

September 12, 2021

Dear Friends and Family of Unity Church & Cemetery,

Today would have been our 157th Anniversary Service at Unity Church & Cemetery. None of us could have predicted that our Unity Board of Directors would have to have cancelled two annual services in a row due to the serious health issue of the Covid-19 pandemic and its variants. However, due to the very serious and unknown nature of this pandemic, it was without question, the responsible thing to do to keep us all safe.

This does seem like an appropriate time to reflect for a moment on just a few of the changes that Unity Church and Cemetery has witnessed as it has stood tall since 1864 when it first opened for worship. In 1864, horse and buggy and walking were the transportation people used to get to services at Unity. Think of the interest and excitement that it must of caused when the first automobile was driven to Unity – maybe a Model A Ford? Then over the progressive decades, think of the changes that would have appeared in the cars driven to Unity services, as cars progressed from open black simple machines, to large enclosed cars with lots of chrome. Cars with push button transmissions, large decorative fins on the back, two or three tone painted vehicles gradually giving away to more economical efficient models. We bet in the near future, someone will drive a totally electric vehicle to our annual service. Such changes in 157 years that never could have been predicted.

In communication, too, what changes Unity Church & Cemetery have witnessed. Word of mouth, hand written documents, postal mail, and for those who were lucky enough to acquire a copy, newspapers like the Hamilton Spectator (which first published in 1846) were the only choices in 1864. Over the decades, friends and family of Unity Church & Cemetery experienced getting radios in their homes to gather around and listen to, phonographs to listen to their favourite music, telephones hard-wired into their homes, and television. The more recent past has seen an exciting wave of information and communication technology with computers, fax machines, cell phones, Ipads, smart phones. How amazed our early members of Unity would be if they could witness the wonderful website that Unity church & Cemetery now has at:

unitychurch1864.ca or if they saw how we all can email Unity at **unitychurch1864@gmail.com**.

Throughout all these changes, Unity Church & Cemetery has stood proudly on its hill since 1864. Your Board of Directors appreciates your financial donations. Not only do you get a tax receipt but you allow your Board to preserve and protect the church building, the property and the tombstones for future generations. We are very proud of how Unity Church & Cemetery is kept up. We hope you will enjoy strolling the grounds and witnessing the beautiful solitude. On a clear day, see if you can spot the windmills to the south-east. Our loved ones who have gone before us would be proud. Your donations make this possible.

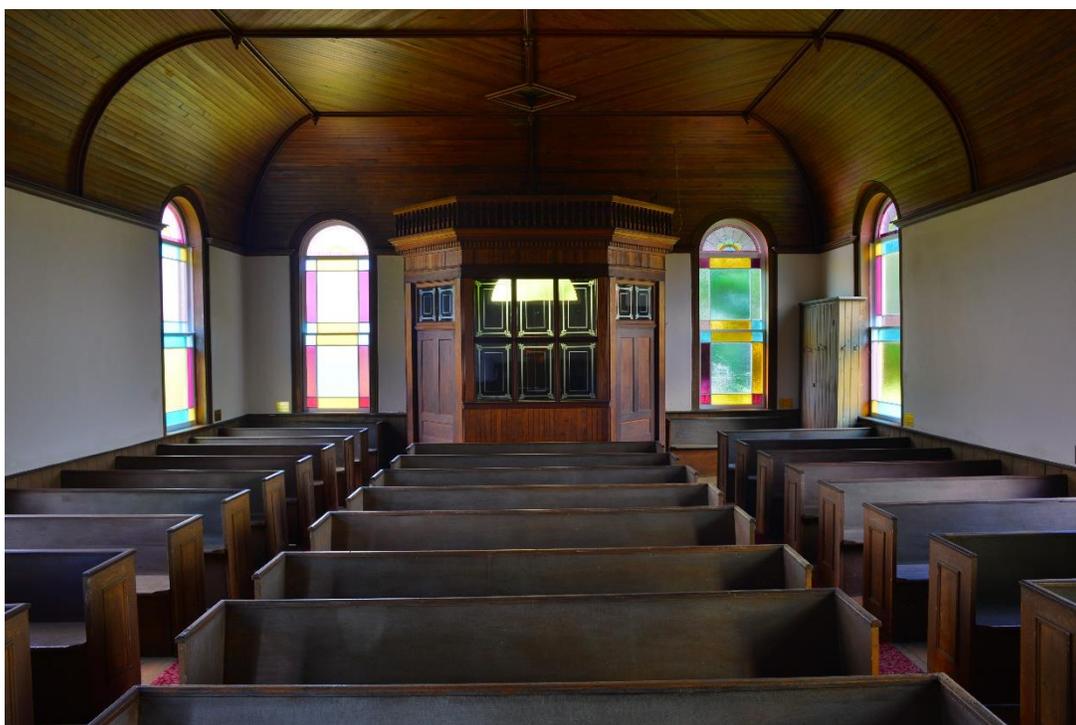
Since we can't gather together in person at Unity Church & Cemetery due to the pandemic, we thought we would bring Unity to you in a special way so that you can stay feeling connected. We hope that these special pictures give you the feeling of being in Unity in person. It is our hope that we will be able to gather together on the second Sunday of September at 2:30 pm next year.



This picture highlights the beautiful, recently refurbished double front doors of Unity. We hope that we will all be able to walk through these welcoming doors next year.



The warm wood on the interior of Unity is patiently waiting to greet us when we are safely able to meet there again – hopefully next year.



The Board of Directors for Unity Church and Cemetery are really proud of how we all work together to protect Unity for the future. We can't help but reflect on how beautiful these newly refurbished stained-glass windows look.



The early-evening sun shows the detail of Unity Church's beautiful brickwork and its historic stained-glass windows. Hopefully, with your kind donations, we will be able to protect these special windows with clear, strong Lexan covers before the snow flies this winter. These clear Lexan covers will help protect the windows from wind and extreme weather or any kind of impact.

Unity Church & Cemetery Executive:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Allan Parke	905-570-4506
<i>Secretary:</i>	Laura Armes	905-932-3219
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Norma Armes	905-570-4561

Unity Church & Cemetery Board Members:

Bryan Beveridge
Allan Carver
Judith Coomber
Edward Howley
Winston Lindsay
Eleanor Rosewell
Emerson Shannon
Jane Whaley

We still have a limited number of the angels and tea-light candle holders that were made from historic glass from the removed stained-glass windows from Unity Church. The proceeds from these items will help to make the clear Lexan window covers possible.



Angel Ornament



Tea-Light Candle Holders

This completed form can be mailed to
Unity Church & Cemetery, c/o Norma Armes, 502 Baptist Church Road, Caledonia ON N3W 2G9

Full Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Authorized Person to Pick-Up on Your Behalf: _____

Qty _____ Stained-glass angel @ \$50 = \$_____ (A)

Qty _____ Stained-glass tea-light holder @ \$50 \$_____ (B)

Amount of donation for tax receipt \$_____ (C)

Total payment amount is (A) + (B) + (C) = \$_____

Note: Unlike regular donations to Unity Church & Cemetery, donation receipts cannot be issued for amounts paid for stained-glass angels (line A) or stained-glass tea-light holders (line B). Tax receipts will be issued in early 2022 for regular donations (line C).

Our Board of Directors is proud of our website for Unity Church & Cemetery at unitychurch1864.ca. Over the past year, we have periodically updated and added to our website. We plan to continue to update the website as people provide information and as we go through our Unity archives. Be sure to check back regularly to this website.

We have a dedicated email address for Unity Church & Cemetery: unitychurch1864@gmail.com. If you do not receive Unity correspondence electronically and would like to in the future, please send us a message to provide your email address. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please send it to this email address – it will be monitored regularly.

A special thanks to Eleanor and Gary Rosewell for all their work and dedication with maintaining the flowers and plants around Unity Church. The historically correct plants that they have chosen add to the character and authenticity of Unity Church & Cemetery.

As an interesting historic note, in the early 1860s, enough money was donated to cover the entire cost of building the church before they actually started construction. Volunteers did much of the work. We reflect on how it is this same spirit today that enables Unity to be maintained and preserved so well. It is the kind donations and energetic volunteers who work together for the common goal of Unity Church & Cemetery.

Our Board of Directors sincerely thank everyone who contributes funds to Unity Church & Cemetery. Your donations enable us to keep the grounds and building at Unity Church & Cemetery in very well-maintained condition. It is obvious as you stroll the grounds or enjoy the pictures in this newsletter that this property is maintained with love and care. Your Board is completely volunteer and all donations help us to preserve and protect Unity Church & Cemetery for the future.

We are pleased that we are now able to accept donations by e-transfer. If making a donation by e-transfer, please email it to the Unity Church & Cemetery email address, which is unitychurch1864@gmail.com. In order to be eligible for a tax receipt, please include the full name and mailing address for the person making the donation in the memo box.

Tax receipts will be issued and mailed to donors in early 2022 for all donations over \$10.

Thank you, in advance, for all of your support.

Notice to Families With Plots in Unity Cemetery

Our Unity Board of Directors has decided that the time is right for us to try to secure signing authorities for family plots in Unity Cemetery. Our cemetery permits up to three separate cremations of top of a traditional casket burial. If no casket is buried in a single plot, still up to three cremation containers may be interred there. As with all interments, families must contact us in advance by phoning our treasurer, Norma Armes at 905 570 4561 or our chairman, Allan Parke at 905 570 4506, or by emailing us at **unitychurch1864@gmail.ca**.

As the future unfolds, and as cremations are becoming a more common occurrence, we know that future Board of Directors for Unity Church & Cemetery will face an increasingly complex task is deciding who is rightfully entitled to be interred in these family plots. We feel that families can assist us now by completing and signing our new "Allocation of Signing Authority" form which we have attached on the back of this newsletter. We ask that families, wherever possible, have conversations among themselves and sort this out. Then, we are asking families to allocate two or three representatives as "Signing Authorities" for their family plots. These representatives would be able to help our board members, when the need arises, to know who is entitled to be interred in that family's plot(s). These forms will be able to be updated, as future years and decades evolve, by contacting the current Unity Church & Cemetery Board of Directors by email or by whatever means of communication will unfold going forward.

Providing us with complete information will help to ensure that the wishes of the families will be honoured. Please consider giving us the contact information for younger adult family members too on this form. This will help our totally volunteer board members to broaden our contact information so that we can involve younger family members in our Unity Church & Cemetery group. Going forward, these are the people whom we are going to need to donate and to take up positions on our volunteer board, so that our Unity Church & Cemetery can continue to be maintained and preserved in the fine manner that it has been and is currently. Please take time to share your special memories of Unity Church & Cemetery with your children and grandchildren. Let them know how special this place is. Explore and read together with them some of our history, stories and pictures on our website at **unitychurch1864.ca** Remember, we have absolutely no government funding of any kind, so we really depend on donations. To keep Unity Church & Cemetery viable, we need to add young adult family members to our roster.

We expect that this form will be of great assistance to future board members. We anticipate that as we proceed through future generations, it will only get more complex. However, having designated representatives for families will give us contacts to check with when we get inquiries in a future time of need. Your volunteer Board of directors really appreciates your help with this matter, and all your support.

ALLOCATION OF SIGNING AUTHORITY

Unity Church & Cemetery

Caledonia, Ontario

c/o Norma Armes, Treasurer, 502 Baptist Church Road, Caledonia, ON N3W 2G9

Email: unitychurch1864@gmail.com

The _____ family would like the following individuals designated as signing authorities in deciding future interment rights with our family plot(s) at Unity Church & Cemetery. When called upon, these individuals will assist the volunteer members of the Board of Directors of Unity Church & Cemetery in clarifying who is entitled to be buried in our family plots. This allocation may be updated as desired or needed by contacting us as above to request a new form, or add updated information as the future unfolds. As always, all interments must be conducted in accordance with our cemetery bylaws.

Family Signing Authority #1:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Family Signing Authority #2:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Note: Either signatory will be able to act on behalf of the plots unless you specifically elect below for both signatures to be required; however, note that there could be delays if we have trouble contacting either signatory.

Initial on line to elect for 'and' signing authority for both authorized persons required to sign _____

Form Completed by: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date of completion: _____

Note: We will contact the individual who completes this form to discuss if there is a discrepancy between the information in our files and the information provided on this form.