

# THE COMMUNICATOR



## SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Spiritual Leadership is continuing to bridge the gap during our ministerial break. Thank you to everyone who has helped put services together and lead us in worship. We are looking forward to Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian- Petro beginning on Jan. 1. She is sure to bring us wonderful messages. We will be holding Rev. Takouhi's Covenanting service on March 2 at 2 p.m.

We have a large celebration to look forward to. The United Church of Canada is celebrating their 100th Anniversary. On June 1, Trinity Smiths Falls has been designated as one of 300 Cluster Churches across Canada. We will be welcoming United Church congregations in the area to join us. A service will be provided to our minister from The National Committee so all Cluster churches are delivering the same worship service.

Continuing the Centennial celebrations, on June 15, 2025, the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council will be holding a mass service at the EY Center in Ottawa. The United Church of Canada will be providing transportation. We will send out more information when it becomes available.

We are looking forward to the year ahead, but will enjoy the upcoming Christmas season first. We are so lucky to have Arlie Dopson, Linda Zieman and Kim Johnston decorate for us. The church is beautiful. Norma Wrightly will provide us with our service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m., the only Christmas Eve service this year. The Spiritual Leadership Team has welcomed The Christian Community Team. We will continue to work together and hopefully continue working toward a common goal, assisting each other as needed.

Spiritual Leadership Team has initiated a fund-raising project of selling pens and flashlights with the Trinity's details engraved at a cost of \$5.00 each.

Please remember we welcome any input and any new members. The Spiritual Leadership and Christian Community Team wants to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Your Spiritual Leadership Team and Christian Community Team

Heather Quinn	Sharon Oneal
Lee Davidson	Brenda King
Patty Agnew	Jeanne Walton
Betty Lou Kempt	Judy Drummond
Wendy Earl	Marguerite Cameron
Ann Marleau	
Norma Wrightly	
Sunday School Ministry: Cathy Pickup and Kim McKenna	



**Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls**

[www.trinityunitedsf.com](http://www.trinityunitedsf.com)

[www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedChurchSmithsFalls)

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**Andrea Minaker, Office Administrator**

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**Norma Wrightly, Licensed Lay Worship Leader**

[nwrightly@gmail.com](mailto:nwrightly@gmail.com)

## Introducing Reverend Takouhi

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon in an Armenian Family. Her father, born in Bursa, was an infant survivor of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Her mother was born in Beirut, Lebanon into an Armenian family who had escaped the Genocide from Marash. Both towns are located in present-day Turkey.

Her name, in Armenian, Takouhi [pronounced Ta-Koo-Hee], means, “queen”. Her mother wanted to name her Esther, after Queen Esther of the Old Testament, but her father suggested to name her Takouhi, after all, Esther was a queen. The name Takouhi is a popular Armenian name.

Rev. Takouhi made her way out of Beirut through the mountainous roads of Lebanon into Syria. Through the airport in Damascus, she found her way to Los Angeles, where she lived with her eldest sister, Silva, and graduated from Armenian Mesrobian High School in 1986. After completing high school in June of 1986, she found her way to Canada via the Vermont-Quebec border on August 21, 1986. The Canadian Government had given permission to Lebanese citizens to enter Canada to find refuge and call it home.

The rest is history... September 3, 2000, Rev. Takouhi and Gary Steven Petro married at Northlea United Church, in Chomedey-Laval, Quebec and life took a different turn... in 2002, Rev. Takouhi started receiving nudges to go into ministry through different people of God, but she fought this “call” for two years.

On January 5, 2005, she began her six-year educational journey. She obtained her B.A. (Majoring in Theology and Minor in English Literature) at Concordia University, her B.Th. at McGill University, and, her M.Div. at the Montreal School of Theology, through the United Theological College.

On May 28, 2011, Rev. Takouhi became the first Armenian female minister to be ordained in the United Church of Canada. This was a historic day for Rev. Takouhi, not only for the strides she was able to make by God’s Grace, but this was also the 93rd Anniversary of the first Armenian Independence Day (May 28, 1918).

After her ordination, from July 1, 2011, until January 31, 2013, she was called to serve the Ayer’s Cliff-Magog-Georgeville Pastoral Charge in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. However, living apart from her husband and the political situation in Quebec was difficult. Rev. Takouhi and Gary started earnestly to pray for a united life together, out of Quebec. Their prayers were answered when the Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge was declared vacant in the Summer of 2012. This pastoral charge was where Rev. Takouhi had done her student internship from September 1, 2009, to May 31, 2010, after which, she served the charge for two months as a Student minister (June 1, 2010, to August 1, 2010).

It took many discerning prayers on all sides and Rev. Takouhi was called to serve God through the community of the Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge from February 1, 2013- October 31, 2020.

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, Rev. Takouhi answered God’s Call (June 27, 2020) to serve Grace United Church in Gananoque, even though she was full of fear to drive on County Rd. 32, because of a car accident that she and her husband had on January 12, 2015. With courage she said “Yes” to the “call”. She served this beautiful Community of Faith from November 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024. Her fear of driving on County Rd. 32 has become a thing of the past.

As of January 1, 2025, Rev. Takouhi will start serving the Creator of the Universe through Trinity United Church in Smiths Falls. Her first Sunday of worship leadership will be January 5, 2025, which is 20 years to the date when her educational journey, for ministry, began at Concordia University in Montreal.

Rev. Takouhi loves leading worship celebrations, and she is often referred to as the dancing minister. Rev. Takouhi says: “God is God of Joy and Celebration, who calls us to rejoice through the God-given music of the heart that is always present even if circumstances around us are dire. Paying attention is a gift, and sharing it with others is even a Greater Gift.”



## IN APPRECIATION:

Council on behalf of the Trinity Community of Faith would like to extend its appreciation to Heather Quinn, Chair of Spiritual Leadership and Norma Wrightly, Licensed Lay Worship Leader, for their many volunteer hours this Fall in planning, scheduling and assisting with Sunday Worship Service preparations following the retirement of Reverend Christopher Ryan. Their help has been invaluable, and we are very grateful for their dedication to Trinity.

We would like to extend further appreciation to the Decorating Team of Linda Zieman, Arlie Dopson, and Kim McKenna for the Christmas seasonal decorations in the Sanctuary and throughout the Church. The Fellowship Hall was decorated for the season by Suzanne Dopson and Rachel Dopson. Many hours were spent transforming the Church for the Christmas season.

Thank you too to Klaas Van Der Meer, our Custodian, for the attractive seasonal floral displays at our front door throughout the year – a most welcoming invitation to come inside!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS AND CREATIVITY IN MAKING TRINITY A WELCOMING AND HOSPITABLE PLACE.



## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM

We are grateful for your continued faithful donations to the life and work at Trinity during this time when Trinity has been without a Minister. Thank you to the Teams and pulpit supply persons who have led Sunday Worship Services this Fall following the retirement of Reverend Christopher Ryan. We look forward to our new Minister, Reverend Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro arriving the first week of January 2025.

The Team now has a Mission & Service Enthusiast in Norma Wrightly. Norma will provide M&S stories of support and partnerships through the United Church of Canada to Brenda King who will be the spokesperson weekly during a Minute for Mission.

You may wish to make an “In Celebration Card” donation to M&S or to Trinity in lieu of a gift to someone this Christmas. There are cards at the back of the Sanctuary for your use to send to a person telling them of your celebration gift. We also encourage using the cards to tell someone special of your support of the ministries of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Lanark Interval House, Multifaith Housing Initiative and Smiths Falls Police Service (mittens, hats, socks drive). Gifts with Vision is another excellent way to support those initiatives supported by the United Church of Canada. Go to [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca)

Special Christmas Offering envelopes are included with the printed copies of The Communicator for your use and available on Sundays near the Offering Plate. We are always appreciative for your special Christmas gift to Trinity. Tax receipts for your donations in 2024 will be issued by the end of January.

If the Canada Post mail strike continues, the Church Office will be open for delivery of your donations prior to year end:

MONDAY, TUESDAY – DECEMBER 23 AND 24 from 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY – DECEMBER 30, 31 AND JANUARY 2 from 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.

There are opportunities to support Trinity other than financial. Many of the Teams are looking for members to fill vacancies and relieve those who have served for many years. If you feel you have some time to dedicate to supporting Trinity, there are various ways to do so. Please contact the Church Office for the contact information for a Team that you may be interested in. All meetings are open and welcoming for guests to attend.

The Stewardship & Finance Team will be leading Sunday Worship Service on December 29th. We have received permission from Reverend Jason Myers of Metropolitan United Church in Toronto to broadcast his Christmas Eve sermon on December 29th. Reverend Jason Meyers is the winner of the Broadview magazine contest “The Best Christmas Sermon Ever” so you will not want to miss this Sunday service.

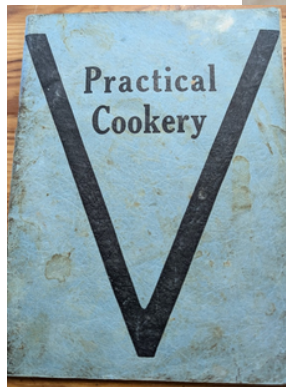
Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year,

Your Stewardship & Finance Team, Bob Swan, (Board of Trustees Rep), Joanne Hunter (UCW Rep), Janine Hanna (Church Treasurer), Mike Murphy and Jan Montgomery (Members-at-large)

*To you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)*

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

Found at Arlie's Books, Smiths Falls is the book "Practical Cookery" February 1943. It is a collection of practical, tested recipes by The Service Group of the Women's Association, Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls to assist in the national campaign for better nutrition. Contributors' names on the front page may be known to some of the UCW members. The book has been kindly donated to the Trinity UCW library by Arlie's Book Store.



## PRACTICAL COOKERY

In presenting this collection of practical, tested recipes, the Service Group of The Women's Association, Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls, desires to assist in the national campaign for better nutrition. Most of the recipes have been chosen with a view to their nutritive value and their adaptability to the restrictions on foods, which are essential in this time of war, but a few others, especially recommended, will, we hope, prove useful as soon as a wider variety of foods is available.

To the business men of our town, whose generosity has made possible the publication of this book, we express our sincere thanks, and our hope that they will receive the patronage of all who benefit by the book.

Mrs. Harold Amy	Mrs. A. J. McCaw
Mrs. O. C. Connerty	Mrs. C. H. McKimm
Mrs. A. E. Dobbie	Mrs. G. W. Mulligan
Mrs. J. A. B. Dulmage	Mrs. R. J. Prescott
Mrs. R. E. Helmer	Mrs. R. H. Purcell
Mrs. L. A. Hetanen	Mrs. H. G. Robertson
Mrs. Chas. Henniger	Mrs. H. Shane
Mrs. A. D. Hudson	Mrs. P. Strader
Mrs. J. C. Ketchum	Mrs. H. A. Stewart
Mrs. J. G. Maxwell	Mrs. W. R. Tanton
Miss Mary McCallum	Mrs. A. J. Whalen

Smiths Falls, Ontario.

February, 1943.

We have been asked to accept Candelabras from Easton's Corners UCW. They are a beautiful addition to the sanctuary.

United Church of Canada 2025 Calendars have been delivered to those who ordered them. Christmas wreaths, Holly Fair, Harvest Supper, and Sunday morning cookie sales were all a great success.

Hospitality Time following Sunday Services - we are still in need of volunteers for set up, prepare coffee and tea, put out snacks, and clean up.

Homemade masks from our Covid Mask Ministry were found in Minister's office. They were passed out to members for creating sewing projects.

During our service on Sunday, December 1st - Erin Lee from Interval House was the guest speaker. Box for collection of goods for Interval House will be at the front entrance until mid-December. Gift cards in a labeled envelope can be taken to the office. Interval House will issue a tax receipt if clearly marked with name and address.

Invitations were sent to Bethel United Church UCW to attend our UCW Christmas Pot Luck on Wednesday, December 2nd and it was a great success. Everyone went home happy, full and an overseas mission to pray for.

On Remembrance Day volunteers laid the wreath on behalf of Trinity UCW and the church. National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Service was held on Friday, December 6th at Trinity.

Outreach Initiative - SF are Police looking for knitted hats, socks and mitts to hand out during the winter. Trinity members are knitting and shopping like crazy and already filled one box full of warm goodies and continue to fill another one.

### UCW 2025 Executive

Betty Lou Kempt, President - 1 year remaining

Becky De Groote, Vice-President - 1 year remaining

Marilyn Devlin, Treasurer - currently was nominated for a 2 year term starting January 2025.

A Secretary is needed for 2025. ASAP .....



Thank you, Be Blessed!

For the Month of November 2024  
Trinity Delivered!

111 hats,  
5 scarves/neck warmers,  
3 headbands,  
11 pairs of socks,  
1 pair mittens and  
1 pair of gloves

to the SF Police Services.

We will continue  
to collect these items  
throughout the winter months.

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Communications Team is responsible for this Newsletter as well as Facebook, the church website and the recording and distribution of our church services on YouTube and YourTV/Cogeco. We would invite anyone who would like to submit or share articles, news or an item of historical interest to the congregation to forward to Arlene Hunter at [arlene\\_fraser@hotmail.com](mailto:arlene_fraser@hotmail.com)

The new website is live, so go take a look! [www.trinityunitedsf.com](http://www.trinityunitedsf.com) Our thanks to Patty Agnew who put many hours of work into the new look. The result is a more functional and beautiful site for our church.



## Outreach and Social Justice Team

- Rainbow 101 continues to meet on the second Friday of the month at 6 pm. However, this group is willing to change dates if required to do so.
- Lanark Drum Circle continues to meet on the last Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. This is one aspect of Trinity's commitment to work for reconciliation.
- The Team has received verbal permission to host Amnesty International "Write for Rights" letter writing campaign in the Church Hall on Saturday, December 14 from 1-3 p.m. This is a drop-in type of event. We will have the information/materials available for folks after church on the 15th as well. This is a cooperative effort with folks from St. Andrew's United Church, Toledo. They will supply all the materials to do this.

### Food Security "Casserole Ministry"

Objective: As a joint Outreach and UCW project, we plan to provide meals for our community of faith and for others in the community as the need is known, who would benefit from a pre-prepared nutritious meals. Funding will come from funds held for meal initiatives that were acquired during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Meals will be prepared in Trinity's kitchen as it has been inspected.
- At least one person who holds a valid Food Safety Handlers Certificate will be present.
- The menu will be eclectic and evolving. Meals may include one vegetarian option. The servings will be generous.
- The available meals may be fresh or frozen.
- The meals may be picked up at dates and times to be determined or delivered by volunteers, on a monthly basis.
- Meals will be packaged in single serve environmentally friendly containers.
- The group will work to ensure the most cost-effective food items will be obtained taking into consideration: time, travel, quality and availability.



## Ministry and Personnel

We have held our annual reviews with each of the employees of Trinity and are grateful for all they contribute to make things run smoothly at our church. The workload of our secretary and media editor has increased substantially since Rev. Christopher's retirement and the busiest season is yet to come. You can help them by emailing announcements and drafts of services to both Andrea [secretary@trinityofficesf.ca](mailto:secretary@trinityofficesf.ca) and Patty [worshipleader1@msn.com](mailto:worshipleader1@msn.com) by noon of the Monday before the service. Please note that emailing is preferred, but if need, you can phone the office at 613 283 4444.

Please also note that our media editor's job description involves **only** preparing the audio-visuals for Sunday morning worship, the Facebook page and website.

M & P Committee: David Johnston, David Donovan, Lee Davidson, Becky Degroote, Carol Williams

# PROPERTY TEAM AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US ON THE PROPERTY TEAM AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## PROPERTY TEAM

Sanctuary Restoration: As reported in the Thanksgiving 2024 Communicator the Property Team called in ServiceMaster to address several identified deficiencies that require repairing. However, the work has yet to be completed.

United Church of Canada – Faithful Footprints Energy Reduction Grant Program This project has been completed. The grant application has not yet been submitted, despite my good intentions. So much to do and so little time... maybe it's an age thing???

2024 Property Projects: A new project for 2024, is the installation of a hand railing on the chancel steps. "Works of Iron" Inc. located in Brockville has produced the drawings and the property team has given the firm the go ahead to manufacture and install the railing. We are hoping that the railing will be installed before Christmas.

Looking to 2025: Along with the task of maintaining the church in good repair, the property team's top project will be the installation of two (2) accessibility ramps from the Market (gym) Street entrance into the gymnasium. One ramp will be from Market St. into the building and the other ramp will be from the entrance down into the gym. The project will take some time to complete as each ramp requires professional designing, Town of Smiths Falls approval, and construction. It is anticipated that the project will not be completed until late in 2025.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Investment Report: With the approval of Trinity's Ministry (Financial) Plan by the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, the Board of Trustees made a total investment of \$880,000 in Trinity's BMO Wealth Management Account. The account is held with BMO Nesbitt-Burns (Perth). The portfolio is conservative and is made up of a mixture of short-term, medium term and long-term investments.

To date, the investment plan has performed quite well. As of October 31, 2024, Trinity's "Fund-in-Trust" balance was \$896,872.34, after a transferred (October 3, 2024) of \$15,000 from "Funds in Trust" to the General Fund to meet on-going operational expenses.

To date the total amount of "Funds-in-Trust" that has been transferred to meet operational expenses is \$45,000. Any additional financial help you can provide to the General Fund would go a long way to ensuring we have a healthy investment portfolio. Perhaps you can find a way to increase your weekly contributions to the General Fund OR perhaps you could make a donation to the "Funds-in- Trust" to help the investment plan continue to be a source of funds as we move forward. Both options are tax deductible.

The Board hopes you will see the value of and would agree that a "Funds-in-Trust" donation is where Trinity's financial security, viability and sustainability is anchored and thus the future of Trinity and its ministries can be relevant contributors to our community and beyond.

Submitted by Bob Swan on behalf the Property Team and Board of Trustees. December 1, 2024



### Pot Luck & Praise

Join the Spiritual Leadership and Christian Community team every 3rd Tuesday of the month for a pot-luck supper and a short worship service. Starts at 6:00 pm. The coffee pot is always on.

### Sunday School

Second & Last Sunday of the month



### Rainbow 101

Second Friday of each month 6pm - See 'Rainbow 101 Lanark' on Facebook for location



### Lanark Drum Circle

Last Sunday of each month 1pm in the gym