

Connections

Connected Creative Caring

May
2021

The Reverend's Reflection

Along with our new signs, our lawn will soon host another powerful communicator, a mock graveyard. As COVID continues its deadly march across the province (and globe), we are all struggling for ways to grieve, lament and honour the lives lost.

Under different circumstances, our church would have been a gathering place to pray and process the impact of such a catastrophic loss. This pandemic has taken so much from so many. Sadly, good public health practice has meant staying away from each other is the best way to love and care for each other. No comforting hugs, no handing a friend a tissue, no candle-light vigils of remembrance. We all feel the extra layer of complexity, isolation, and helplessness in needing to keep apart.

When I was contacted by Rev. Stephen Milton of Lawrence Park Community Church (United), with the idea of setting up "performative" graveyards as an act of lament and memorial across the city, he had my attention. Rev. Milton explained:

"We will put up crosses, the same number as the people who died on the previous day in Ontario. The crosses will be multicoloured because this pandemic has affected people of all colours, genders and sexualities. The grave markers are meant as a public expression of our shared grief and concern for the losses which happen each day now. They are not meant as any kind of political statement, simply an expression of lament, exactly what churches usually do."

We at Humber Valley United, grieve deeply with those who have lost or will lose loved ones. Although powerless to undo the loss, we recognize it and demonstrate our sadness and solidarity publicly. Just as Jesus visibly wept, we want to visibly demonstrate our sadness.

A special "thank you" to Peter White, Christopher Roper and the HVUC youth group for their construction of the crosses.

We are working together with other faith communities to coordinate when this display of mourning and remembrance will occur. The hope is that similar displays will pop up across our city, as a reminder of the lives and relationships lost. We will keep you updated as we have more clarity on when these crosses will be set up.

Keep safe. Keep Well. Christ is with you.

Rev. Trevor

This edition of Connections is dedicated to

Pauline and Frank Gabourel

*in celebration
of their 60th Wedding Anniversary*



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OF NOTE

Rev. Trevor began an 8 week series of teachings on Radical HVUC on May 9.

*Watch our services on [YouTube](#) anytime.
Share them with your friends.*

Be sure to join in on Lobby Talk every Sunday after service.

Connections will come to you electronically monthly. Print copies will be available for those without computers.

Our website has been refreshed and redesigned thanks to Colleen Isherwood.

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

Green, have you noticed the spectacular greens this spring? They are so intense and so fresh. You may or may not have noticed that our *Connections* banner changes a little bit every edition. This month, I couldn't resist the glorious green of spring.

Have you heard Joni Mitchell's sweet song "Little Green", a love song to the daughter she had out of wedlock in 1966 and had to give up. I recently played it again and it brings tears to my eyes.

*Born with the moon in Cancer
Choose her a name she will answer to
Call her green and the winters cannot fade her
Call her green for the children who've made her
Little green, be a gypsy dancer*

*...
Little green, have a happy ending
Just a little green
Like the color when the spring is born
There'll be crocuses to bring to school tomorrow*

There is a lot about Mother's Day and mothers in this issue of *Connections*.

Rev. Trevor has now officially been called to Humber Valley United Church. You can see photos from his Covenanting Service on page 9. We are embarking on a journey of faith and transformation together. I am looking forward to his teaching (sermon) series on Radical HVUC. Quotes from his first sermon in the series are scattered throughout this newsletter. Don't miss our services filled with wonderful music and challenging teachings. On [YouTube](#) till the pandemic is over.

This is the first edition of *Connections* since I stopped producing *Keeping in Touch* weekly. With Colleen's help we'll publish an edition of *Connections* every month—usually on the third Friday. You'll be emailed the link, so you can view *Connections* hot off the press. People who do not have computers will receive print copies delivered to their homes, by mail or by HVUC volunteers.

I love to hear from you. Please send me your comments and suggestions.

Susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Susanne Hynes



Native bloodroot blooming in the James Gardens forest in April

Back at the Co-Editor's Desk

Almost 30 years ago, Susanne and I worked on the church newsletter together, along with Sonya Lockhart and Sue Hillery. Then I took over as editor for a while. At that time the newsletter was much smaller than it is now; we couldn't run photos, and we had to cut and paste drawings, etc. and then go over the edges of the drawings with white out so the lines wouldn't show up on the printed version.



We've come a long way, baby!

I'm delighted to be back at the Co-Editor's desk with my long-time friend, Susanne. It's an exciting time to be doing a newsletter about Humber Valley United Church. The church is so vibrant and lively — I don't think COVID crimped our style; if anything it enhanced our sense of belonging and community at a time when we needed it most.

And I'm impressed with the volume of contributions to *Connections* — there are a lot of talented writers in our congregation.

I will be doing the even-numbered months — starting with the June issue. With Susanne's experience and so much to write about, co-editing *Connections* should be a lot of fun!

Colleen Isherwood

Please send your contributions for the **June** issue to Colleen Isherwood colleen.isherwood26@gmail.com

**Radicalism is foundational
in its essence**

**Rootedness and extremism
in one word**

**Where is Christ?
Wherever children are welcome.**

60 Years! Congratulations Pauline and Frank

Frank and Pauline Gabourel celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Monday the 24th of May.

They were married in the Methodist Chapel in the village of Glengoffe, Jamaica, by the Rev. Jennings Martin and the Rev. Sir Hugh Brahma Sherlock.

In July 1965, they made the decision to join their friends in Canada. Frank accepted an invitation from the Sudbury Presbytery, Hamilton Conference, to be the minister of the Massey Pastoral Charge (Massey, Spanish, Walford). Six weeks later, their second daughter was born in the Espanola Hospital.

In 1968, Frank accepted a call to the Union Church in Montreal, where Oscar Peterson, the great jazz pianist, and his sister Daisy Peterson Sweeney were members. Some years later, Frank would return to Sudbury as a guest of Daisy as she was conferred with a doctorate (*honoris causa*) from Laurentian University.

Other members were the famous Alouette footballers, Herb Trawick and George Dixon. They organized the funding for the Jackie Robinson Scholarship Fund during the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of Union Church.

In 1980, the Gabourels moved to Toronto, where Frank was offered a position at St. Matthews Church, where the congregation was planning the project now known as St Matthews Bracondale House. The building was opened in September 1982.

In 1992, after 12 years, Frank thought it was time to take a sabbatical offered by Union at a seminary in Richmond Virginia. When Frank returned from sabbatical, he was invited to assume the interim position at Humbervale United Church, where he spent almost three years during the construction of Humbervale Place.



In September 1995, Frank was invited to be the minister of Riverside/Emery United, a remnant of the old Emery Methodist Church, where the father of Lester Pearson was once a Methodist minister.

In September 2001, Frank was invited to join the pastoral-care team at HVUC. Here Frank met the friends who would remain his resource for his retirement years.

Pauline left her job at Loyola College Library, and soon after arriving in Toronto, was offered a job in the Science and Medicine Library at U of T. She retired in 2002.

"After all these years we have two daughters, one residing in the U.S., the other in Toronto. A granddaughter is a practicing physician in Ontario, and a grandson in Palo Alto, Ca. is teaching at Stanford."

"We had planned a large celebration with friends, but now we willingly settle for health and good friends," Frank said.

Frank

*We hold the Gabourels in our hearts
and wish them much happiness!*

Humber Valley United was blessed to have Rev. Dr. Frank as our minister, in pastoral care and as full-time supply as we were seeking new ministry. His wisdom and compassion were crucial to the church's leadership.

Welcome Chris Roper



Humber Valley United Church has hired a new summer student, Chris Roper, who has just finished his second year in Mechanical Engineering at Queen's University. Chris's first day was May 3. He is one of three summer students we will have this year. The other students will begin later in the summer.

"I found out about the job through my aunt, Nancy Roper, who is involved with the church," said Chris. "I found the job appealing because it involved both maintenance and administrative work, which I have experience doing. As I am two years into a mechanical engineering program, I am familiar with software programs and in high school I did property maintenance. I have always liked hands-on work, which is part of the reason why I chose to pursue engineering."

Chris also has experience as a tutor, a hockey player, and a baseball umpire and coach. His volunteer work includes assisting with fundraising barbecues and community events for St. Ambrose Anglican Church in Baysville,

Ontario visiting seniors' homes to participate in arts and crafts with the residents, and helping with the Multiple Sclerosis Walk.

So far, Chris has been doing maintenance at the church, including sanitizing rooms and cutting the lawn. He has also begun some administrative work, including research projects and data collection, and will continue to do this kind of work throughout the summer.

Over the years, Chris has also received several awards and acknowledgements. One of the most interesting is a first place finish in University of Toronto's 2019 Engineering Idol Contest in the autonomous vehicle category. "The objective was to make a small car that autonomously follows a line on the floor full of twists and turns," Chris explained. "The car also needed to stop if it detected something in its way. Lastly, there was an engineering presentation describing the design process."

Welcome to Humber Valley, Chris!

Colleen Isherwood

UCC Camps during COVID — Outreach Report

The two United Church camps supported by Humber Valley are planning for summer 2021 with COVID restrictions and precautions under consideration. It is hoped that at least some programs will be offered so that families will benefit from overnight experiences after months of at home, on-line schooling.



Sparrow Lake Camp has a number of options in place for the safe return of a smaller number of campers. Cohorts will share sleeping and meal times with lots of outdoor activities.



Camp Scugog, on the other hand, will likely only be able to support a small group of senior campers and a few mothers with their children in restricted accommodations. Their situations in the city often include multiple family groups so full

isolation is not possible if one member contracts COVID. For those not able to attend camp in person a number of zoom and phone programs will continue as has been the case since COVID began.

Humber Valley will send cheques from the remainder of designated capital outreach funds to both camps. There are properties to maintain for the years ahead when full occupancy is expected. Our continuing support of these important youth ministries of Sparrow Lake Camp and Camp Scugog is part of Humber Valley's outreach.

The Outreach Committee

There is a cultural trend to immerse our kids to win, to always compete to be the greatest. Stop!

*Take a deep breath.
Just let them enjoy what they are doing.*

From the desk of the Chair of the Board

We continue to be a very busy and active church even during the current lockdown. Our 55+ programs are active as are our youth programs. Trevor's covenanting service was well attended as was the AGM. The Lobby Talks continue to go well and we are in good financial shape.

Our faith is demonstrated through our care for one another and our community. Trevor is challenging us to focus on the "why" of our faith and "how we connect with people where they are."

Thank you to Susanne Hynes and Colleen Isherwood for

agreeing to be the co-editors of what will now become our monthly *Connections* – a way of keeping in touch with our faith and each other.

If you have any issues or concerns or ideas to share, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,
Deb.



Reports to the Board

Humber Valley's Board meets every month, usually on the second Tuesday. As you probably are aware, not all committee chairs or people taking the lead on projects sit on the Board. They are, on occasion, invited to attend if there is a particular issue that needs the attention of the Board.

There is a list of current Board members and Committee Chairs [at this link](#).

Each month Committee Chairs are asked to submit reports for consideration by the Board. Here are a few April highlights from groups that report through the Chairs of Congregational and Community Life, Sylvia Cohen and Barbara Clarke.

Pastoral Care — Kathy Kitchen

Parkland no longer requires DVDs of our church services. They are able to show the current Sunday service in their theatre on Sundays at 10:30 am and they show the previous Sunday service on their common channel at 10:00 am. Kingsway plays our Sunday morning services in their theatre on Tuesdays. Extra daffodils were given to these 2 residences to distribute to those attending the services.

Little packages with treats including a daffodil were prepared for our congregants in all of the senior residences plus a few other shut ins who do not receive Daytimer lunches. The Pastoral Care team prepared packages for these people again for Mother's Day and these included a carnation. Elders are encouraged to let us know if there is someone on their list who is feeling lonely and isolated who might enjoy such a package. Rev Trevor has been including a small message with these packages.

Outreach — Sally Jo Martin and Barbara Clarke Things have been relatively quiet on the Outreach front. We have received letters of thanks from St. James' Food Bank, Water First, and GAIN—Global Aid International Network for our recent cheques earlier this year.

Cheques were written for Leprosy (\$1,515) in March and Youth Without Shelter for April & May (\$500).

We continue to provide an evening meal for Youth Without Shelter on the last Sunday of the every month and will continue to do so for 2021.

Communications — Susanne Hynes

Outside Signs Installation: We thank the Property Team for all its work preparing the grounds and doing the electrical work needed for the signs.

Please note that the installation of the signs cannot proceed until the province lifts the restriction on non-essential construction.

Blessing the Signs: Rev. Trevor will do a blessing the first Sunday after their installation.

Sign Ministry: The signs are a very important means of communications with the community. The main focus will be on faith and church related items.

Rev. Trevor is in charge of the Sign Ministry. Kelly Wells is the administrator. Both will be able to upload messages to the signs. Rev. Trevor has the final say on what those messages are.

Continued on page 6

Reports to the Board *continued*

We will be able to have up to eight concurrent messages, displaying sequentially, on the signs. We determine how long each message stays before the next one appears.

At first the only outside groups who will have messages on the signs are the groups who had physical signs on the church property: the two schools and the Korean congregation. The schools will pay for their messages through their rents. When we are ready, we will consider requests from other renters or groups holding concerts to have messages on the signs. The cost of posting these messages will be determined.

Guidelines: An email with guidelines about content will be sent to groups in the church, such as the UCW, who may want to post messages on the signs.

Financing the Signs: We are requesting further donations from the congregation.

Elders – Brian Goodman

HVUC elders are delighted to welcome Nancy Roper as a new elder.

With dedication and faith, elders have carried on this year again delivering *Connections* and the palms for Palm Sunday! They are busy emailing, texting and phoning to keep in touch with their “flocks”. We appreciate all they do.

UCW

Unit 7- Meeting was held on April 13th by Zoom. There was a general discussion and sharing of stories about travel past and future. We laughed at the misadventures of trips gone wrong and marveled at the tales of camping trips as kids. Some trips were interrupted by COVID last year as people hope to be able to rebook those journeys and complete them. Let's hope they can!

Unit 6- Unit members prepared and purchased food supplies for Youth Without Shelter. These were delivered and greatly appreciated by the youth at the residence maintained by YWS. HVUC continues to support this shelter for young people with donations and assistance from the Outreach fund.

Seniors 55+ programs

– Anne Pietropaolo and Beverly Conner

We had a successful virtual community celebration event on March 29th. The event was attended by over 80 people including many new members of the community, and included a lunch delivery. Yvan Baker and Stephen Holyday attended and many of our virtual activities were highlighted.

Deb and Anne will be presenting at Yvan Baker's Senior Advisory Council meeting on Wed April 21st. We will be sharing about our virtual programs for 55+ in Central Etobicoke.

Our new Zoom pro accounts are allowing more programs to be offered virtually and hosted by volunteers. Tech training has also helped develop confidence and capacity with a variety of computer skills, and have been attended by over 40 participants.

We will be closely monitoring the COVID 19 restrictions and hoping to offer some outdoor programs, such as Fitness pop-ups, when possible. We will also prepare for a transition to hybrid meetings where we can blend virtual and in person participation.

COVID restrictions have led us to cancel lunch delivery for Daytimers in April and to cancel the outdoor Nature Walk April 22. We will provide a food delivery to Mabelle Arts for 50 seniors, along with home essentials kits with laundry soap, dish detergent, dish cloths and scrubbies handmade by many of our congregants.

In order to build sustainability for our programs, we will be introducing opportunities for participants to contribute to the 55+ programs by making financial donations.

The 55+ program will be releasing a new Program Guide for May/June.

*Be careful about
the assumption of competition
that pervades our society;
the assumption that being the greatest
means we are one up over everyone else.*

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Pre-order your Vegetable Crate Garden today!



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Kale and Spinach Combo - 3 plants (2 Spinach and 1 Kale)

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Cherry Tomatoes with support cage included - 1 plant

Red or Green Sweet Peppers - 1 plant

Sweet Peas (a Woodhouse favourite!!) - 3 plants

Bush Green Beans - 3 plants

Sweet Pea and Bush Green Bean Combo - 3 plants (2 sweet pea and 1 bush bean)

A companion flower will be added to each crate

To place your order:

Email Valerie at valerie@ert-cpr.com or Call Lauren or Blake #416-693-1919

Covenanting with Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin

On the afternoon of Sunday April 18, Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin and the congregation of Humber Valley United Church formalized their commitment to a ministry together in Central Etobicoke.

We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin, Humber Valley United Church and the wider United Church as represented by Shining Waters regional council. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world.

The service, held via Zoom, was filled with music, readings and messages of hope and anticipation. The regional council liaison, Dale Hildebrand, officiated with Deb Turnbull hosting for Humber Valley. Rev. Anne Hines, a friend of Trevor's, gave the meditation.

Rev. Trevor and his family were at their cottage. Hudson, his daughter, read the Acknowledgement of Territory and Nolan, his son, read scripture — Luke 2:36-38.

We were all in our homes but we were all together in making this commitment. Deb Turnbull, Allan Orr, Pippa Van der Vliet, Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet, Peter White, Gail Cook-Bennett, Mary Moffat Johansson, Ron and Wilma Crago, and Gail Hamblin participated.



Rev. Anne Hines



Dale Hildebrand



We were thrilled with the music provided by [Lakin](#), George Turnbull, and Linnea Moffat Johansson.



Covenanting



These are the words of Mary Moffat Johansson as she presented Rev. Trevor with a gift from the congregation:

On the behalf of the entire congregation we welcome you. As a member of the Search Team I remember being so excited when we met on our first Zoom meeting, and I think all of us knew in our bones after that meeting that we had found someone special.

Someone who could lead us into new waters, uncharted territory so to speak. In keeping with that metaphor we knew that the map would be constantly changing, not only because of the pandemic but also because the Spirit was leading Humber Valley into new places. The constant would be your voice leading us in the right direction, teaching us new ways to worship and do church. It seemed appropriate to give you this today.

It is a nautical compendium, a multifaceted tool comprising a compass, a sundial and calendar indices. We hope it will serve as a reminder of the trust we have for you to help us all discern our way forward.

With this gift as a symbol, you will expose us to new perspectives because our God is a God of new beginnings. It will be waiting for you in your office when you are back there!



Affirmation of Faith — A New Creed

We are not alone

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating

who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Show me Where it Hurts

Because that is where I come in.

My love is never exhausted.

Spring is a Blessing

Spring is a blessing
It comes through the years
It covets the body
And soul full of tears

After a night of darkness
And lonely time
God comes to you
Through his sunshine

Though the winters be cold
Damp to the bones
Your patience is a blessing
Your heart as it moans

A promise God made to everyone
We tend to forget
When anger surpasses us
And we don't see it yet

For a speck of sunlight
A warmer day
Like ones coming soon
This very May

That

Spring is a blessing
It comes every year
To help our soul

So you had a hard winter
You cried a lot
Emptiness unending
Was all you got

Dry our tears

gt

Grab that faith
That's floating by
Don't let it pass you
And this is why



Unit 7 Watched *Saint Judy*

Unit 7 was thrilled to have Rev. Trevor as a guest at our May 11 meeting to hear the story of his involvement with the indie movie industry. While Rev. Trevor and his family were in California he and Marisol became involved in the creation of an independent film, *Saint Judy*. We were fascinated by his story about becoming Associate Producer and what it was like to meet people involved in film making and experience the process of making a movie.

Saint Judy is the story of Judy Wood, a dynamic immigration attorney and how she initiated change in the U.S. law of asylum to save women's lives.

"In a landmark case, one of her first as an immigration lawyer, Judy Wood represented an Afghan woman who fled her home country after being persecuted by the Taliban for opening a school for girls. After a tenacious battle both in and out of court, Judy's efforts culminated in arguments before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit where she fought to include women as a protected class."

Source: [Cannonball Productions, Saint Judy](#)



All of the Unit 7 women who had a chance to see the movie said it was excellent.

Two DVD copies of *Saint Judy* are available to borrow at the church, or you can rent it via iTunes for \$4.99.

Live Auction

ON ZOOM

Sat. May 15, 1-4pm



- Dozens of quality items to bid on
- Guaranteed to be loads of fun!

Virtual Auction on Zoom with Allan Orr, Auctioneer

[Register to attend](#)

This year, 2021, we are presenting the Fred Van der Vliet Award for Innovation & Creativity, for the 8th time. Each year, the recipient of the Award has demonstrated that they have added abundantly to the life and work of our church in a purposeful and creative way, for the benefit of us all. It is inspiring to see how all our previous Award recipients have given so much of themselves and continue to do so.

The Award is given for contribution the previous year. It's no common or easy feat being super creative & innovative during a time of serious unrest and fear of the unknown, as 2020 was. Yet, our recipient this year has done just that!

It is not going to take too much stretching of the imagination to figure out who our celebrated recipient is this year. Congratulations go to SUSANNE HYNES !

Do you remember March of 2020? You're laughing, of course. But do you REALLY remember March last year? It was the month where we learned that the entire world was gripped by an unknown virus whose source was laden with conspiracy theories like something out of a mystery novel! We were paralyzed by what we saw happening in China, then Italy, then Spain, and the US. People were dying and we didn't know why! In Canada we were gripped in fear and anxiety. People were petrified to go out for fear that someone would breath in the same air space. The store shelves looked like the time of the Cold War in Russia, where many necessities were just gone. Toilet paper and hand sanitizer became commodities more valuable than gold and diamonds! We didn't know what we should do or how we should react and our lives were turned completely upside down. This was the scene in March of 2020.

In the midst of this utter chaos, in a top floor condo in Etobicoke, our own Susanne Hynes had a different thought. Somewhere deep in her heart, she says to herself, "I would like to start a daily newsletter for all my friends at Humber Valley so they do not feel alone during this time of uncertainty, even though we are physically isolated. I will help them to feel connected and cared for, and keep them updated on everything they will need to know about our church life while we cannot be together. I will gather and write interesting information and stories they would like to read about, invite others to share their experiences and even include a joke or two



Pippa and Andrea presenting Susanne the award.

because laughter is the best medicine. I will call this daily communication letter, Keeping in Touch.

And so it began that Keeping in Touch was launched, and with very welcome reception! Susanne wrote daily for the first month, then three times a week, then twice, and then once a week. At this point Susanne MUST be saying to herself: "Hell! How long is this pandemic going to go on?! Be careful what you volunteer for! I have basically given myself a full time job for a year and it wasn't even that long ago that I retired!!" Truthfully though, KIT has been a labour of love from Susanne to us, rescuing people from feeling so isolated and alone this past year. It is indicative of who Susanne is at the core.

Who among us has not looked forward to late afternoon on Thursdays when KIT appears in our inbox?!

Over and above all this, Susanne has continued her role as Chair of the Communications Committee, where the team developed another creative initiative - our new Humber Valley brand. Susanne also led the charge for replacing our old outdoor signs with new electronic signs that will provide multiple, simultaneous messaging to our community about the happenings inside our doors and what we stand for. As well, Susanne innovated the plan to make Christmas face masks! She presented the idea to Laureen Kinnear and together they produced more than a hundred masks that raised much needed funds for our church. So, we all looked very festive over the Christmas season, even

Spring

though only our immediate family got to see us! And BTW, Susanne is responsible for the visual design of the Fred Van der Vliet Award plaque that she receives today!

It is wonderful to see that Susanne's creative efforts were not only appreciated by Humber Valley folk, as she was also honoured by receiving a 2020 Community Recognition Award for Etobicoke!

Since joining Humber Valley in 1977, there has rarely been a major project that Susanne has not had a hand in, or a committee that she has not chaired or been an active participant in.

Let's now celebrate Susanne for her gifts and accomplishments on behalf of our congregation and welcome her as the current recipient of the Fred Van der Vliet Award!

Andrea and Pippa Van der Vliet

Previous Innovation Award Winners

Bill Cahoon

Joanne Stenerson

Jim Koziak

Judith Dallimore

Lynn Manning / Lorraine Pearsall

Joan Belford

Alanna Goodman

Through my window, the sky is grey;
The low-hanging clouds cry tears of rain.
But there in the East is a patch of blue
Coaxing the sun to shine again.

There's a fresh-washed smell in the air,
And a robin is calling his mate.
She's sitting primly, a bit of a flirt
Luring him down to the garden gate.

Together they whistle with joy,
Each clear-ringing note is pulsing with love.
Again a new cycle of love will begin,
Designed by the Master Planner above.

And I think: "How beautiful is Nature's way,
Each tiny aspect is so complete...
From music of bird songs in the Spring
To the perfumed wildflowers 'neath our feet."

Spring brings new birth as Nature awakes;
Days filled with sunshine, days with rain.
And just as in Life, the lesson is clear
After the storms, there's Peace again!

Frances Bell Pond

The poet is Shelagh Chapman's Aunt. Shelagh has her aunt's little self published book called "Reminiscing" Poems and Stories by Frances Bell Pond. Inside the cover it says "Reminiscing"— Remembering Yesterday, Rejoicing in Today, Trusting in Tomorrow.




55+ in Central Etobicoke
Get the Guide
to May & June's
FREE PROGRAMS

yoga * fitness * cooking * speakers * writing * painting * games * book club *
computers * walking * crafts * dance * entertainment [View Guide](#)

Stewardship Update

The following report shows the financial results to the end of March 2021. Results for the same year-to-date period in 2020 are also included below for comparison purposes

We ended the first quarter of 2021 with an operating deficit of just under \$22K, compared with a deficit of more than \$28K during the same period last year. This is actually a good result when one considers that the church was open and functioning normally for most of the first three months of 2020 but has continued to be closed throughout the first part of this year.

On the revenue side, the church benefitted from a significant donation of corporate shares and also about \$22K from the Ontario government Small Business Lockdown Support grant. (We expect to receive a further \$20K sometime in May.) However, we continue to be impacted negatively by reduction in rental income due to COVID restrictions and we don't anticipate that improving in the next few months.

In addition, envelope givings to date lag 2020 by some \$11K. If you still

are using envelopes, please make every effort to get them to the church. You can mail your envelopes to the church or take them there and put them in the mailbox by the front door. In addition, Anita is in the office every Wednesday morning so you can drop off your cheque in the office and it will be deposited in the bank that day. An easy way is to combine your planned givings for the month into one cheque/envelope and submit it at the end or the beginning of the month.

Committee chairs and our staff continue to make every effort to manage expenses prudently and with considerable success. So far, expenses for the year are generally on budget and as of time of writing, we don't see any reason for that to change.

As always, a sincere thank you for your ongoing financial support of Humber Valley United Church.

Gary Halpenny

Chair, Stewardship & Finance Committee

Source of Funds	2021	2020
PAR Givings	39,893	40,670
Envelopes/Stock Donations	24,501	25,792
Use of Church	27,582	37,464
Trustees	3,166	4,749
Other	3,689	1,815
Subtotal Operating Revenues	98,831	110,490
Gov't grants, subsidies & HF transfers for operations	50,875	6,415
Subtotal Funds available for Church Operations	149,706	116,905
Receipts for Capital, Outreach and Special Holding Funds	23,815	42,320
Total Sources of Funds	173,521	159,225
Expenditures		
Payroll	100,149	97,523
Worship and Music	8,695	10,009
Office	6,105	5,177
Mission and Service	319	-
Building Expenses	18,894	21,159
Regional Assessment	4,380	-
Grant Programing Expenses and Other	32,907	41,477
Total Expenditures	171,449	175,345
Transfer of HF Receipts to Holding Funds	23,815	12,158
Operating Deficit	-21,743	-28,302

Fundraising Corner

Virtual Auction: Tune in on Saturday May 15 from 1-4 PM have some fun and maybe find something you can really use. Lots of cool items up for auction, including a 42" LG TV, an ice cream maker, a brand-new winter jacket, a grow-anywhere vegetable crate garden, gourmet take-out dinner from a golf club, and lots more. To participate, please [register at this link](#). Tell your friends.

Garden Tour: We are planning a tour of gardens of HVUC members, for either late June or early September. We don't expect to be up to professional standards, but we know we have some pretty keen and successful gardeners in the congregation. If you would be willing to invite people to see your garden, please contact Joan Belford, 416-236-8208. (jbelford@pathcom.com).

Shredding Day: Following on the success of last year's event, we are planning another shredding day for Saturday, October 16. It is safe, secure, and can save you from identity theft. Start saving your shredding now!

Gift Cards: Our gift card fundraiser continues all year. This is one of the easiest ways to support our church. You only buy things you would be buying anyway, and it does not cost you one extra cent. An order for \$6,000 of cards was just placed on May 4. Watch for notices in KIT for the next submission date.

Dedications in Connections: Don't forget that you can still honour someone you admire, or mark a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, with a dedication in the new monthly *Connections*. Dedications cost \$50.00 each, and there may be more than one in each edition. Contact Susanne Hynes.

Joan Belford

*Be the best you can be.
Become like a child.*

We are Still Waiting to Announce our 12 Favourite Hymns

Thanks to everyone who submitted their favourite hymns for our **Hymn Sing** which was supposed to take place in April.

Because of the current COVID related lockdown it was necessary to postpone the event.

However, we are still planning to record when it is safe to do so and to enjoy the performances of Jill and the soloists.

We are sorry that you will have to wait a little longer to find out the names of Humber Valley's favourite hymns. Rest assured it will happen.

Please watch for further information in *Keeping in Touch*.

Judith and David Dallimore



*We do have a moral responsibility
to maximize
the talents God has given us.*

BBQs Needed

We are looking for a BBQ or two to use for our upcoming programming (when we can get back together). If you have a BBQ, which is in good working order, to donate to the church, please let Deb Turnbull know. We will make arrangements for it to be picked up.

The Carillon on Mother's Day

The carillon is working now. Hurrah!

We have missed four Sundays so the easiest schedule is to just carry on as planned.

I played this week and David Dallimore, Allan Jones and Catherine Ireland will follow in that order.

The technician said he was not aware of any manual for our equipment, but he did show Peter and me some of the dials for different modes.

For example, we could play only the "gong" in ascending/descending notes.

There might be a time to experiment with that but for now I suggest we continue playing the keyboard as before.

Thanks for your part in our music ministry.

Sally Jo

Editor's Note: A number of people were near the church on Mother's Day to hear the carillon — being played by Sally Jo. A neighbour of hers had mentioned that people are missing hearing the carillon on Sunday mornings. Sally Jo played a requested song, *Lord of the Dance*, just for him. On their way home, Sally Jo and Catherine met the neighbour's wife who said they listened from their home and really enjoyed it.

Poem in Your Pocket Day

Our 55+ group enjoyed a virtual afternoon tea on Thursday April 29th, and celebrated Poetry Month by sharing some of our favourite poems.

It was "Poem in Your Pocket Day" which is

"an international movement that encourages folks to center poetry within their daily interactions. On PIYP Day, select a poem, carry it with you, and share it with others at schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces, coffee shops, street corners, and on social media using the hashtag #PocketPoem"

(<https://poets.ca/programs/pocketpoem/>)

We had a great time listening as people took turns sharing a poem and talking about what it meant to them. What a wonderful variety of poems! Some were classics, some were written by a family member, some were funny, some were familiar, and some were new. Allan Jones shared a few limericks (all clean!) which got us laughing! All of the poems inspired us to think about how poetry can touch us in meaningful ways and how special it is to share with others.

A few online comments about the carillon made during the YouTube service on May 9

- B Barbara Clarke The bells were beautiful this morning. Thank you Sally Jo for playing all my favourite tunes.
- C Cathy Wilkes Happy Mothers' and Grandmothers' Day!
- S sally jo Martin Cathy - I played Go Now in Peace on the carillon today with you and all my Intrepid friends in mind.
- C Cathy Wilkes Awww. Thank you SJ.
- C C Ireland Our church neighbours were very appreciative of the carillon's return to the local airways!

Here are some of the poems we shared- maybe you'll recognize some!

The Road Less travelled- Robert Frost

The Cremation of Sam McGee- Robert Service

In Just- e.e. cummings

Spring- written by Shelagh Chapman's Aunt

A funny poem about getting through COVID

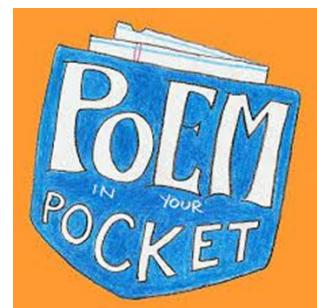
To Come Home to Yourself- John O'Donohue

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud- William Wordsworth

The Guesthouse- Rumi

Footprints

*Anne
Pietropaolo*



Flowers for Mother's Day

Mother's Day in Toronto is often a day when intrepid and daring people begin to plant annuals in their gardens. It is risky, but we are so longing for warm-weather flowers. Actually the warm start and cool middle of spring this year has produced an absolute banner spring for blossoming trees and shrubs in Etobicoke. The cherries and magnolias are just finishing up. Today I saw a lilac bush just starting to open. Crab apples are in glorious form. Forsythias that started in late March this year are only just finishing and the quince bushes are blooming everywhere. Drive or walk along our streets and at every corner your breath is taken away by the glory of the blooms.

For Mother's Day the *New York Times* published a charming page describing the meaning of flowers in terms of motherhood. [A Very Different Mother's Day Bouquet](#) by Erin Jang. (NYT, May 9, 2021, p. SR5.) I wanted to share her thoughts with you, with a few modifications of my own and my photographs.

Ms. Jang says: "I want to offer a different kind of bouquet, one that acknowledges the breadth of a mother's heart, one that recognizes what grows in both sun and shadow."

One of the flowers she illustrated strikes a real chord for me. They are in their full glory right now: dandelions. So many people hate them because they get into their lawns and are as persistent and invasive as they can be (a great success as a plant, in other words). But what can outdo great spreads of glorious yellow along the roadsides and in the school fields — especially on dreary spring days.

Dandelion

levity

For laughter and the way we lifted our children's spirits and remained buoyant, even while carrying a heaviness inside.

Didn't you love blowing those seeds when you were a child?



Primula

rest

For restless nights up late compensating for missed hours in the day, scrolling for solutions to worries — rest for the ones who are bone tired.



Daffodil

unequalled devotion

For a mother's love that never falters; for the unseen sacrifices made and what we conceded so our children could flourish.



Pansy

clarity

For what we witnessed in the world needing repair, and the resolve to teach our children to care and see clearly.



Magnolia

intuition

For our instincts, the continual anticipation of needs, the thinking ahead, and the futility of trying to plan for what couldn't be planned.



*Susanne Hynes
adapted from Erin Jang*

How many mothers received flowers on Mother's Day? Hanging baskets, bouquets of roses, or freesias or tulips. Or even a posy of dandelions?

My Best Friend — My Mother

As a belated celebration of Mother's Day, Jennifer Brown has written this lovely tribute to her Mother, Marion Hylda Brown, who passed away four years ago.



In light of having no "besties," my one and only friend was my very special Mother. I am so very thankful and proud to say that my parental relationship with my Mother turned into a very special Mother-Daughter and Bestie. She was not only my Mother; she was my very best friend throughout my life and continues to be my guardian angel in heaven.

She truly understood me when I was in danger, having difficulties with studies, being bullied at school, etc. She very much understood how I was feeling when I was going through my mental illness. She loved me and was very proud of me, no matter what life threw at me. We no longer had just the Mother-Daughter bond; we were the best of friends.

Mother was very open and honest about female details and very much explained them to me. Today, there are many times that I wish I could ask her a question when I am going through various stages of life and compare my physical ailments with her ailments.

A very special couple living in Bermuda invited Mother and me to spend a week with them a year after my parents came back to Toronto. That was very special as Mother and I enjoyed being together, being with great friends, going to Horseshoe Beach plus many other endless activities. Mother and I spent a few weekends together in Ottawa and in Quebec City.

My Mother was a wonderful, beautiful, very warm, extremely supportive, and caring mother who loved me immensely and I loved her so much too.

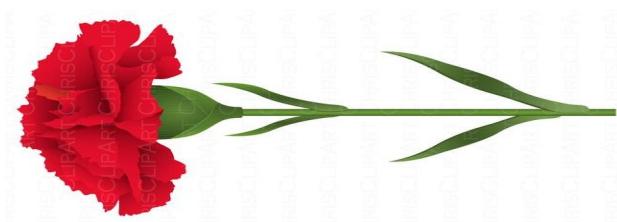
I was always with her as many times as I could be on the weekends or during the late afternoon when her caregiver left when she was very sick with Alzheimer's. On the

weekends, I would stay for the entire day talking to her, walking her around the premises when she used her cane; then her walker; and, unfortunately, her wheelchair. When she still had some acuity, she would always ask for me. Some of the quotes were: "where is my Jennifer," "I want my Jennifer," "I miss her so much," and one of her last quotes was, "Where is Jennifer — I haven't seen her for a very long time — she is not visiting me anymore." Some of the many nurses mentioned this to me at the Runnymede Healthcare Centre. This was just before her memory went for good.

I miss my Mother so much. I know that she is guiding me, loving me, and is showing her deep love to me.

I love you so much, Mom. I am thinking of you all the time.

Jennifer Brown



Mother's Day at Humber Valley United

This year we had a traditional and a not-so-traditional Mother's Day. The grandmothers and mothers in our congregation received a carnation — as always. Not handed out by the ushers at the door to the sanctuary, but delivered to their homes by elders and other volunteers. Never forgotten and truly appreciated — all that the mothers and mother-figures in our lives have done for us.

Claire's children's story in our Sunday Service on YouTube featured a gift from God opened by Maddie. The gift: Cheryl, their wonderful grandmother and mother (a photo was in the box).

Lauren Wood sang with her mother Valerie Wood and grandmother Judy Smith. They led the hymns and touched our hearts with their trio. You can watch it by [clicking on this link](#).



"A MILLION DREAMS"



Valerie Wood, Lauren Wood & Judy Smith

Michael Sproule and Jill Diane Filion also touched our hearts with their musical interlude, "Ladies in Lavender" by Nigel Hess.

Rev. Trevor preached on "Radical HVUC: Child Pose," Allan Orr called us to worship and read the scripture and Anne Pietropaolo led us in prayer.

You'll find quotes from Rev. Trevor's teaching scattered through this edition of Connections.

You can watch the full service anytime [at this link](#).

Thank you and blessings to all who made this wonderful Mother's Day service possible, including those behind the scenes, George and Kelly.

Susanne Hynes

Online Comments

- C Cathy Wilkes Oh how wonderful to see 3 generations of beautiful Smith women. How grown up Lauren is!
- G Gary Z Lovely to see the 3 generations together !
- S Susanne Hynes This fills our hearts. Happy Mothers Day from Judy, Valerie and Lauren. Thank you
- C Carolyn Whiteside Wow ...3 generations off beautiful voices
- D Deb T How wonderful Lauren, Valerie and Judy - inspirational - so loving - so beautiful.
- N Nancy Roper We are so lucky to have such musical talent in our church!!
- D Deb T A million dreams for the world we want to make.
- S sally jo Martin AMEN
- M Michael Wood I am so proud of my mom, Judy Smith, for singing this morning with me and Lauren. Three generations singing together. Thank you HVUC for this gift. Happy Mother's Day! -valerie wood

Mabellearts Update

Over the last few months we have been growing a connection with MABELLEarts, a local arts based organization here in Etobicoke. As an organization they provide food and programs for many people living in community housing along Mabelle Ave just 10 minutes away from HVUC. <http://www.mabellearts.ca/> The Daytimers have been sharing donations of care kits which have been delivered monthly to the Food Market in the park on Mabelle Ave.



Delivering care kits and quilts made by Laureen Kinnear
(Mabelle staff, Anne Pietropaolo, Bob Kinnear)

As the Daytimers have been enjoying our own monthly lunch deliveries, we have invited folks to share a care kit with a senior in need by making a small donation. We have also received a grant from the United Church Embracing the Spirit which allows us to add much needed food basics to our care kits. Fifty care kits each month are delivered to seniors who are unable to get out to the Food Bank. A typical kit now includes whole wheat bread, eggs, milk, cheese, yogurt, coffee or tea and soup. These are all items that are most requested by the seniors. We also include a package with some non-food items such as soaps and other small personal items.

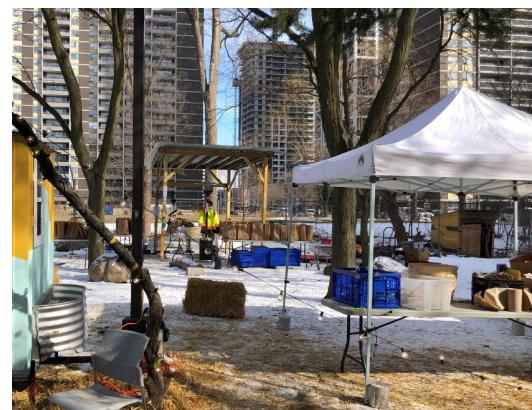
One of the wonderful ways this ministry has grown, is the gifts of homemade dishcloths, scrubbies and quilts, that our creative folks at HVUC have contributed to our care kits. This has added a personal and unique touch for our friends. We also have a team that wraps each gift bag up with tags and ribbons so that it truly feels like a gift.



Over the last few months, we have provided over 200 of these care kits. We have designed the regular giving of care kits to build a sense of ongoing connection and anticipation for the seniors receiving the monthly packages. Our most recent package had home essentials of dish soap, laundry pods, dryer sheets and the lovely hand-made cloths and scrubbies. We have received a terrific response for our care kits and you can read a letter of thanks here. [Read Here](#)

In May we plan to provide a small container garden with seeds for balcony gardening. We have cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, and various herbs.

This partnership is about more than giving, we also hope to learn from the team at MABELLEarts too. They offer a unique approach to community building and have some highly creative arts programs based out of parks. At our May Daytimers meeting we will be welcoming Nicolette Felix the Director of Community Mobilization to be our speaker. Nicolette runs the Food Market and has been our main contact at MABELLE these past few months. She will tell us all about the work of MABELLE and some of the exciting new projects underway. All are welcome to join us for this Daytimes meeting to find out more!



Food Market on Mabelle Avenue

Anne Pietropaolo

Radical HVUC
*Make sure we continue as a church.
The church is the incarnation
of Christ in the world.*



Humber Valley United Church
Ms. Anne Pietropaolo, Seniors' Program Coordinator
76 Anglesey Boulevard
Toronto, Ontario,
M9A 3C1

Wednesday April 28, 2021

Dear Anne,

On behalf of the team at MABELLearts and our community, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to you and your incredible congregation at Humber Valley United Church.

We cannot tell you how lucky we feel to have the support of a team that has invested so much in the community. Your contribution to the MABELLepantry not only allows us to provide much needed food to our most vulnerable, but the lovely handmade dishcloths and quilts really tell recipients that the wider community has rallied to take care of each other.

With your ongoing support we have been able to respond to the needs of many families and seniors during a particularly difficult time. We are currently serving approximately 400 unique households every month. Of those lining up to access the pantry, 60% are seniors, many of whom also rely on this program for a rare moment of connection.

We will continue to rely on the kindness of the community to keep this essential service available until we get through this period of emergency response. We look forward to sharing our plans for recovery, as we work towards a more sustainable model in the future.

Thank you for enabling us to deliver not only sustenance, but kindness, cheer, and hope for brighter days ahead.

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudine Crangle".

Claudine Crangle
Fundraising Lead



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Sally Roper

Eileen Joyce Harvey

Bill Harvey

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Marg Wallis

Joan Rayner

David Hynes



Audrey Turnbull

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Pauline and Frank Gabourel

HVUC is Seeking Summer Students

Thanks to a federal grant,
two young people (ages 18-29) will be hired at
Humber Valley United Church
with one beginning June 21
and the other July 5.

From “pop up camps” for local kids
to Zoom programs, to administrative tasks,
the candidate
will receive a diverse church-wide experience.

Please forward your resume by May 23 to trevor@hvuc.ca

Lorna Livey, Etobicoke Artist and Memoir Writer Page 23

The Monday morning Memoir Class was thrilled to have a guest speaker on May 3.

One of the memoir themes we wrote on about two months ago was *My Favourite Painting*. I wrote about a painting of a vase of tulips, obviously out of the garden, that I bought in the 1980s from an exhibit in the Richview Public Library. The artist: Lorna Livey.

Someone in the class knew Lorna, and I was able to contact her. We had a wonderful conversation during which I discovered that she also writes memoirs and combines them with her art.

To make a long story short, Lorna Livey joined us and told us about her experiences writing her memoirs. They are unusual in that they combine stories about her travels to exotic places with memoirs about her marriage, mother and grandmother as well as her own art. They find a balance between the good and the difficult in her life.

Lorna's CV is quite impressive. She has an Honours BA in Fine Art from York University and has received awards



from the Canada Council, Ontario Arts Council, Etobicoke Award of Excellence and Building a Healthy Community Award of Merit. She has had many solo and group exhibits in Toronto, London, Burnaby, Whitby, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Ithaca, Odense and other locations. Her works appear in over 40 corporate and public collections including Capital One, National Bank, Sony Canada Ltd, City of Toronto, Canada Council Artbank and Department of Foreign Affairs.

You can learn more about [Lorna Livey on her website](#).

If you are interested in reading her books they are available for purchase by emailing her at l.livey@sympatico.ca. I'd be happy to tell you more about them.

Susanne Hynes

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HVUC Board and Committee Chairs

HVUC Board

The new Board was elected at the 2021 Annual Meeting and will take office on July 1, 2021.

Chair - Deborah Turnbull

Secretary- Alanna Goodman

Director and Chair of Ministry & Personnel - David Kitchen*

Director, Congregational and Community Life - Sylvia Cohen

Director, Stewardship and Finance - Bob Kinnear*

Director, Worship and Faith Formation - Constance Crosby

Member-at-Large - Ron Crago

Member- at-Large - Mary Moffat Johansson

Member-at-Large - Ruth Johnson*

Member-at-Large- Erin Billowits*

Regional Council Representatives:

Gail Hamblin and Wilma Crago

Thank you to Joan Belford, Gary Halpenny, Ted Loewen, and Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet for your faithful service as Board members to our congregation for the past two years, and for many of you, many years longer. Also thanks you to Barbara Clarke for being the Co-Chair of Congregational and Community Life for the past two years and for being on the Leadership Council for many years before that

*New Board members

Chairs of Ministry Committees and Operational Committees

Worship and Faith Formation Ministry

Worship and Music Deb Turnbull, Catharine Clemens

Faith Formation – Adults: Carla Sandrin

Faith Formation – Children and Youth: Licia-Naomi Bryden

Congregational and Community Life Ministry

Hospitality/Fellowship Cheryl Drake

Pastoral Care Kathy Kitchen

Stephen Ministry Joanne Stenerson

Outreach Sally Jo Martin, Barbara Clarke

Elders Brian Goodman

Communications Susanne Hynes

UCW Sharon Dowdall

UCF Andrea Ostvik Van der Vliet

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

Treasurer Charlotte Browning

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Liaises with HVUC Foundation Dennis Schettler

Ministry and Personnel

David Kitchen

Our [current Board Members and Committee Chairs](#)
are listed on the HVUC Staff and Lay Leaders page on our website.



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Managing Editors
Susanne Hynes and Colleen Isherwood
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Church School Leader: Michelle Madill
Church School Leader: Allison McColeman
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