Gospel Tradition was due. **The "Two-Source Hypothesis" was born. Both Mark and "Q" became a source for both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel.** "Q" the Hidden Gospel was now in the spotlight.



What did "Q" the Hidden Gospel stand for? First there are no Birth Stories or Resurrection Stories. The Lord comes across as a modern up-to-date King Solomon or a very understanding Rabbi.

In "Q" the Hidden Gospel, **Jesus, as The Wise Solomon or understanding Rabbi** comes to these mud hut Galilean villagers who work their fields and the fishing villages nested by the Sea of Galilee. Into these communities come the new leaders bringing stories about **how neighbours should act, how they should deal with fears, with the relations between**

households, and the importance of helping one another.

Want an interesting Bible Study? Buy or borrow a copy of either "Q" The Lost Gospel or "The Gospel of Thomas" and study various passages from these books alongside passages from the "Bible". Yes, compare the Passages but also **compare the ancient times and their challenges with the challenges we are facing to-day. Who says the Bible is out-of-date?**

The Rev. Stan Stanhope

(Editor's note. Thanks, Stan, for answering a 50-year-old question that I had. Why was Matthew and not Mark the first book in the New Testament? We can now blame it on Augustine. We know now that he was a 4th century victim of fake news. GW)



<https://www.grandriverbooks.ca/>
open and selling books online!

CONNECTIONS – News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Next Publication: Wednesday,

June 10, 2020

SUBMISSIONS DUE:

Noon Monday, June 8, 2020

You may share widely.

To add or remove your name to this mailing list, email

oxfconnections@execulink.com

Submissions and feedback welcome.

Past Issues for 2019 stored:

<https://tinyurl.com/Oxford-CONNECTIONS-2019>

Past Issues for 2020 stored:

<https://tinyurl.com/Oxford-CONNECTIONS-2020>

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 9 of 11

Apr. 22nd, 2020



On Earth Day, Kairos released the Faith based Initiative for Climate Justice, called For The Love of Creation.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of all humanity, indeed of all creation, national churches, Christian international development agencies and faith-based organizations are working together to respond to the climate crisis.



Watch for ongoing opportunities for education, theological reflection, advocacy, and action.



ANNUAL MEETING

June 7, 2020 Online. The time and logistics will be shared closer to the date. Mark your calendar and join us to celebrate the centre. Locally, contact Dave Schell, davidwschell@gmail.com or their website or Facebook page.

Five Oaks appreciates your ongoing support. If you are able to donate, at this time, you can do so by e-transfer to finance@fiveoaks.on.ca or by cheque sent by regular mail to Five Oaks, 1 Bethel Road, RR 3, Paris ON N3L 3E3.

from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Selam Solomon wrote to Glen Wright in April on behalf of her mother and brothers (the Temnewu family who have been subject to religious persecution and are waiting to come here.)

"How are you doing you and your family we hope you are well with your family and we pray God will protect from this virus with all your family.

We are really good and we are stay all the day at home because of the virus. We always pray for the people sick because of virus and may God end quick. And my grandmother say hi to you and your wife.

Addis Ababa isn't too bad about the virus covid 19. Only one person die but all churches and schools are closed but people walk freely and use public transport. Most of the people are not afraid and go wherever they want.

Psalm 33: 11-12 (KJV)

The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

Oxford United Refugee Sponsorship Committee (OURS)

The United Church is accepting donations to support those in the global South who are at greater risk than ever due to COVID-19.

<https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19-global-response?fbclid=IwAR14f9NslzgC8ius4XZeAM9qtg6CdARzcZnN9qdAZYJ7iudkrD PEJLXvL4>

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 10 of 11

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

A long time ago, a Jewish woman, Esther had the ear of a king who had been fed 'fake news' to justify killing Jews. Esther risked her life to tell the truth answering the call that **she had been born for such a time as this.**

In this COVID pause we face serious challenges of neo-liberalism, empty pews, climate crisis as well as the pandemic. **People are yearning for something different.** It is a time to vision a new way forward. I joined **the April 24, on-line conference, Eco-commoning-a Down to Earth Way of Life¹.** The **keynote speakers, Rev Dr. Ted Reeves** (religious social ethicist) and **the Very Rev. Bill Phipps** (former moderator and climate justice activist) and all the participants were **born for such a time as this.**

Reeves' teachings on language, metaphors and framing from George Lakoff² were especially helpful. This field of cognitive linguistics explains how dialogue between liberals and conservatives has become increasingly difficult. Conservative and liberal (small 'c', small 'l') thinkers view or frame the world from strict parent and nurturant parent, respectively. Dialogue is hindered.

Metaphors like 'winners and losers' justify the 'survival of the fittest' and feed into neoliberal economics³ of the extreme individualism and of plundering mother earth. Alternatively, we can frame economics emphasizing a relational worldview where everything is interconnected, respected and honoured. **Communities of faith were brought into being for such a time as this.**

Reeves also described how we can learn from our deep history (100,000 years!) through a cognitive lens as well as the ways in which Eco-commoning is already

happening through and around us. I enjoyed the breakout sessions with groups of innovators coming from across Canada.

For Phipps, the climate crisis is spiritual and ethical. **This pause allows us time to question what kind of future we want. Our job as faith communities is to provide alternative visions, alternative framing of how we see the world and live in the world.** Eco-commoning responds to these.

This United Church event was jointly sponsored by the Eco-Commons Project⁴, Edge⁵ and Community Innovation Hub⁶. I will post a folder with my notes to navigate the videos etc. from the conference here:

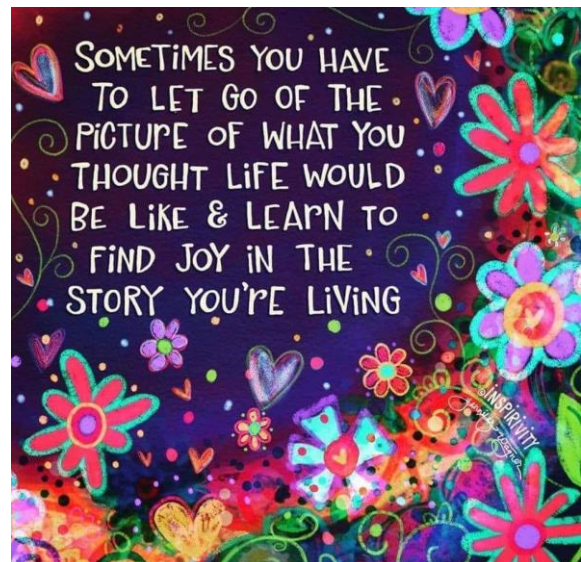
<https://tinyurl.com/Eco-commoning-Conf-April-24-20>

Like Esther, we too were born for such a time as this.

Marg Murray

Member of Social Justice Network of ARWR

- 1) Eco-Commoning: A Down to Earth Way of Life is relational, local sustainable, and cooperative.
- 2) [Don't Think of an Elephant! Know Your Values and Frame the Debate](#) by [George Lakoff](#)
- 3) Neoliberalism - "eliminating price controls, deregulating capital markets, lowering trade barriers and reducing state influence in the economy, especially through privatization and austerity." Wikipedia
- 4) <https://eco-commons.com/>
- 5) <https://www.united-church.ca/edge-network-ministry-development>
- 6) <https://communityinnovationhub.org/>



CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 13, 2020

Page 11 of 11



- <https://arwrcucc.ca/>
- **most recent newsletter**
- <https://mailchi.mp/e4f7c3aa1c08/may-news-information-update?e=0878d108a5>
- Newsletter contains valuable information for [the Board, Minister, Church Staff, Committee Members](#)
 - **ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED Regional Council Meeting, May 29-31 cancelled.**
- Minutes of the Commissions (Human Resource, Covenanting, Mission and Discipleship) of Antler River Watershed Region are available on website. <https://arwrcucc.ca/>
 - (Pull down menus of About, Commissions)

On their Facebook page, Lynne Allin, Minister of Congregational Support and Mission recommended this article on the 7 shifts churches need to make because of the Coronavirus. Moving toward Pentecost and reflecting on why and how we live out our faith as individuals and congregations in this new reality, this article offers good questions to consider.

<https://tonymorganlive.com/2020/04/15/7-church-shifts-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR3KY-GxkYtqZ10Mx6UTaklGv8ZWt4j7YDGCnKsd6--bvPwugvtDjMW3PRM>

We need to help people move from consuming teaching content to engaging a personal, spiritual journey to follow and become like Jesus.

Tony Morgan

FRIENDS OF OXFORD

When this COVID-19 pandemic is over it will be truly a blessing to see old friends face to face (within 6 feet) and make new friends. We'll eat, listen to each other's stories and Bible stories, sing together and generally be open to the spirit.

In the meantime, let us know how you are making CONNECTIONS.

SHARE YOUR STORIES and PICTURES OF SIGNS OF THE EMERGING CHURCH

Due Date for Submission for next issue is Monday June 8, NOON.

Contact Glen or Marg, the editors, oxfconnections@execulink.com

Excellent Online Resources

- UCRD - United Church Bookstore: <https://ucrdstore.ca>
- **United Church of Canada** on Facebook United Church: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchCda/>
- **Antler River Watershed Regional Council** Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/arwrcucc/?ref=bookmarks>
- former **Oxford Presbytery Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/Oxford-Presbytery-690395957746547/>
- **Broadview Magazine** - spirituality, justice and ethical living. (Formerly The United Church Observer): <https://broadview.org>
- **Mandate Magazine** United for God's Mission (not available online but subscriptions available from UCRD)