



# Bridgenorth United Church

## Quarterly News

### Summer, 2022

Rev. Cathy's Office 292-5460 e-mail: [bucminister@nexicom.net](mailto:bucminister@nexicom.net)  
Church Office: 292-9601 fax: 292-8172 e-mail: [bucoffice@nexicom.net](mailto:bucoffice@nexicom.net)  
website: [www.bridgenorthuc.com](http://www.bridgenorthuc.com)



### Sprouting possibility...

Emily Dickinson once said, "I dwell in pos-

sibility."

When we focus ourselves on what is possible, what is promising, what is creative – we are living into the life and the hope that God offers each one of us.

There is much that is promising in our work and witness as disciples of Jesus in our community. We are exploring becoming an Affirming congregation...we are renovating our sanctuary to expand our welcome...we are reaching out to young families...

And so, as we continue to discern and discuss and dream of what the church will look like into the future, we need to focus on the promise and

possibility that is "growing" within and among us right now! And as we look around us at the flowering trees and the sprouting plants that will soon bear fruit in wondrous abundance, let's be reminded of all that is possible when we plant seeds of hope, peace, love and joy all around us. We may just see the possibilities "sprouting" up in unexpected places.

Summer blessings,  
Rev. Cathy

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Philippians 4:8



**Rooted In Community, Grounded in God's Love!**

**Bridgenorth United Church  
Mission Statement:**

Centered in the grace and love of God, we strive to be an inclusive community of faith that answers God's call with gladness and serves with kindness.

Our worship is progressive, grounded in the Gospel and celebrates God's love in word and melody as we sing with joy and praise with enthusiasm!

We offer a place for learning and growing in faith for all ages as we explore the wonder and mystery of God in Jesus, the Christ. We seek to follow in the Way of Jesus as we care for our neighbours, our community, and all Creation.

## **BRIDGENORTH UNITED CHURCH FOOD BANK HUNGER COUNT COMMENTARY**



(2019 – 2022)

We have seen a significant increase in the number of clients visiting our Food Bank each month over the past four years.

In March 2019, we saw 26 households representing 57 individuals. By March

2022, the numbers have almost tripled to 61 households and 156 individuals.

The volume of clients doubled from 2019, pre-pandemic, to 2020 which indicates the significant negative impact of Covid-19 on food insecurity. With the introduction of CERB payments and other income supports, our client numbers leveled off between 2020 and 2021. However, 2022 has brought another big jump in client usage of our Food Bank compared to the prior year. Total households using the food bank have gone up from 47 to 61, a 30% increase. Of more concern is the increase in number of family members (individuals), which has gone from 98 to 156, a jump of 60%. This indicates that more families with children and multigeneration or blended families are relying on the Food Bank. In fact, the number of children (under 18) has increased from 16 (2021) to 44 (2022), a 175% increase year over year. While the number of households with no children has remained constant, we have seen a dramatic increase in single parent and two parent families.

With respect to income sources, 74% of our client households rely on social assistance or disability pensions to survive. We all know these payments are inadequate to live on. Supports are far short of the poverty line. Currently in Ontario, a single working-age adult only receives \$733 a month through Ontario Works (OW). Their housing allowance is \$390 and their basic needs (food, clothes, phone, transportation) is \$343 a month. A single adult living with a disability receives \$1,169 a month through Ontario Disability (ODSP) with a

housing allowance of \$497 and \$672 for basic needs.

Finally, based on the current environment of rising inflation, primarily for groceries and gas, food insecurity is going to continue to get more extreme.

### **UKRAINE CRISIS**

As part of the United Church of Canada's Emergency Response Fund you can donate to the Ukraine Crisis Fund. 100% of your donation goes directly to emergency relief and you will receive an income tax receipt.

You can donate on-line, by phone or by cheque.

On-line via the United Church of Canada secure donation page.

Phone 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738

Send a cheque to:

The United Church of Canada

Philanthropy Unit – Emergency Response

3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 200

Toronto, ON

M8X 2Y4

### **Bridgenorth Ecumenical Evening Program**

Theme: God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall

Date Wednesday, June 15, 2022 Time: 7 pm

Where: Bridgenorth United Church Sanctuary (wheelchair accessible)

Program includes:

Presentation from the Kawartha Wildlife Rescue/Centre

Curve Lake Drummers

Tarnished Angels

Skit, hymns and fellowship to feed the soul

Take away refreshments

Free will offering, proceeds to Kawartha Wildlife Rescue/Centre

Masks required

All Ladies and Gentlemen are Welcome to Attend

## **MINISTERS OF BRIDGENORTH UNITED CHURCH**

By Joe Latour

### **Reverend Margaret Errey**

It is my intention to profile in our Newsletters some of the Ministers who have led the congregation at Bridgenorth United Church, since 1889 when the current church was constructed.

We will start with Reverend Margaret Lillian Errey. Margaret Lillian was born in Saskatchewan to Benjamin Ogilvie Willis and Bertha Field on November 25, 1914. Margaret grew up in Saskatchewan where her father worked for the railroad. While attending the University of Saskatchewan, Margaret met Eric Darrell Errey, a young man enrolled in the Theological program at St. Andrew's College. Eric was the son of missionary parents who were ministering in the British West Indies when he was born in 1907.

The Reverend Eric Errey and Margaret Willis were married at Knox United Church, Saskatoon, on November 25, 1935, the bride's 21st birthday. The couple ministered to pastoral charges in Watson and Nokomis, Saskatchewan and Brandon, Manitoba. In 1947, they moved from Brandon to Montreal where Reverend Eric Errey took over the ministry at Queen Mary Road United Church. Margaret and Eric raised three children in the Montreal area; Donald, Margaret Joan and Darrell. Sadly, at just 54 years of age, Eric passed away on April 12, 1961 after a lengthy illness.

After the death of her husband, Margaret Errey felt called to the ministry. She had extensive experience in lay ministry serving at the Montreal City Mission and as President of the Women's Mission Society of Montreal Presbytery. Margaret attended the United Theological College at McGill University for three years and after graduation, was ordained on June 10, 1964. At the time of her ordination, only 50 of the 2000 United Church ministers across Canada were women. Rev. Errey's first charge was Sutton in the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

In 1968, Rev. Errey joined the United Church of Canada National staff to serve on the Board of Women. She moved to Toronto with her mother, Bertha Willis and took up residence at 40 Shrewsbury Square, Scarborough, incidentally just three doors down from where my wife Patty lived at that time.

Five years later, in 1973, Rev. Errey took a position with the Bay of Quinte Conference Mission and Stewardship team as Conference Minister – Mission Steward. Margaret Errey was a strong

advocate for women in ministry and once said, "If a man fails as a minister, it reflects on him, but if a woman fails, it reflects on all women in ministry." Reverend Errey made the decision to return to pastoral ministry in 1977, accepting a call to Bridgenorth United Church. She commenced her term here on December 4, 1977 and served until retirement in August 1981. While at BUC, she lived in the manse across the street with her elderly mother, Bertha, who passed away in 1984.

Rev. Errey was evidently highly regarded at our church. Some 12 years after retirement, she returned to Bridgenorth United, in June 1993, as an Associate Volunteer Minister, to work with Rev. Norm Baines.

Margaret Lillian Errey lived into her 98th year, passing away in 2012. Hers was a life well lived.

## **THE BUC LIBRARY CORNER**

By Joe Latour

We have an extensive collection of Indigenous themed books now available for your reading enjoyment. These resources were originally added to the BUC Library by the Indigenous Justice & Right Relations branch of the East Central Ontario Regional Council. As the result of a very generous donation by the Drew family in honour of Helen Drew, we have supplemented this collection with over 20 more contemporary titles, primarily by Indigenous authors.

Over the past few months, we have regularly featured a "book of the week" on the Bridgenorth United Church Facebook page. Here, I would like to feature another of our excellent books:

*Life in the City of Dirty Water*, by Clayton Thomas-Muller

This book is a memoir by a young Indigenous man, Clayton Thomas-Muller, who grew up on the mean streets of downtown Winnipeg. He endured the tragic impacts of intergenerational trauma; a dysfunctional, often violent childhood which ultimately led to a life of crime, alcoholism, drug abuse and violence. As a young Cree man with limited education, Clayton had few prospects for success. Hence, he spiraled downhill to eventual oblivion. Fortunately, with some encouragement from people who cared, and by reconnecting with his Cree roots, he commenced to turn his life around. Clayton refocused his energies on education and environmental activism.

This eye-opening book, a finalist for CBC Canada Reads, is well worth your time to read. It will give you a good understanding of how the residential school experience has adversely affected the next generations of Indigenous peoples.