



Joyful Noise

Company's Coming

Written By: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

Dear Friends,

One of my earliest memories of household chores includes my mother's refrain to keep the front hall (Scottish for foyer?) in tip-top shape. Ours was a very lived-in home without pretense, but Mum wanted anyone arriving to feel at ease, not dodging clutter. It was about a first impression of the heart, where folks could feel they were just the company we'd been waiting for, and the welcome mat was there with them in mind.

For a little while now, across a few committees and conversations, there's been concerted thinking about our church's front hall. In such a big building, especially at Clarkson, we have a few of those spaces, but we're re-imagining the welcoming space at the top of the administrative stairs. For anyone on their way to the Merigold Room, the office, or endless other shared spaces, how are we saying hello? What is evident about our life and work together, about the standing invitation for anyone and everyone to join us on the adventure? What are we saying to each other, or about each other? How are we celebrating, improving, and honouring God's dream? [continued...](#)



The Gratitude Tree

In This Issue...

- [Company's Coming.....1](#)
- [Bible Study.....3](#)
- [Calendar Highlights.....4](#)
- [Office News.....5](#)
- [A Message6](#)
- [Semi-Annual Meeting.....7](#)
- [Nonprofit Networking.....8](#)
- [Welcoming & Fellowship.....9](#)
- [Affirming Ministries.....10](#)
- [Barbie Movie.....12](#)
- [Family Zone.....13](#)
- [Church Life.....14](#)
- [Easter 2024.....15](#)
- [Getting to Know.....16](#)
- [Euchre.....17](#)
- [Renewed Policies.....18](#)
- [This Summer.....20](#)
- [VAM Appointment.....21](#)
- [Update: Remit 1.....22](#)
- [Summer Reads.....23](#)
- [Called to Share.....24](#)
- [Register.....25](#)



Company's Coming ... continued

Before long, you're going to see those questions bearing fruit, that labour of love, in a beautiful project called a Gratitude Tree. We don't want to give it all away yet, but suffice to say it will be a way to lift up all that is good; to say thank you in a visible way, and to share it with anyone passing by. It isn't to be superficial window-dressing, pretending we only and always get things right. Rest assured, we're also working on a new way to ask questions and offer feedback, for all the things you might wonder and want to join in improving. Both, we hope, are ways that we can grow better together – for the sake of this congregation, and countless more we get to serve, in this community and beyond.

So, stay tuned, if you will. Please also stay eager, stay encouraged, stay ready and open to new possibilities. We have so many, many reasons to look forward with hope; to keep our doors wide open with unconditional welcome, and honest, grateful joy... but then I think you knew all that already.

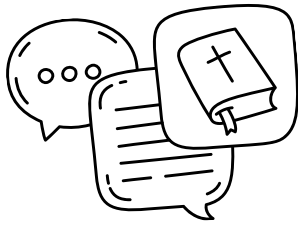
With love to you all,

p.s. It's more than a post-script, but as we're coming up to our June 9 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, this is a great time to re-publish some examples of how Christ First leadership tries to grow better together. Every meeting of the Worship Committee, for example, begins with the Holy Manners that we share. Similarly, Church Council commits itself to A Covenant for Mutual Care & Growth. Check them out here, if you'd like, and then maybe think about how they can be adapted for where you gather and serve. Discipleship isn't always an easy journey, but respecting and caring for one another sure helps to smooth the path; and I'm very thankful you are committed to exactly that. †

The Council Covenant and Holy Manners are available on the Christ First website at: <https://christfirst.ca/publications>

Click on the link above, type in the web address, or scan the QR code to the right to access the webpage.





Bible Study

Written By: Victoria Keane



This past Easter, we ended a chapter of Christ First history. The attendees of our Lenten Bible study gathered for one last evening with the Reverend Doctor Ted Lutz, as he completed not just a study over one Lenten season, but a five year study venture into the sayings of Jesus, as found in the Synoptic Gospels of the Bible. While the study of what Jesus really said was an area of great interest to him since his time in Theological College, it was not until the last few years that he was able to take on a project of this magnitude, resulting in the publication of his book, which can be borrowed through the church library.

This five year study, though, is just a small piece of a larger call to education for Ted through our church. Ted began hosting regular bible studies with Christ Church over 40 years ago, as he prepared a group of church members to travel to the Holy Land together in 1984. Ted held many Bible studies over the years, with his wife Mary who lovingly supported him and kept the attendees well fed with delicious treats!

There have been countless people over the years who have been lucky enough to enjoy Ted's studies first hand, and when the Covid lockdowns kept us socially distanced, Ted continued his passionate education through Zoom and Youtube. While Ted's study sessions may have come to an end at Christ First, his influence continues on in our Sunday school room lessons. So on behalf of so many, thank you Ted, for all of the knowledge you have offered, and the curiosity that you have inspired.

"My heartfelt gratitude for your guidance on this thought-provoking journey."

"Thank you for sharing with us for so many years the insights you have gathered from your lifetime study and research of the Bible to help us better understand what it is teaching us in today's world."

"We have loved listening to you and feel that our faith has been revolutionized by our understanding of Jesus' words, clarified by you. Your work and dedication has been truly valuable to us." †

Calendar Highlights

May 2024

May 27 - First Day of Photo Directory Sitzings



June 2024

June 9 - Combined Service @ 10am, followed by Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

June 12- Last Day of Photo Directory Sitzings

June 16 - Father's Day



June 23 - Combined Service @ 10am, Pride Service, Communion, Lunch on the Lawn

June 30 - Combined Service @ 10am

July 2024

Every Sunday, worship at St. Stephen's on-the-Hill @ 10:30am

July 22 to 26 - Christ First Music Camp



August 2024

August - Every Sunday, worship at 1700 Mazo @ 10am

August 6 to 9 - Christ First VBS Camp "Earth Keepers"



September 2024

September 1 - Combined Service @ 10am

September 15 - Combined Service @ 10am, Followed by the Chicken BBQ





Office News

*July &
August*

Summer Office Hours

Monday: 9am - 12pm

Tuesday: 9am - 12pm

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 9am - 12pm

Friday: 9am - 12pm

Upcoming Office Closures:

Canada Day - July 1

Civic Holiday - August 5

Labour Day - September 2



Summer

Summer office hours are not working hours for the office staff. Outside of office hours, please use the email below should you require assistance.



A Message from the Chair of Council

Written By: Carol Wilson

Dear Christ First Friends,

Spring is always a time at Christ First to reflect upon our programs of the past year, and to look forward to what is in store for our Council, our committees and our life and work together as a congregation. As I look back on my term as Council Chair, I recall that it began with a sense of cautious optimism just a few months after having left the worst days of the Covid pandemic. Our doors had newly reopened to the congregation and community, while the digital ministry presence established during the pandemic was beginning to flourish. Our new Lead Minister had been settled in for a full year, inspiring us spiritually and asking us the challenging questions. There was a collective sense of energy and purpose around moving forward in the 'new normal'. And yes – we have started to do that!

In the coming days, you will receive the Annual Report which will be presented for approval at the June 9 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting. In it you will be able to read updates from all the areas of life and work of Christ First. Amid all of the ongoing activity of our staff and volunteers, there have been some defining moments for Christ First that speak to moving forward with intention based on our growing understanding of who we see ourselves to be as a community of faith.

- Last June, the Affirming Church study group was established by our Council, to lead our congregational work in deciding whether Christ First should become an Affirming congregation. The undertaking of this journey as a faith and social justice issue speaks directly to our Three Pillars: Spiritually Engaged, Caring & Connected, and Community Focused.
- In November, Council voted 'yes' to a UCC remit to allow the development of a new, autonomous national Indigenous organization within the United Church of Canada, thereby acknowledging Indigenous people's rights to their own spiritual identities and to self-determination. In early April, we learned that our support for this remit was part of a resounding 'yes' from pastoral charges and regional councils across Canada. [continued...](#)



A Message ... continued

- In October, Christ First revisited and refreshed its visioning process begun in November 2019, by engaging the congregation in conversations about who we now want to be to those in our congregation and in our community. This was followed by a series of strategic planning workshops by Council, and the work continues as the newly established Strategic Planning Steering Committee oversees next steps in refining strategies that will support us in achieving our goals over the next few years in a sustainable way. A strategic planning update will be provided at our upcoming congregational meeting.

It has been my privilege to lead the work of Council during a busy and, at times, challenging year. Christ First is fortunate to have such a strong team of dedicated and talented leaders and volunteers, and I want to express my gratitude and blessings for all the work that will continue into the coming year. †

Semi-annual Congregational Meeting

The Semi-annual Congregational Meeting of Christ First will be held on Sunday June 9, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, following the 10:00 a.m. blended service. We are pleased to offer a Zoom link or dial-in option to those who are not available to attend in person. Child care will also be available.

Receive and approve the 2024 Annual Report	Receive an update from the Real Estate Oversight Committee	Receive a mid-year financial update
Receive an update from the Affirming Church Study Group		Receive and approve the 2024-2025 Nominations Report

For all meeting details, including information package and Zoom registration link, please watch your email inbox. Printed copies of the information package will also be available from the office on request. Whether you attend in person or online, we look forward to gathering with you on June 9! †



South Mississauga

NONPROFIT NETWORKING



Written by: Victoria Keane

As the summer approaches, we are nearing the end of our second year of our South Mississauga Nonprofit Networking - an Outreach initiative which aims to assist charitable organizations in increasing their capacity to serve through networking forums, volunteer support, and community promotion. To date, we have held 11 breakfast events, featuring various presentations and workshops, and maintain an active virtual presence through social media. Our most recent breakfast was held on April 26, 2024, where we welcomed a presentation and writing workshop from the Writers Collective of Canada, and enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by the Culinary Program at Options Mississauga. This was our most successful event yet, as we were joined by 36 participants from 15 different organizations!



We were also able to support a few nonprofits in our network through our recent church Lawn Sale by offering space for groups to set up a table and display their work to the community. Our events will slow down over the summer, but we are looking forward to getting back into the swing of things in the fall! And as always, thank you so much to all of the wonderful volunteers who bring this initiative to life! ✝



Welcoming & Fellowship

Written by: Victoria Keane

When we think about church, we of course think about our inspiring Sunday morning worship, but is that where it ends? If you attend on a Sunday morning, you will likely be greeted at the 9:02 service with a cup of coffee and a cookie, or you might stay after the 10:30 service for some tea and conversation. Perhaps you received a flower on Christian Family Sunday, or have stayed after a Blended service for soup or a hot dog. There are so many pieces to “church” beyond one hour of worship, and our Welcoming & Fellowship Committee does such a wonderful job of keeping our tummies full and our spirits high! They are constantly coming up with new ways to keep us connected, like our recent Euchre afternoon, or maintaining important traditions like our annual picnic. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes that keeps our church community thriving, and so we send a heartfelt THANK YOU to our Welcoming & Fellowship Committee for all the love and care that you share with us behind the scenes! ✝

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Affirming Ministries

At the June 7, 2023 Council meeting Council approved the formation of an Affirm Study Group to undertake the journey towards becoming an Affirming Church according to the program defined by Affirm United. The members of the Affirming Study Group are Keegan-Lee Guide, Rhiannon Hoffman, Jennifer Brodie, Duncan Wheeler, and Richard Cranston, staff Rev. Heather, Victoria Keane and resource Rev. Bob Johnstone. The group generally meets every 3-6 weeks, and has been following the steps laid out by Affirm United, beginning with examining our current church policies through the lens of an inclusive congregation. Significant achievements to date include the revision of our wedding, funeral, and baptism policies, influencing work on a new church Call and Vision Statement, creating a bulletin board in the office hallway to provide current Affirming information, and providing "Did you know?" facts in our weekly eblast from the church office.

#LOVEWINS!



What is the Affirming Ministry Program?

The Affirming Ministries Program is a network of United Church of Canada ministries of all kinds that strive to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. And it asks each ministry to take action. The program was launched in 1992, and The United Church of Canada officially endorsed the program in 2000 and encouraged its ministries to participate. The program encourages all United Church bodies, and other Christian traditions, to study and discern what it means to be publicly welcoming and inclusive in their context. Currently, there are over 200 Affirming ministries and ministries in the process across Canada.

What does this mean for Christ First?

In June, we will be recognizing Pride Month, as we have done for many years. Make sure to check your emails, as weekly devotionals will be sent out with readings and musical selections to listen to. You will be invited to personalize your new church name tag with pronoun pins, and other positive messages. In the fall, we are excited to host educational events to help answer any questions within our congregation. The decision to become an Affirming Ministry will ultimately be put to a congregational vote, where everyone will have a chance to participate. To learn more about the steps of the Affirming Process, go to affirmunited.ause.ca continued...



Affirming ... continued

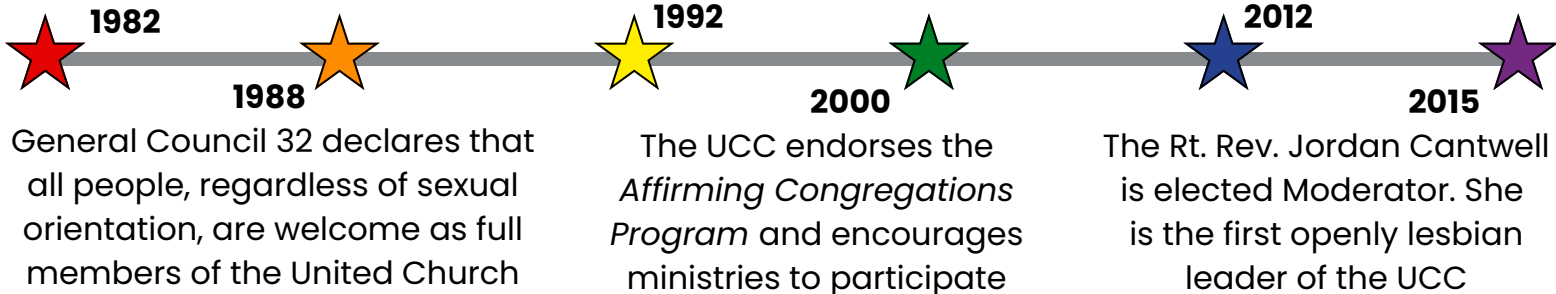
We are already welcoming - why do we need to be "Affirming"?

Some ministries already have many signs of inclusion. They may feel they include everyone and wonder why they would need to specifically mention sexual orientation or gender identity. Being an Affirming Ministry is not merely about welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Words like "welcoming" or "inclusion" suggest those on the inside have the power to choose to accept those on the outside. This makes it sound like an act of charity to welcome those who are marginalized. However, it is not our place to welcome anyone, because church is not a private club and we are not the gatekeepers. The LGBTQ+ community faces specific and deliberate rejection and shaming in the community, and particularly in religious places of worship – The United Church of Canada included. Jesus' ministry included all, especially those who were excluded for any reason. The Gospel calls us to do the same!

Affirm is formed to support gay and lesbian United Church members

Tim Stevenson becomes the first openly gay minister to be ordained in the United Church

The Rt. Rev. Gary Paterson is elected Moderator at GC41. He is the first openly gay leader of a mainline Christian denomination



"Becoming an affirming church is important to me because I want to show that we genuinely welcome and support LGBTQ+ people. It's about creating a safe and loving community, where everyone, including my friends and family, can feel they belong. This work is crucial because it helps break down barriers and promotes understanding and acceptance." -Duncan Wheeler, Affirming Study Group

Questions?

If you have any questions throughout this process, or would like a representative from our Affirming Study Group to meet with a group that you are involved in, please reach out to affirming@christfirst.ca †



Barbie Movie with the UCW

Written by: Marg Shaver

They came in droves.

Was it the chance to dress in their best 'Barbie pink' finery?
Was it the chance to spend time with some other great women of Christ First?
Perhaps it was simply the repeated promise of popcorn?

Whatever the reason, the sanctuary on this March afternoon, turned pink and was filled with the laughter and music that is The Barbie Movie.



All women of the congregation were invited by the NOWW UCW unit to see this cinematic, hot pink blockbuster 'phenomenon', with its goofball humour, eye-popping sets and costumes and overall lesson that women can achieve anything even in our (still) patriarchal society.



Everyone left smiling.
A good time was had by all.†



FAMILY Zone



Written By: Victoria Keane

There is no slowing down when it comes to family ministry! Our Holy Week celebrations included a Messy Church service, where Rev. Heather taught our children the meaning of Communion, and how we are all welcome at Jesus' table, regardless of our age or any other factor. On Easter Sunday, we experienced an outdoor scavenger hunt, where kids were given a clue, and they had to find the corresponding picture on our lawn. (*What did Jesus ride on as he entered Jerusalem? A donkey!*) After solving all the clues and collecting their eggs, the kids were treated to a bag of goodies (thank you to all those who donated chocolate to this very important cause!)

We are looking forward to very exciting June in Sunday School, where we will be following the Pride curriculum from *Jesus, Glue, and Glitter*, a resource of progressive family ministry lessons. We will be taking a break from Sunday School during July and August, having our own summer adventures, before returning in September for a Blessing of the Backpacks.

While Sunday School is paused, there will be no shortage of fun around the halls of Christ First over the summer! We will be welcoming many summer camps into both of our buildings, as well as running our own Christ First camps. From July 22nd-26th, our annual Music Camp will take place, and from August 6th-9th we will be hosting our VBS camp, with the theme of "EarthKeepers" - exploring how to care for all of God's creation. †





CHURCH LIFE





EASTER 2024





Getting to Know ... Ashley

Written By: Tanya Swinbourne



Ashley with her son at the Steelheads Hockey Game with Christ First in February 2024.

Ashley Fanourgiakis is the Administration and Program Support Manager for Christ First, and at home during the week. If you do not come into the church on weekdays you may not yet have had the chance to meet her but you hear from her every week via the congregational email updates she sends out.

Ashley grew up in Brampton with her parents, sibling and dog until she was 19 years of age. She then moved to Port Credit in 2004, attending York University for the four-year Music Performance program.

Ashley chose York University because of its World Music program. Her aptitude with a wide variety of musical instruments sealed her acceptance into the program. She plays classical clarinet, jazz piano, Celtic accordion, folk and flamenco guitar and does West African drumming.

After graduation, she taught music privately for 17 years. During this time, she met her husband, and had two children, a daughter and a son. They share their home with their large mixed breed dog, Max.

After having children, Ashley's teaching allowed her to stay with the kids during the day and teach music in the evenings, when her husband was home. This worked well when the kids were very young, and she schooled them online during the Pandemic. When her children started attending school in person again, Ashley realized she would like a nine to five job. Since she completed a Post-Graduate Certificate in Project Management and had experience running her private music studio, the job description for the office work at Christ First caught her eye, as the role description matched her interests and skill set. She applied, and was hired in 2022.

Ashley and her family enjoy camping for summer vacations. She even takes the kids on her own every year as a special time, just the three of them. Both her children also love playing various instruments as well as singing.

Ashley states that a highlight of working for Christ First has been the wonderful people on staff and in the congregation. The friendly faces have made her feel welcome, and keep her very happy in her job. We are very pleased she is with us too. †



Written By: Heather
and John McGillis

On Saturday, April 20, Welcoming & Fellowship hosted a Euchre Afternoon at the Clarkson Campus. This was an idea suggested by Jessie Kennedy from her experiences at Port Credit Yacht Club, presented to our committee as a friendship maker.

Fifteen participants, experienced players and first-time players, sat down at four tables. It was a cheerful, busy afternoon, with refreshments, we could relax as we played. Janet English, who leads the Euchre group for Credit River PROBUS Club, kindly joined us to teach those of us who had never played before. We quickly learned that there were other helpful players, like Debra Moy, so that assistance was easily found.

A rotation to other tables enabled us to chat with new people as we played. We met three new people from outside the church who came to play, even though we advertised primarily internally. We parted ways about 4 p.m. with many saying "we should do this again!" Others, who were not able to attend, have asked about a future date. Watch for communication in September for another Saturday that could pass as pleasantly in the fall. Hopefully, we can still remember what we learned. We will certainly remember the laughing and enjoyment. †

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Renewed Policies for Christ First

Written By: Andy Choles

Some time ago I was asked, as Chair of Worship, to lead the work of revisiting the policies covering weddings, funerals, and baptisms at Christ First. It is not unusual for a newly-amalgamated church to reconsider policies to make sure they reflect the vision of the new church going forward. This process of revision was delayed by COVID, and by the wait for a newly-called minister, to be part of this policy process. Drawing together the various editions and formats of existing policies was also a time-consuming task.

From the beginning, the intent was to create policies which would be equitable to all, fiscally responsible and compliant with the rules set out by The United Church of Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency. Initial discussion took place with those dealing most closely with funerals and weddings in our church. This included the office staff, our ministerial staff, and me as Chair of Worship, on behalf of the Committee. Later discussions included representation from Welcoming & Fellowship, the Funeral Reception Committee, Property, and Finance. Final approvals for all three policies were passed by our Council, on the recommendation of the Worship Committee.

With our goal to be fully equitable, language needed to be updated to make the policies as inclusive as possible. In consultation with the Affirming Study Group, they all now name consistently that: "Our congregation is an inclusive faith community, and welcomes families and individuals of all gender expressions, identities, and sexual orientations. Christ First strives to ensure that all are treated equitably". We also updated language on sacramental practices, pertaining to baptism and replaced references to specific rooms with more general terms that would apply to either of our current locations.

An equitable policy also needed to reconsider the existing fee structure. Bringing together the previous congregational practices and expectations, from our time as Christ Church and First United, was not an easy task. Those working through the revisions were very mindful of traditions [continued...](#)



Policies ... continued

and did not want to upset any of our church community. All levels of past and present contribution and support are appreciated deeply. Taking precedence, however, is clear policy from both The United Church of Canada and Canada Revenue Agency that does not allow a “member price” for any Non-Profit or Charitable organization. Charging non-members for a reception and offering a similar event to members without charge put the church in a dangerous position when it came to our status as a charitable organization. Additionally, the practice of receiving a tax receipt for a donation to offset the cost of a reception is not aligned with CRA or UCC financial guidelines. Careful thought and consideration were given to this complicated balance, where we want to honour and care with sensitivity, while also not jeopardizing the charitable status that supports our ministry for the sake of the whole community.

As the updated fee structure now shows, funeral charges are now applicable to anyone regardless of congregational membership. They relate only to staff resources, and for a reception if requested. Should the reception be provided by congregation volunteers, this charge would be aimed at recovering the cost of the refreshments. Should the reception be catered privately, this cost would be assessed and collected separately by the caterer.

The fees for weddings remain the same as before and include charges for room rentals, staff time, and reception as necessary. They, too, are applicable to anyone regardless of congregational membership.

There are no fees associated with baptisms.

Remembering that these policies relate to pivotal moments in a family’s journey, we trust the revised structures will strengthen our call as a congregation, as we seek to support all God’s people, ‘in life, in death, in life beyond death’.

To read the revised policies for baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and the updated fee structure that applies to weddings and funerals, please check out our website at:

<https://christfirst.ca/publications> †



What Are You Doing This Summer?

Ruth Collins and Ron Kucharski

Our cottage is on Lac de L'Achigan in St. Hippolyte, which is a 60 minute drive north from Montreal, about half way up to Mount Tremblant.

Cottages are for family and the place is always welcoming the kids and grandkids between June and Thanksgiving. We have a small sandy beach where the kids can play and swim. Fishing is always a good pastime whether out in the boat or just off the dock.

When we're there, Ruth and I enjoy travelling to local flea markets, and watching The Montreal Symphony free concerts, prior to the start of their season. We enjoy spending time together away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.



Christina Gorgeious



As someone deeply connected to the outdoors and enamored with nature, camping and hiking are my go-to activities. They provide the perfect opportunity to break away from the monotony of daily life, immerse myself in the natural world, and strengthen bonds with friends and family. Not only do they offer physical exertion, but they also serve as potent stress relievers, elevating my mood and enhancing my overall well-being. Plus, mastering outdoor skills like starting a fire 😊 adds an extra layer of satisfaction to the experience.

Our summer vacation plans include a visit to see our older daughter. She and her husband live on thirty seven acres near Perth Ontario in a farm house built in the early 1900's. The "family" also consists of two barn cats, two horses, a dozen egg-laying chickens and four house cats.

Their farm house is currently undergoing an extensive restoration. As I love to work with wood, they always have more projects than my time there allows. One ongoing project that I have already helped with is the rebuilding of a long section of split rail fence. Who knew that such a rustic looking structure would involve such intricate construction details?

So, I'm looking forward to a week working with my hands and tools and Kay is anticipating a week of rest and relaxation. †

**Rick and Kay
Cranston**





Voluntary Associate Minister Appointment

Written By: Mary Dowding-Paré

In March, Council approved the reappointment of Rev. Dr. Morar Murray-Hayes as a Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) for Christ First. The appointment will be effective July 1. Morar had previously been our VAM before becoming the interim minister at St. John's United in Oakville last year. Horseshoe Falls Regional Council approved this appointment in April.

The primary role of a VAM is to support the incumbent minister and the governing body of a church in maintaining a positive pastoral relationship with the congregation. In addition, because of her association with Christ First, as a retired minister Morar may perform weddings and funerals.

Morar will be providing pulpit supply for Christ First in May and September for which we are grateful. We look forward to seeing her again at Christ First. ✝



Come join us! Come Dancing!!

Learn some new moves and meet new friends. Social dance classes offered in the Christ First Church Auditorium. We offer line dancing too! No partner required. Check us out at comedancing.ca for details. **New classes** begin the week of **May 28th**. Come dance your summer away.





Update from the United Church of Canada: Passage of Remit 1

Written By: Shawn Bausch

Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization has passed with 1,482 pastoral charges voting in favour and 93 pastoral charges voting either “no” or not voting. Remit 1 was a Category 3 remit, meaning that any pastoral charge not voting was counted as a “No” vote, underscoring the importance that each community across the country cast a vote. The Christ First Council voted unanimously to record a vote of “Yes” and Christ First’s vote was submitted well ahead of the March 31, 2024 deadline.

With the passing of Remit 1, the United Church of Canada (UCC) has formally enshrined the independent nature of the Indigenous Council (of the United Church), allowing the National Indigenous Council (NIC) to constitute itself in whatever manner its members decide. In their response to the passage of Remit 1, the NIC notes that the work of Right Relations continues in a positive direction. Please find the official response of the NIC at link or QR Code to the right.

Remit 1 was a cornerstone of the UCC’s Right Relationship with Indigenous peoples. The support of United Church communities for its passage allows the UCC’s actions to match its nation-wide advocacy on this issue. ✝

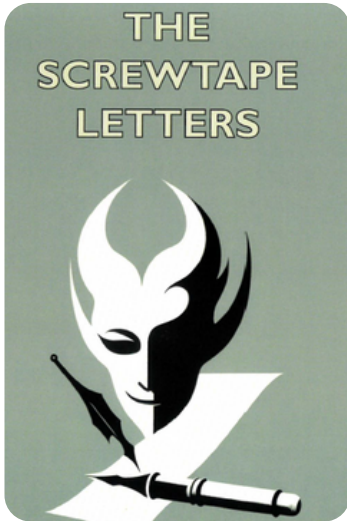


For the official response of the NIC, please click [HERE](#) for digital copies of this publication. If you are reading a paper copy, use your phone to scan the above QR Code.



Summer Reads from the E. Eddy Library

Written By: Ashley Fanourgiakis

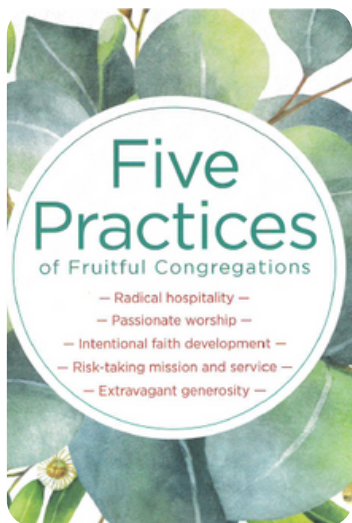


The Screwtape Letters

Did you miss Rev. Heather's Lenten book study that was centered around The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis? The E. Eddy Library has six copies that are free to borrow. First published in 1942, this is a shorter read at only 64 pages. Digital copies of the companion are available from the office upon request to further enrich your reading experience.

The Gospel by Gen Z

Purchased for use in the most recent Holy Humour Sunday service, this text is a translation of Bible stories in the slang of Gen Z. Explore this new interpretation of familiar stories peppered with emojis to intrigue this next generation of Christians. Also included, are beautiful prints of classical works of art to contrast the language. An interesting read for anyone young, and young at heart!



Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, revised and updated

Copies of this book were originally purchased for Church Council to read, and we have a few copies in the E. Eddy Library ready for you to borrow. Touching on topics of "Radical hospitality", "Passionate worship", and "Extravagant generosity", this book expands on the original with ideas on how to bring ministry from the church to the community. At under 200 pages, this book can be a good choice for anyone looking to think outside the box on interfaith relationships, and creating welcoming spaces for all, both inside and outside the church walls. †



We Are Called to Share

Written By: Shawn Bausch

As the Horseshoe Falls Region assists more churches with managing their declining communities, the Region would like communities to know that many of their best options lie in collaboration. Across the Region and across the country, communities are partnering in activities. From worship, to community building, to space-sharing, and outreach – the types of activities in which communities are partnering is not limited.

At the Vulnerable Congregational Discussion on March 5, the Region heard from members in dozens of congregations about their vulnerabilities. There are common signs in each vulnerable congregation (i.e., declining revenues, declining membership). The takeaways here are the same: keep doing what you do well and is within your capacity to do. Share what you do well and others can contribute to it, and you could receive what they do well in return.

Any student of Adam Smith, the famous Scottish philosopher and economist, will recognize the value in this principal. Communities who partner on events, initiatives, or in regular worship can focus more people on supporting those particular activities. More fundraising can be focused on activities that give higher value. Stronger bases are available from which to apply for external funding.

As Vicky Nelson wrote in a blog posted on the United Church of Canada's website "aside from statements of faith, what keeps our denomination whole is that in The United Church of Canada, no one owns anything and yet we all own everything on behalf of each other, the wider church. We are all called to care for this shared abundance together and to commit our own resources of time and money to the vision of an unfolding and flourishing church. When each community of faith is left to sort out its own household, without a critical eye, we are losing a golden opportunity to consider how United Churches could do more ministry and meaning-making with collaboration instead of competition."¹

What is meaningful is what we do together. What we do together is more than what we can do apart. ✝

¹ Vicky Nelson, "We Are All Trustees", Round the Table, October 3, 2023, the United Church of Canada, <https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/we-are-all-trustees>.

Christ First Register

January 24, 2024 through May 11, 2024

To offer the names and dates of death, of beloved members of this church family, is so much more than a listing. It is part of our remembering and honouring, for lives lived and love shared. Thanks be to God for those who have been among us; for their stories that continue, in all that we say and do. Thanks be to God, for the gift of Christian community. †



Deaths

January 24 - Alan Fraser

February 6 - Kathryn Anderson

February 12 - Shirley Secor

March 8 - Judy Grant

March 16 - Linda Waskett

April 25 - Claudette Rowley-James

May 5 - Marvin Munshaw



Picnic on the Lawn

JOIN US AT 10AM FOR OUR
PRIDE SERVICE, AND STAY
AFTERWARDS FOR LUNCH!

SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD AT 10AM

BBQ | ICE CREAM | LEMONADE | GAMES | LIVE MUSIC

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU REQUIRE DIETARY ACCOMODATIONS
FREE WILL OFFERING



**CHRIST
FIRST**

**THE UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA**

**Mailing Address
& Clarkson
Campus:**

**1700 Mazo Crescent
Mississauga, ON L5J
1Y1**

**Port Credit
Campus:**

**151 Lakeshore Rd. W
Mississauga ON L5H
1G3**

Website:

www.christfirst.ca

Phone Number:

905-822-9834

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office@christfirst.ca

**CHICKEN
BBQ**



Hosted by: **WELCOMING &
FELLOWSHIP**

**SUNDAY
SEPT 15**

**Chicken will be
BBQ'd while we
worship @ 10am**



**Fun and good food for all, bring the
whole family and catch up on news
with other members.**

**Accompanied with a variety of
salads, rolls, fresh fruit and
squares, coffee, tea and juice.
Gluten free and vegetarian choices
available.**