

CHURCH CHAT

THORNDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWS

Mission Statement: "We are a Church that is a place for spiritual renewal and growth and a place in which we learn about and engage in Christ's work of peace, love and justice. The Church as the body of Christ is a fellowship of hope, a family where all are welcomed, valued, needed and nurtured."

Image: iStock



MINISTER'S MESSAGE:

Dear Church Family,

As the crisp air of fall arrives and the colors of creation begin to change, I am reminded that this season is one of both beauty and transformation. Just as the trees release their leaves to prepare for new growth, God often calls us to let go of the unnecessary so that He can bring about His purposes in us.

Scripture reminds us: *"So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow"* (1 Corinthians 3:7). Growth is not just about numbers or busyness; it is about becoming more like Christ, rooted in His Word and bearing fruit in every season.

This fall, I invite you to reflect on your purpose in God's kingdom. Where is He asking you to plant seeds of faith? How might He be calling you to water relationships, nurture spiritual gifts, or deepen your prayer life?

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Church Chat Issue:
September October 2025

Sunday Worship for people of all ages
11:00 am at Thorndale

Office: 519-609-6132
office@tzuc.ca
www.tzuc.ca



Remember, the smallest acts of obedience can bear eternal fruit when placed in the hands of our faithful God.

As a church, may we step into this season with hearts open to His leading, trusting that He is shaping us for His glory. Let's lean into growth—not for our own sake, but so that others may see Christ more clearly through us.

With love and gratitude,
Rev Pam

THORNDALE CHURCH SERVICES

Church services are held at 11am on Sundays. Lighthouse Sunday School is available during services.

Did you know that we have a Coffee Hour before worship the second Sunday of every month? All are welcome to join us for this social time!

We also do a collection for the Dorchester & St. Marys Food banks on these Sundays.

Monday October 6th - 1st pickup date for We Make You Bake Pies. Pre-orders required. Come to the Thorndale Fair and place your order or call Joyce at 519-461-1196.

Monday November 10th - 2nd pickup date for We Make You Bake Pies. Place your order at the fair or call Joyce at the phone number above.

Tuesday October 7th - Bible Study resumes, 7-9pm, starting with the Book of Nehemiah followed by a study of Esther.

Sunday October 19th - 146th Anniversary Service featuring Bob Heywood. Lunch to follow.

Tuesday October 21st - Beef Supper at Thorndale Community Centre - tickets available soon!

Sunday October 26th - Joint service at Browns for their church anniversary. Service at 930am.

UCW Meetings - October 14th, November 4th and December 9th @ 10am .

Saturday November 8th - Trivia Night is back. Call the church for details about tickets and to book a table.

Saturday December 6th - Full Day Kids Christmas Camp - Call the church for details and registration.

A big THANK YOU to our volunteers who helped at the Bacon on a Bun & Bake Sale at the church for the town wide garage sale day. We sold out by 11:40!



A big THANK YOU to Chris and Bill Tipping and all their helpers who put up the shelter and moved the piano and speakers for our outdoor services! Thank you Chris for your lead in singing and Rose for your music. These outdoor services are always enjoyed by all and a wonderful way to worship in God's world.



Magazines! Magazines! Get your gently read Magazines! 2 for \$1!!
Better selection than the supermarket! You can find them on the table and shelf in the fellowship hall. Self serve!"

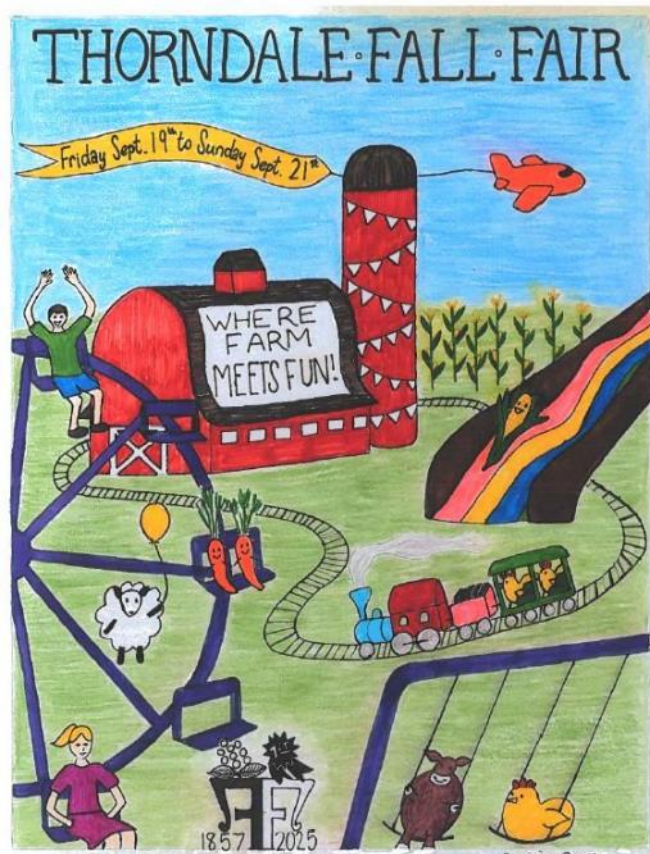
Church Fair Float

The theme for the Thorndale Fall Fair this year is "Where Farm Meets Fun"

We will be assembling the float on Wednesday, September 17th in the Church garage. If anybody has plants or pumpkins etc. we could borrow to decorate the float it would be greatly appreciated.

Ecumenical Fair Church Service

Join us for an ecumenical church service at the Fair on Sunday September 21st at 10am, Thorndale Community Centre.

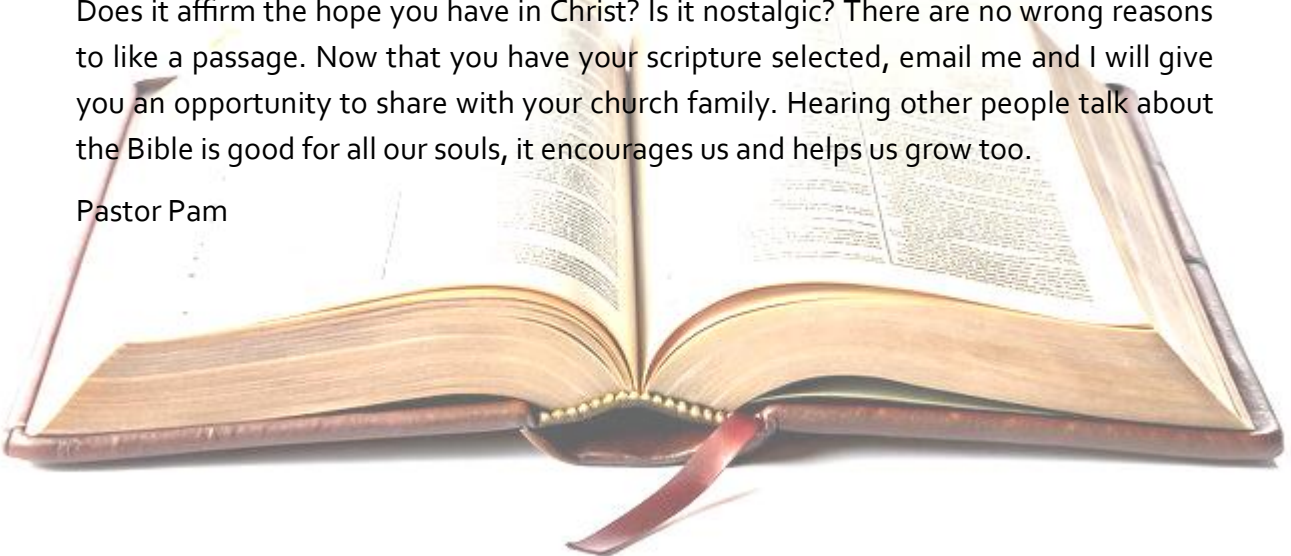




Sharing My Favourite Scripture

Each regular Sunday I have inserted a spot in the worship service for sharing. The instruction is simple, tell us your favourite scripture passage and why. You have 1 to 5 minutes to share. I have asked a few people who have, at some point, been connected to Bible study to get the ball rolling. By now you have already seen at least 1 person share. So I ask you, what is your favourite scripture, or at least one you really connect with and why? What does it say to you? Did it offer strength at a hard time in your life? Does it affirm the hope you have in Christ? Is it nostalgic? There are no wrong reasons to like a passage. Now that you have your scripture selected, email me and I will give you an opportunity to share with your church family. Hearing other people talk about the Bible is good for all our souls, it encourages us and helps us grow too.

Pastor Pam





**PIE DAYS ARE BACK!
WE MAKE - YOU BAKE!**

**WE HAVE SOMETHING NEW!
BLUEBERRY PIES!**

**APPLE, CHERRY OR BLUEBERRY DOUBLE
CRUSTED PIES \$15 EACH**

**PICK UP DATES
OCTOBER 6TH AND NOVEMBER 10TH
AT THORNDALE UNITED CHURCH**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME FOR
PREPARATION**

**PLACE AND PAY FOR YOUR ORDERS
AT THE CHURCH BOOTH AT THE
THORNDALE FAIR
OR CALL JOYCE AT 519-461-1196**



Stay tuned as the fellowship hall gets a new renovation!





Enjoy these pictures of our Serengeti Trek Vacation Bible School adventure this past July.

Our volunteers, leaders and kids had a fun time and were WILD about GOD!





RADIO TOWN: THE DOC CRUIKSHANK STORY

A group calling themselves *The Crumlin Social Club* holds some kind of social event every 2 months through the year. For July and August the Committee chose to go to the Blyth Festival to see Radio Town: The Doc Cruikshank Story at the August 30th showing.

Rather than car pooling we chose to go the bus route with a 56 seat charter coach with Badder Bus Lines. We went the whole nine yards with a wheel-chair accessible bus and a washroom. The club has roughly 50 members so we thought we would easily fill the bus but only 23 spaces were sold by early July so we had 33 more to go!!

We had to put on our sales hats so invitations went out to neighbours, friends, relatives, curling buddies, golf buddies and whoever we could think of. Our best success came after an announcement following Church one Sunday in early July. Thanks to you, we finally sold out!! We even had to start a waitlist, but luckily everyone was able to get off the list. Many thanks to all the Church members who joined us.

It seemed like we had all our ducks in a row and the coach (bus) arrived on time, but the version that came only had 55 seats for 56 riders. We had a cancellation so we ended up with 55 passengers for 55 seats. Phew! I guess if we had 56 passengers show up we would have had to come up with a creative solution like taking turns standing up.

We arrived in Blyth 45 minutes before the show started which gave us lots of time to get a bite to eat or something to drink. There was also lots of time to buy 50/50 tickets, find washrooms and locate our seats. There were no complaints about the seating arrangements, but I did get the raspberry from one guest who wondered out loud

“how come the people organizing the trip ended up with front row seats?”. I suggested to him that if HE preferred front row seats there were lots available in our Church every Sunday.

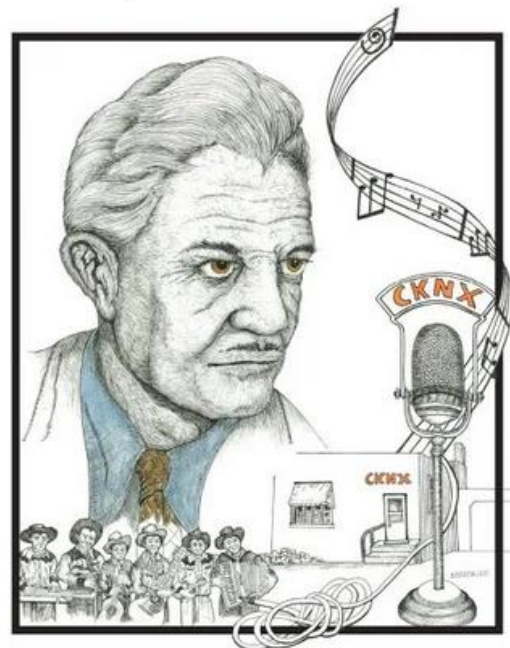
The show was well received and the performers got a fast and ready standing ovation at the end.

Next on the agenda was a meal at The Blyth Inn, colloquially known as “The Boot”. Serving 55 folks all at one time (don’t worry, we had reservations) was a challenge for the hard working staff. As you might imagine the service was not fast but the meals were good. We were offered a limited menu with 4 items but it still had good choices. The room where we were seated was not a quiet place but we can’t blame the facility for our fun.

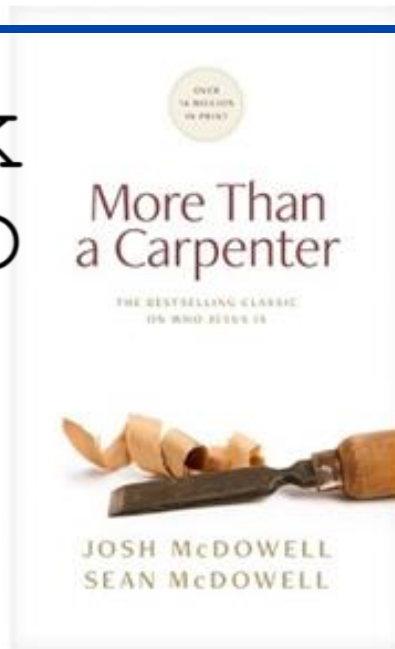
There were several active and semi active farmers on the trip so we had to take a different route going there and coming back. Committee members who helped with this event include Yvonne and John Elliott, Pat and Gord Jones and Bonnie and John Hopkins. Many thanks to them all for their help to make this an enjoyable event.

It was fairly stressful and time consuming organizing this event but we learned a lot which will help when we do it again another time.

John Hopkins



Book Club



In July, several people read More Than A Carpenter by Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell. This apologetics book presents evidence for Jesus as the divine Son of God, highlighting His identity through personal testimony and analysis of the Gospels and resurrection. Eight of us gathered at Browns School over charcuterie to discuss the book and share our insights.

Lighthouse Youth Group



Children and teens (grade one and up) are invited to join us starting Oct 1st, every Wednesday evening from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Thorndale United Church. Dinner is served from 5:30 - 6:00 pm, followed by age-based group activities; high schoolers will form a youth group. Registration for the year is \$100. For info or registration, contact Pam Wilcox at 519-609-6132 or email pamwilcox@hotmail.ca

Tough Question Sunday

Do you have a faith question or a theology question that has been bugging you? Email it to me and I will try my best to provide you an answer in the service. Don't worry I won't tell anyone who asked that question.

Email pamwilcox@hotmail.ca or minister@tzuc.ca



Something New in Your Inbox

You may have already noticed that a recent Sunday there was something new in your in-box!! With the help of Pastors AI website, I am able to upload my sermon and let AI generate a summary, and 5 daily devotions based on the sermon. What a gift! God is using this technology to gain more impact from the words He has given me to preach. May these powerful devotions touch your heart and grow your faith.

Anyone interested in having an Advent Memorial Poinsettia for the church decor, orders will be taken anytime before Sunday November 23 from either Doreen Madge or Yvonne Elliott.

They will be there for the Advent season until Christmas Eve at which time they can be taken home for your family to enjoy.





TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

DOORS OPEN @ 7 PM | TRIVIA @ 7:30 PM

**\$25/
TICKET**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

TABLES OF 8

CALL 519.609.6132

EMAIL TICKETS@TZUC.CA

**FUN, FELLOWSHIP & LAUGHS
QUESTIONS FOR ALL INTERESTS
LATE LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS**

A BONUS TRIVIA NIGHT TO HELP WITH CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS



**THORNDALE UNITED CHURCH
245 KING STREET, THORNDALE**

VISION DAY 2025

On August 31, I preached about the importance of having a dream/vision/hope for the future of our church. We all have dreams for our lives and our children's lives but do we have a dream for our church? You can listen to the original sermon at www.tzuc.ca under audio sermons. Here is a summary of the sermon provided by Copilot AI.

Faith communities are encouraged to embrace God's dreams and visions as sources of strength and guidance for their future. This message draws from biblical passages and recent church council experiences to inspire renewed hope and active participation in shaping the church's mission.

God's strength empowers believers: Isaiah emphasizes that God never tires and grants renewed strength to those who trust in Him, enabling them to persevere and soar like eagles.

God initiates new paths: Isaiah foretells God's promise to create new ways and refresh barren places, symbolizing hope, and transformation.

Dreams and visions as divine communication: Joel's scripture highlights that God pours out His Spirit, inspiring people across ages to prophesy, dream, and see visions, indicating ongoing divine interaction.

Church leadership calls for bold dreaming: At a recent General Council, leaders urged the church to dream big dreams for its future, moving beyond mere survival toward flourishing.

Dreams arise from God-placed desires: Psalm 37 teaches that God places good desires within hearts, which become the foundation for dreams aligned with His will.

Community sharing strengthens vision: Sharing individual dreams within the church community helps unify efforts and aligns diverse focuses under God's overarching plan.

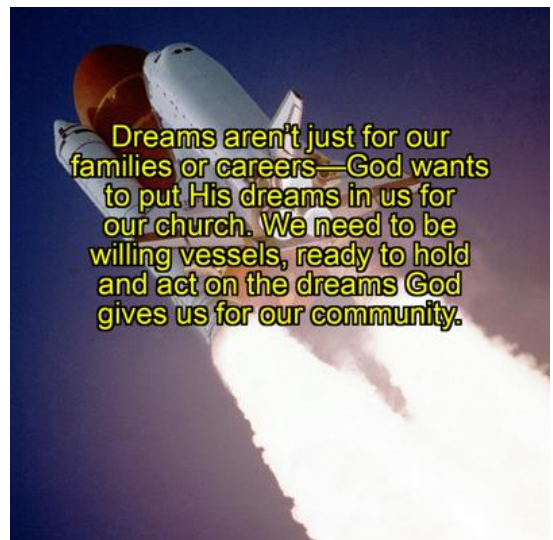
Dreams invigorate and sustain ministry: Dreams energize the community, exemplified by initiatives like children's ministry and the lighthouse vision, fostering commitment despite challenges.

Church as a beacon of transformation: The aspiration is for the church to be a light in the community, transforming lives through Christ's love and serving those in need.

I challenged everyone to pray for God to share His dream with us as we set our sights on the future.

You are invited to come together on **Saturday Oct 24 from 1 to 4 in the Fellowship Hall** to share our dreams and formulate a plan toward the future. Please set aside these 3 hours to be a part of the conversation. We need every voice.

Rev Pam



It was Orion's second year of kindergarten, and I decided to stay with him for a bit before class started. We walked through the playground, and I could see the other kids playing, but Orion kept his head down, gripping his backpack like it was a lifeline.

Then, out of nowhere, a little girl came charging toward us. "Orion!" she called before running up to him. Orion froze, his face turning red as she beamed at him.

"Hi! Are you gonna play with me today?" she asked, while Orion looked at me, clearly panicking.

I couldn't help but chuckle. I asked if he knew her name, to which he quickly responded, "No!" Of course, he knew I'd have a lot of fun teasing him about it later.

Unfortunately, that was the last time I dropped Orion off at school on the first day.

Eris Tafaj



First day of school friend

When Richard was beginning JK he was very ready to start school! He was familiar with little Sweaburg Public School. The teachers already knew he was the little brother of Jacob and Julie. Richard already had a few friends at the school.

While we approached the line that was forming for the JK class, I noticed a little boy who was not very happy. Tears ran down his face as his mom placed him in the line and took a step back. He was not ready for this new adventure; he didn't know anyone and stood so sad with tears streaking his face. He was trying to be brave even as his lips quivered.

I pointed out the little boy to Richard and said, I think he could use a friend. Richard hurried over and began talking to the little boy whose name was Jared. They walked into the school together holding hands. Jared still had tears but he also had a little smile. Going into the school with a friend made things just a bit easier. Richard and Jared became the best of friends and still are 25 years later. Just a simple act of kindness fostered a lifelong friendship.

Pam Wilcox

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH GROUP

WHO TWO GROUPS, ONE NIGHT!

IGNITE GRADES 1 - 6

EMPOWER GRADES 7 - 12

WHEN WEDNESDAY NIGHTS



OCT 1 - MAY 27 5:30 - 7:30

DINNER PROVIDED EACH WEEK

WHERE THORNDALE UNITED CHURCH
245 KING ST.

COST \$100 / CHILD, FAMILY MAX \$250
DUE OCT. 15 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

REGISTRATION REGISTER BY SEPT. 24



LIGHTHOUSE@TZUC.CA



519-609-6132

SHINING JESUS' LIGHT SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE SHOWING GOD'S GRACE





John's JOKEBOX

TO: God.Com

Dear Lord,

*Every single evening
As I'm lying here in bed,
This tiny little Prayer
Keeps running through my head:*

*God bless all my family
Wherever they may be,
Keep them warm
And safe from harm
For they're so close to me.*

*And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do;
Hope you don't mind me asking,
Please bless my computer too.*

*Now I know that it's unusual
To Bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second
While I explain it to you, Lord.*

*You see, that little metal box
Holds more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my friends.*

*I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.*

*By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you.
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendships grew.*

*Please take an extra minute
From your duties up above,
To bless those in my address book
That's filled with so much love.*

*Wherever else this prayer may reach
To each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox
And each person who hits 'send'.*

*When you update your Heavenly list
On your own Great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this prayer
Sent up to GOD.Com*

Amen



The Bible Study group will resume on October 7, 2025, and continue to be held every Tuesday from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The study will commence with the Book of Nehemiah, followed by Esther. We invite you to join our study sessions. Our discussions are not only engaging and insightful regarding the biblical texts but also cover broader topics of faith.



The church board is looking for a co-treasurer to share the financial record keeping and other responsibilities with Maria Tafaj .

Please contact Maria for more information via email to: mariatafaj11@gmail.com



Free to a good home.

Preschool tables and chairs used in Sunday school years ago.

Please contact Stu McCutcheon to claim yours.

mcchol100@gmail.com



**You are invited to our annual BEEF SUPPER
at Thorndale Community Centre**

Tuesday, October 21 - 4:30 - 7:00 pm.

Adults - \$25.00,

Children: 6-14 - \$10.00, under 6 are free.

Dine in or take out available.

Call Bob or Darlene at 519-461-0463

Call for tickets by October 12th