

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

A Note from Jessica

As I write this, it is Wednesday Workday, where folk from the congregation are in the sanctuary, washing the walls, quilt rods and more, as we finalize the renovations, prepare to paint, and put the quilt hangings back up. This is my home church; a place where the Holy Spirit is active, moving through the community in worship, in work, and in fellowship. Praise God!

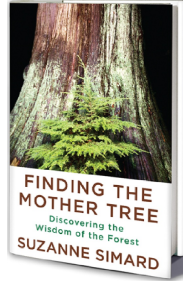
Throughout the summer months while I have been with you as your minister, it has been so good to be in your midst, and to notice the way that God is moving in our community. While for most of this time we were worshipping ‘sideways,’ because of the chancel renovation, and have been in masks, I can tell you that, for me, it feels much the same as it did years ago, when I last worshipped at Riverside with my family. Despite the pandemic and its hold on our city and congregation, the love and sense of community here at Riverside United Church has remained the same. The quiet energy, the love and welcome, the commitment to God; these are the same now as they have always been. Every Sunday I see people who have been attending for decades, and every Sunday I see someone new show up. This is a sign that the Holy Spirit is alive and active!

This will be my one and only newsletter “pondering,” as Paul will be back in a few weeks, rested and ready to be in the pulpit again. Thank you, everyone, for welcoming me as your minister, and welcoming my whole family back as one of you. These past few months have gone by quickly, full of music and prayer and love for God and one another. Blessings upon each one of you as we move into the fall season.

Yours in Earth community, Jessica

Riverside United is on the [Regional Council Prayer Cycles](#) - for Sunday Nov 13th this is sent out to all United Churches we get one Sunday every cycle. If you would like to check it out <https://www.prayercycles.ca/easternontariooutaouais>

Discussion Group Novel - Sun. Sept. 18th - *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard. Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest - From the world's leading forest ecologist who forever changed how people view trees and their connections to one another and to other living things in the forest—a moving, deeply personal journey of discovery. **Discussion will be on zoom at 7:30 PM**



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Although Amnesty's Urgent Action Network has had a summer hiatus, Human Rights violations do not take holidays and we were asked

to participate in the following actions:

1. **Death Penalty: James Coddington** was executed in Oklahoma despite calls to have the sentence commuted to life imprisonment.
2. **Environmental issues in Colombia** involving a federation of artisanal fishers who seek to protect wetlands and rivers in the Magdalena Medio region.
3. **Human Rights defenders in Israel and El Salvador.**
4. **Memory of the victims of the Tienanmen Square** crackdown in China.

We are planning on having our annual Human Rights Day Write-a-thon this year on Human Rights Day - December 10. More information to follow. Mark your calendars.

CELEBRATE RIVERSIDE UNITED'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 30, 2022.

Do you have a special memory that means a great deal to you or has the church had a special meaning for you and your family over the years?

This is an invitation to share those memories with the congregation either in person, in church, on Zoom or provide a recording. It would be perfect if your presentation could be about 2 minutes long. The presentations would then be a part of the October services leading up to our celebration on October 30, 2022. If you would like to take part, please contact either Wendy Graham 613-523-2244 or Wanda Maurais 613-692-4918

Over the past few weeks, the number of families who have visited the Centre has risen dramatically.

The spiraling cost of food for the HEFC Buyer, together with the decrease in regular donations means that resources are presently not as plentiful.

After a two year hiatus, one of the main fund raising events is, thankfully, taking place on **Saturday**

September 17th. The "Step Up and Step Out to Stop Hunger" Walkathon, an easy 4 -5 km walk through the Alta Vista neighbourhood, from 9 am – 12 noon, begins and ends at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 2345 Alta Vista Drive. Refreshments will be provided. Pledge sheets are available, but if you are unable to walk yourself, you can pledge your support by visiting www.hefc.ca For pledge sheets or further information contact Mary Shaw at mbshaw@rogers.com or (613) 733-4600.

Thank you to all who have continued to support the Centre with monetary or food donations. Many thanks to all who have helped with the much appreciated offerings from the Thexton Garden.



Fall Bazaar: This year we are going to hold the RUC Bazaar on Saturday 5 November 2022, from 10-12. We will be holding it in rooms 4, 5 and 6 as we did last year. More information will be coming over the course of the next two

months, but for now we are encouraging those who like to make jams, jellies and preserves for the bazaar to drop them off at the church. Anyone who has jewelry that they would like to contribute to the sale, or knitting or other crafts, can also drop their goods off at the church. If you need someone to pick up your contributions, let the church office know and we will arrange for pickup. We will be asking for baking contributions closer to the date of the Bazaar.

Thank you to everyone who so generously contributes every year. We look forward to another successful Bazaar. Peg Brandon

We're almost there !

As you can see from the church we are almost done with the renovation and installation of audio-visual equipment. We have returned to the front-back orientation for services rather than side-to-side.

On Wednesday, Sep 7, we held a very successful Clean-a-palooza where we washed the walls and windows, added the non-slip tape to the front stairs and prepared the wall hanging rods. The Banners have been re-hung.

We will paint areas at the front of the sanctuary to cover over the old painted sections where we removed some equipment and the wire conduits. We have an issue with the power outlets along the right side wall facing the Cross to resolve and the replacement of the left two hanging lights over the organ and stage area.

That will just leave us with learning how to use our AV system for Sunday services and we will have completely finished the work. We will have an opening ceremony sometime in October at which time we will expose the final secret in the renovation project - don't miss it.

At this time I would like to thank all the members of the congregation who have helped in so many ways for us to progress this work. Through contributions, reviews and comments on designs, support for the key decisions and then incrementally throughout the project, there are just too many folks to thank. But, sincerely, Thank You.

Ken Smith would like you to know that we are beginning to feel the impact of these expenditures in our bottom line and would encourage those who may wish to contribute to return us to a comfortable financial position. These would be most welcome.

I look forward to our opening ceremony.

Richard Williams Chair, Property Committee and Project Manager for the Renovation / AV project.



Our 19th Jamaica Night, Jamaica Night 2022 video will be on YouTube Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 7.00 P.M.

Calendar of Events - September & October 2022

| Date | Details: Time | Event |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Sep 11 th | 10:30 AM Blessing of the students. | Hybrid in person service and live stream |
| | | |
| Sept 17 th | 9:00 to Noon | Book Nook sale on Saturday |
| Sep 18 th | 10:30 AM | Hybrid in person service and live stream |
| Sep 18 th | 7:30 PM Discussion Group Novel | On Zoom - Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard |
| Sep 25 th | 10:30 AM | Hybrid in person service and live stream Worship Gathering the Sunday closest to Orange Shirt Day |
| Sep 30 th | ORANGE SHIRT DAY | A Day to Remember the Painful Legacy of Residential Schools |
| Oct 2 nd | | |
| Oct 9 th | 10:30 AM | Hybrid in person service and live stream |
| Oct 10 th | Office Closed | Thanksgiving Monday |
| Oct 16 th | 10:30 AM | Hybrid in person service and live stream |
| Oct 23 rd | 10:30 AM | Hybrid in person service and live stream |
| Oct 23 rd | 7.00 P.M. | Jamaica Night 2022 video will be on You Tube |
| | | |

Chancel Renovation Funding

As this project nears completion we say thanks to everyone for supporting this work.

There have been changes and additions to the project and the final cost will be higher than initially estimated.

Donations will be gratefully received. If anyone wishes to discuss this further please contact Ken Smith, Richard Williams or the office ruc@rogers.com