



Emmanuel Newsletter March 2025



ROOTED IN FAITH

100 years — 100 trees

Emmanuel United Church is celebrating the
100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada
by planting 100 trees!

With the support of the Essex Region Conservation Authority
we will plant 100 trees at the Earth Day site at
Florence Ave and Wyandotte St. E.

The total cost per tree (including ERCA staff and resources) is \$34.00

Your support by donation of any amount will ensure the success of this commemorative project and provide all the health and beauty benefits of this stand of 100 trees for decades to come.

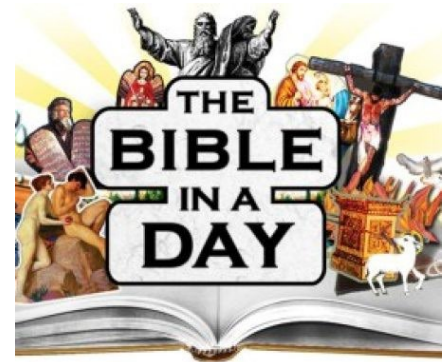
Please use the special **ROOTED IN FAITH** envelopes or donate by e-transfer (*Trees* in the subject): emmanuelucwindsor@gmail.com





The choir has begun to practice for the 100th anniversary celebration service to be held at Gesstwood camp in June. There will be a mass choir for the event.


Join us on **Saturday, March 22** from **10-2:30** in **Central Hall** for a **Bible Study- The Bible in a Day**. Contact Rev. George to confirm your attendance.



The Emmanuel Striders raised over \$10,000 for the Coldest Night of the Year with the support of the congregation and friends. Congratulations to Annette who was #1 fundraiser and to both Annette and Michele who raised over \$1000 each.



Join us for pancakes on Tuesday, March 4 for Shrove Tuesday. A free will offering will be accepted.



A Community Dialogue on Affordable Housing and Homelessness: Moving Beyond Limiting Beliefs and Opening to Creative Approaches.

— Moderated by: Meg Roberts (AM800 - Mornings with Mike and Meg)

March 6th, 2025 6:30-8 pm
Emmanuel United Church
1728 Lincoln Rd, Windsor

Please join us for this important conversation about affordable housing and homelessness, hosted for the community by Emmanuel United. Thursday March 6th at 6:30. Moderated by Meg Roberts: AM800.

Join us as we welcome speakers and visual art that invite us to open our minds to thinking differently about housing and homelessness in Windsor.



Emmanuel hosted a candidate's debate for the Provincial ridings of Windsor-West and Windsor-Tecumseh. It was an opportunity for community members to come and ask questions, share their concerns, and hear from the candidates.

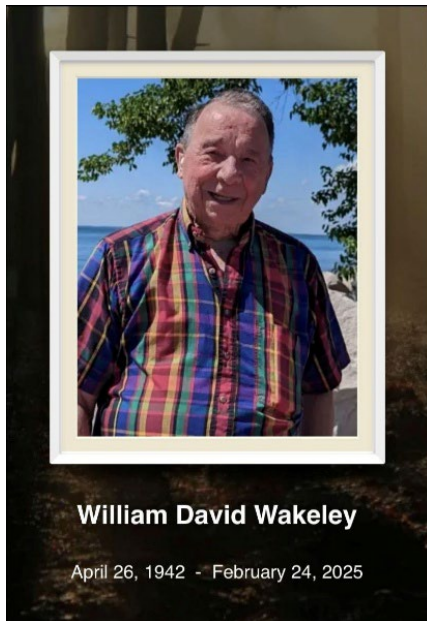
Finance Committee Report: (January 2025)

- Income Received \$14,005
- Expenses Incurred \$21,673

Deficit as of January 31 \$7,668

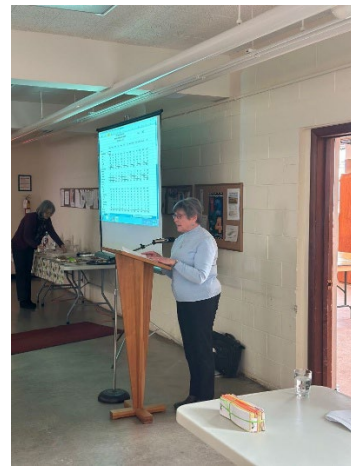
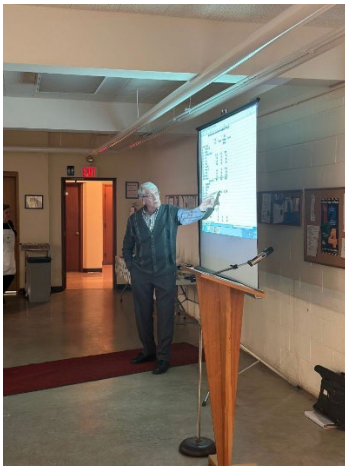
At this rate, we will end 2025 with a deficit approaching \$100,000. We know we can overcome this with everyone's attention, generous giving, and dedication to the important work at Emmanuel. Please consider increasing your monthly contribution.

In Memoriam:



With sadness we mourn the passing and celebrate the life of Bill Wakely who blessed us with his presence, his soft and kind words, his banana bread and a candy for the children. We keep his wife Ruth and their family in our prayers. A celebration of life will be at Emmanuel on Saturday, March 1 at 1 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting:



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Sunday, February 23. Council Chair, Chris Waters thanked Minister George Bozanich, members of Council and committees, the staff and the congregation for the many ways that everyone contributes to a vibrant church life. Chris will stay on as chair until June 2025. We are seeking a volunteer for this important position and for other committee work. An important part of the meeting was the review of the budget, where we committed to increased financial contributions. It was also noted that there will need to be a plan made for a leaky roof in the near future.

ANNIVERSARY ANECDOTES

OUR HERITAGE: CENTRAL UNITED/GILES BOULEVARD UNITED

These anecdotes are presented in anticipation of the celebration on June 8, 2025 of the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada, and the 105th anniversary of Emmanuel United Church

Central United Church traces its beginning to 1803 when a young Methodist missionary, a circuit rider named Nathan Bangs, visited and preached in the area. In 1838, the community had grown sufficiently that decisions were made to erect the first building. It was located on Mill Street in Sandwich, now Windsor.

In 1867, the Sandwich-Windsor Church purchased a building on Ferry Street from the Congregationalists and now had a full-time clergyman, Rev Hugh Johnson and later Rev John Philip. The church grew quickly and it was decided to build a church of their own design on the corner of Windsor Avenue and Chatham Street. The cornerstone was laid in 1873. The church opened in 1874 as Windsor Methodist Church. It grew and had to be expanded; however, tragedy struck as a disastrous fire occurred on January 4, 1904, that destroyed the church building.

The cornerstone of a new church at 628 Ouellette (and Wyandotte) was laid on October 19, 1904. Two years later, in 1906, it was dedicated. The building cost \$46,500, half of which was raised by subscription.

The union in 1925 of Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterian churches created the United Church of Canada; Central Methodist Church became Central United Church.

At one point, Central United was a thriving hub of activity, its sanctuary almost fully packed nearly every week. Central is considered the "Mother Church" of all the United Churches in Windsor because it has the biggest auditorium and most modern equipment. It hosted large evangelistic meetings and preaching campaigns sometimes bringing in between 1200 to 1400 people at the events, and the minister had a regular congregation of over 800 people. Central hosted social activities, an annual picnic, Sunday school, young adults programs, Vacation Bible School, service work opportunities, tent revivals, scouts, Bible studies, and initiated the Open Doors Lounge, a precursor to the Downtown Mission.

It has not always been easy for the congregation facing financial hardships, the Great Depression, two World Wars, and most recently, the global COVID crisis and building repairs, which has put the congregation on edge and forced a re-think of how to 'do church'. "We honestly felt that amalgamation was the best way to honour the church's ancestors, safeguard our legacy, and move forward into our next chapter of ministry to Christ and as a community of faith." The congregation sold its church building in 2024 and amalgamated with Emmanuel United Church.

Giles Boulevard United Church in Windsor was established in 1925, formerly a Methodist mission. The Methodist Church was founded on January 9, 1911, as Howard Avenue Methodist Mission, located at Howard Ave. and Erie Street. A new building, Giles Boulevard Methodist Church was erected in 1922 at Marentette Avenue and Giles Boulevard in 1922. It joined the United Church of Canada in 1925. The congregation amalgamated with Central United Church in 1987.



Affirming Committee

PIE Day is upon us once again, coming up on March 14th (3.14, or "pi" in math!), reminding us to be Public, Intentional, and Explicit in our inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people and all marginalized groups, as an Affirming Congregation. To learn more about PIE Day, see the [Affirm United website information and resources here](#).

At Emmanuel, we'll be celebrating on Sunday, March 9th with special music, readings, decorations, and of course pie for all following the service! 🥧

Happy PIE Day! 🏳️‍🌈

As Lent Begins:

Fast from hurting words ... and say kind words, Fast from sadness ... and be filled with gratitude, Fast from anger ... and be filled with patience, Fast from pessimism ... and be filled with hope, Fast from worries ... and have trust in God, Fast from complaints ... and contemplate simplicity, Fast from pressures ... and be prayerful, Fast from bitterness ... and fill your hearts with joy, Fast from selfishness ... and be compassionate to others, Fast from grudges ... and be reconciled, Fast from words ... and be silent so you can listen!

Pope Francis