

Kingsville Pastoral Charge – Epworth United Church – June 2019

The Kingsville Pastoral Charge consists of one large Church – Epworth United Church. Our church, located in Kingsville, Ontario, Canada, has a long history, with roots dating back to 1817 when a small log Methodist chapel was built in the Kingsville area. Property for the church at its current location was purchased in 1891 and construction completed in 1893. In honour of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, the new church was called Epworth Methodist Church, after his birthplace of Epworth Rectory in England. After the union of the Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists in 1925, the name became Epworth United Church. A devastating fire in 1935 destroyed a large portion of the old church. The current structure is the result of a rebuilding effort that began the same year and was completed in 1936.

Our Community

Kingsville is Canada's most southern town located on the shores of Lake Erie. Kingsville has a rich history dating back to the 1700's and is home to many architecturally historic homes and buildings. Although the population has reached 21,550 residents, Kingsville maintains a small town feel. Economically, Kingsville is central to an agricultural community where farming cash crops, growing fruits and vegetables, and a growing greenhouse industry abound. Downtown Kingsville streets are lined with quaint shops, and food and drink establishments for all tastes. The town, also, has a commercial fishing port, a number of wineries and some other manufacturing opportunities.

It is the home of the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary, Colasantis' Tropical Gardens, and John R. Park Homestead which are popular tourist attractions. The town is in close proximity to natural areas such as Point Pelee National Park, Holiday Beach, and Hillman Marsh. For those who enjoy the water, Cedar Beach provides facilities to sail or to launch a power boat. One can also take a short ferry ride to Canada's most southern island – Pelee Island. Lakeside Park is over 100 years old and is graced with majestic trees, accessible playground equipment, and a multi-use pavilion. The Chrysler Greenway offers a 50 kilometre walking and biking trail which winds through the town. As well, Kingsville hosts a number of festivals and offers many recreational activities. Visit www.kingsville.ca or <https://visit windsorsex.co> for more information.

The city of Windsor is only a 35 km drive, and the Ambassador Bridge, and the Tunnel permit easy access to Detroit, Michigan in the neighbouring United States. The latter offers symphonies, theatrical performances and sporting events.

In recent years, many retirees have chosen to make their home in Kingsville. The housing market is exploding with the value of a home averaging between \$300,000 and \$500,000. New single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums are sprouting up throughout the community. The town is predominantly Caucasian, but the surrounding area is multi-cultural and there are many migrant workers employed in the Greenhouse industry. For families with children, Kingsville has two preschools, four elementary schools, and a community-based secondary school. Everyone is waiting for the construction of a new K-12 public school.

There are a number of churches in the Kingsville community. There are three United Churches -- Olinda-Ruthven, Trinity, and Cottam in addition to Epworth United Church. Epworth has shared summer services with Olinda-Ruthven and Trinity United Churches for several years and has worked with them on some fundraising projects and other activities. As well, other faith communities represented include the Faith Reformed, Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Anglican, Universalist, Pentecostal, Buddhist and Mennonite .

Epworth United Church Living Faith Story

Epworth is an aging group of congregants who attend a traditional Sunday morning worship service with an attendance of 60 to 80 people. Although the majority of people are over the age of 65, there are a few families with children attending worship service and participating in the life of the church. Epworth United Church had 315 resident members as of December 31, 2018.

Demographics for those who attend church:

Infants and –Preschool – 3	Adults (31-50) - 3
Children (5 to 12) – 5	Adults (51-64) - 9
Teens (13-19) - 2	Adults (65-70) - 35
Young Adults (20-30) – 2	Adults (71+) - 28

Being a varied group of individuals, the members are acquainted but may not know each other well. Recently, the congregation suffered an emotional event which impacted a number of our Epworth family, and is now beginning the healing process. As well, Epworth is a congregation in transition due to the hiring of a number of new staff -- Secretary, Bookkeeper and Music Director. There is also concern about the declining attendance. Anxiety about the situation of the church is evident, but the faith community is willing and ready to embark on new ventures to strengthen spiritually and to move Epworth into the future.

In preparation for creating this document, the members and adherents were asked to complete a survey. The people expressed their opinions regarding the strengths, needs and hopes and dreams for Epworth.

<u>Strengths</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our welcoming and friendly congregation • Great fellowship • Community involvement • Music – the Choir and the Bell Choir • Dedication of the people to the life and work of the church • Vacation Bible School • United Church Women
<u>Growth Areas</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to encourage youth and families to join • Need for Seniors' Ministry and Youth Ministry • Retention of attendees • Making the service more modern and relevant to the community and modern life
<u>Hopes and Dreams</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth and survival of the church • Desire to grow in spirit • Increasing youth attendance by using innovative ideas and thinking "outside the box" • Encourage people to become more involved in activities to help them grow spiritually

The congregation retains its Methodist roots as reflected in our "Motto":

They who build without the Lord build in vain.

and in our Mission Statement:

*To be disciples of Christ in the world who,
through the power of the Holy Spirit and the example of our lives,
love the Lord, nurture faith, teach the scriptures, reach out with compassion,
and promote stewardship of all that God has given us.*

Epworth tries to live out the mission through its ministry:

Ministry Category	Definition of Current Ministry
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has a paid part-time Secretary. (14 hours per week) • The church hired a contract Book-Keeper.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister's Office is equipped with a desktop computer, high speed internet, and has wireless access to a multi-function printer.
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Outreach & Social Justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Elementary and Secondary School Food Programs • Sponsors two Foster Children through Foster Children's Plan • Participated in Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Program • Delivers Christmas cacti to members of the Epworth family in retirement and nursing homes and to those who are confined to their homes • Provides DVD's of the Worship Service to the Retirement Homes • Donates to Gesstwood Camp, Downtown Mission, Hiatus House, Canadian Bible Society and Effect Hope • Co-ordinates Coats for Kingsville Program each fall by collecting and distributing coats, hats and mittens to those in need • Delivers Meals on Wheels for South-Essex Community Council • Many church people volunteer or are members of groups that support the community (i.e. Goodfellows, Foodbank)
<p style="text-align: center;">Continuing Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages and supports educational opportunities for Ministry Personnel and Lay persons
<p style="text-align: center;">Denomination & Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Minister's and Congregational Representatives' Role as members of the Regional Council • Collaborates and works with neighbouring United Church communities (i.e. summer services, fund-raising efforts)
<p style="text-align: center;">Faith Formation & Christian Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church has a small Sunday School programme • Plans and co-ordinates a summer Vacation Bible School programme for children of the community • Offers short-term Bible Study programmes for adults • Organizes events to foster fellowship among members
<p style="text-align: center;">Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister is the spiritual and worship leader • Our Governance Model is a Church Board comprised of 7 Standing Committees – Faith Formation and Christian Development, Finance, Ministry and Personnel, Memorial, Property, Outreach and Action , and Worship Committees with representation from the UCW on the Board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desires to motivate people to share their gifts to enhance the life and work of the church
Pastoral Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister provides Pastoral Care on behalf of the congregation • UCW visits members in retirement and long term care facilities • Minister provides worship three Wednesday mornings each month at the retirement homes and long term care facilities in the community, as well as at the hospital in Leamington • Minister is On-Call at the local hospital (once every 6 weeks)
Self-care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages self-care for all staff and volunteers • Always encourages volunteers to step forward
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregation worships weekly on Sunday mornings and on Special Occasions • Congregants value the enlightening message of the sermon • Special Services include: Memorial Sunday, All Saints' Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve • Worship committee members help prepare for communion and special services • Services are rooted in scripture • Order of Service and hymns are projected on a screen during the service • Hymnals and Large Print Copies of the Order of Service and Hymns are available • Hearing Assist Devices are available

Epworth's Resources

1. <u>The People</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epworth's greatest resource is the people who give generously of their time and talents. • Serve on committees and work on projects • Church Board boasts 28 members with an average attendance of 25. • Many Epworth members work diligently for community groups or organizations such as the Goodfellows, and the Foodbank. • Epworth is always ready to help other churches or community groups with their endeavours.
2. <u>The Building</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic building – cathedral ceilings, a central pulpit in front of the choir loft

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 19 __ Cassavant pipe organ ● Sanctuary offers padded seating for approximately 350 people ● Handicap seating is available ● Projection equipment allows the Order of Service and Hymns to be displayed on screens ● Video recording capabilities to record worship services to share with local retirement and long term care facilities ● Wesley Hall houses the Administrative offices, library, and wheelchair accessible washrooms ● Memorial Hall is a gymnasium sized room with a fully-equipped kitchen, a small dining room and church parlour as well as many smaller rooms
<p>3. <u>Financial Viability</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From 2013 to 2018, revenues ranged from \$168,382 to \$203,535 ● Expenses were not greater than revenues ● Payroll costs from 2013 to 2018 have ranged from \$113,606 to 134,876 (Projection for 2019 is \$142,775) ● No outstanding loans ● Utility and maintenance costs have not exceeded 25% of revenues during the last six years. ● Number of Financial Contributors has declined form 182 in 2013 to 127 in the current year ● Other monies include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Projects Fund valued at \$299,149 - Newly established Reserve Fund of \$3,689 - Memorial Funds which are re-invested after review by the Finance and Trustee Committee (Some memorial funds have use restrictions.) ● Regularly send information and letters to all members and adherents advising them of the financial situation ● Encourage members to increase PAR givings ● Epworth is financially viable and able to call a full-time Ordained Minister