

# **Association of Dundas Churches**

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Wed. January 18 – Wed. January 25, 2017**

There are two parts to our ADC observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

- “Entertaining Angels”
- “Joint Study Time on aspects of Reconciliation”

“Entertaining Angels” is a visiting time when representatives from one ADC member church visit another ADC member church. This will occur on Sunday, January 22, 2017.

“Joint Study Time” will be offered on two successive Wednesdays: Jan. 18 and 25, 2017 from 10 am to 11.30 am in the parlour of St. Paul’s United Church.

### **Purposes**

The purpose of “Entertaining Angels” is:

- to experience worship in the other community,
- to bring a greeting from the Association and from their own congregation,
- to participate in that worship service (where possible) in helping to lead in prayer or in the reading of Scripture.

The purpose of “Joint Study” is:

- to learn and reflect together on the call to engage in the ministry of reconciliation
- to understand what happened at the time of the Reformation
- to locate our ADC activities in the worldwide efforts for reconciliation among Christians and indeed among all faiths, peoples, creation

### **2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Materials**

The Week of Guided Prayer materials are sponsored and published jointly by the World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order and the Roman Catholic Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

This year's worship and study material have been prepared by German Christians. You can visit the websites of the World Council of Churches or the Canadian Council of Churches to look over material they offer. There is material for a liturgy and also study/ prayer material.

German Christians are a fitting choice in 2017 as what became known as the Reformation is said to have begun in what is now Germany when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. On the website you will find material on the current ecumenical situation in Germany.

The theme of the week is drawn from Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.

“The love of Christ compels us” is the title and that text speaks about “reconciliation.”

## **“Entertaining Angels”**

Visitors will bring a GREETING and may have opportunity to share in leading in PRAYER or SCRIPTURE READING or some other part of the worship service.

### GREETING

- needs to be brief
- visitors identify themselves and bring greetings from the Association of Dundas Churches and from their own congregation
- visitors express their gladness in worshipping with fellow Christians in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- visitors express joy in the gifts God has made present in the community they are visiting
- visitors express our longing for the day when we will all gather around the Table

### **Who Is Visiting Whom?**

Christ Church Flamborough and Salvation Army need to be placed in this rotation.

Life Community Church members to visit Knox Presbyterian Church

Dundas Baptist members to visit St. James Anglican Church

Knox Presbyterian members to visit St. Augustine’s Roman Catholic Church

St. Augustine's Roman Catholic members to visit St. Mark’s United Church

St. James' Anglican and Christian Science members to visit St. Paul’s United Church

St. Mark's United members to visit Dundas Baptist Church

St. Paul's United members to visit Life Community Church

### **Worship Times**

#### **Christian Life Assembly – 10.30 am**

Dundas Baptist Church – 10.30 am

Knox Presbyterian Church – 10 am

St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church – 10.30 am

St. James Anglican Church – 10.30 am

St. Mark's United Church – 10.30 am

St. Paul's United Church – 10 am

### **Contacting Each Other (Lead Ministers/ Pastors/ Priests take note!)**

It is the responsibility of the lead or coordinating minister/priest to see that members of the congregation are chosen and that their names and contact information are shared with the lead or coordinating minister/priest of the church they are to visit.

The “host” minister/priest will then contact the “guests” and clarify role in the service, where to sit, when to expect to bring a greeting, and so on.

## **Joint Study: “The love of Christ compels us” 2 Corinthians 5: 14-20**

### **Location:**

Our Bible Study/Prayer time will be held in the parlour of St. Paul's United Church on the two “feast days” that are the bookends of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the feast days of St. Peter and St. Paul: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 and Wednesday, January 25, 2017. Study time will be from 10 am to 11.30 am each day. [Enter through the elevator door and take the elevator to Level 3]

Participants are welcome to one or both of the sessions as they are able.  
We hope to have representation from all congregations in Dundas.

### ***Day 1: Jan. 18 –***

#### ***How Western Church unity was fractured in the Reformation and where we are now***

- *What was this all about?*
- *Different understandings of the role of tradition and the role of Scripture in the life of the church*
- *Differing forms of church polity (through reading of Scripture)*
- *Differing forms of worship*
- *Differing understanding of sacraments (eucharist, baptism, ...)*
- *Differing understanding of ministerial/priestly roles/functions*
- *Differing understanding of individual and community/ individual in community*
- *Entanglement with state identity and with emerging “national” identities*

#### ***Subsequent efforts at reconciliation***

- *Toleration and “models” of church “unity” (Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Alliances/Councils, Cooperation, etc*
- *Late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century cooperation*
- *Movement toward a “national” Canadian church*
- *World Evangelical Alliance 1846*
- *World Council of Churches 1948*
- *Vatican 2, 1962 – 1965*
- *Where the ADC fits into all this ...*

### ***Day 2: Jan. 25***

***A look at the ministry of reconciliation as understood through 2 Cor. 5: 15-20***

- *Christ died for all ... We regard no one from a human point of view*
- *The old has passed ... A new creation*
- *God's ministry of reconciliation in our context ... among us, interfaith, aboriginal, creation*

**Registration**

Please have ALL participants register with Rick Spies: [rev.rick@sympatico.ca](mailto:rev.rick@sympatico.ca) 905-628-9760  
There is no charge and “drop-ins” are welcome, but it is helpful to know who is expected for room setup and provision of any materials that might be developed.

**Publicity**

A poster for “Entertaining Angels” and the Study will be prepared and emailed to churches for their use.