

# WEEKLY NEWS

Est. 2020 SIMCOE, FRIDAY 11th JULY 2025

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY 13th JULY** 

8:00AM Holy Eucharist

Traditional (BCP). Said service

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Contemporary (BAS) With Music, Choir & Sunday School Refreshments & fellowship follow in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY 16th JULY (Chapel)

10:30am Holy Eucharist

Traditional (BCP). Said service.







No.23-25

TUE 15th JULY	Tai Chi (Foundations)	9:00am
THU 17h JULY	Core Lunch Ministry	9:00 - Noon
THU 17th JULY	Migrant Worker Ministry	2:00-8:00pm
FRI 18th JULY	Tai Chi (Foundations)	9:00am
FRI 18th JULY	Migrant Worker Ministry	2:00-8:00pm
SUN 20th JULY	Lunch Out After Church	12:15pm
SAT 26th JULY	Book Sale	10:00am - 2:00pm



On Sunday 20th July, following the 10:30am service (approx. 12:15pm), we are having a parish lunch trip to the Gibbled Goose Pub in Waterford. If you would like to join us, and participate in this parish social event, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the parish hall or contact the parish office at your earliest convenience, so that we can make a group reservation. The Pub address is: 33 Main St N, Waterford. Thanks. Fr. Paul



#### THEN BE THE LAST ONE

#### Or, The Narrow Road

Hi friends, I've been feeling increasingly out of step lately, more and more like a dinosaur or an anachronistic hold-over of a pilgrim on the narrow road. I've joked that I'm the last of my kind, but all the jokes



don't make it less lonely. Some folks do treat me like I'm quaint or precious and so more easily dismissed: me, with my love of Jesus and the Bible, me with my prayers and my deep belief that goodness and words still matter, me with my insistence on the unequivocal welcome of God's love for everyone. Those side -eyes are earned, I suppose: earnestness is my base-code setting and our world is more comfortable with cynicism and snark these days. But I do feel at times like the last one standing. Joan Didion famously said, "I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking" and today's Field Notes definitely falls into that category.<sup>1</sup> I wish I could promise a tidy resolution today but alas, I'm still figuring out what I think on this matter. Why? Because I feel like I am on a very narrow road and quite alone at that. I'm also trying to understand how to move through this moment in time, how to follow Jesus well, perhaps even how to heal what is being broken around us, while being relentlessly honest about the demand of that. First, a sidebar: There is an old saying that when the student is ready, the teacher will appear. At this stage of my life, I do wonder how often I approached the ways of Jesus before I was truly ready for the teacher himself. Because when you do that - when you want the lesson without the embodied teacher - you end up with half-understood principles and cobbled together best-practices and take-aways for personal enrichment that can be easily corrupted rather than true transformation, let alone friendship with God. Perhaps I'm not alone in this: we do try on things even from the scriptures, like a child trying on clothes that are too big for her, and then parade around like we belong in the outfit, certain in our opinions and our proclamations and our decisions without any experience in lament and complexity, compassion and grace. Some aspects of scripture are meant to be lived into, rather than forced to fit before their time. The doors of understanding stay locked until love or grief or sometimes both have handed us the key for safe passage beyond. Or perhaps these teachings from Jesus are the multi-faceted prism that we understand, one shaft of light at a time, until the whole of our understanding is illuminated. Either way, we require time and age and experience to refract the light of God's love into the once-dim corners in our understanding. Basically, it turns out that I cannot really understand a thing until the Spirit decides that now is the time for the thing to be understood, if you will. And even then, my understanding will be limited. At some point, I will learn humility about this. I hope. But as I become more settled into this middle of my life - even properly middle-aged, if you will - I'm finding much more compassion, dignity, gentleness, and room in the ways of Jesus than I ever imagined possible. I'm finding more wisdom in the words and teachings of Jesus, more life, more possibility. Jesus is, as always, the way, the truth, and the life. So I wonder if there are some teachings from Jesus that we simply can't understand until we've lived a while longer. All of this is to say, I think I'm beginning to understand something old all over again. (In my experience, the Holy Spirit is gentle but relentless in this way.) An astonishingly efficient teaching from Jesus in the book of Matthew has been haunting me lately. The phrases from these particular verses are with me these days, waking and sleeping. I keep circling them, trying to understand something that feels important right now. You may remember these words, tucked inside of the Sermon on the Mount: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." - Jesus (Matthew 7:13-14 NIV)

I spent an astonishing amount of my life believing that this was a salvation message, and a highly personal salvation message at that. Fine, whatever, that worked for a time, I guess. And maybe that's right. Other times, I've interpreted this as a Moral vs. Immoral Behaviour caution. That interpretation was particularly popular when I was a teenager: your friends who drink beers

and listen to secular music and let boys slide their hands under their shirt? Wide road! Destruction! Beware! While those of us who listened to music that was both positive AND encouraging or went to youth group religiously or kissed dating good-bye, well, that was a narrow road of righteousness. Congratulations etc. etc. you have your reward. I've read a dozen takes on that passage myself in the past few months: one sees the narrow road as one of contemplation, another as an invitation to lament, one as a pathway of justice, another as updated purity culture virtues vs. vices, on and on. It turns out that there are as many ways of interpreting Jesus's words on what is the narrow road and what is the wide road as there are Christian TikTok influencers with ring lights.

I suppose this is just another take...

**Sarah Bessey** (Canadian Author, Wife, Mum, Knitter)

### <u>INK</u>

God, I was trying to write you a prayer but the ink leaked onto my fingers, the words all over my hands, and I tried to wipe them off but I got the words all over me and then whole sentences got smudged onto everything around me, onto the world and wouldn't you know it, there's no more ink left in my pen, and I think I've lost the prayer entirely, except I keep seeing it on every tree and wall and person and head line, and even the streets are smeared with it, and even the clouds at times seem prayerfully inky, and at nightwell, all I see is the ink of my prayers. But my thoughts have no more words SO Amen

(Steve Garnaas-Holmes — Unfolding Light). Contributed by AFP Rep Grace Brubacher



### PRESERVE US, O LORD



If anyone is doing any jam making or canning over the summer please consider doing a bit extra for the bazaar. Things like pickles, chutney, jams, marmalade,

salsa, pasta sauce, lemon curd etc.
We would be most grateful. For
more information please talk to Deb
Vankerrebroeck at church or give her
a call \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 519-582-2292.

Many thanks.



# PORK-ON-A-BUN SUPPER



# SATURDAY JULY 12, 2025 5 – 7PM MARBURG HALL



Marburg Hall is owned and operated by volunteers of the Marburg Community Association. Built in 1863, this simple building has served the community as a church and community hall. This is a fundraiser to maintain Pulled-Pork

Colesiaw Baked Beans

Dessert

Adults \$15 Children \$10

Dine-In or Take-Out

### Marburg Communit

1345 Lynn Valley Ro Port Dover

519.583.9911

# COLBORNE VILLAGE UNITED CHURCH

30 Glendale Crescent, Simcoe



Friday July 25th 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

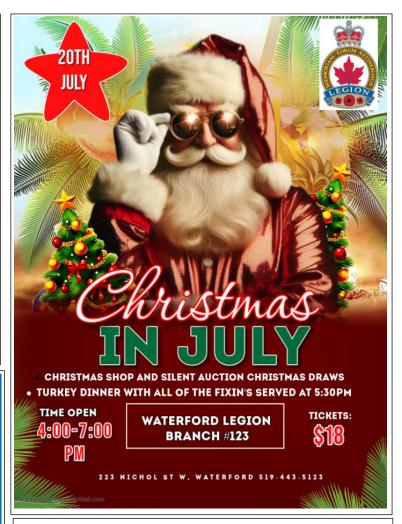
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Saturday July 26th 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Household items, outdoor items, electronics, puzzles, books and much more. Stop by and browse, you may find yourself a treasure!







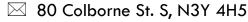
### **DESPERATELY SEEKING.....**



Mike Capper is in desperate need of a slide projector. If you have one he can borrow for a least a month, please contact him 226-440-2592. He promises to take very good care of the projector.

### **CONTACT US**

**(519)-426-0501** 



neception@trinitysimcoe.ca

www.trinitysimcoe.ca

www.Facebook.com/Trinitysimcoe

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday

9:00am-12:00 noon

Visitors always welcome.

# THE DIOCESE OF HURON

The Rt. Rev. Dr. R. Todd Townshend Bishop of Huron

1-800-919-1115 Huron Church House 190 Queens Avenue, London, ON N6A 6H7 www.diohuron.org

