



Farewell from Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin



Dear Beloved Community,

As I sit down to write these words, I am filled with a deep mix of emotions: gratitude, sadness, hope, and peace. My time as your minister is drawing to a close, and this *Connections* article marks my final contribution. As I prepare to step away, I do so with a heart full of memories, a soul shaped by our journey together, and a spirit uplifted by all we have shared.

We have seen lives transformed—not by any single person, but by the grace of God moving through each of you. I think of the quiet moments in hospital rooms, where prayers were whispered

and tears shared. I think of the baptisms, the weddings, and yes, the funerals, where we stood as one—proclaiming that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of Christ. I think of the children bringing us joy in the JAM sessions, the meals shared in person and on Zoom, the songs that have lifted our hearts, and the countless moments where the Spirit whispered into our lives.

We have had deep, meaningful conversations—some joyful, some challenging, all sacred. We have dared to ask questions that don't have easy answers. We've sat with mystery, struggled with Scripture, and sought to follow Jesus not as an idea, but as a way of life. We've wrestled with what it means to be a faithful church in a changing world. And through it all, Christ has been present—sometimes clear as day, sometimes glimpsed only through the fog, but always present.

And yet, I want to be honest; it has not always been easy. Tradition, as we know, is a double-edged gift. It can be a beautiful vessel that carries the wisdom of generations and comfort from the past. It can also be a weight that resists change, even when change is where God is leading us. I have felt the tension between holding on and letting go, and I know you have too.

If I could leave you with one hope, it is this: that you continue to strive to be a church that listens for Spirit first, that leans into love even when it's hard, that stays rooted in Christ while reaching out to the world with courage and compassion. Don't be afraid to question, to dream, to change. The church is not a museum of the past, but a living body, ever becoming.

Thank you for the journey we've shared together. I have been changed because of you. May the peace of Christ go with you, may the love of God sustain you, and may the Spirit always stir your hearts toward justice, compassion and belonging.

Sincerely in Christ, Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin

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THE VALLEY VOICES CHOIR PRESENTS:

BELONG: A SINGALONG!!

THE LOVERS, THE DREAMERS, AND ME
(SILENT AUCTION 6PM!!!)

TURN US UP AND SING-A-LONG!!!
SUNDAY JUNE 22 CONCERT 7PM

HUMBER VALLEY UNITED CHURCH, 116 ADELMAN BLVD, ETOBICOKE, ON
TICKETS: \$35 EA
416-231-2263 x39 HVUC.CA @EVENTBRITE.CA

DIRECTOR KATE BROWN, MUSIC DIRECTION JEFF KHAL BUTLER, AND ALEX OCTOBBART NEWS

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

Profile of Janet McColeman — Room Rentals



Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself.

A: I was born in Sudbury, in Northern Ontario, and grew up in the mining company town of Copper Cliff. The Big Nickel tourist attraction was a short bike ride down the highway, and the Superstack was just down the street.

During the 1970s the environmental greening program was underway throughout the area to counteract soil acidity and metal toxicity from a hundred years of large-scale nickel mining. My summer job for the INCO Agriculture Department, part of the greening program, paid for my Laurentian University education.

After graduation I got married and moved to Toronto for work in 1982. Etobicoke, by the banks of the Humber River, has been my home for the past 43 years.

Q: What are some of your favourite books?

A: I like to read a good murder mystery, in the genre of Elizabeth George or Louise Penny, and biographies. Favourite books remembered are ones I read in my youth that introduced me to a world far from my lived experience—To Kill

a Mockingbird (Harper Lee), The Day of the Triffids (John Wyndham), and I Married the Klondike (Laura Berton).

Q: What are some of your hobbies or interests outside of work.

A: Most of my volunteer time is spent hiking and working for the Bruce Trail Conservancy. I am a member of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club and currently assist or lead Urban Hikes for the club. My term as the Club's Bookkeeper ended in April and I am now concentrating on supporting the Hiking program that introduces people to the Niagara Escarpment. The Bruce Trail is Canada's longest marked footpath, and we work to conserve the land along the Escarpment for the benefit of all. Access to and exploration of the land needs to be preserved for future generations.

Q: What is your favourite thing to cook (or order).

A: My go to meal is a great pot of soup – Lentil, French Canadian Pea, or Golden Carrot. But I also cannot resist Boston Baked Beans (no tomato) and Boston Brown Bread (with raisins).

Q: You have a Time Machine! Would you travel to the past or to the future and why?

A: The past, somewhere that was the seed of Modern Western Civilization – Mediterranean. A visit to North Africa, Southern Europe or West Asia would be inspiring, if it is not during an epidemic. The future does not interest me I do not want to find out what harm our generation manages to do to the earth.

David Kitchen

**UCW
Annual
General
Meeting
is postponed
until
Fall, 2025**



Seeking Your Stories!

Editor Colleen Isherwood would love to hear from you. Contact her at 416-844-1519 or colleen.isherwood26@gmail.com.



Licia Meldrum takes another look at one of our favourite Psalms — *Justice, Compassion, Belonging*

Psalms 23, which begins with, “The Lord is my Shepherd,” is a calming and comforting piece that compares us to sheep being cared for by a good shepherd. Why that imagery? Let’s talk about it.

Personally, I don’t love being compared to a sheep. They are loud, they stink and in our contemporary society, they are considered pretty stupid. It’s used as a pejorative. I may be wrong, but I highly doubt that was the image the Psalmist wanted to paint for us.

If we remove our modern sense, and look at who this was written for, it makes more sense. At the time, sheep were a really accessible metaphor. Sheep were a way of life. A vital resource — meat, wool, milk, cheeses. These critters were responsible for upholding a major percentage of the economy. Everyone would connect to this metaphor, and despite the flaws of sheep, they were considered inherently valuable.

The Psalm focuses mostly on the behaviour of the shepherd rather than the sheep. Everyone knew the difference between a good or a bad shepherd.

A bad shepherd would have a malnourished herd, likely a small herd as a bad shepherd wouldn’t protect sheep from predators, so many would get lost or injured. The wool

would be scraggly, and milk production would be non-existent.

Parenting is another ready metaphor, but this also falls short in a lot of ways. A heavenly parent might be completely mentally inaccessible to someone whose earthly parents were difficult people.

My suggestion for a metaphor that might work today is public transit. Stay with me here!

It is abundantly clear to us when the infrastructure sucks! When it takes four changeovers to get where you’re going; when the signage isn’t clear and you wind up on the wrong platform; when there’s a shutdown and there’s not a shuttle bus to be seen.

We may not know how all the interworkings fit together to make city travel tolerable, but it’s easy to recognize when someone drops the ball.

We don’t follow the transit rules because we are stupid or gullible — we do it because when we do, everything is more likely to work the way it is supposed to.

When journeying by transit, we stand behind the little yellow line until the train stops, and we squeeze through the doors before the little “dingdong” announcement so we don’t get injured. We stop where stations are established to avoid chaos. And we go to predetermined stops to catch the bus, following a predetermined schedule. We cooperate with this system of regulation so that transit can work for a large majority of the community. (Or herd if you will.)

Our metaphor also works here because we are talking about journeys. There will be dark valleys; there will be situations where you feel death might be preferable to what you’re going through.

Psalms 23 is a comforting piece of poetry, but it is a mistake to relegate its use to funerals. Rest, peace,, guidance and companionship, comfort, protection, security, provision for our present need and hope for our future. May we carry that with us through every dark valley.

*Licia Meldrum,
Director of Youth and Young Adults*

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!



We are One Congregation with Workable Options

Since September 2024, we have provided two worship options, which have been embraced by both our congregation and the wider community. Both services offer unique spiritual experiences, and together they enrich our church life. Many people attend both services, while others prefer one or the other – what a wonderful way to welcome and support all in their faith and spiritual journeys.

Adding the 11:30 Faith Unbound service has strengthened our community in multiple ways. We have welcomed back members who had previously left our church, and we consistently see 12-15 Choristers participating in each service.

The Faith Unbound service follows a traditional order of service, which creates a sense of comfort and familiarity for those who choose to attend. Additionally, this second service has increased the revenue to our operating budget by approximately \$15,000 (since its inception) through extra givings. However, it's important to emphasize that this initiative is not only about increased revenues, but also

primarily about community, fellowship, and opening our doors to make all feel welcome.

The final 11:30 service before the summer will be held on June 22nd. The upcoming services in June will be led by Nancy Roper (June 8), the Dallimores (June 15th with the Handbells), and George Turnbull (June 22nd – PRIDE Sunday).

Beginning on June 29th, we will only have one service each Sunday morning beginning at 10 a.m. The 11:30 services will resume on September 7th.

Thank you to the many individuals who have contributed to the success of our 11:30 services. In the last month alone, we've have been blessed with reflections from Cathy Wilkes, Dr. Anton Yeretsky, Miyanda Kasapu, Mary Ferguson, and the "Star Wars" team on May the 4th (see photos above!). We're also grateful to all who have presided and given reflections throughout the year.

Special thanks to our AV team for their support: George, Magnus, and Zoran.

*11:30 Faith Unbound Service
Congregational Team*



GENERATIONS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice —

Justice, Compassion, Belonging

1925: The United Church of Canada (UCC) was established formally on June 10, 1925 at a meeting in the Mutual St. Arena in Toronto. It was the union of Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, and the General Council of the Local Union Churches. At the time membership of the church was 600,000. [View the 20 Articles of Doctrine.](#)

Wendy MacBeth's mother, Ruth, was one of the people serving communion to the huge congregation on Mutual Street. Wendy still has her mother's letter of instructions for the communion servers and a perfect copy of the Order of Service.

These hundred years have seen profound changes in the way people live, express their faith, and how they expect to worship. The United Church has responded to those changes in many ways.

It has always been a caring and loving church, but it has expanded that caring to greater understanding of issues such as Native spirituality, gender, social justice, pacifism, and the role of women.

The theme for the 100th anniversary is Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice.

On its website, the UCC has published a timeline for its century of service. Here are a few highlights.

1930s: Youth work develops with many different programs: Canadian Girls in Training, which had begun in 1915; Trail Rangers for boys 12 to 14; Tuxis Boys for 15 and

up; and Older Boys Parliament.

1936: The first woman minister in the United Church, the Rev. Lydia Gruchy (September 5, 1894 – April 9, 1992), was ordained on November 4, 1936, at St. Andrew's United Church of Moose Jaw. She had also been the first woman to enroll in theological studies, to graduate from a Presbyterian theological college and was the first woman to be granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in Canada.



Gruchy began her work in Saskatchewan. Every two years, her presbytery sought approval from the General Council for her ordination and for 13 years their pleas were denied.

Arguments against her ordination ranged from:

- She was not representative of other women because she was the only one requesting ordination, proving that women did not want to be ordained;
- Ordination would discriminate against married women who could not properly fulfill their duties to their spouses and children and simultaneously pastor;
- Ordination would cause women to lose their "womanliness"; and
- Ordaining women would undermine the ability to attract male clergy.

1939: As the war in Europe began 65 United Church clergy sign a Witness Against War outlining their pacifist views.

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1965: The Woman's Association and Woman's Missionary Society join to form the United Church Women. Three UCW women prepare trays of squares at Humber Valley United in Toronto in 1965. (Photo courtesy of Broadview Files.)

1948: The World Council of Churches is formed with the United Church a member.

1952-54: The General Council supports Medicare and makes a de facto recognition of People's Republic of China.

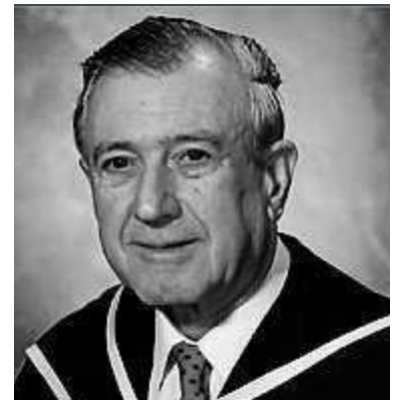
The Central Archives of the United Church are formally established, housed at Victoria University, Toronto. Humber Valley, like other churches, has sent historical documents to the archive ensuring their preservation.

1960-62: Council approves policy that abstinence from alcohol is the "wisest and safest course," but moderate usage is acknowledged. Total abstinence is not a condition of membership.

1966: For the first time since union, United Church membership drops: a loss of 2,027 members is recorded that year.

1968: The Rev. Ray Hord, secretary of Evangelism and Social Service, offers emergency aid to American Vietnam draft dodgers; General Council Executive disassociates itself from the decision but within two years it becomes church policy.

1975: At Humber Valley United's 50th Anniversary service on June 8, 1975 Raymond Gould, our organist and Director of Music, played Ralph Vaughan Williams' Old 100th as the processional hymn, the Chapel Tones sang Paul Simon's Bridge Over Troubled Waters and the Senior Choir sang Gounod's Sanctus with a tenor solo by Tom Clerke. Rev. Robert Watt's sermon title was "Age of Contradictions" based on Genesis 1:3. At that service our Handbells were dedicated in memory of David Gould and a special presentation was made to Ruth MacBeth and Mary Vanzandt who both were present at the Inaugural Service in 1925.



Raymond Gould, HVUC Organist and Director of Music

1980-82: At the 28th General Council in Halifax the first female moderator is elected: The Right Rev. Lois M. Wilson.

1986-88: General Council apologizes to Native congregations of the United Church for past denial of Native spirituality.

1988-90: General Council declares that "all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, who profess their faith in Jesus Christ are welcome to be or become members of The United Church of Canada," and that "all members of the United Church are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry."

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1995: The General Council Office moves from 85 St. Clair Ave. East, Toronto, to rented facilities at 3250 Bloor St. West. "To live with respect in Creation" is added to the New Creed.



1996: A new hymn book, *Voices United*, is published in 1996.

1998: In October the United Church of Canada offers an apology to former students of United Church Indian Residential Schools.

2005: The United Church urges the Canadian Parliament to vote in favour of same-sex marriage legislation.

2010: On January 17, 2010, Moderator Mardi Tindal issues an open letter to Canadians calling on them to consider climate change a crisis of conscience.

2012: United Church Women (UCW) celebrates 50th Anniversary.

2016: The Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell offers a Parliamentary Special Joint Committee her reflections on physician-assisted dying. And in the following year the

United Church opts for a balanced, case-by-case approach to medical assistance in dying.

2020: The COVID-19 pandemic forces the closure of churches across Canada. Communities of faith, camps, and community ministries find amazing ways of reaching people despite physical distancing.

The United Church apologizes for its role in separating mothers and their babies in maternity homes it operated from the end of World War II to 1980.

2021: The 2021 Canadian census found that more than 1 million Canadians (3.3% of the population) self-identified with the church, remaining the second-largest Christian denomination in Canada.

2023: Church statistics for the end of 2023 showed 2,451 congregations and 325,315 members in 243,689 households under pastoral care, of whom 110,878 attend services regularly

Ohiatonhseratokénti: The Holy Bible in Mohawk, translated by Harvey Satewas Gabriel, is published with support from the Kanesatake United Church, the Mohawk Council of Kanesatake, the Canadian Bible Society, and the United Church Foundation.



Information compiled by
Susanne Hynes

THE VALLEY VOICES CHOIR PRESENTS:

BELONG: A SINGALONG!!

THE LOVERS, THE DREAMERS, AND ME

(SILENT AUCTION 6PM!!!)



TURN US UP AND SING-A-LONG!!!

SUNDAY JUNE 22 CONCERT 7PM

HUMBER VALLEY UNITED CHURCH, 716 ANGLESEY BLVD, ETOBICOKE, ON

TICKETS: \$35 EA

416-231-2263 x39 HVUC.CA @EVENTBRITE.CA 

DIRECTOR KATE BROWN, MUSIC DIRECTION JEFF KAHN GUITAR, AND ALEX MCTAGGART KEYS

“Glad to be back” — Kate returns!

Valley Voices welcomed back our fearless leader Kate Brown, who returned to lead the choir, and the members of Valley Voices are enthusiastically practising for our concert on June 22.

“Thank you to the leadership team of the choir, and to every choir member who kept practising and bringing joy to the world and each other at retirement home gigs and practices,” said Kate. “It is encouraging to know that even without me there, the love and the community and the support and job continued.”

We now have a fourth generation choir member! Great grandmother Sue Hanson, grandmother Heather Graydon, and mother Jenny Graydon, were pleased to welcome Lucy Heather Pitre, born 5:41 a.m. March 31, 2025, weighing 7 lbs 15 ounces. We are certain that little Lucy will know all the songs and will join the choir as soon as she can!



Seeking Auction Items for June 22

We are holding a spring concert at church on Sunday, June 22 at 6:00pm titled-“BELONG: A Sing-A-Long”. This fundraiser will consist of silent and live auctions at the concert. As well, there will be an online auction, for which bidding will open pre-concert date and end on June 22 at 8:45pm.

Auction ideas could include cottage weekends, progressive dinners, swimming/BBQ parties, personal shopping, perogie-making lessons, tickets to sporting or entertainment events, coupons for dinners out, offers of helping with car washing, babysitting, Spring cleaning, or baking a cake or goodies for someone, etc.

Please contact Deborah Turnbull, dtgbc01@gmail.com, regarding contributions, including the item name and a brief description or photo. Items may be left in the church’s main office, indicating to Kelly that they are for the June 22 auction.

Deb Turnbull

In addition to practising, our choir journeyed via rickety (but cost effective) bus to see Cary Shields’ new play, “I Shot the Albatross,” at The Theatre Centre. Kate directed the show, and choir member Shelley Scarrow was responsible for set and costume design/ASM. The show was amazing! We are very pleased that Cary will be joining us for BELONG: A Sing-A-Long on June 22!

Colleen Isherwood



A pre-choir practice feast, courtesy of Nancy Roper.



Shredding Day 2025

It's not too early to start gathering your documents for HVUC's 2025 Shredding Day. Back by popular demand, HVUC's Shredding day will take place on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 9:00am to noon. This year, we are holding this event the weekend before Thanksgiving, which is two weeks earlier than usual. We hope this improves our chances of having good weather!

The commercial shredding truck from Papersavers will be in the church parking lot, ready to shred your confidential documents safely and securely, right before your eyes. This is the perfect time to get rid of old tax and medical files, receipts with your credit card number on them, and anything you would not want exposed. Papersavers also shreds photos, so if you have boxes of pictures you know you are never going to look at, but you don't want them lying around, this is your answer.

Bring your documents in any container; our volunteers will lift them out of your vehicle and load them into the Papersavers shredding truck. You can watch them go through the shredding process if you wish.

Prices are the best in town, and are based on a banker's box—that is 25-30 pounds of paper, which is a lot of paper. You will feel so much lighter when it's gone. Pay by cash, cheque, e-transfer, or credit card.

1-2 boxes:	\$17.50 each
3-5 boxes:	\$15.00 each
6 + boxes:	\$12.00 each

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Belford.
jbelford1967@gmail.com.

Shredding Day Volunteers

If you wish you could do more for the church but you don't have much time, volunteering for Shredding Day is a great way to help. We just need you for one half-day, and it is very rewarding, as our customers are so happy to get rid of their papers that they often throw in a thank you and a little extra payment. In addition, volunteers get coffee and treats.

We need people to direct traffic, lift boxes from cars to the large shredding bins (max weight is 35 pounds), calculate prices (there is a cheat sheet), or handle cash and e-transfers. It's a fun and time-limited way to contribute to the church. Many of our volunteers have been with us since our first Shredding Day five years ago, which just proves that we put the fun in fundraising.

If you want to volunteer, or have any questions, please contact Joan Belford. jbelford1967@gmail.com.



Magical Summer Pots

Summer has arrived! Just in time for the May holiday weekend, Heather Rutledge has worked her magic and switched the church outdoor urns from Spring to their Summer look. Thanks to Heather for keeping the church's 'curb appeal' high.

Carolyn Whiteside



Tuesday, June 17, 9am-6pm

Based on the novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery ● A New Adaptation by Kat Sandler
Directed by Kat Sandler ● A Stratford Festival Commission World Première

- A full-day outing with convenient departure by private coach from Humber Valley United Church.
- An elegant lunch is included in the ticket price of \$199.00 per person.

Please purchase tickets directly from Mary Morton Tours at 416-488-2674. Questions?... jenny@hvuc.ca 416-231-2263 X31.

You're invited for an exciting, day outing on a private coach tour which includes

Shaw Festival's

ANYTHING GOES

**Tuesday,
Sept. 9,
9am-8:30pm**



A boatload full of comedy, Cole Porter and capers! On this ship, anything goes!

- 9am departure by private coach from Humber Valley United Church.
- Spend time browsing in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with lunch on your own.
- It's showtime at 1pm at the Shaw Festival in Niagara On The Lake.
- On the return trip, an early, splendid buffet dinner is included at the beautiful Sheraton Fallsview.
- Return to Etobicoke by approximately 8:30pm.
- Price per person is \$199.00.

Please purchase tickets directly from Mary Morton Tours at **416-488-2674**, mentioning the Humber Valley United Church trip. For more info contact jenny@hvuc.ca or call Jenny at 416-231-2263 X31.

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke | hvuc.ca



Cooking Night
WITH **LICIA**

All Young Adults Welcome
Friday, June 20, 6pm-8pm
Join us for a fun evening preparing soup and sandwiches for Youth Without Shelter.
Please RSVP to Licia@hvuc.ca by June 17.

HV
YOUNG ADULTS



Come to Square Dancing!

July 2
1:00-3:00pm

EVERYONE WELCOME!

We are going to learn a simple square dance together.



Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH
76 Anglesey Blvd., Arthur Steed Hall
www.hvuc.ca



DROP-IN
Euchre Classes Good for brain health and fun

July 14, 28 & August 18

From 1:00 to 3:00pm



55+ in Central Etobicoke

DROP IN

Humber Valley United Church,

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)





Meet This Year's Summer Students

Foster Heyden (above left) is joining us for the first time. Foster is going into third year at Western University. He is studying Mechatronic Engineering.

Augustus Festus (second from left) is joining us for his fourth summer. Augustus is going into his third year at Toronto Metropolitan University in Business.

Erica Liu (above, right) is joining us for a second summer. She is currently attending the University of Toronto, study-

ing sociology, art history, fashion, and material culture.

Our fourth student this summer is **Zoe Peddle-Stevenson** (third from left). Zoe just graduated from the University of Toronto in Biology and History and will be starting a Masters at the University of Ottawa in Religious Studies in September.

Please say hello to our summer students when you see them at church. If your committee or team has any tasks where you could use some help from a summer student, please let [Deb Turnbull](#) know.

Deb Turnbull



Hostile Architecture

On the south side of College
at the church near Augusta
sits a statue of Jesus
covered in a shroud
right hand turned up
begging you to kneel down
to touch his fingers
and the scar on his palm

At the front of the building
it's a different scene:
a tall blue fence encircles
one dozen large concrete blocks
that fill the small patch of yard
the design stops the downtrodden
from pitching tents
and staying

Submitted by Kevin Curnock

MARCH

9

SUNDAY

Miyanda Kasapu: The Gift of Peace

At the 11:30 service on March 9, Miyanda Kasapu's reflection was on "The Gift of Peace." The people in the picture are Bismark Woli, Emanuella Owusuaa, Marjie Horner, Deb Turnbull, Miyanda, a friend, Kwaku Yeboah and Prince Odoom. — *Deb Turnbull*



APRIL

19

SATURDAY

Food and Clothing goes to Refugees

— *Compassion, Belonging*

Humber Valley is an enthusiastic participant in Basket Brigade Canada, a charitable organization that delivers food to needy people.

Extra food bags sorted and packed by Humber Valley went to refugees at Apostles Continuation Church as part of Basket Brigade's Easter Food Drive. Martha, who lives at the church, is shown at left.

In a separate event, all the donations we had at the church have now been delivered to the Apostles Continuation Church where 45 newcomers are living. A team moved all the donations out of the back of Steed Hall on Tuesday, May 13. Thank you to all involved: Miyanda Kasapu, Murray Smith, Brian Thomson, Brian Goodman, Nancy Roper, Zoran Mrkovic, Dragan Mrkovic, Erin Billowits, Annabelle Billowits, Deb Turnbull, Foster Heyden and Allan Orr.

MAY

13

TUESDAY





We welcomed a few new participants as well as several who come every year. I have participated in The Week of Guided Prayer ever since Joanne Stenerson brought the week to us more than ten years ago. I have been a retreatant and a companion. And in both cases I loved sharing the readings and coming closer both to the word and to each other.



This year the beans we planted at the beginning of the week sprouted just in time for our closing brunch and communion. We took the time to put leaves of reflection and hope on our WoGP tree and posed for a photo in front of the magnificent chancel screen in our sanctuary.

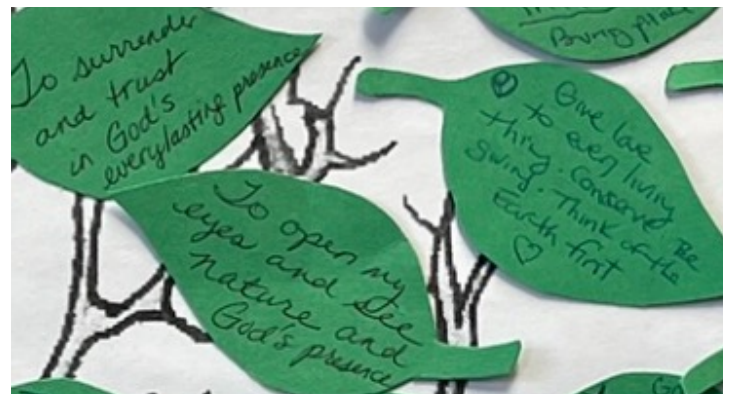
Susanne Hynes

Rooted in God's Love — Week of Guided Prayer

The theme for this year's Week of Guided Prayer was "Rooted in God, Growing in Faith". Lynn Manning scheduled the guided retreat for the second week of April, a perfect time for the metaphor that defined the week.

Readings took us from the beginning with planting seeds (as the word of God) that lead to the harvest of community and love. Being rooted is so important: strong and established roots, whether in the soil or in the community, help us withstand the storms of life.

At Humber Valley we are rooted in our community of faith. As we explored during the week, we need to nourish and tend the roots and the shoots to foster the harvest of love and community.



*How long and wide and deep
is the love of Christ.*

Overflowing with thankfulness.

Thank you Lynn for making sure this week happened again
at Humber Valley United.

Susanne Hynes





April Daytimers

The speaker for the April meeting of Daytimers was Dr. Julie McIntyre, who spoke on “End of Life Matters”.

George Turnbull now Dr. George



Our very own George Turnbull passed his Ph.D. Defence on June 4 with flying colours. He is now a true media dance artist-scholar with Ph.D. (Cinema and Media Studies) after his name and Dr. in front of it.

Congratulations, George!

FF Apple Pie Making

The Friends and Faith (FF) UCW Group had a pie making event on May 22. The session stemmed from a DELICIOUS apple pie that Sally Roper made for the FF Potluck in February 2024. Lucia asked if Sally could visit her home to give a private lesson and others jumped on the bandwagon requesting a group event.



Sally demonstrated her “Pi Do” pastry recipe that she got the week her family moved to Toronto from Vancouver in 1942. Sally was eight years old. Her family was waiting at Eaton’s College Street and got to talking to another family and they wound up as life-long friends with a pastry recipe that will be passed down through the generations.

Sally showed the FF group how to make the pastry and how to roll the crust and add an edge. The group discussed top crusts, lattice crusts, pie shells that are cooked empty and filled thereafter, and tarts. Attendees shared ideas and techniques that they had learned from other sources.

Each attendee then made a batch of pastry and rolled a pie shell which they filled and finished at home. We had a mixture of apple pies and rhubarb pies. It was a really fun event. Thank you to the Carscaddens for providing the rhubarb from their garden.

If you are interested in attending a similar pie making event, please contact Nancy Roper at nancy.roper@sympatico.ca



L to R: Constance Crosby, Faith Buttigieg, Shelley Scarrow, Sally Roper, Lucia D’Alessandro, Monique Smith, Andrea Ostvik-Vander Vliet. Not shown: Nancy Roper, photographer.



Dorothy Ley Hike for Hospice

As always, the end of May heralds another year of the Dorothy Ley Hike for Hospice, and HVUC is as committed as ever!

Not only in our fundraising efforts, but our awareness campaign that centres the voices of congregants who have personal experience with the loving care provided at Dorothy Ley Hospice. While DLH was doing a 5k, we held our symbolic once around the church walk on the 25th.

(Remember, Holy Ground counts for more mileage!) So far, this year's event has raised \$5,000.

And we're sincerely thankful for those who joined us to celebrate and support this desperately important ministry. End of Life care can be life giving, life affirming, and a joyful, tender experience.

Thank you for your donations and support.

Licia Meldrum (she/her)
Director of Youth and Young Adults, HVUC



Dance Classes resume in September

Our 55+ Dance Classes have ended for the summer, due to room bookings for school concerts that conflict with our programs.

Programs that ended on May 30 include the tap dancing class, drum fit and line dancing. These weekly classes will resume on the following dates:

Tap dancing – 4:30pm September 8
Drum Fit – 4-4:45pm September 10
Line Dancing – 5-5:45pm Sept. 11

The photo at left shows some of our line dancers with teacher George Turnbull in the front!



Spirit of ALOHA Alive and Well



The May 26 Daytimers luncheon was Hawaiian themed, and it could not have been more appropriate.

What is ALOHA? It's more than just a greeting. It represents a way of life built on love, kindness, compassion, respect for others and for nature. ALOHA guides communities to a sense of harmony. Its core principles include kindness, unity, humility and patience. And if ever there was a group of people reflecting those principles, it's the Daytimers Team.

55+ Prioritizing our Mental and Physical Health

Navigating the later stages of life, it becomes more important than ever to prioritize our physical and mental health. It is widely proven by remaining active we can help improve mood, cognitive function and stave off age related illnesses.

With this in mind, Spring was a time when 55+ In Central Etobicoke expanded its programming with a focus on fitness, fun and fellowship.

At Easter, we held another chocolate making workshop, back by popular demand. We learned how to fashion handmade eggs, bunnies and ducks—all made of pure chocolate. Very tempting treats, and the hardest part was not eating them all!

Pasta and bread making workshops offered more than just

Each and every luncheon is a success. Why? Because a dedicated group of women plan a nutritious meal for over 80 people. They volunteer in every capacity: setting tables, serving plates with a welcoming smile, cleaning up and creating a space where all feel welcome, nourished body and soul.



One of the features making Daytimers so special is the decorations. The room always looks splendid. The vision for the decorations comes from the very talented Lorraine Pearsall. She has been indisposed for several weeks, and we all miss her. BUT, in the true spirit of ALOHA, providing guidance from her hospital bed, Lorraine and the Daytimers Team turned Steed Hall into a tropical paradise. Pineapple centrepieces, flowers and tiki statues filled the room. The afternoon was ALOHA in action. Full of positive energy, understanding, compassion, people working together in harmony and love.

We have one luncheon left before we take a break for the summer. It takes place on June 23. It won't have a Hawaiian theme, but rest assured, the spirit of ALOHA is alive and well at Daytimers.

Jenny Terwoord

instruction. They were thoughtfully designed and facilitated by Anne Pietropaolo as meditative practices, producing delicious and nutritious food. And connecting with others, learning and working together was another benefit for everyone involved.

Senior friendly fitness programming expanded to include tap dance classes, with a terrific instructor, George Turnbull. Tap dance offers a multitude of benefits. It's a great way for older adults to improve cardiovascular health, strengthen muscles, and enhance coordination. Tap dancing also improves memory, focus and brain function. But mostly, it's fun!

Spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner. While some classes will go on a brief hiatus during the warmer months, there will still be plenty on offer to keep people active, connected and engaged. Check out the 55+ In Central Etobicoke program guide on line, or pick up a copy in the church lobby. Join us!

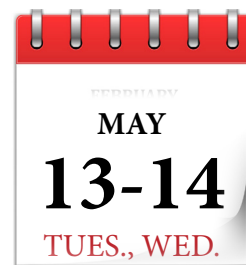
Jenny Terwoord

Unit 7 visits Crieff Hills for Faith, Fellowship and Fun



For our May meeting, 15 Unit 7 ladies shared wonderful time together at the Crieff Hills Retreat (owned and operated by the Presbyterian Church in Canada) in Puslinch. We stayed in historic Dove House (built in 1864) whose interior has been beautifully restored with spacious common areas and big rooms to sleep in.

It rained on Tuesday evening – we got quite wet on the ten minute walk from Maclean Hall back to Dove House—so our planned bonfire was replaced by puzzling, colouring, catching up on all the news, and singing around the large table in the Dove House dining room. It must have been good because we didn't get to bed till around midnight.



We spent lovely hours together in the house and wandering the property. We saw hens and a rooster, ducks, sheep and a snake. We marvelled at the millions of dandelions, beautiful American Rosebud trees, violets, lilac, periwinkle and grasses growing at great speed. It was supposed to be rainy and cloudy both days, but on Wednesday the sun came out making it a warm May day— perfect for a bocce ball game.

(Continued on next page)

The story of Crieff Hills Retreat

“Colonel John Bain Maclean, the founder of *Maclean's* magazine, *The Financial Post* and Maclean-Hunter publishers, was born and raised in the small village of Crieff, Ontario, where his father was the minister at Knox Presbyterian Church. After establishing a successful career in Toronto, he returned to Crieff in 1916 to visit and found the churchyard in disrepair. He then led efforts to restore both the grounds and the cemetery with the help of the Olmstead Brothers landscape architectural firm.

“In recognition of his service, the church gave Col. Maclean the old manse and an acre of land, which became his country home. He bought adjacent farmland (300 acres) and created an industrious farm with a dairy herd, pigs, grain fields, orchards and about 100 acres of reforested land. His estate, known as Crieff Hills Farm, was famous for its beautiful landscape and gardens.

“When Col. Maclean died in 1950 he left 250 acres of the farm and its buildings to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, along with money invested to maintain the properties “...as a model and example to other communities.” In the mid 1970s the denomination began to develop the land as a retreat facility, gradually adding



buildings as demand increased.

“Today, Crieff Hills is open all year long, welcoming individuals and groups of up to a hundred people. This quiet place has an important mission in today's busy world, providing a warm welcome and an opportunity for people from all walks of life to connect with the Divine and find renewal.”

Source: <https://crieffhills.com/about/our-story/>



Unit 7 UCW at Crieff Hills

(Continued from previous page)

On Wednesday morning when the day ladies arrived Kathy filled us in about the background of Crieff Hills (page 16). Since June 10, 2025 is the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the United Church of Canada Susanne gave some highlights of that history (see article on pages 5-7), There was much discussion. The evening before we had spent about an hour talking about Humber Valley United and our hopes and prayers for the future of our church.

We enjoyed buffet-style meals in the one-room school house, called Maclean Hall (built in 1874). They are

prepared on site with as many fresh local ingredients as possible. We had a salad of fresh greens from the gardens and there were little violets on the bread pudding! The bread is delicious.

We started our meals with grace and my favourite one was shared by a Maritime girl "Bless the coal mines. And lets dig in!" We did dig in, and we also blessed our friendship and our church.

Lots of hugs as we loaded up the cars to go home. And big plans to come the Crieff Hills again next spring.

*Susanne Hynes
Co-leader, Unit 7*

The Irish Kitchen Party





Faith and Joe on an ATV.

Faith's parents were born in Hungary. Her Dad came to Canada during the Hungarian Revolution. About a decade later, Faith's Mom came to North America, settling in Miami. Faith's Dad went on vacation in Miami and met his future wife at a dance. They did distance dating for six months and then got married in Miami and returned to Canada to start their married life. Faith was born while her family was in Delhi, ON, then moved with them to Hamilton when she was three. Faith has a younger sister, Ethel, who now lives in Windsor with her husband and two children.

Faith has a BA from the University of Guelph, a Diploma in Child and Youth Work from Mohawk College in Hamilton, and a Bachelor of Social Work from Ryerson (now TMU). She did her Masters of Social Work at York University while working and raising her family.

Faith did her placement for her BSW degree at the Hamilton CAS. After graduating with her BSW degree, she secured employment at the Haldimand Norfolk CAS (covering Delhi, Simcoe, Port Dover, Caledonia and Townsend areas). Faith has been working full time at the Peel Children's Aid for 19 years. Initially, she did "Investigations" to check on families where a concern had been lodged about their children's safety.

More recently, Faith is a caseworker where she helps families on a longer-term basis. She works on a specialized Family and Intimate Partner Violence team. Faith finds that the cost of living and lack of affordable housing puts a tremendous strain on families and makes it challenging for them to care for their children. Faith loves having a job where every day is different.

Faith met her husband, Joe, online in October 2005. He proposed to her 6 months later and they were married in October 2006. They live in Weston near the Superstore.

Joe is a truck driver at a private waste collection company. He loves to ride his bicycle and will do 40-60 km rides at a time.

Faith and Joe have two children:

Olivia is 18 and has visited Humber Valley on occasion. She is an active volunteer, singing in the choir and helping in the Sunday school at Central United Church, helping her friend Josie Mullins, (from Valley Voices) who is a visually impaired senior, and helping with the cats at the Etobicoke Humane Society. Olivia received a big award from Central United in May, celebrating her contributions to the Sunday school. Olivia starts university in September in the Concurrent Education Program at Trent University in Peterborough. She plans to become a teacher.

Michael is 16 and is considering a career in engineering or in the trades. He likes to play chess and read Anime books.

(Continued on next page)



Faith helps decorate Humber Valley Church last Christmas.

(Continued from previous page)

Faith is a self-described “homebody”. She loves taking care of her family, trying new recipes and baking. She has done cross stitch and knitting over the years. She likes reading, especially mystery/thrillers, but she also reads books to help with her job. Faith enjoys singing and is loving the Valley Voices Community Choir at Humber Valley. Faith and Joe enjoy theatre and do day trips to Stratford and the Shaw Festival several times each season. Faith has volunteered at the Humane Society with Olivia every Saturday afternoon for 5+ years, a job that sadly ended recently when the shelter closed due to a threat.

Faith first came to Humber Valley in the summer of 2024. She loves our church since everyone made her feel so welcome. Kate invited her to join the Sunday book club the first day she came to church and she was delighted to participate for the entire session. Faith enjoys our excellent sermons and our vast array of activities and special events. She dived in as a volunteer, modelling in the Fall Fashion Show and helping to put up the Christmas Decorations just a few months after she met us. Faith is a member of the Friends & Faith UCW Group.

We welcome Faith to our church and look forward to many fun times ahead.

Nancy Roper



Faith modelling at the Fashion Show last Fall.



The “Getting to Know Our Church Friends” series of articles are written by Nancy Roper in memory of her Dad, Norm Roper, who died in June 2020. Norm loved visiting with people and hearing their stories. He never forgot the things that people told him, always remembering to ask how a special event had gone or checking in on people’s children and grandchildren, etc.



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Have you ever witnessed an event where you said “What was the chance of that happening”? If so, then this series of articles is for you! Send us your stories (via nancy.roper@sympatico.ca), and we’ll print them in an upcoming newsletter.



Three Generations of Isherwoods and Cook-Bennetts

Gail Cook-Bennett and Colleen Isherwood met about 37 years ago, when their sons, Topher Bennett and David Isherwood went to Beavers. And now, Topher and David have reconnected through their sons, Calvin and Ben, at Beaver Camp. Topher and Calvin are shown on the left; David and Ben are on the right!

Double Marley

Marley, one of our “comfort dogs” at church, was restless during the service so Nancy took her for a walk outside. At the corner, we met a much larger senior dog – an auburn golden retriever. Marley was eager to introduce herself, but the owner had her earbuds in so we didn’t engage. As we went by the play area, the “JAM” Sunday School children ran over exuberantly saying “Marley!” like they always do



since they enjoy playing with her. The lady with the elder dog seemed surprised and took out her earbuds. It turns out that her dog is named Marley too! Scarlett and Marley are shown in the photo.

The Tiny Pricks Project

Kate Brown is active on social media. Each day she posts interesting items that she has found or has written and shares them for her followers to enjoy. One of the things that she often shares are quotes from the “Tiny Pricks Project” – the quotes are all recorded via embroidery.

When Kate, Kevin, Vaughan, Devon and Nancy went to NYC in November 2024 to celebrate some milestone birthdays, we had a busy day with an afternoon event, a birthday dinner reservation and an evening show. It was 14 blocks to get to our dinner and we eventually opted to walk vs taking an Uber.

Along the way, we stumbled into a storefront that had all sorts of embroideries with heartwarming quotes: unbeknownst to us, the Tiny Pricks Project is based in NYC and we had stumbled into their workshop. Better still, we discovered that the owner is Canadian. What a lovely surprise!



Back L to R: Vaughan Stoyka, Nancy Roper, Kevin and Kate Curnock-Brown, Diana Weymar (owner of Tiny Pricks Project). Front: Devon Stoyka

Dr. Philip Arnold Scott
March 16, 1929—March 4, 2025

Philip was the eldest of four children, followed by three younger sisters: Yvonne, Lorraine, and Norma in the next four years, all of whom predeceased Philip, affectionately known as “Junior” in his youth. Family legend has it, his future ambition to become a dentist began by fitting and removing his grandmother’s dentures to amuse himself as a boy.



Philip leaves behind his wife, Terry, his three children, Stephen Scott (Deborah), Cara Hancox (Richard), and Lisa Campbell (Douglas), his three grandchildren: Emma Hancox, Aaron Hancox, and Scott Campbell, along with five great-grandchildren: Ethan and Ella Campbell, Malcolm Osgoode, and Miles and Penelope Hancox.

Lorna Hawckett
April 12 2025



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to family and friends of Lorna Hawckett who passed away suddenly on April 8, 2025 at the age of 88.

Lorna was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Gordon and is survived by her son, Thomas (Melissa), and daughter, Karen (Jeffery Wysman), brothers, Maurice Francis (Ruth) and Ian Francis. She will be fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephew, as well as, Brandon Wysman and family.

Lorna was a proud graduate of Toronto Western Hospital Nursing in 1958 as an RN and enjoyed lifelong friendships with many of her Alumnae.

Marlene Dermastja
January 29, 1941—May 13, 2025

Marlene passed away peacefully, on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Joseph; and their two children, Jason (Julie) and Tara (Michael); and their three beautiful grandchildren that she loved more than anything: Oliver, Holden and Alora.

Marlene was born in Germany in 1941, and immigrated to Toronto, Canada, in 1960. She was a fearless spirit who spoke her mind and built her dreams around her family. Her beautiful voice and love of the guitar often filled the house with music.

She always made sure that everyone felt included and loved. She had the most beautiful smile and laugh that you could pick out in a crowd; Marlene was the life of the party!



Muriel Bailey
May 21, 1922—May 11, 2025

A member of Humber Valley since it began, Muriel Bailey passed away at the age of 103. She is the sister of Humber Valley’s first minister, Rev. Arthur Steed Jr., and she was predeceased by her husband, Lloyd Bailey in April 2015.

Muriel was a nurse, a homemaker when their three sons were young, and then worked as a librarian at a school in North York for 30 years. When she retired, she volunteered full time in the library at the E.C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton. That way, she could visit her grandchildren after school.

Muriel was an active member of Humber Valley UCW’s Unit 2, participated in many events at the church, and could be seen sitting at the back left of the church on a Sunday. She continued to be an active member until she broke her hip in 2018.



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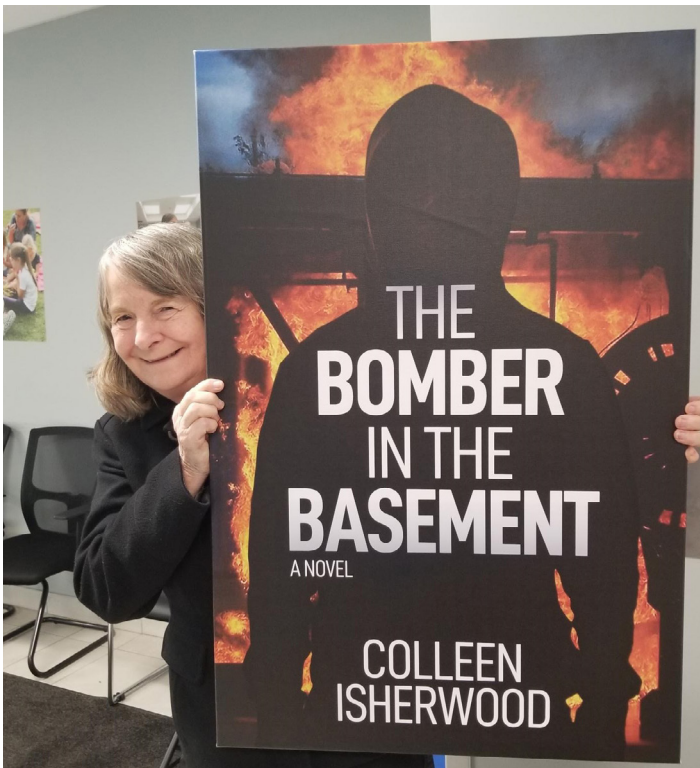
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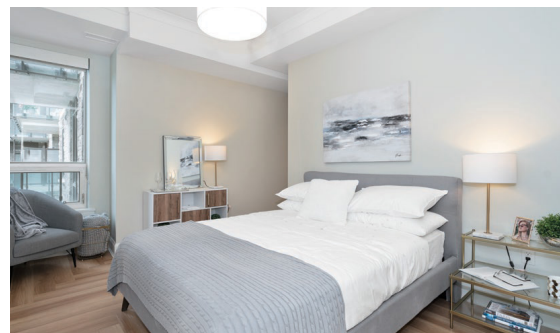
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Fundraising Events

Ongoing Fundscrip Gift Card Program. Use the gift cards at your usual stores. HVUC receives 3+% at no extra cost to you. Watch KIT for submission dates.

Ongoing Sale of Soup and Cookie Mixes. Watch KIT for details.

Sun. June 22 BELONG — A Sing-A-Long. Valley Voices Concert, Sparkling Reception and Silent and Online Auction.

Sat. Oct. 4 Shredding Day. 9:00am-Noon. Back by popular demand. Start collecting your sensitive items now.

Wed. Oct. 22 UCW Ladies Night Out. 6:00pm-9:00pm. Dance with Trish and Paul

Sat. Nov. 22 Wine Tasting of Affordable Wines. Ticket Price: TBD. (Date tentative.)

Sat. Dec. 13 Handel's Messiah Concert. 1:00pm. Ticket price: \$40 for adults, \$15 for children (12 and under).

A Humber Valley Innovation



Brian Thomson, with Reverend Trevor's help, has found a great tool to help him fill the small communion glasses.



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