Weekly Update
High Country United Church

June 30, 2026

Summer is here! Summer is upon us and that means we get to take a month off to rest and play. I'll be packing up and moving to the new place on the last week of July, spending lots of time with family, and basking in days of rest.

Happy news: PTCC (Presbyteries of Toronto Conference) has approved $40,000 towards the barn repairs.

On Tuesdays from 10:00AM to 12:00PM through July and August a few folks are getting together to conquer some tasks (cleaning, organizing, repairing, and preparing). Feel free to pop in and help if you'd like. Students can gain some volunteer hours. (There is a list of tasks posted on the white board in the office.) Here is a list of dates and the focus/area for the day:

- July 07: Barn and glass door entry areas (Priority: Inventory event supplies)
- July 13: Sanctuary and solid door entry areas
- July 20: Office scanning, organizing, decluttering and miscellaneous tasks
- July 27: Decorating for delayed Christmas in July in the sanctuary
- August 4: Undecorating Christmas in July and miscellaneous tasks
- August 11: Lower Hall, Kitchen, and Bathrooms areas
- August 18: Worship Meeting, any miscellaneous tasks
- August 25: Miscellaneous tasks that are unfinished

Rentals in July and August:

- July 4: The Little Family in the morning; Rental tour in the afternoon
- July 11: The Dickie Family
- July 25: Rural Rescue Training

A new visiting schedule is being prepared and will start in the fall. If you or someone you know would like to be visited on a consistent basis, please be sure to send their name in to the office so we don't miss them. (Regular shut-in visiting will resume consistently in September.

Visit our Wishlist on Amazon: Our wish list contains items we can use for Sunday School and impromptu Sunday School classes, intergenerational activities, and general office and church supplies. Just like any home or office, there are always things we need like copier paper and toilet paper. ***If you submit your receipt, your purchase can be designated as a Gift-In-Kind.*** *Receipts can be put in the offering plate, emailed to Bev Dawkins or the office, or dropped off in the office.* https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/2QVQN2YN4DYM5

If you know someone we should send a card to (celebrations, illness, sympathies, etc.), please contact Debbie Baker by phone 519-941-3972 or by email at dbaker002@sympatico.ca

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Thank you to everyone who has made the first half of 2026 a great success. It hasn't been an easy first half of the year, but your love, prayers, and hope-filled hearts make it a little easier to manage. Thank you to all who have volunteered so far. If we listed all the names, it would carry the weight of almost all folks listed in our contact list. For Sunday's service: thanks to Doug & Donna as our musicians, Linda McGregor for reading, Karen Gillett for greeting, Bev & Sheila for providing hotdogs and chips and to everyone who brought extra bits, Calum on AVIT and all the helpers we had throughout the week with the Strawberry Supper and more.
Blessings, Rev. Jan

STRAWBERRY SUPPER UPDATE

Congratulations to everyone that helped out with the Strawberry Supper whether donating food, money and/or helping at the event. It was a little stressful having all take-out but we pulled it off. Our profits for the evening was just over $5000.00. We prepared 333 meals. Here's hoping the shed will be finished by next year. Thanks everyone!! Enjoy your summer. From Gail.

To subscribe, send us an email at highcountryunited@gmail.com

In Our Prayers: The families of a beloved friend who passed away; friends going through court proceedings; Venezuela and the recovery efforts after earthquakes; Manitoba wildfires; Canada's welcoming and kind nature continuing for another 159 years; the heatwave and power outages in Europe; that everyone is able to stay cool through the heatwaves over the summer; and that everyone enjoys a little rest and play.

We pray for families of loved ones who have passed as listed on local funeral home websites:

- Dods & McNair: Stephen Pettit, James McKeown, Valerie St. Onge, Pauline Mikol, Eric Nelson, Valeri Lange
- In Memoriam: Nellie Marynissen
- Jack and Thompson: Dimitrios Dimakos

Petronella (Nellie) Marynissen July 1, 1935 – June 24, 2026
Peacefully passed away on Wednesday June 24, 2026, at Strathcona Long Term Care in Mount Forest, in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Simon Marynissen (2017). Lovingly remembered by her brother **Andy (Mary) Jorissen**. Sister to Nancy (predeceased), Joanne (predeceased), Jeanette, Marie and Elizabeth (predeceased). Nellie will be missed by her niece Donna (Trevor) and is predeceased by nephew Dave, also missed by many friends, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Nellie enjoyed

visiting with friends, playing cards and recently learnt to play bingo. In earlier years Nellie and Simon spent many years going to garage sales and auction sales collecting many items, but mostly looked for clocks, salt and pepper shakers and jewelry. Nellie would not pay full price she loved to bargain and get the best deal. Nellie always had a positive outlook and a laugh we will all remember. At Nellie's request no service will take place, her memory will be cherished always with love and gratitude. Donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or Alzheimer Society. Online condolences can be left at www.imfunerals.com

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life for Nancy Dickie: A Celebration of Nancy's life will be held at High Country United Church, 346255 Side Rd 15, Mono on Saturday, July 11th, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorial donations to High Country United Church or Bethell Hospice Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Please RSVP Bob Dickie and family.

Orangeville Ribfest: July 17-19 at Alder Arena.

Pickin in the Park: July 23-26 at the Shelburne Fairgrounds. A weekend event of fun, concerts, open mic, seminars, Sunday morning gospel and more.

Dufferin Film Festival: August 14-16 at Orangeville Opera House

**These worship services will be online only as we close the church for the month of July and again on the Labour Day weekend to volunteer at the Orangeville Fall Fair.*

Pies available year-round

Contact our Pie Coordinator, Susan
Phone 519-941-6397 or email susanbutler55@icloud.com

Meat Pies: Beef; Ground Beef; Turkey
Fruit Pies: Blueberry; Dark Sweet Cherry; Mixed Berry; Peach; Raisin; Raspberry; Rhubarb; Strawberry-Rhubarb (and Apple when available)

Contact the church office if you're looking for a location to host an event, ongoing program or a meeting. We may have the perfect space for you.

SUMMER CLOSURE

The church office is closed through the month of July. There are no worship services in July.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, August 4.
Regular worship services resume on Sunday, August 2nd and kick off with our annual "Delayed Christmas in July" service.

While we're taking a break, here is who to contact:
Pastoral Care: contact Rev. Jan at 519-938-0213

Pies: call Susan at 519-941-6397

Rental Inquiries: leave a message via phone or email

Worship Services: Online only - Sundays at 10:30AM
Weekly prayers: Online only - Sundays at 7:55PM
(find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube)

Phone messages, email and mail will be checked regularly.

Keep safe, have fun and we look forward to seeing you in August.

High Country United Church
Phone: 519-941-0972
Web: www.highcountryunited.ca
Email: highcountryunited@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2026

Worship Services
Sep 06: Music and life of Waylon Jennings*
Sep 13: Welcome Home
Sep 20: Finding Your Place
Sep 27: Every Child Matters (TRC Sunday)

Programs
Sep 13: Concert in the afternoon
Sep 14: Safety Lunch Series at 11:00am
Sep 14: Tech Support Class at 2:00pm
Sep 15: Grief Support at 2:00pm
Sep 20: Youth Group at 5:00pm
Sep 20: Young Adults at 7:00pm
Sep 21: Moms & Tots at 10:00am
Sep 21: TRC Lunch & Learn at 12:00pm
Sep 22: TRC Lunch & Learn at 12:00pm
Sep 23: TRC Lunch & Learn at 12:00pm
Sep 24: TRC Lunch & Learn at 12:00pm
Sep 25: TRC Lunch & Learn at 12:00pm
Sep 24: Cancer Support at 1:00pm
Sep 24: Cancer Support at 5:30pm
Sep 24: Depression/Suicide Support at 7pm
Sep 25: U.G. Workshop/Family Night 7:00pm
Sep 27: U.G. Worship Online at 7pm
Sep 28: Lunch & Learn at 11:00am
Sep 30: Book Club at 12:00pm
Sep 30: Paper Airplane Club at 7:00pm

*U.G. = United Generations (all ages)
*TRC = Truth & Reconciliation

Did you know: We accept food and financial donations for The Orangeville Food Bank.

OCTOBER 2026

Worship Services
Oct 04: Worldwide Communion
Oct 11: Gratitude Changes Everything
Oct 18: What Really Matters?
Oct 25: Faith That Endures

Programs
Oct 03: Apple Pie Day #1*
Oct 05: Safety Lunch Series at 11:00am
Oct 05: Tech Support Class at 2:00pm
Oct 06: Apple Pie Day #2*
Oct 16: U.G. Workshop/Family Night 7:00pm
Oct 18: Youth Group at 5:00pm
Oct 18: Young Adults at 7:00pm
Oct 19: Moms & Tots at 10:00am
Oct 19: UCW at 2:00pm
Oct 19: Living Life Conversation at 7:00pm
Oct 20: Grief Support at 2:00pm
Oct 25: U.G. Worship Online at 7:00pm
Oct 26: Lunch & Learn at 11:00am
Oct 28: Book Club at 12:00pm
Oct 28: Paper Airplane Club 7:00pm
Oct 29: Cancer Support at 1:00pm
Oct 29: Cancer Support at 5:30pm
Oct 29: Depression/Suicide Support at 7pm

**Subject to the apples being available*

Can't join us for worship in person?
You can watch live or anytime by visiting our Facebook Page or YouTube Channels. You can share your offering via e-transfer at highcountryunited@gmail.com.

Summer Finds Us

Summer does not knock.
It slips in through open windows, lingers on front porches,
and settles into the quiet places we forgot were waiting.
It smells of fresh cut grass, sun warmed pine,
lake water, and tomatoes still warm from the garden.
It stretches the evening, giving us permission to stay a little longer,
talk a little slower, and watch the fireflies replace the setting sun.
Children chase laughter across backyards.
Old friends become young again around picnic tables and campfires.
The roads seem shorter, the skies seem wider, and tomorrow never feels far away.
Summer reminds us that not everything important grows quickly.
The tallest trees began as tiny seeds.
The strongest friendships were built one conversation at a time.
The sweetest fruit needed patient days of sunshine and rain.
Perhaps we need summer more than summer needs us.
A season that teaches us to breathe deeply, to notice beauty,
to make memories instead of schedules, and to remember that life is measured
not only by what we accomplish, but by what we cherish.
So may we welcome these long days with grateful hearts.
May we find joy in simple things, rest for weary souls,
and wonder in ordinary moments.
For summer is more than a season.
It is an invitation to live a little lighter, love a little deeper,
and carry the warmth of these days long after the leaves begin to fall.

A Prayer for Summer

God of rest and play, be in us for a time of delight and wonder. Lighten our loads and brighten our hearts as we bask in the sunshine and in the songs in nature. May we enjoy a little rest and take time to connect with folks we've been meaning to get together with. Grant us safety in our travels, health in our bodies, and love in our souls. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Heal, comfort and strengthen the world. Extinguish all evil and kindle the good.

A link to our 365 days of prayer: https://highcountryunited.ca/blog

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