



# Joyful Noise

## At the Sanctuary Door

Dear Friends,

Now that we're here in the 3rd edition of 'Joyful Noise' – with great thanks to the creative, generous hands and hearts behind it all – I'm starting to feel like I could write to you this way all the time. I know, I know, that would be a bit much. You already listen to me to most Sundays of the year, and I never say no to the chance to write a congregational letter. This kind of writing though feels different again. It isn't a sermon or a request or a reminder to do something for someone else. It is, I hope, more like a window, with an invitation to look through and find greater strength to be; to just be you, in this place.



Two weeks ago, I had the most perfect reminder of what can happen when we say yes to being just that. I was hardly back at work, after the gift of summer vacation. It was a Thursday afternoon, and lots of you know how busy Thursdays can be around here, in any season. One of the long-standing community groups that calls the Merigold Room home was in for the day,

and one of their members had strolled down the hall, still within sight of the group leader but off on her own for a bit. Those last details matter in the context, as it is a respite care program, offering steady compassion, friendship, and respect for those living with dementia, and their beloveds by extension.

The woman who came down the hall had been chatting with me at the kitchen, and then before long she was leaning against the open door to the sanctuary. She stood quietly for a while, and then without fanfare or pronouncement, she started to sing.

*continued...*

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# At the Sanctuary Door

## continued

She sang a series of hymns that I'm guessing she's known since childhood. She sang boldly, and well, and without reservation. She sang at the threshold to that sacred space, even as she embodied the truth that every time, every where we encounter can be holy ground. She wasn't singing for me, or for anyone else around her. It was for her heart, her God, her strong and enduring knowledge that she is a beloved child of the Creator of the Universe.



The singing continued long enough for me to go back to my office, and listen quietly from a mostly closed door. I didn't interrupt to ask for confirmation of what and why she sang, so maybe it is bold to presume, but the hymns she sang spoke volumes of gorgeous love. For all that time and disease might try to steal away, the heart songs of our beings seem untouchable. Whether or not we trust ourselves to find the words – in conversation, in music, in print – the truths of our faith, our spiritual core, are deep, embedded, and sustain us in the most unexpected times and ways.

In one sense, I'd love for you to read all of the above and know the strength of God working in and through you, too. I'd also love for you to feel humbled by the extraordinary building we get to share with this community, and proud that we're forever renewing our commitment to be partners in south Mississauga life. I'd also love if you could imagine that moment of singing, in that particular place because of that particular group, and know it to confirm there's a whole web of support for whatever you and your loved ones are moving through right now. Maybe that's a whole lot to feel or draw from one fleeting, privileged moment of witness, but the layers are many, and the promises great.

Wherever that story might take you, I pray that it will make you bold, too. I pray that you will know yourself welcome in this vibrant, living space, to be who you are, with your voice as a gift to this congregation and world. Online, in-person, hybrid, you name it... I pray you will continue to grace us with your presence, in body, mind, and spirit, because who you are and what you know to be true are crucial to who we are and what we know, all together. Challenge and comfort, complications and consolation mixed in, we are God's beloved people, crossing the threshold to another extraordinary season.

So, welcome to what's next my friends. Welcome, and thank you, for always.

With love to you all,

Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz 



## Message from the Chair of Council

As I write this message I am transitioning out of the state of 'active retreat' that summer brings, and I hope this season has been restorative for you as well. I say this knowing that, while many of us at Christ First have been able to take things a bit slower, our church has remained a beehive of activity throughout the summer months. Thank you to all who have made this possible!

Before too long the work of our congregation will be back in full swing, so our leaders and teams are busy getting ready for Fall. Looking ahead, this year promises to bring greater focus to our thinking about who we are and want to be as a faith community. I want to highlight a few of the ways that Council, committees and congregants will soon be starting to engage in those broader themes.

**Vision Session on October 1:** At this facilitated workshop following the blended worship service, we will revisit the results of our 2019 vision session and discuss how we may want to refocus our priorities for the next few years. Please plan to attend so your voice is included, and watch for further details about the workshop including how to register in advance.

**Council Retreat on November 4:** Council will work with the priorities identified on October 1 and start to develop a strategic plan that reflects the aspirations of our congregation for how to live out our Three Pillars.

**Affirming Church:** Council has approved the formation of a study group that will lead the congregation in an exploration of whether Christ First should become an Affirming congregation. Affirming congregations seek to be public, intentional, and explicit in every aspect of their life and work together, actively upholding justice for all people, including those of all sexual orientations and gender identities. For further information about this important and defining journey for Christ First, please refer to the letter sent to you by email or post on August 21 and watch for updates.

**United Church of Canada General Council 44, Remit 1:** Council will be considering and voting on an amendment to the Basis of Union that would expand the structure of The United Church of Canada with the addition of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization. If you would like to know more about this process, please [click here](#) to explore some material on the United Church website. You will receive an update regarding the outcome of Council's vote.

Meanwhile, as these bigger issues are being explored, our Council, committees and staff will continue to work creatively and faithfully, and in countless ways, to keep us moving forward and growing. And as always, we encourage your input and engagement!

Blessings to you all,

Carol Wilson, Chair of Council



QR Code is  
for "the  
Remit 1"  
link

hello  
FALL

# Calendar Highlights



## September 2023

16 - Annual Walk the Walk for The Compass

17 - Chicken BBQ & Blended Service

23 - First Day of Fall

29 - Messy Church

30 - Orange Shirt Day



**CHRIST FIRST**  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

## November 2023

5 - All Saints Sunday & Remembrance Sunday

11 - Remembrance Day

18 - Christmas Marketplace

26 - Anniversary Sunday & Stewardship Wrap-up Brunch



## October 2023



1 - World Communion Sunday & Vision Session & Blended Service

8 - Thanksgiving Sunday

14 - Metropolitan Silver Band Concert

15 - World Food Sunday

20 - Scrapbooking Evening

28 - Clarkson Village Halloween

29 - Launch of Stewardship Campaign

31 - Halloween

## December 2023

3 - Advent I

10 - Advent II

17 - Advent III

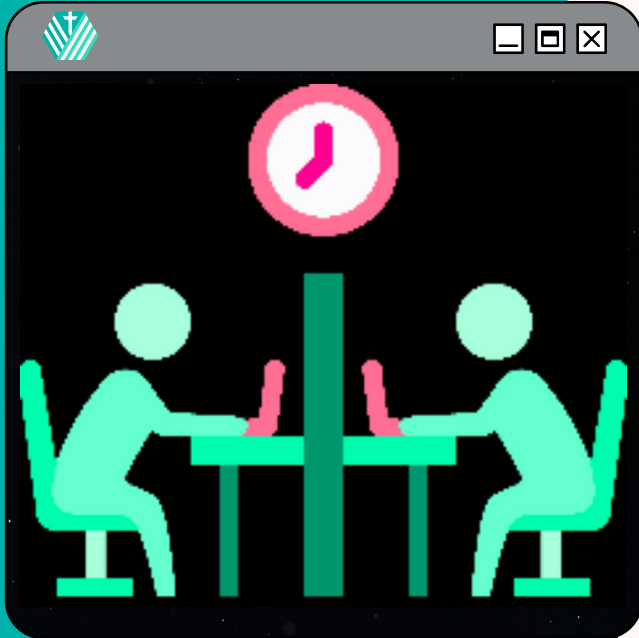
24 - Advent IV



For the most up-to-date information, please visit [www.christfirst.ca](http://www.christfirst.ca)



# Office News



## Office Hours

Regular office hours began again on September 5

Monday 9am - 3pm

Tuesday 9am - 3pm

Wednesday 9am - 12pm

Thursday 9am - 3pm

Friday 9am - 12pm

## Upcoming Office Closures

The office will be closed on  
Thanksgiving - Monday October 9

## Booking Space for Events

Contact the office if you'd like to use Christ First space to host a meeting, event or party. All bookings must be confirmed by the office.



905-822-9834

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

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



## Introducing Carol Wilson – Chair of Council

Carol feels blessed to have been a member of this church community for most of her life. Born in Montreal, she was raised in Clarkson from the age of 4 when her family returned to the area and transferred their membership back to Christ Church. After spending her university years at Western in London, Ontario, and beginning her married life in Mississauga, Carol moved with her young family to Point Claire, Quebec for 2 years where they attended St. John's United and made many lifelong friends.

Returning once again to church life at Mazo Crescent, Carol was fortunate to continue worshipping for many more years alongside her parents, Warren and Marjorie Grant. Carol's family history has a connection to First United that predates our amalgamation by several decades. Her uncle, The Rev. Stanley L. Osborne, served as their minister in the 1940's, and his wife Florence was a founding member of the Quilter's Guild. Throughout Carol's life, Christ First has always been a source of support, fellowship and spiritual nurturing to her. Through times of both celebration and loss, she has been uplifted by the friendship and caring of many members.

Carol and her husband Al Hubbard were married at Christ Church in 2003 and eventually made their home in Erin Mills. Following a career in audiology, Carol joined Al in retirement in 2018. While this has given them more time to enjoy travel and other leisure activities, they have remained actively involved in the life and work of Christ First. Over the years, Carol has held various leadership and committee roles, enjoyed fellowship and spiritual development events, and participated in worship as a Bell Choir member. A highlight for her was assisting in the settlement of our Syrian refugee family into the community. More recently, she has found rewarding work on Council in her role as Secretary prior to becoming Chair, as a member of the Real Estate Oversight Committee and in leading the hearing accessibility initiative. Carol enjoys spending time with her blended family or in the company of good friends, and being outdoors appreciating the beauty of nature. ✝



## Fall Worship Report

Written By: Andy Choles

As summer vacation ends, we move back into our regular fall worship schedule with two Worship services every Sunday morning -- 9:02 Contemporary and 10:30 Traditional. Our worship season looks to provide a variety of worthwhile worship experiences.

The Worship Committee is also pleased to organize a Saturday afternoon concert of the Metropolitan Silver Band. This 30 piece ensemble from Metropolitan United Church in Toronto is a group that is in demand for performances. Members include a number of players, familiar to Christ First, from the former Clarkson Brass.

The concert will be held on Saturday October 14, 2023 beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Port Credit Campus of Christ First United Church. Tickets will be \$40 each which will include hors d'oeuvres. Wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase (similar to the Faith Amour concert last fall). In addition to being a fun event this concert will raise funds for the Church as well as provide a donation to The Compass for all the good work they do. ✝

# METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND



**Enjoy the 1st  
concert of our  
90th season!**

**October 14, 2023 at 3:30pm**

**151 Lakeshore Road W.**

**Tickets: \$40**




**All proceeds going towards:**



**THE COMPASS**  
Help for Today ♥ Hope for Tomorrow



**CHRIST FIRST**  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**For more info or to purchase tickets: [christfirst.ca](http://christfirst.ca)**



# On Being Church in the 21st Century

## USS Enterprise ("...to boldly go...")

Written By: Mike Giguere

UCC Church, Christ First, Enterprise:  
"Our mission is to boldly go where  
no church has gone before".

I am channeling a little first generation Star Trek for this third installment of my contributions to Joyful Noise. Not long after this issue is published, we shall be having our congregational visioning session. We last had such a session in November of 2019. Many bold ideas ensued and then... we were sidelined with a pandemic.



With the pandemic in our rearview mirror, and with many lessons learned about being church and attending church, through the ordeal, where shall we boldly go? What is our mission, as a Christian faith group? How do we live the example set by Jesus? How do we BE Jesus? Jesus had a singular focus in his ministry. To love and serve others. His love was inclusive. He loved with dignity. He loved generously. He was not bound by doctrine. He was not bound by dogma. He was not bound by institution. He was not bound by fear or timidity. He was bold. He was daring. He moved outside his comfort zone.

We have the resources to make a big difference in our community. There are needs and they are compounding. We see the heart-wrenching increase in demand at The Compass. There is surging demand to shelter persons of no fixed address. We intend to do this again at 151 Lakeshore this coming winter. (Watch for developments of "Agape Place Peel Inc" a new Not-for-Profit [NFP] intended to take on the work of this ministry). We see burgeoning demand for support for aid agencies hosted by Victoria's Community Network Ministry at 151 Lakeshore.

continued...





## On Being Church in the 21st Century continued

What can we do to make a sustainable difference in the lives of the vulnerable in our midst? What will be our Christian legacy, in the purest form of the Christian ethos?

Let's be prepared to "BOLDLY GO" as we gear up for our visioning session. Let us be unfettered from our comfort zone.

In closing I leave you with the following link. There is a compelling talk by Rev. Karen Orlandi at 1:33:00 to 1:49:00. Please [click here](#), or scan the QR code. ✝



## Vision Session October 1, 2023

**At the workshop we will:**

- Review the results of our 2019 visioning session
- Refresh and refocus our priorities for the future

**More details to come ...**





# NOWW "Coronation Afternoon Tea"

Written by: Marg Shaver

The world was waiting.

Charles was waiting.

Charles was to be crowned King Charles III.

And as we grabbed our coffee and perused our Saturday morning Globe and Mail on that 'Coronation Saturday, May 6, with CBC's coverage in the background, we glimpsed our own MaryEllen Richards on the front page, looking right back at us!

She and her friend Anne, were decked out in red and white Canadian flags, photographed at their vantage point on The Mall in London, England where they had slept out, made new friends, dodged the rain and waited for the parade to pass by, cameras in hand.

On Wednesday afternoon, May 24, afternoon tea was enjoyed by members of UCW's NOWW Unit, hats and gloves 'optional'. MaryEllen regaled all in the Merigold Room with a 'slide show' and full details of her most memorable and emotional experience. Her photographs were an improvement on those of CBC as

she was closer to every horse, every horn and drum, every carriage and every Canadian bearskin busby that marched past following the coronation.

And on that afternoon, we all lived vicariously through MaryEllen's adventure, scones and clotted cream were served and a fine and regal time was enjoyed by all. †

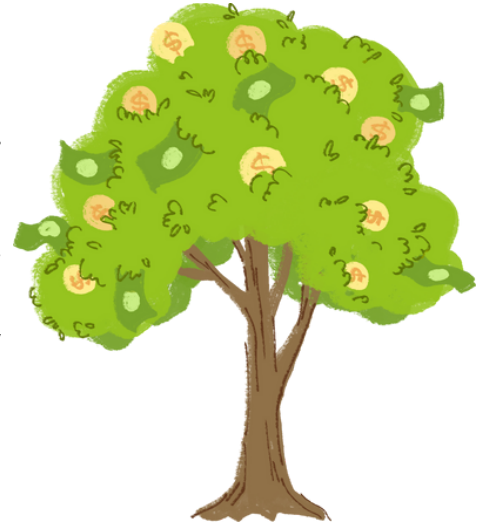




## Toonie Tree

### Coming to the Narthex: October 2023

Last October, Christ First raised \$268.50 through the Toonie Tree fundraiser. All proceeds go to the Bighead River Foodgrains Project to help bring hunger relief to people around the world who just don't have enough to eat. Beginning Sunday October 1, you will notice the Toonie Tree back up in the Narthex. Donations can be accepted by dropping your change into the Toonie Tree, picking up a Toonie Tree envelope or by sending an etransfer. Donations are eligible for the government 4:1 match. The Christian Community Outreach Committee would like to thank you all in advance for your contributions to those in need. †



## Outreach Update

Written By: Victoria Keane

Last Spring, our friends at Clarkson Community Church put out a call for help in funding their SAGA summer camp program, as they didn't receive their summer student grants this year. Our Outreach Committee sprung into action, initiating a "pick-up-the-tab" fundraiser to support this cause. Christ First members, as well as many from our community, showed overwhelming support, and Clarkson Community Church was able to fully fund their summer camp programming, allowing many local kids the chance to experience camp who otherwise might not have been able to!

Our Outreach team continued to work hard during the summer, supporting The Compass at their weekly Thursday BBQ, as well as their Back to School Supply Drive.



And for all of our knitters, our Chase the Chill initiative will be looking for donations soon of hats and scarves, so please start knitting! Over the last few years, due to the pandemic, and the changing landscape of our local community, Chase the Chill has evolved our process for getting scarves to those who need them. Scarves will no longer be hung up around the neighbourhood, rather, they will be distributed directly to our local schools and food banks, so they can end up in the hands of those who need them the most. †







Joyful Noise

September 2023

# CAMP PHOTO RECAP



Music Camp July 3 - 7, 2023

VBS Camp August 8 - 11, 2023





Joyful Noise

September 2023

# PHOTO RECAP







## Getting to Know Norwegian Cousins

Written By: Paul and Leslie Fagan



The Fagans had a unique opportunity last June to meet for the first time a first cousin of Paul's who lives in Norway. Alastair contacted Paul during Covid when he discovered him through a link with Paul's brother-in-law on Facebook. Long story short, the Fagans travelled to Norway as part of a PROBUS trip and stayed with the family for a week before the cruise, getting to know them. This summer. Alastair and family made the trip to North America to meet the rest of Paul's family in the US. The visit concluded with promises to visit again, either in Norway or Canada.†

## Singing in Spain and Portugal

Written By: Sue and Dave Gittings

Sue and Dave Gittings were among a group of 60 people from the Mississauga Festival Choir to travel to Portugal and Spain in late June. The choir put on five concerts in both countries featuring many Canadian songs and composers as well as some music in the local languages of Portuguese and Spanish. Performances took place in historic cathedrals which of course did not have air conditioning to buffer the heat wave of 45 degrees but the show went on! It was a wonderful experience and the choir was well received wherever they went. The choir is led by David Ambrose, son of Rev. Dr. John Ambrose. John and his wife Catharine were also on the trip and are pictured here dining with Sue and Dave. †



Above is the group in Seville, Spain



Above Sue and Dave dine with John and Catherine Ambrose.

# FAMILY *Zone*

Written By: Victoria Keane



The halls are alive, with the sound of CAMPERS! While many enjoyed vacation and time off over the summer, both of our church buildings were bustling with children all summer long. We gladly welcomed PedalHeads, Cooksmart, and STEM camps to our buildings, and we also hosted two very successful camps ourselves!

In July, we ran our annual Music Camp. Campers enjoyed playing on kazoos, recorders, drums, boomwhackers, and explored many different musical activities throughout the week. On our last day of camp, we hosted a mini-concert, to show off to our friends and family all the hard work we put in during the week. Then in August, we hosted our VBS camp. For one week, we explored the themes of Compassion - how can we show compassion for our neighbours, our world, and for ourselves??

For the amount of time and preparation and bodies that it takes to bring our camps to life, it never ceases to amaze me how wonderful these weeks are. I am so grateful for the chance to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, share stories and teach new skills.

And I am grateful for the village of people who come together to support our children during these camps. To staff Allison, Lauren, and Emily, and volunteers Nancy, Joan, Sandra, and Jane; thank you for all the care and support you provide to our youngest friends!

As we look toward the fall, we are glad to get our Sunday School up and running again! After a quiet summer, our Sunday School class will begin meeting again each week during our 9:02 Contemporary Service. As mentioned before, it takes a village! So if you have any interest in joining our Sunday School leadership team, please reach out. I am also very excited to share that we will be teaming up with Applewood United this year to host a shared Youth Group! On alternating Thursdays, both Applewood and Christ First will take turns hosting teens in grades 7-12. With lots of hopes and big ideas, stay tuned for the children, youth and family events that will unfold as the weeks go on! ✝







# The Journey Through The Season

Written By: Susan Mack

Dear God

We are on a journey this is our time.

Summer was here,

Fall, winter are coming and you are near.

We had our barbeque on the  
Lawn it was lovely because of you.

Silence is the days that come and go  
We are on a journey in a new beginning.

We are blessed as we go into another  
Season. Fall, winter Christmas  
come as we move forward with  
a blessing and joy for it's

our journey now.

Bless you

Bless you

God for our journey. ✝

## Walden Circle

Retirement Community *by Signature*

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# We Acknowledge ...

## Part 2

Written By: Charles Black

In the May 27 issue of Joyful Noise we began to explore some of the relationships between the First Nation people and the territory where we reside, our community and our church, supplementing the Land Acknowledgement which is a regular part of our services.

By 1800 the Mississaugas community had established a thriving village of wigwams near the mouth of the "river of Credit" and traded regularly with European fur traders; first the French and then the English. Consistent with their nomadic

lifestyle there was considerable coming and going in the village; they respected the land and the resources it provided but approached it on a communal, custodial basis, not as individual owners.

For many decades the Europeans regarded the area as a resource for the fur trade and made no attempt to settle it. The first survey in 1793 designated a huge tract (the Mississauga Tract) for the use of the Mississaugas, stretching from the Etobicoke Creek to Burlington Bay and including all of Halton County, most of Peel, and parts of Wentworth and Dufferin. In the first treaty in 1805, the Mississaugas sold about 75,000 acres along the lakeshore south of Eglinton Avenue, retaining a corridor of one mile on each side of the Credit. A few European settlers arrived by 1810, but records from 1809 indicate there were only 185 Europeans in Toronto Township, with only 28 families south of Dundas between Burlington and the Credit. Settlement pressure was increasing rapidly, however, and in a second treaty in 1818, the Mississaugas ceded the balance of the Mississauga Tract, including the one mile corridor on both banks of the Credit.

Along with the settlers, the Methodist Church began to spread into Upper

*continued...*



Photo of Peter Jones, taken August 4, 1845. Credit: Wikipedia



## We Acknowledge ...

### Part 2, page 2

Canada from the United States in the early 1800s. Circuit riders or saddlebag preachers began to serve both the wigwam village at the Credit and the small but growing number of settlers in both Port Credit and Clarkson. In the early 1820s, three remarkable individuals with vibrant Methodist faith arrived in the Credit community – Peter and John Jones and Egerton Ryerson.

Peter and John were the oldest of 10 children of Augustus Jones, a Welsh surveyor, and Tuhbenahneequay, a daughter of the Mississauga chief. Raised in a Christian home among the Mississauga band at the Grand River, they attended school in their teens (English, math, religion) as well as becoming skilled hunters, fishermen and canoeists. Both avidly embraced the Methodist faith as young adults, pledging their lives to God and the betterment of their people, and were sent as missionaries to the Credit community, Peter as a preacher, John as a teacher. Peter began preaching to the Mississaugas in their own language, as well as to the homesteaders scattered along the lakeshore. He translated the hymns and Scriptures into Chippewa and led the construction of a bark chapel in April, 1826 in the village of the Mississaugas (Mississauga's first church, on the site of today's Mississauga Golf Club). He was also an eloquent advocate for native land rights, and travelled widely, including to England, in that quest. In October, 1828 he was appointed a Travelling Missionary for the Methodist district stretching from the Credit to Ancaster, and there is a record of him visiting the Merigold family and leading worship at the meeting house which had been built in 1826 on Clarkson Road South. Wherever he travelled he always kept in touch with the Credit community.

John taught the children in the Credit community to read and write, with as many as 40 students in classes in geography, English, grammar and religion. He also taught the adults to clear the land and cultivate crops such as wheat, oats, corn, onions, beets, carrots and pumpkins. At one time 500 acres were cleared and cultivated, and under his guidance the village also raised cows, horses, oxen and hogs. He also worked closely with his brother and the community on religious activities.

Egerton Ryerson was sent to the area as a saddle bag preacher at age 22, the beginning of an outstanding career as a preacher and educator, and worked

[continued...](#)



# We Acknowledge ...

## Part 2, page 3

closely with Peter and John Jones in both preaching and teaching activities. He immediately identified the need for a larger building to serve as both a chapel and a schoolroom, and undertook that project with the eager participation of the Mississaugas who, he noted, contributed greatly with both fundraising and labour. During this time the government decided to build 30 log homes in the village, and Peter, John and Egerton oversaw this project as well.

After 1830 there was a steady influx of new British immigrants and Loyalists who had earlier moved to New Brunswick or Eastern Ontario after the American Revolution. By 1838 a decision was made to build a larger church and the property at 151 Lakeshore W. was acquired. It is interesting to note that 3 of the 5 Trustees signing the deed were Mississaugas. They also dug out the foundation and assisted in the construction of the new church, and Peter Jones records rafting logs and lumber down the Credit for the construction. This building still exists, having been moved in the 1890s to Peter and Port Streets where it forms part of the Masonic Temple.

Many changes took place in the village by the "river of Credit" during the first half of the 19th century, with leadership from outstanding individuals like Peter Jones, John Jones and Egerton Ryerson. However, the steadily intensifying pressure for ownership of arable land by new settlers conflicted so greatly with the nomadic lifestyle of the Mississaugas that by 1847 the last of the indigenous people were forced to leave their homes, their church, their family graves, and their crops.

Let us always acknowledge their contributions to our community and to our church.✝

Recognizing that "We Acknowledge" discusses culturally sensitive topics, there are links to the Wikipedia pages of two terms that may not be familiar to Joyful Noise readers. If you are reading a paper copy, you can scan the QR Code here to learn more.



The above QR Code is for "Wigwam"



The above QR Code is for "Circuit Rider"



# Kindness Makes the World Go Round

Written By: John Anderson

March 11, 1941 was my future mother-in-law's 30th birthday. A date she never forgot. That night was the start of the Clydebanks blitz, when waves of bombers came over night after night to destroy the town and the shipyards on the river Clyde. At the end of the week there was hardly a house left standing, including my home, and almost 35,000 refugees were on the road to find another place to live.

For miles around, villages opened their doors to the refugees and gave them food and shelter. My mother and father carried me over the Old Kilpatrick Hills to Strathblane where a very kind lady fed us and let us sleep for a few nights in her bungalow. From there we travelled by bus to a town south of Glasgow called Lesmahagow where some coal miners had offered their homes to refugees. An uncle finally found a farmhouse nearby which we could rent, and our families banded together to live there until the end of the war. Families all saved and settled, thanks to the kindness of strangers.



**Clydebanks, daylight  
March 12, 1941**

Seventy years later, the tragedy of 9/11 happened, and within hours the airspace over North America was closed. Flights from Europe had nowhere to go except Gander in Newfoundland and 38 airliners landed there with close to 7,000 people on board. The people of Gander were a beacon of kindness to the stranded travelers. They fed and welcomed them into their homes and Newfoundlanders became famous globally for their warmth and generosity. Thanks to the kindness of strangers, life was made bearable for the stranded passengers until they could continue on their journey.

How blessed we are at Christ First not having to rely on the kindness of strangers, but rather able to rely on the kindness of friends here at the church. The mission of Congregational Support is to look after the welfare of the congregation. Led by Rev. Heather, more than 30 friendly volunteers are there to help as the need arises. From spiritual support or driving seniors to church or delivering soup to someone who is ill, they keep in touch with phone calls, emails, cards and delivering flowers. We are indeed blessed as a congregation in Christ First with friendly help available to everyone. ✝





# The Ecumenism of Service

Written By: Shawn Bausch

The ecumenical challenge is this: to reach out to other Christians, recognize what we have in common, and then to celebrate those things together. You may recall from the July 30 service at St. Stephen's on-the-Hill that ecumenism is the principle of promoting unity among the Christian churches.



World Council of Churches logo

Christian service is one of the two main ways in which Christian churches have been collaborating for the past 150 years. Since 1910, this has been going on among the Protestant denominations. Since 1948, it has been a cornerstone of the work of the World Council of Churches of which the United Church of Canada is a founding member. Since 1965, the Catholic church became officially engaged in this project as well. And since 1925, Christian service was formally identified as a primary unifying force, bringing the various Christian faiths together.

At Christ First today, we call this "the Life and Work of the Congregation". In 1925, the Protestant movement called "Life and Work" launched a global campaign to bring the faithful of all denominations together in service. Millions of people, including Protestants and Orthodox Christians, saw the immense value in the practical cooperation of separated churches in the moral, ethical, and social application of Christian faith in the world. They stressed the relation of the Christian faith to society.

The principle of relationship which formal ecumenical activity embraces when forming relationships with other churches is simple: each community is valid. Each community has value to SOMEONE. It is part of someone's spiritual being – it lifts them up. Each community needs to be visibly respected. Not only respected, but supported.

We are all connected in some way. We live in a wider world, not in isolation. Successful endeavors in faith elsewhere in the world are all actions which have the potential to bring people together. How many communities of how many different faiths supported Syrian refugees together? How many faiths [continued...](#)



# The Ecumenism of Service continued

supported the boat people? Indigenous justice? Victims of fire, flood, earthquakes, around the world?

The challenge is not to make us all one. It is to recognize that we already are all one. What makes any one of us stronger makes all of us stronger.

Lead with charity. Put charity first. This is what we are taught. This is why it was said to the bishops at the Second Vatican Council "the thresholds of ecumenism can only be crossed on one's knees". We cannot gather together in charity when we are focused on ourselves. We cannot 'do for' others when we are thinking of ourselves. To meaningfully 'do for others', we must meet people where they are – meet them on their terms.

The modern ecumenical approach advises us that all parties to a dialogue bring value. Each has made a "deposit of faith" in the world through their own thoughts and actions. And today, all of these faiths officially join together in acts of service worldwide, through the World Council of Churches, through organizations of the Catholic church, through the United Nations, and many other organizations.

We are called to be church. We are called to serve others. An active outward engagement makes us more alive and more Christian. Strength through service.✝

The United Church works with approximately 85 partners in God's mission worldwide. You can read about them by [clicking here](#), or scanning this QR Code:



The United Church also has four formal agreements with other denominations, with which we are in full communion. The United Church is also in dialogue with other denominations worldwide. [Click here](#) for more information, or scan the QR Code to the left.



World Council of Churches 70th Anniversary (2018) – Joint Worship, worldwide leaders of several churches



Paul VI and Patriarch Anathanagoras: reconciliation (Jerusalem, 1964)



Patriarch Anathanagoras' gift to Paul VI – Icon of St. Peter and St. Andrew.

The first pope since the 9th century to visit the East. This meeting led to the rescission of the mutual excommunications between Catholics and Orthodox from the year 1054.



## Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Charities

Information to further the article on pages 21 and 22

**Habitat for Humanity:** building homes for those who can't afford them

**Faith in the City (Toronto):** building healthier neighborhoods

**Youth 4 Peace:** An interfaith organization striving for peace in several warzones.

Started by youth, run by youth.

**Churches Together in England (CTE):** 50 churches from different traditions, working locally, regionally, and nationally, sometimes together in partnership with other Not-for-Profits and more than 70 charities.

**World Vision:** supporting children who are victims of poverty or war

**Act Alliance (Action by Churches Together):** humanitarian relief, climate and social justice, peace and security in over 120 countries

**Christian Children's Fund:** providing relief, development, and care for children worldwide ✝

## *South Mississauga* NONPROFIT NETWORKING

### RESILIENCE AND SELF-CARE

Enjoy a complimentary breakfast and network with local nonprofit leaders. Workshop courtesy of:



Monday  
September 25th



9am-10am  
Doors at 8:45am



151 Lakeshore Rd. W  
Mississauga

CL&F Inspired  
Leadership



RSVP: [victoriakeane@christfirst.ca](mailto:victoriakeane@christfirst.ca)

# Nonprofit Networking

It is hard to believe that we are just rounding the one-year anniversary of the launch of our latest outreach initiative – our South Mississauga Nonprofit Networking. Since last fall, we have hosted six breakfast events where local nonprofit leaders have come together to meet other nonprofit staff and volunteers, learn about local initiatives, and grow in their work. A rotating roster of approximately 60 people have attended these events so far, and multiple ideas and partnerships have been sparked around these tables. We are excited to host our next event on Monday, September 25th, where we will welcome a speaker from CL&F Inspired Leadership who will be running a workshop on Resilience and Self-Care for nonprofit volunteers and leaders. New attendees and volunteers are always welcome!

The seed funding for this initiative comes to us through the Embracing the Spirit Grants, and as such, we work closely with staff at EDGE and other grant recipients to help inspire and grow our ideas. Recently, Victoria Keane took part in an EDGEy conversation, hosted by EDGE staff Bronwyn Corlett, where she shared all that has gone into and come out of this initiative so far – please check it out!



## EDGEy Conversations

Community Engagement at Christ First



### A Video Interview With Victoria

To view the video of Victoria and Bronwyn's conversation, [click here](#) for a link to the video, or scan the QR Code above.

Joyful Noise



September 2023



# Christ First Register

May 13, 2023 through August 16, 2023

As is true for any family, this chosen bond we call a church is forever changing in who we see and know. Missing those who have left before us in death, and welcoming those who have just started their journey here, we give great thanks to God for the gift, the honour, to be in this life, together.

## Baptisms

June 11, 2023 ~ Pearl-Ann Asha  
Hamilton Butler Canaran

June 11, 2023 ~ Aven James  
Rodriguez-Pena

## Deaths

May 28, 2023 ~ May Lynch

June 15, 2023 ~ Primula Lancett

June 25, 2023 ~ Kathleen Narin

August 16, 2023 ~ Rudy Skarecky

## Weddings

June 24, 2023 ~ Nicole Renaud &  
Vincent Romani

July 22, 2023 ~ Jennifer Brodie &  
Michael Crosgrey

*"In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
we are not alone.*

*Thanks be to God."*



## People who make Joyful Noise Possible

Thank you to all the contributors who make Joyful Noise possible!

Mary Dowding-Paré has taken on the role of editor for the past two issues.

Staff members Victoria Keane and Ashley Fanourgiakis have been a driving force in getting Joyful Noise into the hands of all of you.

If you would like to write an article, place an ad, or be involved in the production of Joyful Noise, please contact Ashley in the office.



**CHRISTFIRST**  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

|                                    |                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mailing Address & Clarkson Campus: | 1700 Mazo Crescent<br>Mississauga, ON L5J 1Y1                    |
| Port Credit Campus:                | 151 Lakeshore Rd. W<br>Mississauga ON L5H 1G3                    |
| Website:                           | <a href="http://www.christfirst.ca">www.christfirst.ca</a>       |
| Phone Number:                      | 905-822-9834                                                     |
| Email:                             | <a href="mailto:office@christfirst.ca">office@christfirst.ca</a> |