

WHAT'S UP AT WESLEY

Friday, Jan. 17, 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT WESLEY

Theme – Looking To The Lord – Sun. Jan 19, 2025, 10 a.m.

Watch the Wesley Worship Services live on YouTube by clicking [here](#) or going to <https://www.youtube.com/@wesleyunitedchurch1105>

Guest Lay Minister Joanne Acocella

Thank you to all the people who have given their time to make our Sunday worship successful.

Zoom Prayer Circle takes place at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of every month and Bible Study takes place on other Wednesday nights at 7 pm via zoom. [Click here to join](#)

Coffee with Council is held the third Tuesday of the month.

Don't miss Men's Group Brunch on Jan. 26



The Wesley Men's Group invites all men, women and children to join them for a New Year's Brunch in Robins Hall. This delicious event will be taking place Jan. 26, right after the service.

There will be a free will donation basket for anyone who would like to contribute

See you there!

Two more Harvest Kitchen Dinners planned

Wesley will be hosting two more Harvest Kitchen Dinners at Central United in Welland, on the first Sunday of both February and March. If you want to get involved in this meaningful project, please sign up on the sign up sheets in the Narthex.



Remembering our loved ones

A service of hymns to commemorate the lives of our loved ones - past and present. Followed by a candlelighting ceremony to honour friends and family we lost in 2024.

In past years, Wesley has remembered those who were once with us - and those who are still with us - with an annual Commemorative Hymn Sing. This year, we will be combining the Hymn Sing with a candle lighting celebration of life which honours those we have lost in the past year. The new ceremony will be called Music & Light and will be held Sunday, Feb. 9 during our regular service of worship. (Please note: this is not a fundraising event.)

As in previous years, we will have a service where the congregation can select from the list below, the hymn or hymns you wish to use to commemorate someone's life. Remember, these people need not have departed from us into God's glory. You can commemorate anyone you wish.

Please fill out the form below (there will also be copies on the table in the Narthex) listing the name of the person(s) you want to commemorate and the hymn you would like to dedicate to them. If you would like a picture displayed on the PowerPoint, please submit it to the office administrator at wesleyunited@bellnet.ca or bring it into the office. The deadline for both pictures and dedications will be Monday, Feb. 3.

Thank you for honouring the many people who make our lives so rich.

This year, for the first time, we will also **light a candle in memory of those we lost in 2024**. The person does not need to be family or have been a member of Wesley United Church. We want to honour everyone who was beloved by a member of our Wesley family.

This candle-lighting is a reminder that the lost loved one will live forever in our hearts and in Heaven. During the service, we invite loved ones of the departed to light the candle for each person lost in the previous year.

Please contact the office administrator (wesleyunited@bellnet.ca - 905 735 5912) by Feb. 3 to offer the name of someone you know who should be honoured at this service. We don't want to miss anyone.

MUSIC & LIGHT  **Hymns**

Please print the name of the person you want to remember and select a hymn you would like to dedicate to them. Please return this form to the office by Feb. 3 or place the basket in the narthex during Sunday service.

NAME OF PERSON TO REMEMBER: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

I will _____ or will not _____ be submitting a picture.

SELECTED HYMN: (Please ✓)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amazing Grace
<input type="checkbox"/>	I the Lord of Sea And Sky. (Here I Am Lord)
<input type="checkbox"/>	It Is Well With My Soul
<input type="checkbox"/>	How Great Thou Art
<input type="checkbox"/>	Morning Has Broken
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thine Is the Glory
<input type="checkbox"/>	Love Divine All Loves Excelling

BIBLE BULLETS

- **Stand firm in your faith - 2 Cor. 16.13**
- **Let all you do, be done in love - 2 Cor.16.14**
- **All that counts is faith working through love - Gal. 5.6**

Holy Humour!

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."

W&M focus is on music

Wesley's Worship and Music committee met on Jan. 9 and discussed a number of issues.

An important topic of conversation was two letters received from members of the congregation, both of which suggested the Christmas Eve service could have been improved upon. The writers cited a couple of issues and both members wished it had offered more for a family. Another was concerned that a lot of money had been spent on music in recent weeks.

As far as the suggestion for a more family-oriented service, the consensus of the committee was that we agreed with this and will strive to make that happen next year. Any suggestions would be gratefully considered.

In regards to the funds spent on music, Worship and Music has stayed within its music budget in 2024 and had planned to bring in more music during the Christmas season. It is our belief that music will bring more people to Wesley. In 2025, the focus will be to bring more vocalists to Wesley.

New this year is the Music and Light Celebration, which will be held Feb. 9. This will take the former Memorial Hymn Sing and combine it with a service to honour the friends and family of our Wesley family who passed away in 2024. Members of the congregation are asked to dedicate hymns to loved ones – past and present – for the music portion of the service. (Unlike previous Memorial Hymn Sings, this is not a fund-raising event and we will not be asking for donations.) We will also take time during the service to light a candle in memory of those who passed in 2024. Family or friends of those we lost will be invited to come to the front to light the candle. If there is someone you would like honoured at the candlelighting (and they don't need to have been a member of Wesley – just someone who was loved and remembered by one of our congregation), please let our office administrator Tom know.

The committee also discussed a proposal by Music Director George Cleland to have an evening of music and narration that would depict the seven utterances of Christ on the cross. The committee was in favour of this event, which should happen at Easter time and we hope to draw in a wider audience and raise funds through a goodwill offering.

Plans are underway to have some sort of celebration of Wesley's 70th anniversary – perhaps a dinner - although more time and effort will be spent on the 75th.

Plans are also shaping up to bring back Holy Humour Sunday. This would take place on the Sunday after Easter.

Worship and Music is always interested in feedback from the congregation. We are grateful that people take the time to write the committee.

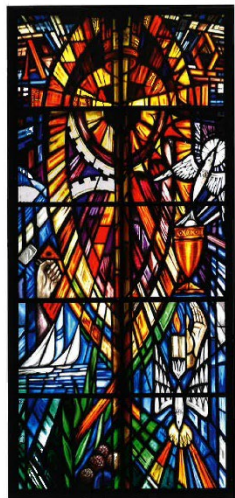
A Winter's Tale – Storytelling 'Round the Fire at Cave Springs Camp – Sunday, Jan. 26 from 3-5 p.m.

For all you winter lovers out there, Horseshoe Regional Council is planning an afternoon of storytelling around the campfire at Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville. On Jan. 26 from 3-5 p.m., as part of their Nature Nurture series for adults, they'll be welcoming Palestinian-Croatian storyteller, Sarah Abusarar, and some of her musician friends to share stories of winter, justice, and creation.

Bring your own blanket and camp chair, and they will supply the hot chocolate and snacks. They hope to be outside, but in the event of inclement weather, we'll be inside cozy Hoxley Hall. This is a pay what you can event by donation. Register at naturenurturecsc.eventbrite.ca/ Space is limited!

We hope to see you at this fun event celebrating Palestinian heritage and the gifts of nature in all seasons! Contact Brenna Baker at brenna@holy-babble.com with any questions.

Take a read of Betty Lane's book



Where I Belong

The Church & My Life

Betty Lane

Wesley Library book is a great read that you will enjoy from start to finish

I had a chance to read Betty Lane's book, "Where I Belong – The Church & My Life" this week. This book is free in the Wesley Library. What a wonderful trip through her journey from youth to her present years and the churches and areas she's lived in. You will read about her roots in the Sudbury area, the churches she attended there and other areas she's lived in. It's not a long read, but it's very worthwhile. I encourage you to pick one up and enjoy reading more about this person who has contributed so much to our church.

- Submitted by Tom Wilkinson

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat., JAN. 18 — **The Magic of Memoir** 2-4 p.m. Trillium United Church, 415 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines. Start Your Story with award winning writer and memoir coach Anne Bokma. \$20 registration fee.

Sun. JAN. 19 — **Guest Minister Joanne Acocella** will be at Wesley United Church.

Sun. JAN. 19 — **Ontario Women's Ministry Team** will be presenting Teen Challenge during the service. Come and hear testimonies and stories of finding freedom from addiction.

Tues. JAN. 21 — **Coffee with Council Chair Joan Simpson** will resume and take place on the third Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. until noon. Come out and enjoy a friendly chat – and maybe a goodie!

Sun. JAN. 26 — **Congregational Brunch** will be held in Robins Hall following the service. The Men's group is putting on this event and there will be a freewill offering at the time of serving.

Wed. JAN. 29 — **Membership and Outreach Meeting** 9:30 am. in the Parlour

Sun. FEB. 2 — **Wesley's Harvest Kitchen Dinner** hosted at Central United

Sun. FEB 9 — **Music and Light Service** This will take place at Wesley United Church and will be dedicated to commemorating the lives of our loved ones, past and present, through song. This will include a candle lighting ceremony to honour friends and family we lost in 2024. You can remember anyone you wish. There are forms in the Narthex to take part in this service.

Mon. Feb.10 — **WOW Meeting** 1:30 pm. in the Parlour

Thurs. Feb. 20 — **WESLEY COMMUNITY SENIORS GROUP** 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in Robins Hall