

“Living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world.”

Paul's Ponderings

It was a simple Sunday afternoon walk. The Senior's Group of Mosque of Mercy on Hunt Club Road invited folks from Riverside United to join together for a walk. This came about from a Mission Forward Visit that we made to Mosque a few years ago and it's implementation was delayed by busy schedules and COVID - but on Sept 26th it happened. About 16 of us went for a walk on the pathways and sidewalks near the Mosque. We plan to do it again and hopefully again. It was expressed that we don't need to complicate it; let's keep it simple and walk together.

Over the past few months another Mission Forward idea is starting to take root as a few of us in the neighbourhood have begun to meet to talk about the needs of seniors and how to help folks to stay in their own homes. Some ideas are emerging, but what I am noticing is the energy being generated as ideas are shared and connections nurtured.

We are in the season of autumn - the season of harvest. Through this pandemic time, there have been lots of seeds and ideas that have been laying dormant. I wonder what will find growth as we move forward?

The Thexton Garden has entered its fall cycle and the yield is now reduced to root crops and potatoes. We had an excellent season with a bounty of fresh vegetables to donate to the Food Bank. Look at John Gingerich's Facebook photos to see what we mean. The mounds of chard, beets, carrots, onions, tomatoes and potatoes mimicked an artist's palette.

Our one big challenge was with the Japanese beetle. We lost! They turned our bean leaves into lace and reduced our bean harvest to zero

Thanks to all the volunteer waterers who kept the garden thriving during a dry summer.

John Gingerich, Ken Smith, John Dixon

Worship - In-Person - October 17th - 10:30am

After 19 months of RUC worship including pre-recorded YouTube videos and Sunday morning Zoom gatherings, we are working toward inviting folks back into the sanctuary on October 17th. Council has agreed that worship will begin at 10:30am.

In this pandemic time, public health regulations guide our way and so at this time we will gather with the following public health measures in place for those who gather in person:

- self assessment of symptoms (if you are not feeling well, we ask that you stay home)
- screening upon entry and collecting contact information
- seating will be set up to maintain physical distancing (limited to 70 persons)
- masks are to be worn
- hand sanitation expected
- requirement of full vaccination for all those eligible to be vaccinated (the proof will only need to be shown once); children under 12 and those with medical exemptions are exempt from this requirement
- no singing or coffee hour

As public health measures change, our practices will be evaluated.

The worship service will be available by live-stream - and more details will follow about how to connect with it. We know that there are a variety of personal choices about vaccination and in person worship attendance.

We trust that we will continue to find ways to care for one another as we discern our way through these pandemic times.

Public Health Guidelines

The Ontario regulations that came into effect on September 22nd that require proof of full vaccination for those over 12 apply to gatherings, meetings and other events held at the church. There is an exemption for a worship service, but Riverside Council decided to have consistent rules and practices for all RUC events. Information will be shared with rental and user groups with the expectation that they will follow the public health regulations.



Here are some recent stories associated with activities of the RUC Amnesty International Group.

HONDURAS: Edwin Espinal, a long-time social activist, was arrested in January 2018, denied bail, imprisoned without trial or due process, sent to a military-run, high security jail for violent criminals for 19 months, amid death threats and without adequate food or drinking water. Edwin's wife, human rights defender Karen Spring of Elmvale, Ontario, valiantly began campaigning for his release. After an outcry by Amnesty International, he was freed on bail. Now, he faces a trial on Monday, September 13 - and the dangerous prospect of being thrown back into jail. We have been asked to write in his defense.

BELARUS: Human Rights defenders, Ales Bialiatski, Valyantsin Stefanovich and Uladzimir Labkovich remain in pretrial detention and face trumped up charges in retaliation for their human rights work. Their prosecution is part of the systemic crackdown of civil society and human rights activists - ongoing since the post-election protests of August 2020.

EGYPT: Twelve death row prisoners, convicted and sentenced to death for their involvement in protests related to the ouster of former president Mohamed Morsi from power in July 2013 are at imminent risk of execution. AI opposes capital punishment. We have written opposing the sentence.

RUSSIA: Mikhail Iosilevich is being targeted for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association. He is accused of cooperating with an "undesirable" organization, a "crime" punishable by up to six years' imprisonment. We have written asking that charges against him be dropped and that he be immediately released.

GOOD NEWS: Write for Rights 2020 efforts have paid off. Four prisoners of conscience have been freed, including journalist Khaled Drareni in Algeria, satirical poet Paing Phyto Min in Myanmar, Nassima al-Sada in Saudi Arabia and Germain Rukuki in Burundi. All have been released from prison! Thanks to those who wrote on their behalf, and on behalf of all our people.

The Ottawa Organic Farmer's Market continues to operate every Saturday from 10am-12pm. There is quite a bit of traffic and all Health restrictions are followed. They even help us advertise our Mini Bazaar events.



Save all Wilson's Independent Grocer (Alta Vista at Bank) receipts and those of your friends and good neighbours. For every \$100.00 of purchases the Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC) receives \$1.00.



2022 UCC Calendars

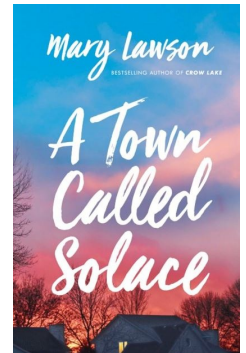


I will be putting in an order along with a few other churches to get a good price, please let me know if you will want a 2022 United Church calendar. Thank you Louise Madaire



A small crew has been working at producing apple pies. M&M boxes (or equivalent) are needed to help separate the pies in the freezer.

Book Discussion Group - Next Book is A Town Called Solace by Mary Lawson. The discussion will be held on Sunday, Nov 14th at 7pm on Zoom.





The Christmas Bazaar is changing

Instead of one big Christmas Bazaar, as in pre-COVID days, or tables outside in the cold, as we tried last

year, we are going to run two mini-bazaars over the fall. We will have the first one on October 9th (the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend) and the second one on November 13th (the Saturday after Remembrance Day, both from 10am - 1pm. Rather than using the sanctuary, we will be setting up in rooms 4 and 6.

We will have for sale apple pies and other baking; jams, jellies and preserves; knitting and quilts; china; and jewelry.

As in previous bazaars, we are asking for donations of your time and your baking or preserving talents to make this event a success.

- If you have jellies, jams or preserves to contribute, please bring them to the church. If you would prefer having your contributions picked up, please let Peg Brandon know

(peg_brandon@hotmail.com or 613 739-7569)

- If you want to contribute any kind of baking, please package it for sale and drop it off at the church the afternoon before the sale (October 8th or November 12th)

- If you would be willing to help at the bazaar (setting up, taking down or selling), please let Peg Brandon or Wendy Graham know.

Thanks for your help, and we look forward to seeing how this experiment works out.

Peg Brandon, Chair Christmas Bazaar Committee.

Attic Treasures will be available in Room 5

Other Riverside News:

* Patricia Power is continuing as a student minister with us, as she participates in the 2nd year of the Atlantic School of Theology distance education ordination program.

* The Lay Supervision Committee that will be working with Patricia are: Henry Andrews, Jonathan Bathurst, Wendy Graham, Marion Kelloway and Kira Malchy.

* "The Meeting House" has signed an 11 month lease to use the building for worship and programs on Sunday afternoons, along with a couple of times during the week. Their first service will be October 3rd.

* Paulette Young who has been the Director of the Riverside Park Nursery School for a number of years is leaving to become the Director of the Mooney's Bay Childcare Centre on Springland Dr. We welcome Benoit Gauthier as the new Director of RPNS.

* The contract for the Audio-Visual upgrade in the sanctuary has been signed. We hope this work will be completed by the end of the year. The work on the physical changes to the chancel platform will be a second phase as we are still seeking a contractor.

* Louise Madaire will be on medical leave for 2-4 weeks beginning after Thanksgiving. The Ministry & Personnel Committee is working on office coverage arrangements.

Nourishing Our Faith

Learning Opportunity: Indigenous Canada is a twelve-session online course through the University of Alberta that offers teaching to better understand the worldview of Indigenous peoples of Canada. The goals are to learn about Indigenous concepts of gender, and the traditional roles and responsibilities, and to explore the key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical & critical view. Each part of the course is about 2-2.5 hours of learning.

On Tuesdays over the six weeks before Advent (19th October, 2nd and 16th November, and again in Epiphany (11th and 25th January, and 8th February) Patricia Power proposes to host a discussion on zoom to talk about what we have learned over the two week period, assuming that people will have taken a couple of sessions as preparation. The structure would be along the lines of what our learnings mean for the United Church, for Riverside United, and for us personally, although that is not set in stone and as a group we can discuss how else we would prefer to structure our conversations.

In the meantime, those who are interested can look at the U of Alberta link:

https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada?utm_source=gg&utm_medium=sem&campaign_id=13440968592&utm_campaign=12-Indigenous-Canada-Alberta-CA&utm_content=12-Indigenous-Canada-Alberta-CA&adgroupid=130160700424&device=c&keyword=indigenous%20canada%20university%20of%20alberta&matchtype=b&network=g&devicemodel=&adpostion=&creativeid=526589477720&hide_mobile_promo&clid=Cj0KCQjwkbuKBhDRARIsAALysV6rqVMxxIvt-G0mVsg6ZZLvfyMv67kJ2n-3ZQTGY9GNzKbWzV5pgsaArZNEALw_wcB

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Patricia Power at powermgpa@gmail.com.

Calendar of Events - October 2021

Date	Details: Time	Event
Oct 03	11:00 Sunday Worship on line	Worldwide Communion Sunday. The Zoom Gathering will be at 11am as we will our partner congregation in Jamaica to join us for this communion service
Oct 09	10:00 am - 1pm	Mini - Bazaar
Oct 10	10:30 AM	Zoom Gathering
Oct 17	10:30 AM	Return to in person service - The worship service will also be available by live-stream
Oct 24	10:30 AM	Hybrid in person service and live stream
Oct 24	Virtual Launch in the evening	Jamaica Night - Working Together for a Better Tomorrow
Oct 31	10:30 AM	Hybrid in person service and live stream

Financial Update: as of August 31, 2021

Operational (not including the building)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Income	115,775*	108,548
Expenses	<u>131,981</u>	<u>124,099</u>
Surplus/Deficit	- 16,206	- 15,551
CEWS received	6,939	15,209

* This does not include the \$9660 received for the capital fund.

CEWS = Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

At the end of August, the building account had a balance of approx. \$15,000



JAMAICA NIGHT - VIRTUAL AGAIN

As a fundraiser for projects we support in Jamaica, our annual Jamaica Night will once again be a virtual presentation available on YouTube. It will be launched on the evening of Sunday October 24th. This Year's theme is **Working Together for a Better Tomorrow**.