

Erie Street United Church

At a Glance:

Our Vision	To be a caring, cooperative Christian community
Our Mission	As a congregation, we welcome everyone to share our joy and fellowship. We celebrate the Good News and dedicate ourselves through ministry and outreach, with special focus on youth.
Minister	Rev. Judith Fayter
Director of Music	Bev Fuller
Coordinator	Jane Hall
Treasurer	Stephanie Hayes
Custodian	Evelyn Charron
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Welcome Booklet Update:	November, 2016

Erie Street United Church Welcome

**Worship Service and Church School
Sunday at 10:30 am
Fully Accessible**

**Minister – Rev. Judith Fayter
Director of Music – Bev Fuller**



Erie Street United Church welcomes you and your family to join us for worship and church school on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Our church is fully wheelchair accessible. Nursery is available for infants up to three years of age. Children participate with our congregation for the first part of the service and then are lead in our children's program, GAP - God's Awesome Place. Come join us. We look forward to seeing you.

**We are located at 7 Erie St N,
(corner of Erie & York Streets)
Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada N0P 2C0**

A Message from our Minister



On behalf of the church family at Erie Street United Church in Ridgetown, Welcome!

Here at Erie Street, we aim to truly be a family of faith. For over 150 years, in various buildings in Ridgetown, people wanting to walk with God have gathered on Sunday for worship and

during the week for many activities to share fellowship, to learn about God, to grow in faith and to care for one another and the world. In the fall of 2008 we moved into our new church home at 7 Erie Street North, with excitement, hope and faith in what we can continue to be as God's people.

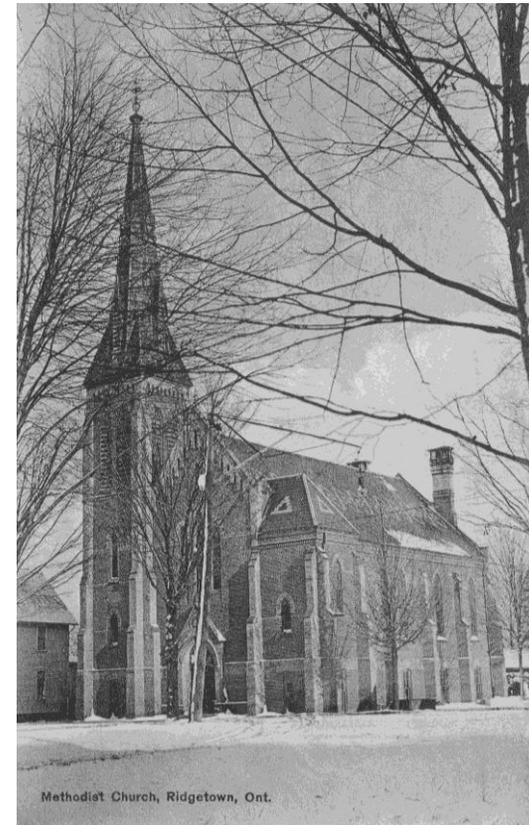
At Erie Street, we strive to truly be a people of welcome. Whether you have been part of a church for a long time, haven't been to church for awhile, have questions and want to know what walking with Jesus means, or you are just wondering what it is all about, we welcome you. The United Church has a Creed which begins with the words, "We are not alone." We believe that God is always with us. And we celebrate and witness to that by supporting and encouraging each other, sharing hospitality and caring for each other when we are in need.

Our hope, our prayer and our goal is that everyone who enters our doors will feel welcome and will only be a stranger once. Each person enriches our experience and life together and we learn so much from each other and with each other. As our sign says, *Come and grow in God's love with us.* Welcome!

Rev. Judith Fayter

How We Got Here

In 1822, a group of Methodists began meeting at the log home of John Scane. Six years later, a service was held once a month at the new log school house with Rev. Ferguson, a Wesleyan Methodist, presiding. By 1858, a Wesley Methodist Church was built on Ebenezer Street (near Erie Street). Construction of a new building on Erie Street South began in 1875. The new church was named The Methodist Church, Ridgetown (shown below). The church, which could accommodate six hundred worshippers, was illuminated by suspended gas lamps, that could be lowered for lighting. In 1925, with the union of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches, we became Erie Street United Church. In the fall of 2008, we moved to our present location (pictured on first page) at 7 Erie Street North, Ridgetown.



Church Organization

Members of the **Official Board** are elected from the congregation at the annual meeting. The board consists of Chair, Past Chair, Vice-Chair, Recording Steward, Treasurer, Representative of Presbytery and of the UCW, chairs of the each of the nine committees:

- Worship and Music,
- Stewardship and Finance,
- Christian Education,
- Pastoral Care and Visitation,
- Ministry and Personnel,
- Membership, Nominating and Ushering,
- Missions,
- Communications and Outreach,
- Property and Maintenance,
- Planning and
- Fundraising

The Minister is an ex-officio member.

The **Board of Trustees** hold the church property in trust for the United Church of Canada, and are responsible for insurance and legal matters. The trustees include five long-standing members of the church who are appointed by the full church membership.



Outreach

Our church supports a range of projects that are aimed at helping others - locally and internationally. Examples include:

- **Salvation Army food bank** - donating non-perishable food items that are delivered weekly to the local branch of the Salvation Army
- **Soup kitchen** - working with others in the local ministerial association, hosting the weekly soup kitchen (the Lunch Bunch) in our church and taking our turn to run the soup kitchen about 6 times per year
- **Vacation Bible School** - again, working with the local ministerial group to run this annual program geared at reaching children and youth in the community
- **Belarus project** - working with the group Canadian Aid for Chernobyl to assist families and orphans in Belarus who have been adversely affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. This has involved a number of trips to Belarus. Members of the congregation have helped with donations of money, handmade clothing and blankets and a range of other items. The photo below shows Margaret Campbell in Belarus with some of the children whose lives we have touched.



Music

We are blessed with a wonderful adult choir under the inspired leadership of our Director of Music, Bev Fuller. Music is a vital part of our worship services. The choir rehearses weekly on Thursday evenings.



Church School God's Awesome Place (GAP)

The GAP program runs throughout the school year during church services. Children are also welcome to take part in an informal program during summer services. Stories & lessons from the Bible are explored in activities including songs, videos, bell choir, drama, dance, crafts & games. Current programs focus on children aged 3 to 12, with teenagers assisting in the activities. A fully equipped nursery is also available for babies & toddlers.



United Church Women (UCW)

The afternoon and evening units meet monthly. The evening group begins with a potluck supper. The afternoon group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings include guest speakers, tours and other interesting presentations. Some activities carried out by the UCW: supporting mission projects (with funds raised at various events and with funds from an annual grant to support missions), preparing funeral luncheons, helping with the annual 4-H dinner. New members and guests are always welcome.

Social Life

There are several opportunities to meet with congregation members and others for fun and fellowship. This might involve helping to make meat pies, attending a potluck supper, attending a musical presentation, helping to decorate the church, bowling, etc.

