

Welcome to the first edition of **IN THE LOOP**, a UCW newsletter that is designed to feature past, present and future PVUC UCW events. Delivered monthly to your email address, we hope that you will feel up-to-date and in the loop about what's going on in the UCW. For more information about the UCW contact Susan Reed at svreed@bell.net

JANUARY UCW MEETING

At the January meeting we were privileged to hear Caitlin Rae from Doors of Compassion (DOC) speak about the work they are doing among the unhoused in Ajax. DOC is one of the shelters that the PVUC UCW supports. DOC began as a pilot initiative called "Out Of The Cold" during the 2019/2020 winter season. Today, DOC operates three emergency shelters, a service hub, a food bank for clients, a housing support and a peer support group. The group partners with experts from the region and receives funding from the provincial and federal governments as well as donations from individuals and fund raisers like the *Coldest Night of the Year Walk* on February 28. PVUC will have a team walking again this year. Contact the Rev. Kaitlyn at minister@pvuc.ca for more information about joining the team or making a donation.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas gift card, donations and winter clothing drives. Over \$800 in cards and donations was collected. Clothing collected included scarves, hats, mitts, gloves and warm socks. One lady who does not attend this church made over 50 double crocheted hats. Carolyn Webster, with help from Carrie Green, delivered everything before Christmas to the St. Paul's-on-the-Hill Community Food Bank and the various shelters that PVUC supports in both Ajax and Pickering. All agencies were pleased and thankful. DARS in Pickering was thrilled, commenting that they give away so many socks per day that the need for good warm socks is ever present.

We continue to accept the winter essentials.

BLESSING BAGS

Thanks to Michele Kerkos and Rowena Dunlop, work on the Blessing Bags for the unhoused has begun. Articles needed include personal care items, winter wear and snacks. Please check "best-by" dates on any donated snack items. Donations may be dropped off in the Narthex or on Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Room. Donations should be received by February 18 so that the bags can be assembled before the end of February.

IN THE FUTURE

February 17—Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper) courtesy of the Men's group. 5pm to 7 pm. Shrove Tuesday service in the chapel at 6:30 pm.

February 22—Fellowship Lunch after service courtesy of the CE Committee

Happy February Birthdays to UCW members:

Evelyn Bergerson & Bev Davidson (*If we have missed your birthday, we apologize and ask you to let us know*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next UCW meeting will be on February 10 at 12:30 pm in the Chapel. The business meeting will be followed by a presentation called "It's Tea Time" by Susan Reed. Learn tidbits about tea, discover seven life lessons found in a tea bag, and find out what kind of tea you are! Bring your favourite tea cup and saucer and be prepared to tell the story of why it is your favourite.



Following the presentation we will share in tea time featuring tea, delicious scones, butter, jam and clotted cream prepared by Marilyn Cummins and Linda Hearn.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is the period between Ash Wednesday (February 18) and Easter. It represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and praying. Today it serves as a time for Christians to spiritually prepare for Easter. Some may give up something as a sign of repentance, some may take on new things as a way of spiritual growth, some engage in prayer and Bible study as a way of reflection and others may fast. But whatever spiritual practices you engage in during Lent, remember, "in every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

"Fasting without prayer is, well, dieting."

- Matt Fradd