

**Community of Faith: Living Faith Story (LFS)
for Mount Forest United Church and Woodland United Church**

175 Queen Street East
Mount Forest, ON
N0G 2L2

Pastoral Charge: Mount Forest - Woodland United

Regional Council: Western Ontario Waterways (WOW)

Call Statement:

Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Mount Forest/Woodland seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled community united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice. We are living purposefully into the vision of being a "Beloved Community" as described by The United Church of Canada and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Values:

Spirituality - As the body of Christ, to worship God and follow his plan as described in his Son's, Jesus Christ's teachings and the writings of his followers.

- To attempt to fulfill the spiritual needs of each individual, no matter where they are on their own personal walk of faith.
- To have our faith restored while living in a challenging time and place.

Compassion - To promote and encourage friendliness and concern for each other's well being, through fellowship and to bring these to the wider community in which we live.

Integrity - To attempt to connect with and meet the needs of various age groups and backgrounds.

- To respect the diversity that exists among our congregation and nurture the skills that they bring to our place of worship, by being inclusive.

Summary of our community of faith:

We are a group of people who love the Lord and gather to worship Him. We are a church that attempts to meet the needs of the congregants from both charges, and value the rural roots that our small town is based upon. We are a congregation with members who are diversified in their skills and talents and share them willingly for the Glory of God.

Our Goals for the Coming Year that will Enhance or Begin Something New:

We are working towards becoming a Beloved Community of Faith, as outlined by the United Church of Canada, and is grounded in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

- We will teach and communicate what it looks like, sounds like, feels like to be a Beloved Community and the steps we need to take to achieve this. (link: www.unitedchurchofcanada-Becoming Beloved)
- We will work towards a blended style of worship for members and adherents at both charges that reflects our present day needs in a changing world.
- We will continue to support current programming, to keep them strong and reintroduce programs from pre Covid that are relevant and introduce new programs that are relevant post Covid.
- Evaluate the resources available - people, technology, study resources..., to ensure sustainability.

How Does Our LFS Guide Our Decision Making:

Congregation: By weekly services that are inspirational, thought provoking, and inclusive.

By assisting individuals and families with their Faith Journey.

By remembering the importance of Pastoral Care, Sunday School, Youth Ministry, Bible Study.

By keeping focused on the Why? (We can answer the where, when, what and how, but we need to continually ponder the why). This helps to keep us focused on why we are doing what we are doing!

Community: Outreach is very important to our Leadership Team and members of our congregation. We understand the Christian need to look inward and self reflect, but also to look outward to a hurting world.

In summary, using the wonderful acronym from our Youth Ministry, WWJD, (What Would Jesus Do) to guide us as a people of Christian Faith united together in our Church.