



# Joyful Noise

## Time to Journey

Written By: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

Dear Friends,

Here's some calendar reassurance: if it feels like Lent arrived quickly after Christmas, you are not alone. Our worship planning team is extra aware of the 'condensed Epiphany' we have in 2024. Sometimes things stretch out for more weeks of Bethlehem star-gazing, but not this year. Of course, the way we mark time, church season to church season, has a unique rhythm all its own, and here's a window to why...

With apologies to historians who will tell this with much more proficiency, long ago in a far away place, there was (among many concerns for early Christians) a worry about pilgrims finding their way to Jerusalem along dark paths with short days. Part of the solution was to set Easter in a season with growing light - and thus began the formula our tradition still follows today. Our pivotal celebrations shall be the first Sunday following the first full moon following the spring equinox. If that full moon falls on a Sunday, then we wait one more week for good measure. From Easter, count back 46 days and there you'll find Ash Wednesday, to begin Lent. There is a whole other paragraph on why Lent is 40 days but we give space for 46, but we'll chat about that some Sunday.



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For now, my greater reassurance is this: you have all the [continued...](#)



## Time to Journey continued

time you need. You are here, in the right time, with the right commitment, to begin this Lenten journey. And, if you would like, you can travel these weeks with steady companions. As these pages will tell, invitations and opportunities abound, for study and prayer, for worship and wonder. You will find the reflective rhythm that is right for your being, and together we will land in Holy Week, in all of its mystery and glory, following Jesus as he leads us to the core of Love.

Between now and then, may you know yourself held in God's magnificent presence, calling you forward with all your questions and affirmations. May you know this to be true, in every season of your life.

With love to you all ✝

## A Big Thank You!

For Supporting Christ First with your Time, Talent & Treasure.



-Louise Sinclair, Stewardship 2024

# FAMILY *Zone*

Written By: Victoria Keane



We kicked off the month of December with our annual Children's Advent Day - a day where kids and families come together to live the story of Christmas through crafts, games, stories, music, and food! I'm sure many of the young attendees will say that their favourite part of the day was playing with boomwhackers, or building their gingerbread nativity scene - but my favourite part is always when we gather around the Christmas stained glass window in the narthex and tell the story through the images! We were joined the following weekend by BenTastic, an incredible magician! Then for part three of our weekly Advent events, we gathered in the sanctuary to watch a Christmas movie on the big screen. Once the movie was finished, we moved downstairs to enjoy a delicious lasagna dinner and shared in a carol sing. We brought December, and the year, to an end with a fun Noon Year's Eve lunch and party as we counted down to 12 noon on December 31, we celebrated with a balloon drop. What an exciting Advent and holiday season!

We are looking forward to more fun in the coming months - our bi-weekly Youth Group with Applewood United, cheering on the Mississauga Steelheads (thanks to the generosity of Elliott Kerr for donating these tickets!), and especially our annual Easter Scavenger Hunt which will take place after the 9:02 service on Easter Sunday! All are welcome to join in the fun! †





# Calendar Highlights

**Black History Month**

## February 2024

11 - Transfiguration Sunday, Celebrating Communion at both services

13 - Pancake Supper

14 - Ash Wednesday / Valentine's Day. Zoom with Rev. Heather at Noon & Service at St. Stephen's on-the-Hill at 1pm



15 - The Screwtape Letter Zoom begins

18 - Blended Service, followed by the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

19 - Family Day - Office Closed

26 - Bible Study begins

## April 2024



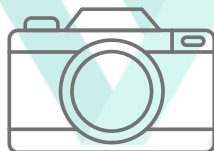
1 - Easter Monday - Office Closed

7 - Holy Humour Sunday & Soup Day, blended service

13 - Learn to Play Euchre Event, Merigold Room



28 - First day to sign-up for the 2024 Photo Directory sittings



## March 2024

6 - Easter Flowers, purchasing begins

14 - PIE Day



24 - Palm Sunday, Celebrating Communion at both services



28 - Maundy Thursday, service at St. Stephen's on-the-Hill

29 - Good Friday. 10:30am Service at St. Stephen's on-the-Hill. Christ First service at 7:02pm - Office Closed

31 - Easter Sunday, children's scavenger hunt after the 9:02am service



## May 2024

4 - Lawn Sale



12 - Mother's Day

19 - Blended Service

20 - Victoria Day - Office Closed







# Office News



## Office Hours

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

## Upcoming Office Closures:

Family Day - February 19  
Good Friday - March 29  
Easter Monday - April 1  
Victoria Day - May 20



**Tax**   
**Season**

## 2023 Tax Receipts

2023 Tax Receipts will be  
mailed by February 12.



# Reminder of Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Written By: Carol Wilson

The Semi-annual Congregational Meeting of Christ First will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, following the 10 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.

We encourage you to join us at this meeting where we will:

- receive and approve the 2023 Financial Statements
- receive and approve the 2024 Budget
- appoint the external accountants for the 2024 fiscal year
- receive the Board of Trustees Report; and
- receive an update on the strategic planning process



For all meeting details, including an 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 February 18! †



## South Mississauga

# NONPROFIT NETWORKING



Written by: Victoria Keane

In 2022, Christ First was awarded the Embracing the Spirit grant from EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development. This was a three-year financial grant, conditional on the yearly success of our Community Network Ministry initiatives. In the fall of 2023, we submitted a report on the success and development of our first year of work on our South Mississauga Nonprofit Networking program, and I am happy to say that our report was well received, and we have been awarded our second year of funding!

This initiative continues to grow, having now hosted nine breakfast events, which have been attended by over 30 different organizations who have ties to non-profit work done here in South Mississauga. This January, we were joined by David Onuoha, a local Registered Psychotherapist, who shared a workshop with us on "Relational Wellness for the Overworked Professional." He discussed how those who work and volunteer in community service often find themselves giving more and more of their time, and how this can affect their home lives and professional relationships. This workshop was incredibly well received, and was a good reminder for all those who attended to take time to slow down and give care to our loved ones and our relationships.



We are looking forward to our next Nonprofit Networking Breakfast in February, where we will welcome Epilepsy South Central Ontario for a presentation leading up to Epilepsy Awareness Month in March, and another event in April where the Writers Collective of Canada will be doing a writing workshop with the group. Thank you to all the volunteers who help make these events so special and successful! Here's to a great second year! ✝







## The History of Sip and Serve

Written By: Rod Bolton

In 1997, the then Chair of Property at Christ Church saw the need for a work crew of volunteers who would be the implementers of jobs coming out of the Property Committee. He also hoped that they would do the many small jobs



around the church that fell outside of the job descriptions of our then resident caretakers. Without too much thought, he decided that Saturday morning would be a good time to do tasks and drew up a request for volunteers to be read from the pulpit. At the scheduled time, on the first appointed Saturday, he stood ready with a job list he had drawn up and waited. Only one volunteer showed up: an elderly gentleman with no toolbox. Together they knocked off some of the easier tasks on the job list. Mr. Bolton, the property Chairman, an eternal optimist, wrote off the poor turnout to the fact that the request had not had time to sink in and prepared for a second Saturday. The second Saturday was an exact duplicate of the first with the same single volunteer.

Unbeknownst to Mr. Bolton, another group headed by Nora and Bill Hatton had also seen the need for a work crew. Their approach turned out to be much more appealing and the midweek morning time more suitable for retirees who were their target for volunteers. Their first meeting featured tea and coffee, a time to converse and socialize, and a joke or humorous story to set a pleasant tone. They also came up with a name for their group "Sip and Serve" which was both catchy and informative. The group was an immediate success and attendance soared. Mr. Bolton was thrilled to see the success. He immediately ceased his Saturday project and became a worker in "Sip and Serve". His Property connection helped with the job list necessary to keep volunteers gainfully employed.

A few years later, disaster struck. Bill Hatton died suddenly with no forewarning. Bill had been the MC since inception and had a great collection of humorous stories. Mr. Bolton took over and tried to maintain the successful reputation that S&S [continued...](#)



## Sip and Serve continued

had achieved in its early years. A number of years later, the Chancel Guild blended its activities with S&S. The work of the guild is very sporadic. Their workload is concentrated around the key festive occasions on the Church calendar. This fits well with providing a list of meaningful undertakings for our volunteers. For some time S&S monitored furnace filters and had a list of motors requiring periodic lubrication.

Over the years at least two “graduates” who had moved to homes remote from Clarkson saw fit to tell us that they had helped establish service groups in their new churches modelled after Sip and Serve. There have been several attempts to put a dollar value on the value of S&S services, Despite the difficulty in separating socializing time from work periods, they have invariably come up with a number in the thousands in annual savings over what it would have cost the church had tasks been done by commercial services.

The COVID Pandemic set the organization back on its heels and eventually it ceased to function. In 2022, Elisabeth Evans and John Hammill resurrected the organization and under their guidance it has been in a recovery state ever since. It meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Merigold Room and is always in need of more volunteers. Should any of the readers of this write-up decide to give it a try, they would be most welcome. †





## December Candlelight Service

Written by: Andy Choles

A wonderful musical celebration of the Christmas season took place this past December. Over 50 singers from four different United churches combined vocal talents to present a highly successful Candlelight Service. A long-cherished tradition took a new turn this year as Leanne sought to build a mass choir with singers coming from Eden United, Sheridan United, St. Stephen's on-the-Hill, as well as our own Christ First, combining to create a glorious and majestic vocal celebration to herald the birth of our Lord.

The service combined Christmas anthems with readings, prayers, instrumental interludes, and ample opportunity for congregational singing of favourite Christmas Carols. The chorus sang a variety of Christmas anthems including a glorious John Rutter arrangement of "Joy to the World"; the innovative "O Come Little Children" which cleverly juxtaposed the familiar children's hymn with Bach's well known "Wachet Auf" (Sleepers Wake); the jubilant "Gesu Bambino" featuring soloist Christina Yun (St. Stephen's on-the-Hill); and concluding with the ethereal "See Amid the Winters Snow".



Between these choral works we heard the Bell Canto perform "Sing We Now of Christmas" and "Away in the Manger". A wonderful string quartet, brought in for the occasion, accompanied many of the vocal anthems and hymns, as well as performing a number of selections as a separate quartet. The performance concluded with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. A fine performance enhanced by the marvellous acoustics of the Port Credit campus aptly described as a "jewel of

Being a United Church, no event is complete without food. A multitude of volunteers provided hot apple cider, Christmas cake, shortbread cookies and other Christmas treats. Great music was followed by great snacks and a sizeable collection of donated food and cash for the Compass. All in all, a successful evening. Thank you to Leanne Piller who spearheaded this concert and the many who contributed their time and talent to make this such a special event. †



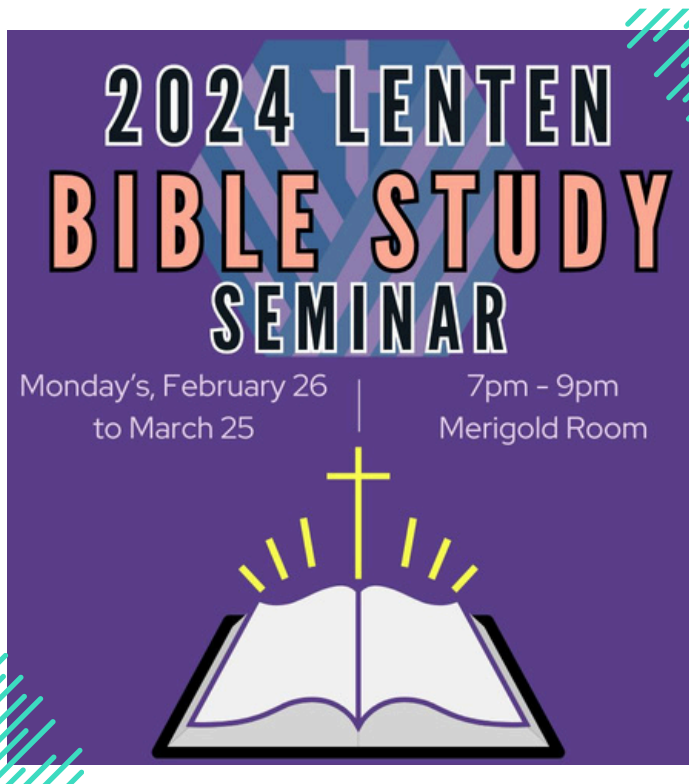


## 2024 Lenten Bible Study Seminar

Written By: Ted Lutz

Easter arrives early this year, which means so does Ash Wednesday with its concomitant first Monday in Lent. Christ Church (now Christ First) has been pursuing Bible studies via a Lenten series for over half a century.

We have been examining in detail the Sayings of Jesus as we find them recorded in the first three books of the New Testament, the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It has taken five years to test each Saying against a set of criteria that might provide some assurance that what we read comes from Jesus, not from the writer, or some earlier source, of the Gospel. The study has resulted in a book, which I anticipate will be printed by Easter this spring.



Consequently, five sessions ought to be sufficient to finish covering the last of the Sayings. If not, so few will be left by March 25 that they can be looked at 'in the book.' Books may be obtained from the church office after Easter. Also, because the results of this study will be available in another form, sessions will not be offered online. Registration will be available online or by calling the office.

In fifty years, we have covered all the biblical material that interests most Christians, so 2024 ends a tradition that began in 1975. There are former Christ

Church members who have attended every session. I would like to end by thanking them, and everyone else who over the years has attended any series, for their interest and support. I have benefited immensely, intellectually and spiritually, in your company. †





# CHURCH LIFE







# CHURCH LIFE







## Community Outreach Committee

Written By: Victoria Keane

At the beginning of this past Christmas season, Christ First participated in *Christmas in the Village*, an annual, local tradition, put on by the Clarkson BIA and held at Clarkson Community Church. Local artisans and organizations set up booths, the Christmas tree was lit, and even some animals dropped by for a petting zoo! Christ First set up a tent and table, where we handed out candy canes and “decorate your own cookie” kits. We were able to help The Compass and Armagh House take up a collection of donations.

Throughout the month of December, our members graciously donated to our Mitten Tree. Many pairs of gloves, scarves, and hats were left hanging on the tree in the narthex, and an additional \$110 was raised to purchase water repellent gloves. These donations have been distributed to various local schools. While schools will only accept Keyhole scarves, donations that did not fit this description were taken to Armagh House and other local shelters. For a free pattern for knitting a Keyhole scarf, please contact the office of one of our Quilters!

We also continue our shawl-knitting ministry. Prayer Shawls are kept in the cupboard in the Merigold Room, where you can find shawls of various sizes. Shawls can be taken at any time to be passed along people in need of support or a warm hug (receivers may be members of the church or also friends and neighbours.) When our friends wear these shawls, they may be reminded that they are connected with many people throughout our faith community. The gift of a shawl is a reminder that you are not alone. Supplies are also available in the cupboard for anyone wishing to knit and donate a shawl. ✝





# Update on The Compass for 2023

Written By: Dana Bryant-Giguere

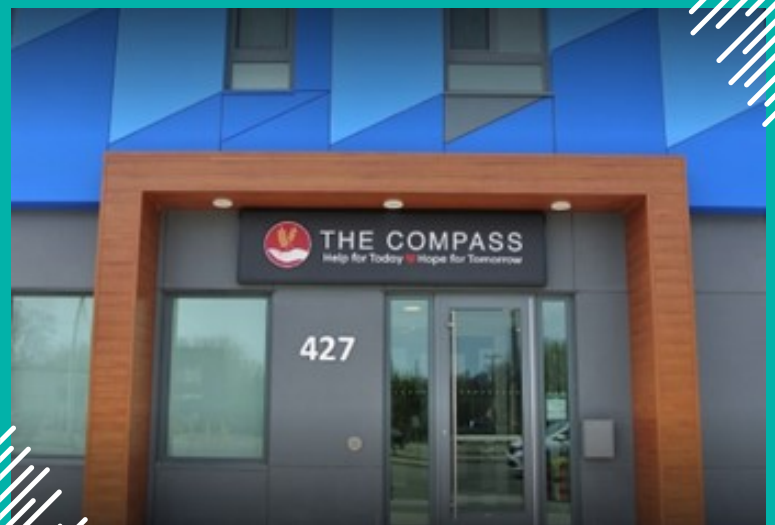
**2023 was an extremely challenging year for many. News headlines were filled with reports of how many families and individuals were suffering from economic hardship, food insecurity and homelessness.**

**Not surprisingly, many in our own community were directly impacted by what was going on all around us. As a result, during the year 2023 The Compass served significantly more people than ever in the history of our operations. Month after month the numbers kept going up:**

- **6,567 individuals received food, an increase of 63% over 2022. This was more than a 300% increase from the number of individuals helped in 2019.**
- **We gave out over 1 million pounds of food, an increase of 45% from 2022.**
- **1,883 new “households” in our community had to come in for help, an increase of 87% from 2022.**
- **It cost almost \$1 million in 2023 to purchase food and stock our shelves, a 61% increase over 2022. And this was despite the fact we received over 200,000 lbs. of donated food from the community and 500,000 lbs. from Food Banks Mississauga.**

**We are so very pleased to be able to report that due to the wonderful hard-working and dedicated Compass staff and the amazingly reliable team of almost 400 volunteers, we were able to service each and every client who came through our doors in 2023. And the best news is, because of the incredible inflow of monies from our financial supporters and donors throughout the year, we ended our fiscal financial year 2023 with a much smaller deficit than we had expected.**

**For that, we are so very grateful!** continued...





# Compass continued

On behalf of The Compass Board, I would like to extend my sincere thank you to Christ First congregants. The steady inflow of funds from our committed and caring church members via PAR and other means, was so very much appreciated. The combined donations received in 2023 from all our various member churches was just under \$100,000 (7% of total donations received) and I am proud to say that the amount donated from Christ First ranked at the top.

Thank you, once again, for your generosity in 2023. I encourage you to visit The Compass website ([www.thecompass.ca](http://www.thecompass.ca)) where further 2023 statistics and information is available, including the news that The Compass was included in the list of Toronto's Top 5 Impact Charities and Top 10 Food Banks by Charity Intelligence Canada. †

**Walden Circle**  
Retirement Community *by Signature*

### The Heart of Clarkson Village

At Walden Circle Retirement community, life is all about choices! And with so much included at no extra charge, You'll find its easy to plan your day exactly as you like it.

- Independent living
- Personal on-site care
- Assisted living
- Trial Stays
- Winter Stays
- Respite Care

**To Make Walden Circle your new home, contact us today for information.**

**905-403-8660**  
[www.WaldenCircleRetirement.com](http://www.WaldenCircleRetirement.com)

1907 Lakeshore Rd W

**To visit The Compass website, please CLICK HERE or scan this QR Code.**





## UCC Resources for the Israel/Hamas Crisis

Written By: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

As daily news stories continue to tear at our hearts, with profound loss in conflict zones around the world, there are particular questions many Christians ask, trying to understand the complexity of the Middle East. With Israel and Hamas in the forefront of our news coverage, these are natural and important conversations, seeking to know faithful, informed responses.

Among the many resources available, The United Church of Canada website offers links with background and invitation. From early writing on October 7, 2023, through ongoing coverage of global debate on the United Church of Canada News page and video teachings about the humanitarian crisis, our denominational releases offer insight and calls for action, from our General Secretary, our Moderator, and more. Please take them in as you can, and respond as you can, remembering that through them all is the prayerful thread for peace, and the persistent belief that this has always been God's deep longing. †



[Writing on  
October 7, 2023](#)



[United Church  
News](#)



[Video Teachings  
Youtube](#)

In print, use your device to scan the QR codes above.

If you are reading a digital issue, please click on the links in blue below the QR codes.



## Thank you for tuning in

Written By: Marg Shaver

"Good morning. Welcome to the Christ First online 9:02 service. My name is Marg S. I am the online usher for the service today."

"Hi. Marg. I am watching online from home today as I am babysitting."

"Music is rousing today. Thanks to Greg and David and Randi."

"If any viewer would like more information about Christ First or to receive church emails, please call the church office: 905-822-9834."

"Thank you for tuning in this morning. Enjoy your day."

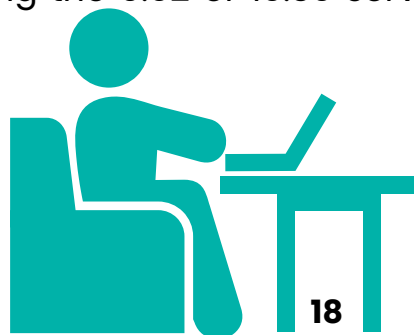
The above is a typical "chat" during the online 9:02 service. I have been the online usher for several Sundays, sitting at the back of the church in front of a laptop, watching the actual service live from that vantage point. I typically add a "welcome", make an online comment or two during the service, respond to any comments others post from home, and close with a "thank you for tuning in."

Would you be willing to sit beside Emily (our tech wizard) and key in a comment or two during the 9:02 or 10:30 services? New volunteers are being recruited now!

It is simple.  
It is interesting.  
It is gratifying.  
It is fun. ✝

**DIGITAL USHERS**  
**Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are needed on Sunday Mornings to help welcome those who join us digitally on Sunday's. If you are interested in volunteering to help make Christ First a digitally welcoming environment, please contact the office.





## Lenten Study Opportunities

Written By: Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz

### “C.S. Lewis and the Delightful, Diabolical Daring of Lent: A Lenten Companion to “The Screwtape Letters”

All are welcome to join Rev. Heather for a drop-in Lenten group, on Zoom: Thursdays at 1pm, for an hour-ish of your week, built on ‘The Screwtape Letters’ by C.S. Lewis, and SALT’s devotional companion.

If you read the book and/or the devotional through Lent, great. If you don’t, no problem. Come as you are, when you can. No RSVP required. We’ll be there to think and pray, support and encourage, exploring Lent’s deeper meanings and simple, powerful practices to mark the journey.

Thursdays, February 15 through March 21 at 1pm over Zoom. Please contact the office for the recurring link AND a downloadable (or printed) copy of the devotional.

*\*With gratitude for the generosity of our Library Fund, six copies of ‘The Screwtape Letters’ are available to borrow from the Earl Eddy Library. Local municipal libraries, used book stores, or e-editions are other good, economical sources.*



### Another Study Opportunity ...

The UCC’s 2024 Lent Resource is available now, through the online store.

Looking for study companions? Check out free registration for The Mod’s Book Squad on March 5 and the online learning course through the Church X platform, Tuesdays through Lent. †



[UCC 2024 Lent Resource,](#)  
[CLICK HERE](#)



[Mod’s Book Squad, to](#)  
[register CLICK HERE](#)



[Church X Learning,](#)  
[CLICK HERE](#)



# Special



# Services

## Ash Wednesday Christ First Zoom

February 14, 2024 @ 12pm  
Zoom Lunch with Rev. Heathe

## Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024 @ 1pm  
St. Stephen's on-the-Hill

## MAUNDY THURSDAY



THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2024

The Christ First family is invited to a Maundy Thursday Service at St. Stephens on-the-Hill.

# GOOD FRIDAY

Christ First is invited to a 10:30am service at St. Stephen's on-the-Hill

Friday March 29, 2024



# GOOD FRIDAY

March 29TH

7:02pm Worship with The Band

# PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24

9:02am Worship with the 902 Band

10:30am Worship with the Christ First Choir

Celebrating Communion at Both Services



# SUNRISE SERVICE EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

7AM @ J.C  
SADDINGTON PARK

After the service, join us for a walk to the Port Credit church, where we will share Hot Cross Buns and a warm beverage



# Church



# Events

## PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday February 13 5pm to 7pm

Adults ..... \$10

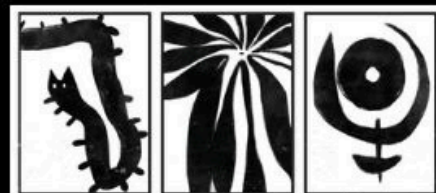
Children ..... \$5

Sign up form ..... Narthex or Office

Special Diets ..... Please request accommodations



Able to volunteer?  
Let us know!



### C.S. LEWIS

#### THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

Join Rev. Heather on Zoom  
Thursday's at 1pm  
starting February 15.

Limited copies of The  
Screwtape Letters are  
available to borrow  
from the library.

## 2024

# MUSIC CAMP

### JULY 22-26

### 9AM-4PM

### AGES 4-12

### LIT: 13+

DRUMMING,  
CHIMES, SINGING,  
DANCING, CRAFTS  
GAMES, AND  
MORE!

### VBS Camp 2024



August 6-9 | Christ First ✨  
9am-12:30pm | United Church  
Ages 4-10 | 1700 Mazo Cres.  
\$25/Camper | Mississauga

# EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT

## MARCH 31ST, 2024

After the 9:02 service!

Coming Soon ...

## Photo Directory

Watch your email and the eblast  
for more information about the  
2024 Christ First Photo Directory!





# Helping Children In Haiti

Written By: Mary Dowding-Paré

For over 50 years, Barb Lewis has been providing clean and waterproof sleeping mats to mothers and children in Haiti. The mats are made out of cheap and simple materials many of us would simply toss away – milk bags.

Barb first got the idea from observing kindergarten children in Ottawa making the mats. She thought it was a wonderful idea and decided to try her hand at it. Her husband Claude designed a special weaving frame that is portable so Barb can do her weaving while watching TV. Barb cuts the milk bags into strips which she rolls into balls ready for weaving. It takes her a month to make one sleeping mat.

The end result is an attractive, colourful mat that can withstand the challenges of life in Haiti. It is waterproof, washable and won't rot in the hot sun. It is also resistant to mice and rodents. It is large enough to sleep a mother and child together.

Barb sends 12 to 15 sleeping mats to Haiti each year through the Canadian Food for Children organization. She is always looking for more milk bags. If you have extra milk bags, please drop them off in the stairwell near the Office on top of the Compass donation box. Barb asks that you please cut open the bags, flatten them and fold them in quarters before passing them on to her. †



**Barb Lewis with one of her sleeping mats**





# Imagine

Written By: Mike Giguere

Oxford Languages: vi·sion  
/'viZHən/

noun

1. the faculty or state of being able to see.
2. the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom.

Christ First is in the midst of imagining its future. The process started pre-pandemic, with the November 2019 Visioning session. Another Visioning session was held last October. Council is working hard to develop a cogent set of strategies to pull us in the directions indicated from our October 2023 session. This will take wisdom and imagination.

Our plans must consider the overall context of our operating reality. We are in a post organized religion era. We see churches in our area consolidating. We see attendance dwindling. There are reasons why organizations such as the United Church of Canada and Indwell have launched separate property development firms. There is much worship space property coming on the market. We may be seduced by occasional upticks in membership, but we cannot buck the tide.

We can have it all. We can create an enduring legacy in our community, burnishing our brand as true Christians. We can have accessibility. We can have diverse worship activities.

We need to be bold and imaginative.

Imagine being the church that spearheaded a drive to create dozens of deeply affordable housing units along with maintaining affordable space for the community services that already use our space. To bolster the imagination here are a few relevant points.

Meadow Green Academy, which co-owns the property they occupy with Clarkson Community Church, is ready and willing to sell their half of the property to Clarkson Community Church. Rough order of magnitude of the funds required is \$6,000,000. Clarkson Community Church is ready to partner with a like-minded organization to buy out the school. [continued...](#)



## Imagine cont'd

The school building existing on the site is suitable for a host of community agencies, such as we provide space for today.

Indwell is interested in a fourth Mississauga location. They are interested in this property. They have engaged Clarkson Community Church in preliminary discussion but will not proceed until Clarkson Community Church partners with some like-minded entity, or otherwise comes up with, \$6,000,000 to buy out the school.

There is real opportunity in the above to create an enduring legacy rooted in the bedrock of Christian values.

As we develop Christ First's strategic plan for the future, let's think how we can create an enduring legacy. Depending on the goals we set for our church, we could look at opportunities such as partnering with Clarkson Community Church and negotiating with Indwell. There will be lots of possibilities for Council and others to explore in planning the way forward.

Jesus himself saw a vision for renewal that no-one else could. Let me leave you with that story in John 2: 19-22;

*Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.* †



# Christ First Register

November 20, 2023 through January 31, 2024

There is a saying that every time a child enters a family, the family is new, forever changed. There is a similar saying and truth about a church family. We are forever changing, made better by those who choose to call Christ First home; and held always by the strength of those who have gone on to glory.



From new life to renewed, eternal life, we move toward God's beautiful kin-dom. Thanks be to God for the gift of travelling together. ✝

## New Members

Welcomed on November 26, 2023

John Austen

Melissa Austen

Jennifer D'Agostino

Anne Lee-Guide

Keegan Lee-Guide

Michael Orosz

## Deaths

November 28 - Alison Hanson

December 13 - Letitia Murphy

January 22 - Mary Lantz

January 27 - Edith Davidson





# Sunday April 7 Soup Day!



Free Will Offering

Vegetarian and Gluten Free Options

More info soon!



# CHRIST FIRST

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**Mailing Address & Clarkson Campus:**

1700 Mazo Crescent  
Mississauga, ON L5J 1Y1

**Port Credit Campus:**

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Mississauga ON L5H 1G3

**Website:**

[www.christfirst.ca](http://www.christfirst.ca)

**Phone Number:**

905-822-9834

**Email:**

[office@christfirst.ca](mailto:office@christfirst.ca)

MERIGOLD ROOM

SATURDAY  
APRIL 13  
2PM

LEARN TO  
PLAY EUCHRE

BEGINNERS  
&  
EXPERIENCED

INFO  
COMING  
SOON!