

**Columbus United Church**  
**2020 Annual Report**  
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## *PASTOR'S NOTE*

It is that time and I must write a report and so here it is. I would like to remind you that these are the times of what seems like persecution. Here these words from Paul's letter to the Romans. 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?' Romans 8:35

First I want to thank all those who have called and prayed and sent cards for our family. It has been a difficult year for our family but God is good and has surrounded us with a powerful and caring community. Marcia and I are truly blessed to be part of this church and your love and grace which is freely shared.

It has been a difficult year and first I want to thank Anthony and Mary for all the help and guidance they have given us in getting the worship service out. Anthony's knowledge of technology has taken us into a new way of doing church. Hopefully we can use these skills to keep in contact with the shut-ins after we are allowed back into church.

I am tired of being locked in and shut out from visiting others. I miss so many people and we keep in verbal contact but it is not the same. I so look forward to seeing you again. Well most of you.

I was in to see the doctor the other day and he has told me I don't need to come back for at least six months. That is one cardiologist down and the other one I don't have to see for three months. They are both pleased with the results from the two procedures and so am I. Thank you Jesus.

Things have changed with so many of our community and it is so difficult that we cannot visit or see them. Mary, you are doing an excellent job of getting people on the prayer list and letting us know some of their conditions. If you know of anyone who needs prayers please let us know so we can support them.

Covid-19 has certainly given us a lot of time to think about our lives and how busy and how easily we are distracted by this busyness prior to the coming of Covid. God and Christ told us we would be persecuted and this is certainly persecution; with our worlds changing around us. I don't know about you, but with the help of the Holy Spirit this has certainly made me look at how crazy the world was before Covid and how much better it can be after this pandemic is over. Let us learn about what is important in life as we work through this time together.

I want to send a special thank you out to Ian and the team who are supporting so many people. We are constantly getting requests for help and we have been able to respond because of your generosity. So if you know of anyone who is trying to redecorate and has some good furniture that they need to dispose of please let us know, we have places that could use furniture along with food. We can also take any leftovers to the Mission store who will make sure that someone in need gets what they need. Ian has set up a special relationship with the store so that we can send people there and they will get what they need for free. So if you know of someone who is need but cannot afford to take care of that need please let Ian know and he will see if there is something we can do.

Columbus church is a beacon in the darkness of poverty and you are to be congratulated for stepping up and helping the poor and the oppressed. We are doing what Christ has asked us to do and let us not ever forget our mission as Christians.

Once again Marcia and I want to say thanks and we pray that God will continue to lead you.

Reverend Richard Parker

## **CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL – REPORT**

Embracing and loving each and every member of our congregation comes easy. This is offered in opening because the beauty and quality of souls among us has shone brightly in the past year. In the one (and only) reference to Covid-19 in this message, our church family has risen above it with the determination and grace that is at the cornerstone of the character of our congregation. From the drive-by well wishes to Mary June and Glenn, to the deliveries of Christmas dinners to the needy this past Christmas, we have stood up, stepped forward, and kept going...

Our past year has not been without its losses. Lois Sanderson has found heaven and our congregation embraced Lois' family in their bereavement. Additionally, health challenges have fallen upon many in our congregation, including their family members. Let us continue to pray and support all as they press forward with treatment and recovery.

Thanks to the entirety of those supporting our continued operation. The names are obvious and the dedication unrelenting. No amount of thanks can do justice to those who consistently rise up to offer their time and talents.

Our relationship with the Columbus Private School continues to evolve and we have made compassionate concessions given the conditions faced this past year. We will continue to make a determined effort to accommodate their presence with the mutual benefit of both parties.

The financial stress of the previous year will present challenges as we move forward and we will need deft and unique ideas to navigate the road ahead. But we can do it! Our church foodbank and concurrent outreach to the community has expanded and become a perpetual part of our church. Let me take this time to present my deep and heartfelt thanks to the congregation for its time, donations, support and pure goodwill to make this work. Prioritizing empathy and grace has never been difficult for our church. We have solidified that with our God-gifted works of 2020.

May God bless all of us as we navigate the road set before us.

Ian McDougall  
Chairperson

## In Memoriam - 2020

Lois Evelyn Sanderson

October 14

### **Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my Shepherd,  
I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in the path of righteousness  
for His name's sake.  
Yea though I walk through  
the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for You are with me.  
Your rod and Your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my life  
and I will dwell in House of the Lord forever.*

## **Statistics – 2020**

Number of Marriages	1
Number of Baptisms Infant	1
Number of Baptisms Adult	0
Number of Funerals or Memorial Services	1

## **Membership Statistics**

Adherents and Members at December 31, 2019	91
Received	
Glenna Holmes	
Elspeth McCulloch	2
Removed by Death	1
Lois Sanderson	
Members	78
Adherents	12
Adherents and Members at December 31, 2020	90

## **MEMBERSHIP AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT**

### **Members:**

Diane Rennie

The Membership Roll has seen a loss in membership of one member by death and an increase in membership by two.

Diane Rennie  
Chairperson

## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – REPORT**

### **Members:**

Joe Bondy (until March)

Paul Chapman

Diane Rennie

Rick Gates

Ross Wetherup

As Chair of Ministry and Personnel and in agreement with Committee Members, we want to thank all who serve Columbus Community United Church. To Reverend Richard, Mary Bellinger and Anthony Alexander, we are grateful for your hard work, talent, and dedication in keeping us connected as a congregation. To Mary Chapman, your care and love of our church is seen every time we enter. To Darlene Peddle, we appreciate your welcoming presence in our office and thank you for keeping us organized and “taking care of business” while we cannot be there. It is our hope to financially keep the status quo during this uncertain time and trust that the coming year will hold promise for our future.

Rick Gates

Chairperson

## **BUILDING REPAIRS, PROPERTY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE – REPORT**

### **Members:**

Rick Gates

Dan Wilson

Even with Covid-19 restrictions/closures, 2020 was a busy year with repairs and upgrades within the church.

- Refrigerator donated by Maria Davey.
- Beverage fridge donated by Joe Bondy.
- Mary Chapman hired for janitorial services.
- Excavation of septic pipe; repaired, and septic tank pumped out.
- Reverse Osmosis System installed in kitchen by the City of Oshawa.
- Installation of new windows in auditorium, thanks to Rick Gates.
- Installation of security system via camera/door/video. Thanks to Ian McDougall.
- Handrail installation into choir.
- Air conditioner/heating service. Will now be Heat/Air-Commer Co. ie., air conditioner serviced.
- New garbage shed purchased.
- Dishwasher was serviced; backflow valve replaced.

Thanks to all who worked in maintaining repairs to our church.

Dan Wilson

Chairperson

**MEMORIAL FUND – FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Bank balance Dec. 31/19	\$ 37,937.66	Total transferred to the Church's General Account	\$ 37,937.66
		Bank balance Dec. 31/20	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 37,937.66</b>		<b>\$ 37,937.66</b>

In 2020, \$37,937.66 was transferred from the Memorial Fund into the General Account after Council agreed to collapse the Memorial Fund.

**MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE – REPORT**

Members:

Mary and Paul Chapman	Marcia Parker
Rick and Judy Gates	Mike Schofield
Dawn and Ian McDougall	Mary June Smith
Reverend Richard Parker	

2020 was definitely a challenge. Mission and Service, with Ian at the helm, have done miraculous things as Ian continues to provide that light to those who, at this time, need a little extra help. Good Job Ian!

All donations of food or gift cards are graciously accepted at the church office Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning.

In early November Mission and Service had a meeting to plan for the Christmas season. Monetary help was sent to Gate 3:16, The Refuge, and others to continue their community work.

November 25<sup>th</sup> was a highlight for Columbus Community United Church as so many helpers pitched in to provide a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings to over 50 people within our community. Special thanks to Mary Chapman for her knowledge and organizational skills in preparing the dinner, and big thanks to all who donated food, cooked, packed, delivered and cleaned up. It was a privilege for all who helped provide "Christmas" for several deserving families.

It is the prayer of Mission and Service that we will be able to care for each other and be together again in 2021.

God Bless.

Judy Gates  
Chairperson

**MISSION AND SERVICE FUND – FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Bank balance Dec. 31/19	\$ 0	Service Charges	\$ 24.65
Envelope Donations	2,145.00	Total Forwarded to General Office minus Service Charges	2,120.35
		Bank balance Dec. 31/20	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,145.00</b>		<b>\$ 2,145.00</b>

**COLUMBUS MISSION FUND – FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Bank balance Dec. 31/19	\$ 6,792.43	Take-out containers	\$ 128.07
Envelope Donations	3,410.00	Feed the Need in Durham Region	500.00
Special Donation from Edith Alger	500.00	Operation Scugog	300.00
Special Donation from Mary Bellinger	1,000.00	The Refuge (including bus tickets)	600.00
White Gift Donation	80.00	Veteran coins	25.93
The Refuge - Bus tickets	400.00	Our Daily Bread Ministries	75.00
Thanksgiving Food Drive	<u>100.00</u>	Gate 3:16	500.00
		Christmas families	1,400.00
		Simcoe Hall Settlement House	1,500.00
		Community Gift Giving Program	400.00
		Food, etc. for families in need	5,218.99
		Feed the Need – White Gift (2019)	210.00
		Bank balance Dec. 31/20	<u>1,424.44</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,282.43</b>		<b>\$ 12,282.43</b>

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – REPORT**

At the beginning of the year we had a slight influx of children and the Sunday school at Columbus Community United Church was active and extremely excited to see young faces on a more regular basis. However, with families relocating and the effects of Covid-19, the Sunday school ended the year without children in our pews.

That being said, we remain ready to accept all children and youth to our fold.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Bank balance Dec. 31/18	\$ 2,861.74	Sunday school supplies	21.75
Envelope Donations	<u>0</u>	Bank balance Dec. 31/19	2,839.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,861.74</b>		<b>\$ 2,861.74</b>



## **U.C.W. – REPORT**

The women of the UCW did not have regular meetings during the 2020 calendar year due to a decline in numbers and the effects of Covid-19. However we did manage an extremely successful takeout ham dinner under the guidance of Mary Chapman and her team, and delivered poinsettias during the month of December to our shut-ins and others.

The women of the church will continue to be as active as possible and, with the help of everyone, we will represent our Church.

Donna Wilson & Judy Gates  
Co-Presidents

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE – REPORT**

What a year!

On behalf of the entire congregation, each one of us would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Reverend Richard, Anthony Alexander and Mary Bellinger. You three have been the glue which has kept us all connected. When hugs are allowed, be prepared!! In the meantime, we are extending giant virtual hugs to you all.

Sincerest gratitude from your church family.

Donna Wilson  
Chairperson

## **SHARED MINISTRY WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE – REPORT**

### Attendees:

Darlene Peddle  
Mary Bellinger

The Shared Ministry Worship and Music Committee met only once on January 16<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Then Covid-19 hit and deflated our momentum to ground zero.

We had plans for:

- More shared/joint services.
- Some pulpit exchanges...because not everyone was willing to attend the joint services.
- Summer Services – two at each church to allow for vacation time and the lower church attendance in summer.
- Not everyone understood how the “sharing” would save money for each church. More communication will be needed so that everyone understands “why” we are trying what we are doing.

There has been very little formal communication between churches since the virus began. We await the end of another lockdown and look forward to meeting in the future.

Mary Bellinger

## **COMMUNICATIONS – REPORT**

### Members:

Mary Bellinger

Diane Rennie

- and many helpers!

- There were no events in January/February of 2020 that required significant communications.
- In March, with the lockdown of Covid-19, our world changed and communications became a priority as we had no other way to share news and spirituality with one another.
- Reverend Parker recorded twice-weekly “Inspirational Messages” for us and these were sent out in “bcc email blasts” to all members with email accounts. These audio messages were also available on the church website: [www.columbusunitedchurch.ca](http://www.columbusunitedchurch.ca).
- In July, we were allowed to have social-distanced/masked services at 1/3 capacity but no other fundraisers or fellowship gatherings were to take place. The website was updated weekly with any church news.
- Our October 24<sup>th</sup> Scallop Potato/Ham Supper Poster was shared digitally by email and website.
- Our Mission and Service “food/gifts drive list” was shared digitally by email and website.
- In November, Covid numbers increased significantly and we locked down again. Reverend Park, Anthony Alexander, and Mary Bellinger met for one hour each week and recorded a video service for “Sunday service”. Anthony created a YouTube account for our church and had the knowledge to edit our videos with the hymn lyrics. Reverend Parker created a bulletin draft. Mary Bellinger edited the bulletin and published the weekly bulletin, YouTube link, and announcements in a weekly email blast. All of this information was also available on the homepage of the website.
- Many of us missed “seeing” our church family. In December, we began weekly Zoom “coffee-times” at 11AM for 40 minutes. Many of us needed encouragement to try Zoom, but more and more joined each week. While not as great as in-person hugs and conversation, Zoom has allowed us to stay up to date with one another’s lives.
- Thank you to Darlene Peddle for updating the information on our front lawn digital sign as it was needed! It is a great community information sharer.
- Thank you to the many who have made efforts to call isolated church members and keep them supported and informed. It has been a lonely and difficult year for so many. Your calls have made a huge difference!

Mary Bellinger

## **GOOD TIMES CLUB – REPORT**

With a change in format over these past couple of years the Good Times Club has not been hosting the number of events as they have in the past. The main event in 2019 was the corn roast in August. This event was well attended, making it a great success as there was more than enough food and fellowship to make up for the lack of other events throughout the year. Sadly, with the effects of Covid-19, there were no events in 2020.

Perhaps we will see a few more events in 2021!



**COLUMBUS UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2020**

Minister	- The Reverend Richard Parker
Secretary	- Darlene Peddle
Treasurer	- Diane Rennie
Finance	- Paul Chapman
Presbytery Representative	-
Chairperson	- Ian McDougall
Past Chairperson	- Rick Gates
Chairperson – Ministry & Personnel	- Rick Gates
Chairperson – Christian Education	-
Chairperson – Mission & Service	- Judy Gates
Chairperson – Finance	- Paul Chapman
Chairperson – Memorial, Building & Property	- Dan Wilson
Chairperson – Communications	- Mary Bellinger
Chairperson – Worship & Music	- Donna Wilson
Chairperson – Membership & Archives	- Diane Rennie
Treasurer – Trustees	- Doreen Bondy (until March) - JoAnn Stuart (beginning September)

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**Elected Members of Council**

Doreen Bondy (until March)	Rick Gates	Ross Wetherup
Joe Bondy (until March)	Laura Ann Martin	Dan Wilson
Mary Bellinger	Ian McDougall	
Mary Chapman	Mike Schofield	
Judy Gates	JoAnn Stuart	

## TRUSTEES – 2020

Chairperson – The Reverend Richard Parker

Secretary – Mary Bellinger

Treasurer – Doreen Bondy (until March)

JoAnn Stuart (beginning September)

### **Members**

Mary Bellinger, Doreen Bondy (outgoing), Lorne Goodman, Ian McDougall, The Reverend Richard Parker, JoAnn Stuart (incoming), Ross Wetherup.

In March, we reinvested \$26,000 that had been released from Manulife. Susan Taptelis' assistant, Robin Kingsmill, of BMO Nesbitt Burns, suggested Great West Life producing 5.9% interest and a 5.67 yield and we followed her guidance.

The general fund has been falling short by almost \$4,000 per month this year. School did not pay rent for 3 months this spring due to Covid-19 lockdown, and they paid reduced rent this fall because they were required to lower their student numbers and increase their cleaning and safety practices. For much of this year, we have not been in the sanctuary for service, and therefore it has been more difficult to ensure that weekly offerings come in. As well, many in our community have struggled with food insecurity and we have done ample mission work to attend to the needy. Trustees have transferred \$45,000 in 2020 to the church's General Account (\$20,000 in March and another \$25,000 in August).

Doreen Bondy has kept our Trustee books up-to-date and has communicated with our financial advisors at RBC and BMO Nesbitt-Burns for a decade now. She has worked tirelessly and we are ever grateful for all that she did to keep us informed, out of debt, and secure. Doreen is ready to move on and take on new adventures. She is retiring from the Trustees. JoAnn Stuart was elected to the Trustees in September and brings experience, knowledge, and astuteness to our team. We are so fortunate that she is willing to step into Doreen's place and be our trusted treasurer.

With JoAnn's appointment to lead our team, we have been signing documents to update the information files at BMO Nesbitt Burns.

It has been a difficult year to meet and get things done. Hopefully 2021 proves to be more encouraging.

Mary Bellinger

Secretary - Trustees