



# 2026 VISIONS EASTER NEWSLETTER

[office@visionsunited.ca](mailto:office@visionsunited.ca) | [minister@visionsunited.ca](mailto:minister@visionsunited.ca) | [www.visionsunited.ca](http://www.visionsunited.ca)

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As I write this note to you, it is the middle of February. The days are beginning to lengthen. The birds and the acrobatically adept squirrels find joy in the fresh sunflower seeds in my backyard feeders. The sunshine beaming in my front windows reminds me that it might be a good idea to get out the dusting cloth!

Life is a little like that, isn't it? We have those moments of promise coupled with those times when we wrestle with the layers of dust in our lives and in the world at large. While it might be tempting to avoid the hard parts or to turn aside from the troubles, the Lenten story reminds us of Jesus who trusted in God's presence and leading through it all. Even when pressure from his opponents mounted and tension filled the air, Jesus was undeterred. Despite the hatred, greed, violence and grappling for power all around him, he continued to believe in a love that would not let him go, no matter what.

Living as Easter people calls us to follow in Christ's spirit of feeling the fear, the anxiety and the uncertainties of the path ahead and going forth anyway, believing that God is leading us to what is next for us. One of my favourite quotes about the resurrection comes from Frederick Buechner: "It is not his absence from the tomb that moves us. It is his presence in our empty lives." As we read in the various renditions of our Easter gospel story, Jesus goes ahead of us leading us from where we are to where we are called to be. For the early disciples that meant a movement from heartache, disappointment and loss that they witnessed on the cross toward a promise that new life and possibility awaited them in Galilee.

Perhaps that is what we might cling to as Visions United this year too - that new hope and fresh possibilities are ahead of us. Jesus is already on the road calling and inviting us to places and people where resurrection is waiting to be revealed to us. We will meet him as we make our way forward. So much depends on what we are prepared to see as we dust ourselves off and take the necessary steps together.

Blessings to all as we look and listen for signposts along the way.

*Rev. Susan Estabrooks*

## UPCOMING DATES

February 22 - Lent I

March 1 - Lent II

March 8 - Lent III

March 15 - Lent IV

March 22 - Lent V

March 29 - Palm Sunday

April 3 - Good Friday

April 5 - Easter Sunday





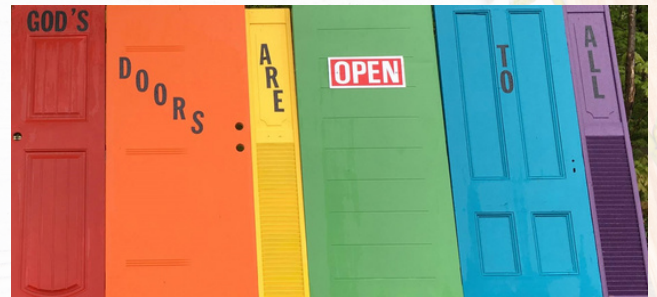
The Transition Committee operates as an ad hoc coordinating body and does not have decision-making authority over the Trustees, CLT or the Regional Council. The role of this Committee is to plan and oversee Visions United's transition and closure, ensuring that:

- Claudia Schaerer** – Chair
- Wayne Toole** – Secretary
- Glenna Lightfoot** – Trustee Rep
- Fay Cameron** – CLT Representative
- Norma Bellamy** – Congregation Rep
- Marlene MacLeod** – Regional Liaison

- All United Church and regional requirements for disbanding are followed.
- Assets and property (including Dover Cemetery responsibilities, investments, furnishings, and special items like handbells) are inventoried and a disposition plan is developed by the Trustees and submitted to the Region's Property Committee for approval.
- All necessary records and congregational archives (CLT, trustees, UCW, etc.) are organized, boxed, labeled, and sent to the proper places (archives, financial storage).
- A well-planned closing worship service and related gatherings are arranged in coordination with CLT, Regional Council, and invited ministers.
- The congregation is kept informed and supported, including using tools (like a survey and information-gathering) to help people discern where they may go next after Visions closes.

If any member of Visions has questions or comments regarding the work of the Transition Committee, please contact one of the committee's members.

**We are here to support you!**



**Visions wants to thank each and every volunteer over the 15 past years that have supported Visions and enabled us to do so much for our community!**

**We continue with all our existing projects in 2026. The AGM report shows all groups we supported last year. Thank-you for your ongoing support.**



**Open Doors - Open Minds -  
Open Hands - Open Hearts**