

# Woodlawn United Church

## Easter Letter & Holy Week Schedule 2018

*Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.  
~John 12:24*

Easter Greetings!

The days leading up to the cross and the empty tomb were filled with uncertainty for Jesus' disciples. Along with these feelings, they experienced loss of hope. But, like the disciples who walked with Jesus throughout his journey to Jerusalem, we walk with Jesus, too, through these 40 Lenten days, right to Easter; the day that uncertainty and hopelessness die and transform into joyous celebration. We know, just like the early disciples discovered, that Jesus is the Messiah, the risen Christ, and we have that certainty now and forever. Praise be to God!

At this time, though, the United Church of Canada is going through major changes and the outcome at this stage is unclear. We are definitely 'transforming' into something new, but not knowing the final outcome has made people anxious. As well, the world is going through uncertain times like chaotic weather patterns and national governments causing alarm so that uncertainty, once again, seems to be taking the upper hand. What needs to be noted here is that Jesus Christ is always present with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our trust in God is a big part of faith. If we stop trusting, then uncertainty wins. So let's not take our focus off of Christ. Let's continue to maintain the loving relationship we've established with Christ, both personally, and collectively as a church family. Together, we are strong, and the hope of Christ that each one of us carries in our hearts will collectively make us stronger in hope. Our positive attitudes, with Christ at the center, will give us the direction and inspiration we'll need to keep Woodlawn spiritually nourished and healthy. And it's our positive attitudes, along with the Holy Spirit, that will transform others to be positive, too. Our United Church of Canada will transform and we'll work together to help make it the best it can be. Our positive attitudes and actions will help others to see that having a faith gives us not only hope, but purpose, and the strength to accomplish that purpose; doing Christ's mission and ministry in this world.

Just as the disciples' relationship with Jesus grew from a tiny seed into something beyond their imagination, so too, our relationship with the risen Christ can become so much more. With the constant loving relationships of our church family, our dedication in attending weekly worship, as well as mission and outreach work, youth events, pastoral care, and Bible study, our faith journeys can blossom beyond our imagination. Jesus Christ is our Rock, the foundation of our faith and the head of our church. With this knowledge firmly embedded in us, we will be strong in our vision of where we want to go and how we will get there. The light of Christ will shine for us, putting things into perspective as we walk together on this exciting journey of faith. No more uncertainty! Christ is risen. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*Easter Blessings, Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte  
Rev. Phillip Kennedy & Shannon MacLean*

**Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM**

**~ Palm Sunday ~**

A service with a parade of palms.

**Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

**~ Maundy Thursday ~**

A simple holy week service with communion.

**Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 PM**

**~ Good Friday ~**

Ecumenical Service at  
St. Luke's Anglican Church.  
(9 Veterans Avenue, Dartmouth)

**Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM**

**~ Holy Prayer Centres ~**

Join us as you are able, stay as long as you want, for Prayer Stations.

**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 AM**

**~ Easter Sunday  
with Communion ~**

Come and be part of this hopeful and joyous celebration!

