

FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2A9 Office: 416-783-6503

October 10, 2021

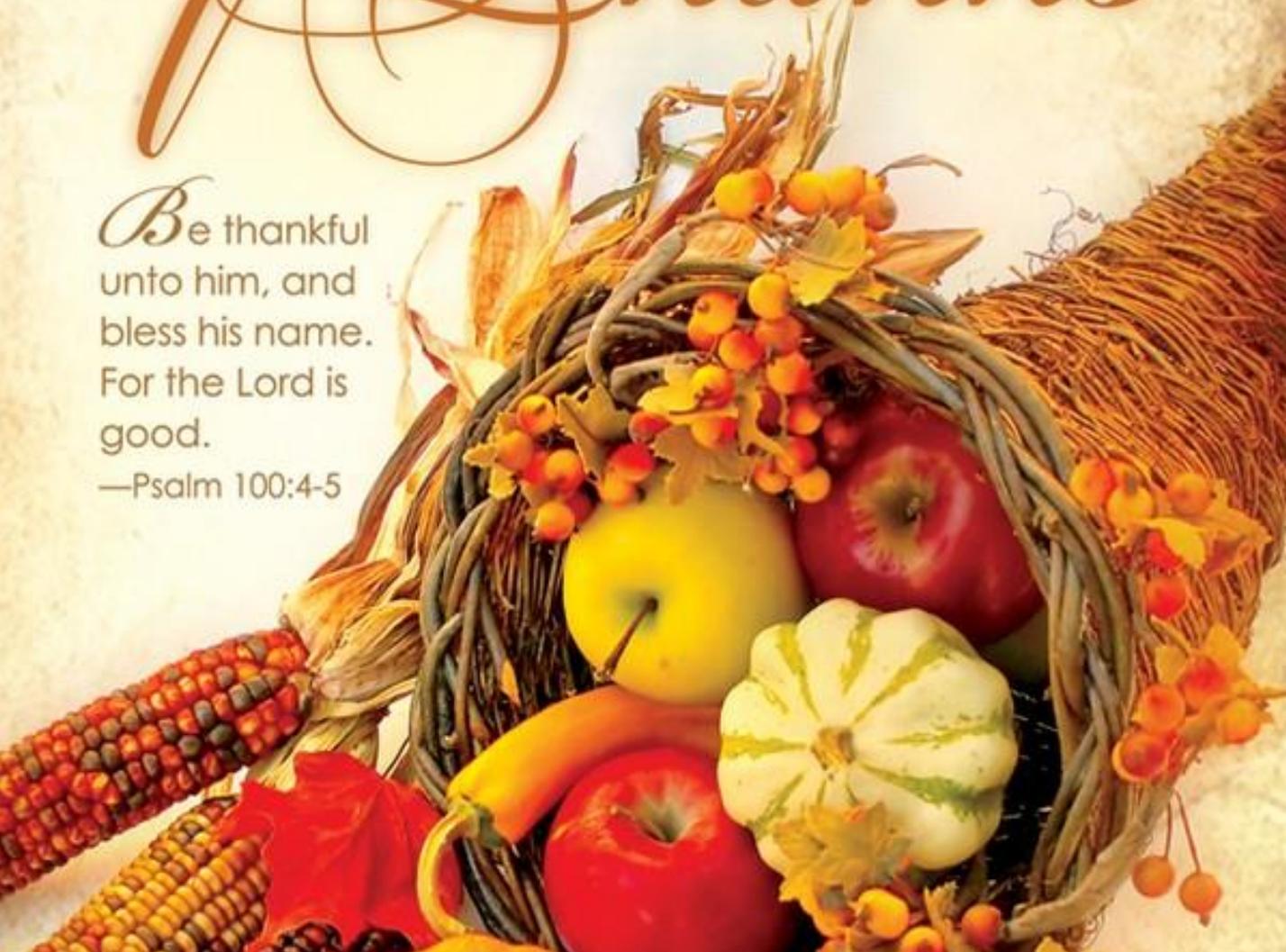
"The Friendly Church"

Edition 161

LET US ALL *Give Thanks*

Be thankful
unto him, and
bless his name.
For the Lord is
good.

—Psalm 100:4-5



Our Mission Statement: We are a diverse community of Christians, called by God, who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of those who live in the Bathurst and Lawrence Community and beyond.



THE PASTOR'S PEN



Well, here we are, Thanksgiving. The time of year we make a concentrated effort to count our blessings. I love that classic hymn, "Count your blessings name them one by one, count your blessing see what God hath done. Count your many blessings name them one by one."

It is sometimes difficult to grasp that we have now spent two Thanksgivings in a pandemic. I am happy to say that a pandemic has not stopped Asbury and West from finding new and different ways to be a community of faith. We have made good use of Zoom, Facebook, telephone, email, WhatsApp, YouTube, Canada Post, PAR, e-transfer and Canada Helps.

I am looking forward to when we return to in-person worship. The Council of Asbury and West has set a target date of November 28th. This date is the first Sunday of Advent.

Worship Ministry is already making plans to decorate the church for our return. It will be a blessing to see the familiar decorations—the crèche, Advent Wreath, deep red poinsettias, and the cross hanging in the

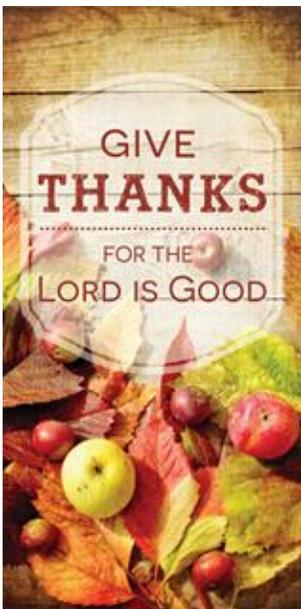
background. It will be a blessing to listen to familiar carols, to stand in the pulpit, to hear Anthony play live music and see all of you face to face.

Worship Ministry is making plans for a registration policy for Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday which is December 19th. We are restricted to numbers in worship. There is the possibility that we will have two services Christmas Eve. I think it will be a blessing to have so many people to register for Christmas services that we need two services.

Our Zoom Ministry have started preparing for re-opening. The new laptops have been purchased. The Zoom Ministry folks met at the church to set the new device up. They are making plans to broadcast all worship services via Zoom.

Blessings abound this Thanksgiving season. Please join me in giving thanks to God and...count your blessing name them one by one, count your blessings...and see what God hath done.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Rev. Carol McKinley



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Along with our good wishes of 'Happy Thanksgiving' to you and your family, we pass along a Thanksgiving grace.

Blessings,
Jocelyn & Sylvia

Dear God, we thank you for the sun, rain, earth and hard-working farmers. We thank you for the truck drivers and grocery store employees who made sure food was available for us to buy. We are grateful that we have enough to share with those experiencing food insecurity. We are thankful that we are blessed with family, friends and our church. Most of all Lord, we give thanks that you sent your Son Jesus. Amen



SENIOR CHOIR

This past year and a half has been a challenge for our Church and that includes our Choir. Because we are unable to meet and sing in the sanctuary, members of the Choir sang, as is our custom, during the Zoom services of the Summer months.

Looking forward to resumed in-person services, things will look much different for a while. If there is to be singing, the soloist will have to maintain a specific distance from the congregation and wear a mask to sing!

We are so blessed to have Anthony Panacci as our pianist and choir leader. He has supplied us with beautiful music during the whole pandemic and will continue to do so once services restart in the Church sanctuary.

We have been treated to all the special effect of Anthony's personal recording studio for a wonderful music experience.

Rev. Carol works hard to prepare the hymns for each Sunday service, and we are grateful for it.

The Advent and Christmas Season will be a challenge for our Leaders, but we know that music will continue to be a major part of the festivities.

We all look forward to meeting in person once again, and raising our voices in songs of praise.

Warmly,
Lisa Crawford



The Pumpkin Prayer

I am a Jack O' Lantern
My lights will shine so bright
For I'm a Christian pumpkin
My symbols tell what's right.
My nose is like the cross
On which our Savior died
To set us free from sin
We need no longer hide.
My mouth is like a fish
The whole wide world to show
That Christians live in this house
And love their Savior so!
The story starts at Christmas
My eyes are like the star
That shone on Baby Jesus
And wise men saw from far.
My color, it is orange
Just like the big bright sun
That rose on Easter Day
Along with God's own Son.



WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS & MUSIC MINISTRY

This year has been an interesting and busy one for our Ministry.

We said good-bye to Worship Chair, Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen and welcomed Rev. Carol McKinley, Cheryl Holliday and Lisa Crawford as new rotating Chairs of the group.

Our Sunday Zoom services are going well and are regularly attended by between twenty-five to thirty people each week. We are blessed to have the weekly volunteer support of Amrita Aphan and Vicky Brook during these services.

We celebrated Black History Month, Easter, and Asian Heritage Month via Zoom with the help of many volunteers.

We've been fortunate enough to join Fairbank United Church for their Zoom services when our own were unavailable. We will continue to join them in future as well.

Our Facebook page hosts a recording of the previous Sunday's service for those who are interested. Rev. Carol McKinley sends out printed copies of her sermons to those who do not have access to internet.

Our Christian Education has kept up with lessons with all the children and youth of our church.

Music has continued to play a big role in our Zoom services.

The Church website/blog has been recently updated. Keep checking it for news!

The Church is planning to re-open for in-person services starting this November. Because of COVID restrictions for gatherings, a registration form has been sent by email to those who have access, and a phone call will be made to all our off-line members with important details.

Unless there are restriction changes, Advent and Christmas will be celebrated in our sanctuary in a modified way. We will still enjoy the stories of Christ's Birth, traditional music, and inspiring meditations.

Remembrance Day will be observed during the November 7th service.

White Gift Sunday will be December 12th.

Christmas Sunday will be celebrated on December 19th at 10:30am.

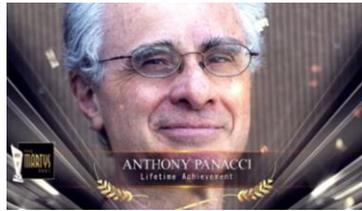
Christmas Eve will be celebrated Friday, December 24, with the possibility of two services, a Family Service and then a later Candlelight Service, depending on the registration response.

We look forward to the journey with all of our Church Family!

With love and prayers,
Lisa Crawford, Rotating Chair



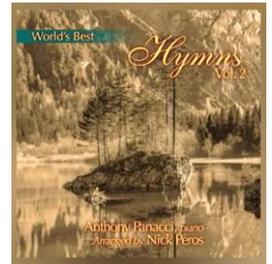
MISSISSAUGA ARTS AWARDS



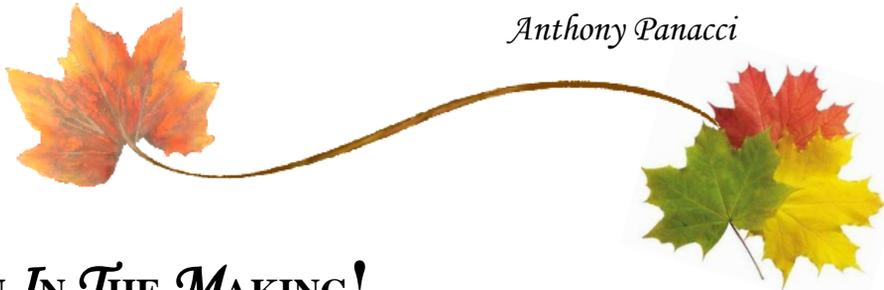
Hello, my name is Anthony Panacci and I am the pianist and choir leader of Asbury and West United Church. This year I was very honored to be given the prestigious award of a Lifetime of Achievement in Mississauga. I grew up in Streetsville and there I started my music career of over 40 years ago. I have been very active in the Toronto music scene as a pianist, studio owner and I am on faculty of music in the jazz program at Humber College



Back to the award. It was presented to me on the Mississauga Arts Council Zoom night by members of the council. The pictures you see were taken in my studio when I was producing my wife Mary's beautiful jazz CD. The musicians you see are top Toronto studio musicians. There is also a shot of the very well known engineer George Semkiw. The other picture is a lovely CD I did of beautiful hymns.



Anthony Panacci



A CHAMPION IN THE MAKING!

Our very own Asher, a member of our congregation at Asbury and West. He attends university in the U.S. and plays on the Division 1 Men's Soccer team there, which is part of the MAAC Conference (see article below). We found out in June that he will be getting an athletic scholarship to go along with his academic scholarship. We are very proud of him. His hard work and perseverance is yielding returns.

*Karen Barnes
Proud Mother*



Reported from The Official Site of the Niagara University Purple Eagles.

EDISON, N.J. – Asher Barnes has been named the MAAC men's soccer Co-Rookie of the Year and Jordan Acevedo was selected to the All-MAAC Team, announced by the conference on Thursday. Barnes, who earned MAAC Rookie of the Week honors on March 30, had a phenomenal rookie campaign. Barnes played in seven games and was tied for most goals scored for the Purple Eagles with four. He scored two goals against Canisius on March 25 and two goals against Monmouth on April 8. Barnes took seven total shots, six of which were on goal. He finished the season with eight points and a .857 shots-on-goal percentage. "Asher just continues to improve every time he plays," said head coach Bill Boyle. "He believes in himself and his future is very bright. The sky is the limit with his athleticism and abilities!"



PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Ecclesiastes 3 speaks of a time for all things in life. July 26, 2011 marked my first meeting to serve as Chair of Council and July 31, 2021 marked my time to take my leave. Much has happened over the ten (10) years and it has been my privilege to serve. I am grateful to the members of Council for their trust and support throughout the years and to Rev Carol for her steadfast partnership and guidance.

The future of Council is in good hands as Melvyn Beckles steps up to serve as the new Chair. Melvyn is no stranger to Asbury and brings with him vast knowledge and experience, a deep spiritual commitment and a love for our church and its people. The long history of Asbury and West United Church has been enriched with caring and dedicated members. I am confident that Melvyn and the members of Council will continue to successfully contribute to that history and ensure our church is all that God has planned.

Blessings,

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson



There's
always
SOMETHING
TO BE
thankful
FOR



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

UCW has not met over the past several months, except to make necessary decisions. We anticipate our return and will be discussing when and how this will happen in the next few weeks.

When we return to the church at or close to the Advent Season, we plan to decorate the Mittens and More Tree with your donations. You will hear more about this.

We were happy to learn that the Fairbank UCW group is interested in joining with us for the occasional meeting. We look forward to meeting new friends.

Cheryl Holliday, Chair



INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION



Sunday June 27, 2021, was identified as Canada Day Sunday and Indigenous Sunday. We were filled with sadness at the recent news of the 215 dear children found in Kamloops and the 751 unmarked graves found in Saskatchewan. We recognized the unspeakable pain the Indigenous community continues to suffer.

As part of our service, two poems were read from the book titled LIVING IN THE TALL GRASS, Poems of Reconciliation by Chief R. Stacey Laforme. Chief Laforme was elected Chief of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe in December of 2015. In October 2017, Chief Laforme became only the third Honorary Senior Fellow of Massey College in Toronto, joining The Duke of Edinburgh and the Chancellor of Oxford University in the rarest honour the college bestows.

In one paragraph of the prologue to his book, Chief Laforme writes, "*I write with the intent to place myself in the heart and soul of different individuals at different stages of their lives. If you can see yourself in the poems, then my intent was a success.*"

Submitted by *Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson*

Why Am I An Indian?

Someone once asked me what
makes me an Indian
The question took me by surprise and I did not
respond, but it did make me wonder

Am I an Indian because some traveller
in history got lost?
Am I an Indian because of my appearance,
or because of where I live?

If the government says I am an Indian, then
surely that is what I am
If one or both of my parantents tell me
I am Indian it must be so

Does a plastic card with my name and weight on it
make me an Indian?
Am I a true Indian if I practice all the old ways and
learn my native tongue

I live on the reserve with other Indians who look
like me, surly I an one
I attend roundhouse frequently, so you
cannot say I am not

Both my parents were Indians therefore
I must be Indian
My parents have taught me to be Indian

Someone cannot make you or teach you
to be Indian
Oh they can show you culture, clothing, language
but practice does not
an Indian make

Don't judge me by the fluid in my veins, or the
colour of my skin
Don't think me Indian because I know and
practice my culture

I am Indian because my heart screams it is so
and my soul knows it for truth
I am what I am, because my spirit will
not let me forget

So in answer to the person who wanted to know
what makes me Indian
Nothing makes me
I just am.

Chief R. Stacey Laforme



CONNECTION

I don't have to know you to love you
I don't have to know you to cry

I will grieve for you
I will grieve for the loss of such a gift

I will offer my prayers in your name
And I will pray for your loved ones

The thought of you
Is enough to make you part of me

My mind has created a place in my heart
A place you will now reside forever

I will miss you
I will remember

I will not be ashamed to shed my tears
A small part for you, a larger part for
them, and some for me

I don't have to know you to love you
I don't have to know you to cry.

Chief R. Stacey Laforme



PRAYER FOR THE STUDENTS OF KAMLOOPS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

O God, we are grieving. O God, we are shocked. O God, we are horrified. But, God, if we truly listened, we can't be surprised. The Elders and the Communities had already told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, told the governments and the world, the stories of the children, dead and buried, unnoted by the settler systems, but never ever forgotten by their siblings, their parents, their communities.

We grieve for the Indigenous children, taken from their homes and parents by the government, handed over to the responsibility of the Christian church, the children who died under its care, never to be held by their families, never to be returned to their communities — not only the 215 children of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and other Indigenous communities along the west coast and interior whose bodies have now been found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds, but all of those children whose bodies have not yet been found who died in any of Indian Residential Schools.

We grieve for the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools, the children who did come home, but were changed by their experience, the children who grew up, and have the trauma of remembering, again, what happened to them.

Even as we give thanks for their families and communities, who hold the stories of the children, who have kept searching, who keep searching, we grieve that that search is even necessary, that even one child was taken, that even one child died, that even one child's death went unnoted by the system.

Help us to stop, to sit in silence, to remember the names we do not know. May their spirits have peace, and their bodies be brought home to their lands.

And God? Help us to take this grief, this shock, this horror, and turn it into right action — action that works for right relations— action that works for healing and justice and hope.

And, please, don't let those of us who are settlers and descendants of settlers, newcomers to this land, let the horror, the shock, and the grief just be an outpouring of words, or tears, or ineffectual hand-wringing.

Let this be a moment that changes, a moment that transforms the brokenness, that we might walk in right relations, for the good of your children, for the good of your world.

Please, God. These things we pray, in the name of the one who brought Creation into being, in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend, in the name of the Holy Spirit, whose wings spread across the sky.

Amen and amen

*Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator
United Church of Canada, June 1, 2021*

COUNCIL

Looking to the Future

I would like to thank Rev. Carol McKinley for inviting me to become Chair of Council and to the members for their welcome.

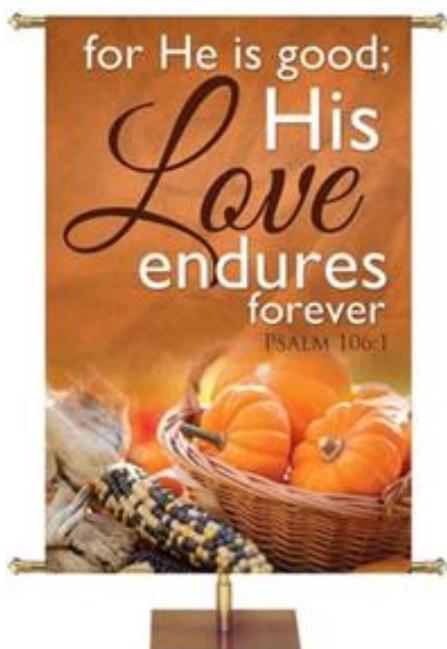
At the time of writing, I have chaired two virtual Council meetings, which went very well. I am looking forward to our face-to-face meetings when we are reconvened at our place of worship. Hopefully, this will be at the beginning of Advent.

I would like to thank Jocelyn for the gift of the printer and her insight for the transition period and information that she imparted. It has served me very well. It is my hope to carry on the service and dedication with which she served, except the 'goodies' at Council.

Melvyn Beckles, Chair



Editors' Note: The goodies to which Melvyn referred were little sweet treats given by the previous Chair in hopes that Council members' energy would not wane during all the in-person meetings.



MINISTRIES and COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS
Chair: Vacancy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Chair: Cheryl Holliday
Council Rep: Kim Davidson

HOSPITALITY
Chair: Lou Rhoden

**MEMBERSHIP AND
PASTORAL CARE**
Chair: Ianthe Spencer

**MINISTRY & PERSONNEL
(M&P)**
Co-Chairs Amrita Aphan &
Yasmin Halley

PROPERTY
Co-Chairs: Clayton Johnson &
Yvonne Wright

STEWARDSHIP
Co-Chairs: Phoebe Cleverley &
Cheryl Holliday

**WORSHIP, SACRAMENT
AND MUSIC**
Rotating Chair: Lisa Crawford,
Cheryl Holliday, Rev Carol

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Chair: Cheryl Holliday

MEMORIAL Committee
Cheryl Holliday, David Tuck

**SHINING WATER
REGION COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE**
Vacancy

**CONGREGATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**
You are welcome to
attend any meeting.

Council Chair:
Melvyn Beckles

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



"Sharing the Gifts We
Have Been Given"

We thank you for your continuing support. Offerings have been coming in steadily as well as special donations. We are grateful for all you are doing to see us through this challenging time.

You can imagine that it has been financially difficult as the pandemic drags on. Whether we are in the building or not, bills need to be paid and staff needs to be compensated. Thankfully, through the pandemic, we were able to take advantage of the wage subsidy offered by the government. So that has eased some of the payroll expenses. However, the other side of the coin is that we have had to withdraw funds from our investments to keep up with all the expenses. We were thankful that both the Clover School and Immanuel Methodist Church agreed to pay a partial rent. Now, we have received the good news that the Clover School is now back in business and paying their full lease as well as back payments.

We are delighted that the Christian Education Ministry was able to hold the Rev Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk this year. We hope that there will be other fundraising projects scheduled in the near future.

Coming up, we will be busy with the Stewardship Annual Giving Campaign and preparing the budget for 2022. We ask that you pray about how you can support the church, through financial givings and in time.

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry, I would like to thank Yvonne Wright for her faithful work in making sure our offerings are deposited and for the many behind the scene tasks that she has accomplished to keep us running. Thank you as well to our bookkeeper, Clyde Harris. Without his knowledge and dedication, we would not have been able to get through this time as successfully as we have.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Phoebe Cleverley & Cheryl Holliday, Co-chairs



Meetings: Any committee that would like to meet via Zoom please contact the Church Office or Rev Carol.



CONVERSATIONS

The adult congregation engages in *Conversations*. For one hour a week, we try to focus on one subject over a 2-3-week span.

One of our themes was on the Spiritual Practice of Remembering, and in a few sessions, we spiritually reflected on where we see God in personal objects. We also studied some of the minor prophets; Jonah, Obadiah, Zephaniah and Habakkuk. Recently we studied the book of Titus. Occasionally we learn the stories behind the hymns. Sometimes we reflect on one specific Scripture passage.

Conversations is led by Rev Carol and in her absence, myself. We always have a good time and lively discussion. And we always have fun! We meet via Zoom at the present time. Why not join us to see what we will talk about next?

All are welcome!

Cheryl Holliday,
Chair, Christian Education



Good News! You can donate non-perishable food items at your local grocery store or fire department. You can also drop off donations at the Food Bank's main office - 116 Industry St., (North of Eglinton and West of Black Creek Drive off Todd Baylis Drive). Food Drop off Hours: Monday to Friday – 10 am to 3 pm.

When dropping off food please call ahead call 416-635-7771 and let them know when you arrive and then bring your vehicle around the back of the building.

Urgently needed items are cereal, rice, pasta, canned tomatoes, canned vegetables, cooking oil and canned fish. Thank you for your support.



Conversations!

Join us Wednesdays at 11:00am

Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81176580663?pwd=_Y2ZTSkRNMWINbDAwOTRNQVBZUytkZz09

Meeting ID: 811 7658 0663
Passcode: 995219

OR

Join us via phone:
647 374 4685 Canada
647 558 0588 Canada
778 907 2071 Canada
Meeting ID: 811 7658 0663
Passcode: 995219

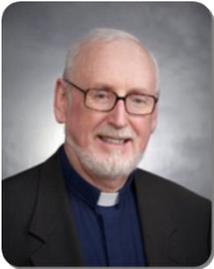




CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

In Sunday School and Youth, we are continuing to use email for our lessons. The stories and topics have been varied. However, in September we started with our regular Sunday School lessons and currently focussing on David. We are looking forward to returning to church for regular classes. Be assured that all the teachers are fully vaccinated.

We are glad we were able to organize the Rev Douglas McKenzie Memorial Walk last month. As of this writing we have received \$635. Thank you for your support.

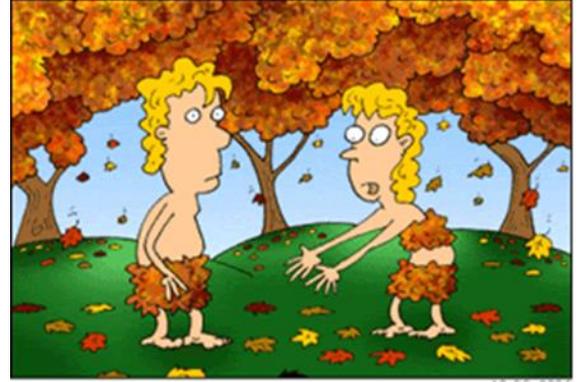


Rev. McKenzie

Cheryl Holliday, Chair



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10-06-2006

WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?



Kids

K
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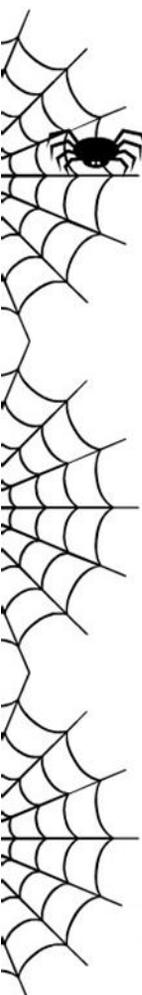


Halloween Jokes

1. Why don't skeletons like Halloween candy?
2. What is a vampire's favorite ice cream flavor?
3. What do witches put on their bagels?
4. How do ghosts search the Web?
5. How do vampires get around on Halloween?

Answers: 1. They don't have the stomach for it! 2. Vein-illa. 3. Scream cheese. 4. They use ghoul-ice. 5. On blood vessels.

GAMES PLUS MORE



Halloween Word Search

N E E W O L L A H R B R Q R N
 I Q H N R O C Y D N A C M G V
 E T T V W C O S T U M E A U R
 A Y X H F I C D X O M S R V E
 E F V I G M T C H M M P O S B
 Z Y M F Z I J C O R L O U P O
 S V M X E T R N H R B O N U T
 K S A A A H S F S Q H K K M C
 S T E E L T Q H B D B Y W P O
 A S R Y E T O Y E D F C W K B
 M T C R S R D T W S T L H I G
 O A S O R N N F B B C R Q N C
 A A H O A U A L O J S A I L R
 L G R C A G I Z C G Z Z R C E
 W N Q H H U K W W L Q F I Y K

Words

- Boo
- Candycorn
- Cobwebs
- Costume
- Fright
- Ghost
- Halloween
- Haunted House
- Horror
- Masks
- Monster
- October
- Pumpkin
- Scream
- Treat
- Trick
- Scary
- Spooky
- Witch



Can you spot 30 differences in the pictures?





PROPERTY MINISTRY

Maintenance: Regular scheduled maintenance continues despite the closure of the church. The committee collaborates regularly with our custodian Alvaro making sure things are going well.

The three trees that were in the garden blocking the sign have now been taken down. Also the one near the staircase has been taken down as well. Our thanks to Alvaro and Clayton for doing such a tedious job, as the limbs etc. had to be cut in pieces for discarding.

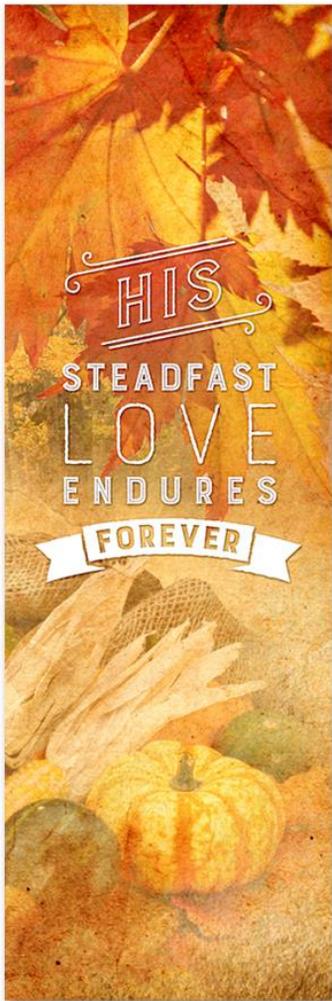
The door from the underground garage into the church is not in operation. We have been in touch with the condo management who told us that they are awaiting parts to have it rectified.

Tenant Relationship: The Korean Immanuel Church continues to have their service by following the COVID guidelines and the protocol as set out by Canada health authority as well as our own church. The Clover School is back in operation.

Rooks to Cooks: The cooking school that had a contract with us prior to the pandemic, were here for the month of August. The contract was that they follow the guidelines as set out by the health department which they had adhered to. The revenue for the month was so welcome as the pandemic has left a huge dent in our financials.

We have been getting requests for the use of the Upper Room, but as a result of the pandemic we have to turn them down and we have agreed not to do any rental during the pandemic.

Clayton Johnson & Yvonne Wright, Co-chairs



coffee hour



Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Grab your coffee or tea and join us via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82872466186>

Meeting ID: 828 7246 6186

OR

Join us via phone:

587 328 1099 Canada

647 374 4685 Canada

647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 828 7246 6186



MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Due to the Covid19 pandemic the members of this Ministry did not meet for the past year. We continued with our phone visits to every member when able to reach them and sent out cards as needed. We will continue our efforts to be in touch. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, our plans for an 'every member in-person visit' were put on hold. With the closure of the church we have not received any new members. We are grateful no members have passed away this year.

The Members of this committee are Rev. Carol Mc Kinley, Phoebe Cleverley, Melvyn and Shirley Beckles, Janiss Johnson (Secretary) Lucille Hunte, Yvonne Lampkin, Nancy Sisson, and Lisa Crawford.

Ianthe Spencer, Chair

Do you know someone in need of a pastoral call or card?
Please contact Rev Carol at 905-717-6594.



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

The M&P Committee would like to inform the congregation that the church is open on Thursdays with a restricted time due to the current situation surrounding covid-19. The church administrator, Cate, will be at the church on the above-mentioned day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Anyone who would like to drop by the church and/or deliver their offering(s), if choose this method, may do so by calling the church office in advance to limit the number of people visiting at once at 416-783-6503. Please be advised that we observe and practice all COVID-19 related safety measures for everyone's safety.

Kindly note that Rev. Carol is currently away and will be available by phone as of October 11, 2021, during business hours.

The tentative date for the church re-opening for in person service is November 28, 2021. If there are any changes on this matter, announcements will be made in a timely manner.

Amrita Aphan & Yasmin Halley, Co-chairs



Editors' Note: The Property Ministry reports that Alvaro, our custodian, is at the church Monday – Thursday 9am-noon, Friday 4pm-7pm and Sunday 9am-1pm.

GOD'S PLAN FOR AGING

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.





Editors' Note: As you will remember, Melvyne and Shirley Beckles are the contacts for this group. We are told that Young at Heart are not meeting nor are there any plans for the future due to Covid19. Shirley keeps in touch with the members of Young at Heart.



WHEN WE ZOOM THERE'S LOTS OF ROOM.....

...to meet our neighbours. Over the past several months we have been invited to join Zoom church services with our neighbours at Fairbank United Church located on the west side of Dufferin between Eglinton and Lawrence. The history of Fairbank United Church runs parallel to that of Asbury and West; roots dating back to 1844, circuit rider Methodist ministers traveling on horseback, the church built on farmland, a corner stone dated 1889, the city growing around the church property, joining the United Church in 1925 and long-standing faithful members.

Pastor Steven Loweth, who completed the DLM degree through St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, is the minister and leads the congregation as they journey together in faith, love, grace and community. (Pastor Steven has also been available for Asbury's pastoral calls when our Rev Carol is away.) Similar to Asbury, the membership could be referred to as small but the commitment of the faithful, dedicated members is large. Their mission statement reveals the focus of their ministry: *"To be a people of God serving Christ in this community, welcoming all peoples for worship, fellowship and caring support."*

Our relationship with Fairbank United Church is long standing. For those who may remember, years ago Asbury had an *Annual Spring Sing* organized by the then Minister of Music, William (Bill) Shewalter. Choir members from seven (7) neighbouring churches participated and the Fairbank choir members always shared their talent and love of music.

So when we Zoom, there's lots of room to meet our neighbours. Be sure to say a friendly Asbury and West "hello" and give a neighbourly wave.

Submitted by *Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson*



Remembrance Day

Thursday, November 11

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

By John McCrae
May 1915



CHRISTMAS SERVICES REGISTRATION... PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Greetings Church Family!

As we move into the Advent Season, we look forward to seeing you at in-person services. Of course, this also comes with our continuing to adhere to the City of Toronto by-laws, Public Health protocols and the United Church of Canada guidelines. Every reasonable precaution will continue to be taken to protect your health.

Please be reminded of the following:

- All attendees must wear a mask, use hand sanitizer upon arrival, sign-in for health screening and contact tracing, and maintain six-feet of physical distance.
- Groups of "cohorts" (families, households) may sit together and extra chairs for this purpose will be available. Hymn books and bulletins will not be available. Services will be projected on screen. Zoom Services will still be available for those who do not wish to attend in-person.
- Singing is not allowed during the service. Also, there will be no socializing before, during or after service in the sanctuary or the narthex.
- Please do not enter the building if you have a temperature, feel ill, are quarantined, or have been in contact with COVID-19 positive individuals over the preceding two weeks.
- Because we are a public setting, we encourage full vaccination.

Registration for Christmas Services

Christmas is a special time of year when many people attend services with families in celebration of our Lord's birth.

With this in mind, we are requesting that those who wish to attend our Christmas Services register, due to the capacity limits. Please note that priority will be given to our **church members/**

families, which includes spouses, and children who live with their parents. If there is space after members have registered, you may register your extended family on a first come, first serve basis. The registration status will be announced periodically as the deadline approaches.

Services Requiring Registration:

Christmas Service - Sunday, December 19, 2021, 10:30am

Christmas Eve Service - Friday, December 24, 2021, with the possibility of two services, a Family Service and a later Candlelight Service, depending on response.

To register, you can reply to this email, call Cheryl Holliday at 647-999-2258 or send an email to cheryl.holliday@yahoo.com. When you register, please let Cheryl know if you wish to have any family attend; names and numbers. This will be recorded and you will be contacted once we know the number of spaces available.

Deadline for member registration is Sunday, December 7. After this date, we will open registration to families.

Accommodating as many people as we are allowed is not an easy undertaking. So we encourage you to **please register as soon as possible.**

We thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

In Christ's Service,

*The Worship, Sacraments
and Music Ministry*



HAPPY Thanksgiving



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Asbury and West, acknowledges the sacred land on which our church stands. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations. The original nations continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work toward justice and reconciliation.

