



## ***Hi Friends***

Here is a prayer and some information in preparation for the upcoming Solar Eclipse, which will occur on April 8, 2024. You might want to check out some of the local municipalities that will be in the “Path of Totality.” Wherever you are and however you observe the eclipse may it offer a reminder of the spectacle—and the spiritual—present in such an event. Let’s honour God with prayers and praises as this holy moment is revealed. May you enjoy the wonder of God’s universe and stay safe.

***Blessings from Pastor Roxanne***

### A Prayer for the Eclipse

O God, the Creator of a cosmos beyond our imagining, you reveal yourself to us in wonders great and small. Help us to recognize your presence in the wonder of total darkness in the middle of a bright spring day. We recall the darkness that came over the land when your Son was crucified, and we recall the light of Easter morning that followed. May the midday darkness of the eclipse and the light that returns remind us that your light always lies ahead of every sort of darkness, and your bright mornings follow every sort of night. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer written by the Rev. Betsy Bennett, Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska:*

### Solar Eclipse Impact:

Nature responds to the eclipse depending on your location.

For example:

Shadows may look different, any breeze may dissipate, and birds may stop chirping.

During a total solar eclipse, some animals may act confused or prepare for sleep.

A 10°–15° F drop in temperature is not unusual.

After a total solar eclipse, total daylight is restored in about an hour.

### Celestial Spectacle: Witness the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Astronomers and skygazers are bracing for the astronomic event of a lifetime.

The breathtaking total solar eclipse on Monday, 8 April 2024—is a rare celestial event where the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, creating a captivating spectacle.

This will be the first total solar eclipse in Ontario since 1979, and the next one is not anticipated until 2099, making this event truly extraordinary. People usually have to travel to the other side of the planet if they want to see a total solar eclipse, but this year, you will have a chance to see it not so far from home. Total solar eclipses are only visible within a narrow path. In order to witness the full eclipse, you must be located in this path

of totality. Nearby Chatham/Kent and Elgin counties lie directly in this path, making them prime viewing locations.

[https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse\\_cities/statemap.php](https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse_cities/statemap.php)



Safety: To ensure a safe viewing experience, it is crucial to use approved solar glasses and filters for cameras and telescopes. You should never look directly at the Sun. Without protective eyewear, the Sun's radiation can be incredibly damaging. Remember, the weather, and in particular, the clouds, may define the quality of your experience. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime display of nature's wonders.

### **UP-COMING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The *Finance Stewardship & Planning Committee* will be selling DeGroot's gift cards again this year. The amounts are \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. The cards will be available to be purchased for the month of April. Mary Moore will be in the gym on those Sundays. Cash only Please. Thank you for your support. They can be picked up on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- *Session Committee* will meet on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM
- **NOTE Change of Date:** *Care Team Committee* to meet on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM
- Men's Breakfast – Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 AM at John's Restaurant – All who are interested, please join us.
- **NOTE** UCW meet on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM – All who are interested, please join us.
- *Official Board Meeting* Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM  
All committees to meet prior to this date. Please review your Roles and Responsibilities with new members. Also, please name your representative to the Official Board for voting purposes. Highlights and Any business to come to the Official Board meeting should be submitted by Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Camlachie UC Fish Fry – Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – 4:30–6:30
- Forest UC Pulled Pork Dinner, Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – 4:30-6:30
- Forest UC – Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM – Covenanting Service for Rev. Jeff Smith  
Additional Information on the back table.

*"London Road West United Church is a welcoming congregation celebrating God's presence through worship, music, spiritual enrichment and outreach."*

**"Be with us: Celebrate GOD!"**