

Yay! You are coming to the HF & ARW Spring Meeting

Now what?

Soon we will be gathering at the joint ARW & HF Regional Gathering in London on June 26-28. This is an information package for our children and youth program to help you prepare and know what to expect.

Arrival (1-1:30PM) ****Optional early drop-in****

The registration team will happily greet you at our welcome table in the lobby. We will guide you to the Chelsea room where you can leave your luggage if checking in later. We can show you the Chelsea room, as well as the main meeting space. *This drop-in time is optional to ease your familiarity with our space, team and other participants.*

Please eat before you arrive or bring along a lunch to eat in our space.

Sign In/Out

It is expected that caregivers will sign-in with each child/youth when they are starting the program each day and sign them out when they will not be returning for the evening.

Reminder that they will be sharing accommodation with their caregiver or as otherwise assigned. They will not be supervised outside of program hours.

No need to come and get them for meals. Meals will be with the adults (except for Saturday pizza lunch if at the church). We will bring children to you and have you initial our sign in/out sheet. They are welcome to eat with you or us until our next activity begins. We will provide snacks during the day for those not bringing their own (including vegan options).

Packing List

What should you bring? We hope to go outside for a walk. So, here's what we think:

- Pajamas (will be a PJ party both nights for children who stay after dinner)
- Comfort Item (books, stuffy, blanket, fidgets, etc.)
- Shirts, pants, sweatshirts, underwear, socks, etc.
- Face cloth & toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant etc.)
- Weather appropriate coat and comfortable indoor & outdoor footwear
- Sunscreen and hat
- Refillable water bottle
- Personal snacks for breaks/room
- Medicine (as needed)

Meet Our Leaders

A superstar team that has been preparing for this moment! It takes a village 😊

- **Chris Lindsay** – [Children's & Youth Program Coordinator](#) at First-St. Andrews United Church in London
- **Seann Laforet** (Divinity student) – [HUB Community Network staff](#) for youth and young adults; member at St. Paul's United Church, Oakville
- **Meghan Gilholm** (Divinity student)– [First Third Minister](#) at Grace United Church, Burlington
- **Laura Black** (Master of Education) – Tri-Regional Council Staff, [First Third Ministry Faith Formation](#)

Group Covenant for Health, Safety, and Respect

In Antler River Watershed and Horseshoe Falls Regions, we seek to serve by holding, encouraging, connecting, supporting, and empowering communities of faith. To prioritize a safer and meaningful experience for all involved, we ask participants to align with the following covenant, informed by [Faithful Community: A Duty of Care Approach for Programs](#).

- Because I want to serve others, I will bring an open and curious attitude. I will come ready to build relationships, help the community, and learn from the people I meet.
- Because I understand my actions affect others, I will follow all local laws, Lamplighter Inn and United Church of Canada policies. This means:
 - I will not bring or use illegal substances, alcohol, cannabis, or tobacco products while participating in the program.
 - I will maintain personal boundaries and follow laws of consent. There are no secrets around touch. I will listen when someone says stop with their words or body.
 - I commit to using electronic devices respectfully (moderate usage – putting them away during program time) to focus on building relationships and limit distractions. I will not take or post content (videos, photos, etc.) about others unless I have consent from caregiver and participant.
- Because I value community, I will treat everyone - leaders, staff, other participants, and community members - with kindness, respect, and understanding. I will consider how I am showing up, who hasn't had an opportunity to contribute, and not repeat personal stories without permission. I honour that people learn, process, and communicate differently.
- Because my well-being and the well-being of others is important, I will follow safety guidelines, stay within designated boundaries in groups of three or more when required, be wise about my choices, and communicate regularly with my leaders.

- Because I know how I treat others and their belongings matters, I will respect the property of others, and the spaces where we gather, work, and stay. I will remember that I represent the wider church community. I will act in a way that reflects care and humility.

Health & Safety Note: First Aid Kit will be present at the event. Group activities are led by a minimum of two volunteers and a roving volunteer who can offer support and assist in an emergency. Children under 12 will always have supervision.

Program

An overview of our evolving weekend schedule – without revealing all the “Connections” magic.

FRIDAY @ Lamplighter

- 1 PM – Welcome & Drop In as you arrive (Chelsea Room)
- 1:30 PM – *New Connections*: Icebreaker & Group Activities (Chelsea Room)
- 2:30 PM – *Community Connections* (Plenary with table groups)
- 3:00 PM – *Nature Connections*: Guided Walk to [Mitches Park](#) & play (weather permitting)
- 4:00 PM – *Theme Connections*: Stories & Music
- 5:30 PM – Supper & Break (with adults; sign out)
 - In case you are interested, from 5-7pm there is a Family Community Campfire at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee in Komoka (~25 minutes).
- 7:00 PM – *Optional*: PJ Movie Night (Banquet Room) or family time (swimming, games room, etc.) while workshops happen
- 8:30 PM – Complete sign-out for those remaining

SATURDAY @ First-St. Andrew’s Church for the daytime

- 8:30 AM – *Drop off at [First St. Andrew’s Church](#)* (FSA parking lot at back or pull in drop off area)
- 9:00 AM – *Reconnecting*: Group Activities (Fireside Room)
- 10:30 AM – *Connecting through Art*: Crafts, Theater, Music
- 12:00 PM – Pizza Lunch at FSA
- 1:00 PM – *Connecting with the Plenary*: Creating for Sunday’s Worship & Youth Presentation
- 2:30 PM – *Connecting with our Bodies*: Sports, Mindfulness and Somatic Exercises
- 5:00 PM – Supper & Break (Return with adults at Lamplighter; sign out)
- 7:00 PM – *Optional*: PJ Video & Board Games Party (Chelsea Room) or family time
- 8:30 PM – Complete sign-out for those remaining

SUNDAY @ Lamplighter

- 9:00 AM – *Connecting with God*: Spiritual Practices & Worship; Youth Presentation (Plenary)
- 10:00 AM – *Connecting with our voice and choice*: Games and Craft Stations (Chelsea Room)
- 11:30 AM – *Closing Connections*: Circle & Communion (Chelsea Room)
- 12:30 PM – Final Sign Out

Questions or Concerns

Before Event Contact: Laura Black, Lblack@united-church.ca or 1-226-407-4308

During Event Contacts:

Laura Black @ 519-635-8235; Seann Laforet @ 905-580-6563; Chris Lindsay @ 519-872-5441