

Maple Grove United Church

Narrative Budget 2019/2020

Stewardship living and a gratitude attitude are counter-cultural. Our culture wants us to believe that we live in a time of scarcity, or that what matters is piling up goods for oneself. Our faith invites and encourages us to give thanks to God for the abundance of creation and to share our resources, goods, energy, time, heart, spirit and love with others, especially with those who have little. That's how we honour our part of our covenant relationship with our God. We express that through lives lived with gratitude and generosity. At Maple Grove United your offerings sustain five areas of ministry and mission. We are thankful for your support and hope that you will continue or augment it.

1. Ministry of Christian Worship and Spiritual Growth

We offer regular times to worship:

Sunday 9.00 am: - a quiet, compact opportunity to reflect on God's Word and pray. - Monthly communion - A Memory service on Advent to assist folk who have experienced loss to be resilient through the Christmas season - Weekly gathering at Tim Horton's ('St. Timothy's) following worship	Sunday 10.30 am: - Praise through music presented by our three vocal choirs, hand bell choir, and instrumentalists - Reflection on the Word through time with the children and preaching - Prayer - Community time after worship - Monthly communion	Tuesday 7.00 pm Centering Prayer (silent prayer, reflection on a spiritual resource and mutual caring)
1st Saturday of the Month (several times a year) Messy Church for families in church and community created to meet the spiritual needs of young children and families (includes activities, worship and dinner)	Thursday mornings (anytime between 6 and 10.00 am) Prayer Team - Reflect with the help of a meditation and prayer - Pray wherever you are for members on a prayer cycle and for those in need	Community Worship Hospital, seniors' residences, long term care facilities; special services with other congregations (e.g. Good Friday)
As needed - Funerals, weddings, baptisms, interfaith worship, prayer services - Worship marking holy days. (e.g. Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve)		

Your generous donations maintain this ministry including

Ministry and music personnel	Provision/maintenance of instruments, technical resources	Guest musicians (vocal and instrumental)
Pulpit supply	Provision and maintenance of worship and communion supplies, Bibles, hymn books	Choirs (children's, Chancel Choir, Ladies Hand Bell Choir)

2. Ministry of Christian Development and Faith Formation

Through Christian nurture, each of us grows in our knowledge of what it means to be a people of God in our world. With the help of dedicated personnel and volunteers we provide education for the children and confirmation and active weekly programming for youth. Adult study and reflection happen in many different ways through such programs as Supper for the Soul, special bible study groups, Centering Prayer and Meditation. A couple of years ago, a visioning team adopted the following vision statement for Christian Education (ages 0-18): *"MGUC Christian Education envisions a community of learners where all are invited to grow and to explore Christian faith in action."*

Your stewardship dollars fund such items as:

Ministry personnel leadership	Adult Bible Study gatherings	Inquiring Minds Events
Confirmation	About the Music Events	Church school and curriculum
Centering Prayer	Bible Study	Interfaith Peace Camp
Meditation	Meditative Walks	

3. Ministry of Pastoral Care and Spiritual Nurture

We offer ongoing care and support to all members and friends of our congregation. The Caring Team is there for you in times of crisis. We reach out and keep in touch with members who are housebound, or who no longer can come to church. Your generous gifts enable:

Hospital visits and services	Services in long term care homes	Marriage preparation
Prayer Shawl group	Congregational/Community meals	Freezer foods
New members welcome	Prayer group	Men's breakfast group
Pastoral phone calls, visits	Photo directory, E-news, website	Grief support
Weekly prayer letters	Membership and Caring Team	Sunday greeters, coffee for fellowship

4. Ministry of Mission, Service and Outreach

Our mission includes a strong direction to reach out and serve others beyond our doors. We have a strong Outreach committee that focuses energy at three levels of activity – local, national and international.

Our church has a strong ministry of outreach with its commitment to the Mission and Service fund of the United Church of Canada and we are strong supporters in this Region.

We also support the work of the church through our forthcoming Regional Council assessments. This includes the work of Regional Staff covering congregations from West Mississauga to Niagara area and Brant/Haldimand Counties.

Areas of this ministry works include:

Outreach fund, including: Refugee Sponsorship, First Nations Scholarship, Canada Foodgrains Bank dinner and monthly oatmeal sale, Education and Advocacy, Sleeping Children Around the World, Care for our Environment		
Benevolent fund	Mission and Service Fund	Kerr Street Mission
Wesley Urban Ministries	Neighbourhood Care Network	Local Food Banks

5. Ministry of Place and Sacred Space

The physical building with which we are blessed includes not only our sanctuary, gym and meeting rooms but we also own the Manse on the property. Maintaining these buildings is vital in allowing us to live out our mission.

Our congregation understands the importance of providing a safe, friendly and accessible communal space for us and others. Dozens of groups use our facility over the weeks and months of the year. These include: Western Heights Montessori Academy and Daycare, Little Kickers, Fourth Trafalgar Scouts, community yoga and volleyball.

This ministry includes support for :

Insurance	Building maintenance	Telephone and internet
Custodial duties	Snowplow/grass cutting/ landscaping	Spring and fall cleanup days
Building rentals	Memorial garden	Memorial and special gifts
Manse upkeep – outside and inside	Utilities	Council and Committee Meetings
Seniors Fitness program	Special Speaker Series	East Oakville Cards group

Some of our spiritual and biblical foundations can be found by checking out:

A Liberated People (Psalm 34)	A Generous People (II Corinthians 9:6-12)	A Grateful People (I Chronicles 29:14-18)
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