



Minister's Message — 2022

Annual Meeting Sun Mar 5, 2023

A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears.

When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
"GOD'S LIGHT WILL EVER STAY."

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here a sparkle and a blaze,
— WARMING ALL OUR DAYS. (VU 82)

Grace & Peace to You, Dear Friends in Christ,

Indeed God is "warming all our days". We sang this hymn on Christmas Sunday. Sadly, we weren't able to have the beautiful Christmas Eve service. So many of you had made big plans. But the blizzard came a day too soon! Ruthie & Nina made a very poignant reflection on our loss of the Holy Night. Go to wabashunited.org and press ABOUT to see this lovely meditation. You will feel blessed for sure. ☺

Well, how did we let God's light shine in 2022?

It wasn't always easy! We said "Good Bye" to the earthly presence of Thelma, Ethel, Randy, Diane, Terry, Helen, Lisa, Donna, Rev. Ross & Dorothy. We love them always and precious memories live on. They are at Peace in God's realm. Thanks be to God!

One of our happiest times was the Celebration of the Animals Service: Outdoors at Wabash—an overflow crowd—and Bill Willmore rode once more his stately horse Cheyenne. Indoors at Bothwell, our dear friend, Dorothy spoke once more telling us of God's spirit shown by our furry friends. We now treasure that final story she blessed us with.

Our thanks to the parents, grandparents & teachers who encourage the next generation to "let God's light shine". At Wabash, there are still 15 children receiving Christian materials each month. At Bothwell, we have 12 coming to Zone Youth Club (ZYC). We have hopes to have a skit for the congregation in the spring.

Thank you to everyone who supported the gifts under the tree in December. Bob Hamilton who co-ordinated the delivery of The Gifts in the Bothwell area said 37 families benefitted by receiving toys for children and non-perishable food items—a Christmas ham was also included in the hampers. Also, thank you for your continued support of the Caring Cupboard. Karen & Patty say it is well-used.

At Wabash we were favoured by music from Kim & Marc Reed & piano solos from Meg Patterson. At Bothwell Sarah Myers sang several solos accompanied by Vanessa Benoit. We thank them for lending their talents & enriching our worship.

Hallelujah! The devotional books have arrived for the New Year. There are still 3 left if you have not yet received yours. If you are feeling troubled, struggling with illness or a relationship, these wonderful meditations can help calm your soul. Walking, deep breathing, talking to a friend also help to feel the warmth & calm of God's presence. If you would like a pastoral visit or you know of someone in need, please let me know: 519 365 5511. And we offer special prayers at the Bible Study group on Tuesdays.

Thankfully, the UCW is going to continue. Our thanks to Laura-Ellen, Sharon Boylan, Shirley R. & Rosilla who are “on the front lines” to make this happen.

As a pastoral charge we generously supported the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Mission & Service request to help the Ukraine, Pakistan & Korea. We also supported Jackie McVicar & the B.T. S. program.

Our faithful & talented charge co-ordinator Joanne Lewinsky, continues, as does our faithful & wonderful organist & music director, Sharon Stevens. Indeed, we are so blessed by many angels & elves that work each week, each season, behind the scenes to enrich our worship experience & the celebration of God's presence in our lives.

I appreciated so much the recognition that you gave to me for the 20 years of service at BWPC. The party, cake & luncheon was enjoyed by all. I am certain that God blesses us and smiles at our faithful attempts to spread his love to everyone we come in contact with.

I am humbled & encouraged as I too, faithfully continue to serve as pastor/preacher/ minister in this time & place.

With blessings & love to you and your dear ones.

Shalom, *Annalee*

I Have Called You By Your Name

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and asked you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.



I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine. (MV 161)