



Joyful Noise

From One Season to the Next

Written By: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

Dear Friends,

Even as September says its farewell, I'm thinking about a moment on the first day of school, right here on Mazo Crescent. It was time for the long-awaited bell, to mark the day's end, and while I didn't hear any cheers from students or teachers next door, you could almost feel the exhale, the relief as everyone completed that big, new



moment, again. Surprisingly and not, just as the school bell chimed, a community choir rehearsing in one of our Clarkson rooms launched into another Christmas carol, on their first day back together this season. The medley of sound made me smile, marveling at all that overlaps, intertwines, and knits together in this life.

I suppose the many and varied points of connection are a natural expression of life in the midst of community, but it takes some effort, some faithful intentionality, for us to see and respond to them as opportunities for intersection, rather than collision. It is a thread, a longing, that runs through so much of what we're up to in our Strategic Planning process: how, where, and whom can we serve, as disciples of Jesus in this community, at this time? The needs are many and varied, and we cannot [continued...](#)

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From One Season... continued

possibly meet them all, but we can listen and pray, discern and respond to the people and programs that intersect most beautifully with who we believe Christ First to be. With the beauty will be challenge, naturally. With the beauty will be affirmation that God needs us to serve and support, for generations to come.

From one season to the next, in life and in church, there are patterns we know, right alongside new expressions and opportunities. The deciduous leaves will change colour and fall, but never in the same way twice. The migrating species will find their way to winter shelter, but with new generations in tow. The church will launch into programs and worship series, for Creation Time, Stewardship and more, but with renewed hope and new voices to lift them into being. Always, always, always, God is overlapping the sounds of joy, telling us in all manner of ways that, even in the times of heartache and change, life is a gift to share, all together again.

Here's to this new season, my friends.
Here's to all that we cannot see, yet.

With love to you all,

Heather ✝



Financial Gifts to Christ First

Your ongoing donations to fund our expenses and wider work in the community are much appreciated. If you are considering a legacy gift (will bequest, investments, life insurance), please indicate where the funds should be used (general church operations or a special fund). It is important to include this information so we can respect your wishes. You should also check with your professional financial advisors. ✝



A Message from Chair of Council

Written by: Louise Sinclair

Happy Thanksgiving! I am so thankful for this congregation we call home, and for everyone making Christ First a vibrant and engaging place to be.

Thanks to the editorial team for bringing together such a comprehensive collection of articles. I encourage you to read this whole newsletter. We have a lot going on at Christ First!

I am also grateful to Council and our special committees for their dedication and leadership. Council is working diligently on your behalf to keep our church running smoothly. Our special committees are working on many initiatives, including:

- **Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC):** This committee, led by Carol Wilson, is overseeing the development of our Strategic Plan for presentation to the congregation in early 2025. This Plan will propose new initiatives to support our strategic goals for the coming years. An important part of the Plan will be confirming our congregational Call, Vision and Values statement. Please read further in this issue to learn about how you can join the strategic planning discussion.
- **Real Estate Oversight Committee (REOC):** This committee, led by Steve Shaver and working in conjunction with our Steering Committee, will make recommendations on how to proceed with our wealth of real estate assets. As you heard at the June congregational meeting, we are pursuing a "Letter of Intent" with a local developer to gain access to their skills and resources in support of REOC's development of recommendations.
- **Affirming Ministry:** This committee, led by Keegan Lee-Guide, will be bringing forward a proposal for Christ First to become an Affirming Ministry – a congregation that publicly and intentionally welcomes persons of all gender identities and sexual orientations. [continued...](#)





A Message ... Continued

You will hear more about these initiatives in the coming months, and I expect there will be several related motions for approval at our February semi-annual congregational meeting. This meeting is currently scheduled for February 23, 2025. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend!

You will also hear about plans to celebrate the United Church's 100th anniversary in June 2025. MaryEllen Hern has agreed to lead a team for these celebrations. If you would like to participate on her committee, please reach out to her.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. My contact information is available on the Sunergo congregation directory.

Lastly, I am thankful for all of you! I appreciate your patience, your support, your encouragement and, most of all, your prayers as we go on this journey together. ✝

Office Hours



Office Hours

Monday: 9am - 3pm
Tuesday: 9am - 3pm
Wednesday: 9am - 12pm
Thursday: 9am - 3pm
Friday: 9am - 12pm



Upcoming Office Closure:

Thanksgiving - Oct. 14



Join the Strategic Planning Discussion

Written By: Mary Dowding-Paré and Carol Wilson

If you have questions or comments to share about the Christ First Strategic Plan we want to hear from you before the end of October. Take advantage of the opportunities being offered to tell us what you think about how we can best meet the five strategic goals:

- **Goal #1:** Strengthen our care, support and spiritual guidance for the congregation.
- **Goal #2:** Increase the number of programs and events available to the community.
- **Goal #3:** Strengthen our impact in the marginalized community
- **Goal #4:** Increase the number of active congregants
- **Goal #5:** Find the best place to support the needs of the congregation and the community.

There are four ways you can share your thoughts.

Suggestion Box

A suggestion box has been placed in the back hall. Fill out and sign the suggestion form provided and put it in the box, or [click here](#), or use the QR Code below to submit your input by September 30.

Important note: If you are submitting a suggestion for Goal #5 concerning a location for Christ First, please provide an explanation as to why that is your preferred location.

Reach Out to Work Group Leaders

You can reach out directly to the Work Group leaders below to share your thoughts about a particular goal. [continued...](#)



Use this QR Code to
fill out the
Suggestion Form



Strategic Planning ... cont'd

Goal #1: Andy Choles, Heather McGillis

Goals #2 and #3: Victoria Keane

Goal #4: Mike Giguere

Goal #5: Steve Shaver (REOC is leading this work)

Contact information for the leaders is available on Sunergo or through the Office.

October 20 Strategic Planning Input Session

A special congregational session will be held on October 20 after the 10 a.m. blended service. The purpose of the session is for Work Group leaders to get input from you on strategies they are developing to meet one of the five strategic goals. Watch for more information about the session and plan to attend. Advance registration is encouraged to help us plan for your attendance.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee

If you have general comments or questions about the Strategic Planning process, you can send an email to strategicplanning@christfirst.ca

Christ First's future is being planned now, so plan to get involved! †

Strategic Planning Input Session

Join us on Sunday, October 20 to give us your feedback on strategies being developed for the upcoming Christ First Strategic Plan. We want to hear from you!
Lunch will be served.

Date: October 20

Place: Mazo auditorium

Time: after the 10 a.m. blended service

Lunch – 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Intro to session – 11:45 a.m. to 12 noon

Discussion groups – 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.



Pre-registration is encouraged. Watch for more information. †

Calendar Highlights

September 2024

30 - Affirming Movie & Orange Shirt Day



30 - Deadline for submissions to Strategic Planning Suggestion Box



October 2024

6 - World Communion Sunday

9 - Dorcas UCW Meeting

11 - P.A. Play Day

16 - Seekers Meeting



20 - Blended service followed by Lunch in recognition of World Food Day and Strategic Planning Input Session

23 - NOWW Meeting

26 - Halloween in the Village

27 - Stewardship Begins

31 - Halloween



November 2024

3 - All Saints' Sunday

10 - Remembrance Sunday

11- Remembrance Day

16 - Christmas Marketplace

20 - Seekers Meeting

22 - P.A. Play Day

24 - Anniversary Sunday and Stewardship Lunch



Join the Christ First Choir or Bell Canto! Contact the office one day before rehearsal so music can be prepared for you.

Rehearsals:
Tuesday 7p.m. Bell Canto
Thursday 7p.m. Choir



New Website Coming Soon

Written By: Ashley Fanourgiakis

Earlier this year, Christ First implemented a new member portal called Sunergo Connect. We began the roll-out in the spring of 2024, and continue to improve the offerings on this system. Currently, you should be able to log in with your unique username and password to view information such as the digital directory, your own givings, and the events calendar, as well as update your own contact information and include a picture of yourself if you wish.

Over the summer, we have also been working to integrate Sunergo Connect with a new website for Christ First, which we hope will go live in October this year. This website aims to make it easier for anybody looking for information on Christ First to see the service times, connect with our live streamed services, sign up for events at the church and find information on what it means to be a member at Christ First.

Some great new pages have been added including one called "I'm New Here", which aims to give people a snapshot of what to expect when they visit us for the first time. The Affirming Group has also been hard at work to include some great information on what they have been working on, as well as their hopes for our planned Affirming vote.

With the new website being fully integrated with Sunergo Connect, any registrations for events will be automatically attributed to you in the Sunergo Connect database.

Watch your email for an announcement when the new Christ First website goes live! †



If you have not yet received your login information, or are having difficulty with the new system, please contact the Office to have your password re-sent, or to book a time for one-on-one assistance.



Orange Shirt Day

Written By: Victoria Keane

On Monday, September 30, we will recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, or Orange Shirt Day. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. Residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad became the inspiration for Orange Shirt Day in the spring of 2013 when she shared the heartbreaking story of her first day at Residential School. While living in Dog Creek Reserve in British Columbia in 1973, 6-year-old Phyllis was gifted an orange shirt by her grandmother to wear for the first day of school. Sadly, when she arrived at St. Joseph's Mission Residential School, her clothes were taken from her and she never saw that shirt again.



"The colour orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing," Webstad shared. "All of us little children were crying, and no one cared."

Between 1925 and 1969, The United Church of Canada operated a total of 15 schools within the Residential Schools system. In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released 94 Calls to Action to advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. Call #48 urges churches to engage in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support reconciliation, and so with that in mind, we invite you to join us on September 30 for a viewing of the 2011 documentary, *Two Spirits*.

This 65 minute documentary explores the life and death of Navaho Fred Martinez, a male-bodied person with a feminine nature. Two screenings will be offered in our Clarkson Campus Sanctuary, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. This is an adults-only event, as the documentary is rated R for its mature content. It is presented by the Affirming Study Group. ✝

TWO SPIRITS

- Monday, September 30th
- 1pm or 7pm
- Orange Shirts encouraged



United Church Celebrates 100 Years

Written By: Mary Dowding-Paré

On June 10, 2025, the United Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary. It is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the past, the impact of the church on our communities and our lives, and to acknowledge the healing that is still needed.

The theme for the Centennial is Deep, Bold, Daring. As one of the first “united” churches in the world, from its formation the United Church has been rooted in deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. We follow the words of Jesus’ prayer in John 17:21 that the disciples be one. We believe that what unites us is stronger than our differences. We desire to live out the gospel call to love and justice in Canada and around the world.

The United Church of Canada is encouraging its communities of faith to unite and commemorate this historic achievement. Funding will be made available through the Centennial Granting Fund to help churches mark this milestone moment.

Christ First plans to join in the celebrations. We intend to form a committee this fall to organize an event in collaboration with other, local churches. Watch for more information and a call for volunteers to serve on the committee. †



Bold Connected Evolving



Bold Connected Evolving



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LUNCH & TOUR

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1907 Lakeshore Rd W, Mississauga (in the heart of Clarkson)





Treats and Treasures

Written by: Peggy Forde

Is it too early to start thinking about Christmas? Not if you are a choir director planning a Christmas concert. Or a committee organizing a Christmas craft sale!

Plans are well underway for our annual Treats 'n' Treasures Christmas Marketplace to be held on **Saturday, November 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** We have a full house of artisans and crafters offering a diverse range of items to delight everyone on your gift list. Pottery, hand knits, chocolates, jewelry, artwork, greeting cards, woodwork, home décor



and fabric creations are among the beautiful handmade goods you can shop for. Come early for the best selection!

Once again, the Christ First Quilters will hold a quilt raffle and, as usual, we will have Christ First volunteers organizing and staffing our bake table, book table, Christmas treasures section and the Café. Please start saving books that are in new condition (suitable for

gifting) including books for children. We can also take jigsaw puzzles – make sure no pieces are missing! We would also love to take donations of unwanted Christmas decorations and new(er) gift items.



The bake table always sells out and we greatly appreciate any and all home baking that you can provide. Shortbread, gingerbread, almond bark and other seasonal goodies are popular! Admission is free! So please mark your calendars and bring your friends, family and neighbours. †



Getting to Know ... Emily

Written By: Barb Abrams



In May 2023, we were very pleased to welcome Emily Adamson to our staff as Director of Audio Visual Productions. COVID changed the way we worshipped and made it a necessity to offer online services. However, that takes technical expertise and we are grateful for Emily's skills that allow us to livestream our services each Sunday to a wide audience. Thanks to Emily, we also see our order of service, hymns and videos on the screen at the front of the sanctuary. It all looks easy, but it isn't!

I recently had the pleasure of chatting with Emily about her background and what brought her to Christ First. During her time in the Cawthra Park Secondary School Drama Program, she learned that she enjoyed the technical aspects and the behind the scenes work as much as the performance. She then attended Queen's University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Performance Production.

Emily claims it was wonderful serendipity that brought her to Christ First. Our former M&P co-chair, Sue Gittings, knew a teaching partner of Emily's mother and mentioned our vacancy. Emily heard about the job, and the rest is history.

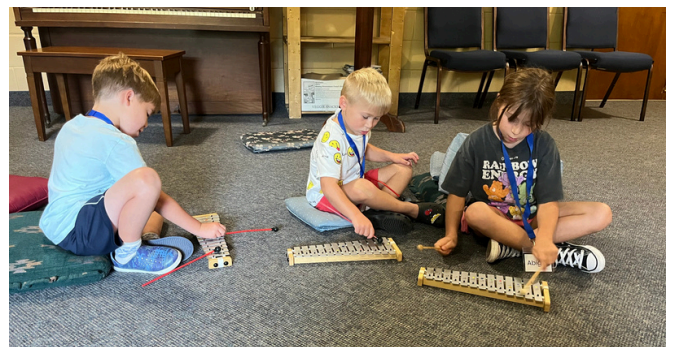
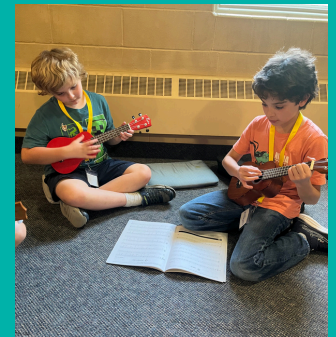
Emily has thoroughly enjoyed her first year with us and felt welcomed immediately by the congregation. She enjoys being part of the staff team and collaborating with them each week to produce the slides and videos that are part of each service. Technology always comes with glitches, but Emily likes the troubleshooting part of the job. She claims that the "constant simmering" behind the controls is what motivates her.

Emily loves movies, drawing and writing and would love to write screen plays. In addition to her work at Christ First, she is currently working a contract position with Chubb Fire and Security.

You now know a little more about Emily and the gifts she brings to her role at Christ First. Next time you enter the sanctuary, be sure to make a short stop at the audio-visual control board to say "hello" to Emily. She would love to meet you. ✝

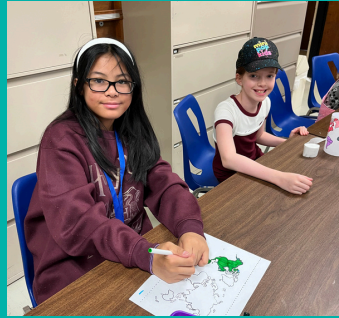


MUSIC CAMP





VBS 2024





Summer in Paris

Written By: Leanne Piller

This summer, I was very fortunate to study conducting in Paris, France through the European American Musical Alliance with musicians from all around the world. In addition to our choral and orchestral conducting studies, we took daily classes in counterpoint, analysis, musicianship, and keyboard harmony with world-class faculty. I was the grateful recipient of the Shea Family Fellowship and the Oxford Endowment Fund For Musicians through the United Church of Canada. It was the most enriching musical education experience I have ever had. Thank you to Christ First for your support! ✝



Our Stewardship program
is coming soon!

The program will run from
October 27
to

Anniversary Sunday November 24

This will be your opportunity to pledge your 2025 financial support in all that we do at Christ First, in our community and the wider world.

Stay tuned for more information on the program and our anniversary luncheon on November 24. ✝



Why I Love Singing in the Choir and How an Act of Kindness Led Me There

Written By: Karen Matthews



I always liked singing. As a 12 year old kid I sang in the church junior choir and I loved singing Christmas carols. My time in the choir, though, was overshadowed by my

too long robe, surplice, and mushroom shaped hat. The very long Anglican communion service involved a long-time kneeling – hard even for my young knees. At around the same time, I was singing a little too enthusiastically “I don’t know how to love him” from Jesus Christ Superstar in music class at school and someone pointed it out, to my embarrassment. I also heard my singing voice on our home stereo reel to reel voice recorder and was horrified.

When I had children, I sang to them every day. I sang nursery songs, Winnie the Pooh songs, and silly songs I made up to encourage them to get dressed, have a bath, go to bed or whatever was needed. I always liked singing at church. I could sing with more confidence along with the congregation to hymns old and new, 9:02 service songs and my favourite, Christmas carols. It never occurred to me to join the choir. Then came the pandemic and my own health problems that coincided with that challenging time. One day, while having treatment at Credit Valley Hospital, our dear late Primula Lancett found me, brought me a coffee and stayed with me. Watching the online services, I looked for Primula and other friends I hadn’t seen for awhile in the Zoom performances. They looked like they were having fun, especially during holy humour weeks. That is when I thought I might try joining the choir when we began having in-person services again (I certainly wasn’t going to go solo on Zoom). [continued...](#)



Why I Love Singing ... Continued

In September, 2022, not only was I welcomed and encouraged at choir practices, but I was in awe of the amazing voice training that Leanne provides and the challenge of learning new songs and appreciating their meaning meant to match each worship service. It has also made me feel closer to my late brother Gareth, who was choir member in many choirs including the Gay and Lesbian Chorus in Toronto, and I remembered how much happiness it gave him as it does me.

I would like to encourage anyone who sang with innocent abandon as a child to join the choir. There is so much to learn and share and no one will make you wear a silly hat! †



Audacious Hope

Written By: Victoria Keane

From July 3-6, Brock University hosted *Audacious Hope*, a gathering of over 450 teens, young adults, and ministry leaders from across Canada. The United Church of Canada, in partnership with the Presbyterian Church, gathered for a long weekend of inspiring worship, thoughtful theme presentations, small-group learning, workshops, shared meals, and fun! I was able to attend five different workshops, including one led by our UCC Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne.

My "Ukulele Church" group played a rendition of *The Lord's Prayer* during worship, and I got to sing *My Lighthouse* with a hundred enthusiastic teenagers. On top of all the learning and relationship building, I extend my thanks to Bell Canto for lending out our church handbells so that I could lead a workshop in handbell ringing. I am so grateful for the opportunity to attend this incredible event - it was an experience that I will not soon forget! †





Affirming Ministries

Written By: Victoria Keane

This past June, new name tags were printed for all members and adherents of Christ First, and are on display in the narthex for folks to grab and wear each week. God may know us all by name – but within our walls, we all need a little help with some friendly faces! With these new nametags, we also made available pronoun pins, which everyone is welcome to attach to their name tag if they so wish. These pronoun pins are completely optional, but are a symbol of our inclusive church family where everyone belongs and where everyone is loved.


Our Affirming Journey

After a beautiful Pride celebration service in June, our Affirming Study Group took pause over the summer, but is back into full gear as the fall unfolds. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming events hosted by our Affirming Study Group, including an upcoming Bible Study and Book and Bake.



Why should we talk about pronouns?

Most people are raised to believe that there are only two genders and that gender can be determined based on appearance. This involves many assumptions when referring to other people, including the decision to use “he” or “she” pronouns. However, there are people who are hurt when these assumptions are made. They may not identify with “he” or “she” pronouns and would prefer something gender-neutral like “they.” It’s great to talk about pronouns when meeting people or when group introductions are being made – you can’t assume someone’s name without asking; the same goes for someone’s pronouns.

–Rev. Michiko Bown-Kai, UCC Minister 

Questions or thoughts on the Affirming Ministries Program? Please reach out at any time to affirming@christfirst.ca



FAMILY *Zone*



Written By: Victoria Keane

After taking a break over the summer months, it was good to get back to Sunday School this September! As we have been celebrating the season of Creation in our Sunday lessons, our young friends have begun their own new seasons at school, reconnecting with old friends, and forging new paths forward. Our once “small but mighty” all-ages Sunday School classroom is now bursting at the seams during the 9:02 service, as we seem to be making more and more new friends all the time!

Though on second thought, to say that we were ‘taking a break’ over the summer doesn’t seem quite right. Although we were not meeting on a Sunday morning, many of our young church friends came out to support our Summer Camp programs! In July, we ran our annual Music Camp, with a record-breaking 37 campers! Our week was spent singing, dancing, drumming, and playing countless instruments from kazoos to ukuleles, and culminated in a spectacular Friday afternoon performance. In August, we ran our VBS Camp, with the theme of “Earthkeepers.” During one of our circle times, what began as a lesson in caring for the earth turned into incredible conversations surrounding the nature of good and evil. It was so heartwarming and inspiring to hear these young humans express such deep and kind and encouraging sentiments towards each other. I wish we could have Summer Camp all year round!

Looking forward, we are excited to be offering a new program this year during the Peel District School Board P.A. Days! Students from kindergarten to grade 8 are invited to join us for a day of fun, while we are off school, and our grownups still need to work! Keep an eye out for those, and other events, coming up!





Fall Means Fresh Opportunities to Get Involved

Written By: Andy Choles

Like it or not, summer is in the rearview mirror and fall is upon us. Worship has also been getting back in the “regular groove”. As much as I really enjoy a summer break, there’s something to be said about returning to routine every September.

With the start of a new church year, there’s a fresh opportunity to get involved in the life of your church. It is always wonderful to have events happen in the church. I always felt that if I liked or wanted to see something happen -- I should do what I could to help make it happen. The stewardship campaign is just around the corner and they always include time and talent as ways to contribute to your church. Perhaps this fall you will consider giving a little of your time and talent to help out your church community.

There’s certainly lots of opportunity to help out in this church. There are a multitude of committees and duties that might interest you. We’re always looking for new committee members , be it “Welcoming and Fellowship”, “Congregational Support”, or “Worship”. Something like ushering, digital ushering, or serving Communion might interest you. Throughout the year we have various events such as the Christmas Sale and the Yard Sale. If mid week suits you better, “Sip and Serve” meets every Wednesday. All are good opportunities to support your church community.

I might be accused of being a little biased, but the choir has appealed to me for quite some time and long before our two churches joined together to form Christ First. It could be said that being a member of the choir gave me additional incentive to attend church on a regular basis. I enjoy music so it was never an onerous task. Maybe, you might enjoy singing in the choir.

It has become a tradition to have special music at different times of the church year. Members of the congregation have always been very appreciative of these special music presentations. Leanne has asked people, in previous years, if they might be interested in joining with the choir for special music services (Good Friday, Easter, Christmas etc.) This could be a continued...





Fall Means ... continued

short-term engagement to prepare for the special service before you return to your pew in the congregation. This would give you a chance to participate without making a long-term commitment to sing every Sunday.

There's certainly no requirement that you have a "good voice" or an ability to read music. The choir is an assorted group of individuals all with different backgrounds and various levels of experience singing. Our music leaders are very adept at making full use of the talents people bring to choir/ensemble. The 9:02 band is also on the lookout for new members with ability on guitar or bass in addition to vocals. The most challenging thing is trying to deal with a group that is too small to meet that critical mass. Remember back to the "season opener" anthem from the choir – "All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir". All God's people are also welcome in the choir. †

World Food Day

Written By: Heather & John McGillis

World Food Day was established to increase awareness of world hunger and poverty and to inspire solutions for world change. The official day is October 16. To recognize this day and to remind us that these conditions exist in our community as well, we will be hosting a soup lunch on Sunday, October 20. Options' student culinary staff will prepare and serve bowls of soup with bread rolls to us. Options is a not-for-profit social enterprise that supports, through training programs, intellectually disabled adults to obtain specialized job skills that will assist them in finding work in the kind of job that they would like. Options Mississauga, as part of their programming, uses the offices and practical space at Christ First Port Credit Campus. The Welcoming & Fellowship team is pleased to partner with them on this initiative. There will be a free will offering. †



Library Refresh

Written By: Ashley Fanourgiakis

Over July and August, a team of volunteers and staff members including Mariam, Victoria, Janis and Ashley, refreshed the E. Eddy Library. Some books that don't reflect the values of Christ First have been removed, and new ones are in the process of being purchased. Come check out the library's new features, including; a sign out sheet, a book request form, and easy-to-see category markers.

We encourage you to check out the changes we have made to help you utilize this great resource. If you decide to take a book home with you, please be sure to add your name and the title of the book to the sign out sheet, and do your best to return the book in one month. ✝



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The United Church of Canada: Advances in 'Invitation'

Written By: Shawn Bausch and Richard Cranston

In 2021, the United Church of Canada (UCC) held a series of Moderator Town Halls in which a consistent response from participants was the need for the church to focus on inviting others. The goal of inviting others has now become a key initiative in the United Church's Strategic Plan.

One of the key goals of the UCC's Strategic Plan is to assist churches with their invitation and connecting with their community. Learning from over 150 growing churches nation-wide, the United Church of Canada has made tools available for that growth that are helping churches create strong invite plans in their community which are anchored in clear purpose and vision. This program, called the "Renew, Create, Invite" program involves intentional outreach to youth, marginalized people, and immigrant communities. Some examples of their successes include:

- Sunnybrook United Church in Red Deer has launched a ministry on the campus of Red Deer Polytechnic



SUNNYBROOK
UNITED CHURCH

- St. Paul's in Saskatoon has made the intentional decision as a congregation to build and is building a culture and practice of engaging with curious neighbours 20 new communities across Canada are on their way to becoming United Church communities. These communities include large numbers of people from Filipino, Hong Kong, Korean, and African cultural communities, gathering for worship and fellowship. [continued...](#)



St. Paul's United Church Saskatoon



Advances in Invitation .. Continued

- Four congregations in Ontario are collaborating on neighbourhood-focused events to engage the wider community together

It is worth noting that all of these endeavors require collaboration with communities, and in some cases, collaboration with other United Churches. The United Church of Canada is increasing the number of tools it is making available to congregations for collaboration and encourages all churches to start making those connections.

A UCC event is anticipated for January to celebrate the emerging churches within the United Church of Canada. †



For more information please scan the QR Code above, or visit <https://united-church.ca/news/bold-advances-strengthen-invitation>

Anniversary Celebration and Stewardship Lunch

Christ First's Fifth Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday, November 24. Enjoy a relaxing lunch served at the culmination of the stewardship campaign in the Merigold Room together with a special fifth anniversary cake filled with surprises. †





Christ First Women

Written by: Marg Shaver

"To raise money ... the ladies held fowl or oyster suppers. The suppers were held in the hall over the horse shed." *

"The women have made and sold more than 3,000 Christmas puddings and in excess of 26,000 cookbooks over the years." *

"Fowl suppers were one of the ladies' specialties. In the early years at Clarkson Community Church, we served three sittings of turkey dinners, potatoes being cooked at one person's home, turkeys at another. All was served from the tiny kitchen in the basement of the church. Everything had to be carried upstairs." *



Be assured, those days are gone!

But one thing has not: "UCW has brought me close friends." *

All women of Christ First are considered members of Christ First Women and are welcome to attend any unit event. Do watch for notices.

Three Units meet monthly and occasionally join together:

- Dorcas Unit meets on the 2nd Wednesday**
- Seekers Unit meets on the 3rd Wednesday**
- NOWW Unit meets on the 4th Wednesday**



Unit 'meetings' have included speakers, movies, book discussions, lunches, Advent gatherings, and afternoon teas.

New attendees are always most welcome.

No Fowl Dinners. That's a promise!

**Memories are from, "Voices of United Church Women." †*





Congregational Support

Written By: John Anderson

When you look at the church building, what do you see? Bricks and mortar? Probably, but that is not really The Church. The Church is the congregation, its members, the people of and in the church. At Christ First, we have a Congregational Support Committee whose mission is to look after the welfare of the congregation. The Committee coordinates and supports a large group of Callers. Each member of the Callers Group has ten or more church members they call on to keep in touch as needed.

And who are those in need? There are more than 50 on our list at the present time. We call this our Keep in Touch List. The need varies - from someone who has lost a loved one to someone who is ill or in hospital. Or perhaps someone in a retirement home or a member who is just lonely and needs pastoral care. It could even be a member who is unable to access the internet. For these members, we regularly send a letter in the mail outlining church activities so that they can keep abreast of things and feel part of the church.

Often, we get a request for a drive to church on Sunday (we have many volunteer drivers coordinated by Congregational Support). Then sometimes there is the need for nourishing food which we deliver. The church is also fortunate to have a small group of members who knit prayer shawls. These shawls are delivered for comfort and warmth and are much appreciated by those who need just that.

All of this is our church at work. Christ First is indeed blessed to have so many volunteers happily looking after our congregation. There is an Appreciation Lunch scheduled for October to thank all these dedicated members for their work. †



Above is a picture from the 2023 Callers Lunch hosted by the Congregational Support Committee.



Horseshoe Falls Region: Your source for training materials and program inspiration

Written By: Richard Cranston

Horseshoe Falls Region has assembled a collection of 24 different “Tool Kits” covering the topics of Congregational Support and Pastoral Relations. For a list of these toolkits and links to each one go the [HFToolkits page](#) on the [Horseshoe Falls Regional Council website](#).

Another source of resources for many aspects of church life can be found on the website CHURCHx. Check out their [catalog](#) of programs, courses and networks and find something of interest to your committee or group.

Did you know that the United Church of Canada is approaching its 100th anniversary? We will be planning a service and activities to celebrate this important event. A [Centennial Toolkit](#) is available to view and download. It includes event principles to ground our celebrations in the commitments and values of our United Church.

If any of these topics has piqued your interest and you want to learn more, I encourage you to read the latest Horseshoe Falls Region [newsletter](#).

If you have any questions about the Region, please direct them to the Church Office. Your questions will be forwarded to me and I will give you an answer. ✝

Links to the resources above



Horseshoe Falls Toolkits:
<https://hfrucc.ca/toolkits/>

Horseshoe Falls Newsletters
<https://hfrucc.ca/newsletters/>



ChurchX Catalog
<https://churchx.ca/>



Outreach Update

Written By: Christine Whiting



Back To School Backpack drive for The Compass



Thursday BBQ at The Compass



Live music and cold drinks at our Port Credit Campus

Compass Walk

On September 21, a group of Christ First folks took to the streets of South Mississauga for the 18th Annual "Walk The Walk For The Compass." With check-in at 8:30 a.m., the sea of red t-shirts were off and moving bright and early for a 1km, 6km, or 10km walk, depending on their preference. Upon crossing the finish line, participants were greeted with a BBQ lunch, ice-cream truck, and other fun activities. The rain held off, and excitement filled the air. The goal was to raise \$140,000 for The Compass Food Bank and Outreach Centre. To date, The Compass has already exceeded that goal, with donations for this campaign being accepted until October 15. In 2023, The Compass distributed 1,025,613 lbs of food to 6,567 individuals, and Christ First is proud to be a long-standing supporter. †



Christ First Register

May 12, 2024 through September 6, 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

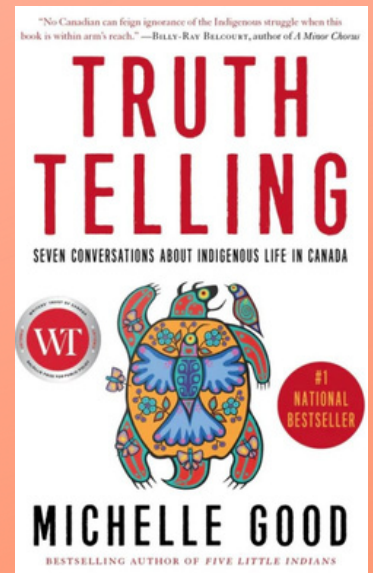
June 30 - Rona Moores

July 14 - John David Nicholson

August 29 - Roberta Vice

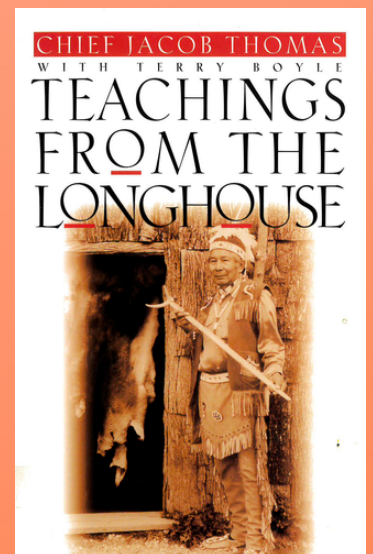
NEW READS

The subject of our most recent Book Club, and a new addition to our Christ First library. Truth Telling was published in 2023, and is a collection of essays on the historical and contemporary Indigenous experience in Canada by author Michelle Good. She uses her personal experience and knowledge to explore a wide range of Indigenous issues, including the path for meaningful and substantive reconciliation. Good is a Cree writer, poet, and lawyer from the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, and previously authored the book *Five Little Indians*. It is a finalist for the Indigenous Voices Award.



CLASSIC READS

Teachings From The Longhouse was published in 1994 and came to us from the First United library during amalgamation. Read about the vision Seneca Chief Handsome Lake had in June 1799, which are still the basis of teachings and instructions for a good life in Six Nations communities today. These teachings were agreed on and transmitted orally by Longhouse leaders through the generations. **Tip:** After reading this book, experience a 15th century Longhouse Village with a trip to Crawford Lake Conservation Area in Milton. †




 **Treats 'n' Treasures**
Excitement is building for our Treats 'n'
Treasures Christmas Marketplace on
Saturday, November 16
from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. 






Sunday October 20
World Food Day



Free
Will
Offering

Soup Lunch
 vegetarian and
 gluten free options

After
the
Blended
Service



**CHRIST
 FIRST**
 THE UNITED CHURCH
 OF CANADA

**Mailing Address
 & Clarkson
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 Mississauga, ON
 L5J 1Y1**

**Port Credit
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**151 Lakeshore Rd. W
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 L5H 1G3**

Website:

www.christfirst.ca

Phone Number:

905-822-9834

Email:

office@christfirst.ca

P.A. PLAY DAY

**FRI, OCT 11 &
 FRI, NOV 22**

Join us for a day filled with games,
 crafts, and other fun activities!

STUDENTS IN JK-GR8
SNACKS AND PIZZA LUNCH PROVIDED
\$25/CHILD *sibling discount!

Info/Register:
victoriakeane@christfirst.ca

