

## The Reverend's Reflection

The great mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead once observed,

"ideas won't keep, something must be done about them."

For several years now, Humber Valley United Church has had noble and creative ideas about transformation and progress. Conversations in the narthex, congregational meetings, and committee agendas are where aspirations for the future have conspired to bring our church to this moment.

Amidst COVID-19, HVUC has thrived with on-line worship, countless Zoom activities, Daily Bread, KIT, UCW, Fred Torrie lunches, Lenten dinners, virtual concerts and so much more. Our small community of faith has demonstrated a keen ability to adjust and pivot when it matters most.

This brings me so much hope for our future.

Our future won't be forged in ideas and good intentions alone, it awaits us in our relentless doing of creativity, justice, relevancy, inclusion and adventure. Our future waits not in the idea of transformation or a past moment of transformation, but in the continuous process of transforming and being transformed with and for our ever-transforming world.

Humber Valley United Church, thank you for your ideas of progress and thank you for inviting me to join you in doing something about them. Let the adventure continue!

*Rev. Trevor*

### Covenanting

The covenanting service celebrating the covenant between Rev. Trevor Brisbin, Humber Valley United Church and Shining Waters Regional Council will take place on Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m.

The guest preacher will be Rev. Anne Hines. Marg Walker will represent the Region.  
**Details to follow.**

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### OF NOTE

*We're getting new electronic outside signs in April.*

*Are you filling out your Lenten Gratitude sheet?*

*Be sure to join in on Lobby Talk every Sunday after service. An email invitation to the Zoom is sent every Sunday morning.*

*There's an Event Calendar on our website that lets you know what's happening.*

*This year in Lent we are giving back to local restaurants. Order meals and join in a Virtual Dinner. Details on p. 18-19.*

For the past couple of months worship services at Humber Valley United Church have included a Land Acknowledgement statement. The practice of beginning a public event with such a statement has been adopted at many public events over the last few years.

The land around us has been lived in for a couple of thousand years and we immigrants, recent arrivals, have "appropriated" land that long was home to North American native people.

Ryerson University's land acknowledgement adopts the concept of southern Ontario and the Great Lakes as a bowl or dish that we all eat out of with one spoon:

"The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect."

The "Dish", or sometimes it is called the "Bowl", represents what is now southern Ontario, from the Great Lakes to Quebec and from Lake Simcoe into the United States. \*We all eat out of the Dish, all of us that share this territory, with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty, which includes taking care of the land and the creatures we share it with. Importantly, there are no knives at the table, representing that we must keep the peace. The dish is graphically represented by the wampum pictured above.

This was a treaty made between the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee after the French and Indian War. Newcomers were then incorporated into it over the years, notably in 1764 with The Royal Proclamation/The Treaty of Niagara."

Source: [Land Acknowledgement, Ryerson University](#)

Indigenous people have left their mark on Toronto, especially along its many rivers and streams. One of the best places to go to understand this is Etienne Brule Park along the Humber River. The salmon have been running upstream in the Humber and providing food for centuries. In the summer a representative group plants a bed of the three main crops: corn, beans and squash. And the trusses that support the Bloor Street bridge over the Humber have been painted with beautiful murals. The graphic artist who created them, in collaboration with Indigenous artists, is Mary Ellen McNaught's son, Matt. It is worth a walk south of the Old Mill on the west side of the Humber to see them.



Recently the lack of clean water on First Nations settlements has been in the news. It is hard to believe that some of these advisories have been in place for a couple of decades — in a province that abounds in freshwater lakes and streams. Through our Outreach we have given to [Water First](#) an organization that empowers Indigenous youth to provide safe drinking water. We pray that, with the support of the federal government and such NGOs, this water issue will be resolved.

This issue of *Connections* is a testament to the energy and spirit of Humber Valley United Church. We have welcomed our new minister, Rev. Trevor and his family and we have continued wonderful programming for our congregation and community.

The theme for this issue is "Life in a Minor Key" and I hope you enjoy the poems, stories and brief essays that were submitted by people in our congregation.

I love to hear from you. Please send me your comments and suggestions.

[Susanne@hyneslegal.ca](mailto:Susanne@hyneslegal.ca)

*Susanne Hynes*

## Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin

We welcome to Humber Valley United Church our new minister/pastor/faith-facilitator, Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin, and his family. Trevor has started his ministry with us during the COVID time so getting to know him is a new and different experience. And he has found alternate effective ways to get to know us. We can't meet in person, so we meet on YouTube, Zoom, Keeping in Touch, and on the phone.

In conversation with him last week, I asked how it feels to preach to an empty sanctuary – to a camera. So different! You just

don't know who is watching. You just don't know how people are reacting. Are they crying, are they laughing, are they touched, are they challenged, are they bored? It is so detached. And yet so full of possibilities. HVUC services are videoed on Fridays. Consequently, the traditional ministerial week is changed and the sermon has to be complete by Friday, not Sunday morning. No Saturday night sleep to find the final insights. And the minister is at home on Sunday – watching the service just like the rest of us – instead of leading from the Chancel and connecting in the Narthex and in Coffee Hour in Steed Hall.

Trevor has found a good way to connect after service: Lobby Talk, a zoom occasion after the Sunday premiere. We can all see each other and chat about the service and the questions Trevor challenges us with. And we have found wonderful connection in the weekly Lenten meals we share – as we support our local restaurants – via Zoom.

Trevor Brisbin comes to us from Mississauga/Oakville via California and the Roncesvalles neighbourhood.

Trevor was always intrigued by the big questions and by the time he was sixteen he knew he would be in ministry. He was raised in a nominal Roman Catholic family attending separate school in Applewood Village in the primary grades. High School was at Lorne Park in Mississauga after his family moved to that community. In the summers, which his family spent in cottage country, he attended Muskoka Woods Camp where he was introduced to an evangelical theology. In high school he participated in bible study (added bonus, cute girls did too). Confirmation of his call came one day in high school when he got into a fight in the hall. Surrounded by a bunch of kids watching the fight, he heard a clear voice saying,

"You can't fight. You're a Christian now."



While he was a student Trevor worked at Chartwell Baptist Church in Oakville as a volunteer and as an intern. After graduating from Tyndale University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Religious Education he began his congregational ministry at Chartwell at the age of 23. For two years he led a Saturday evening service geared to the arts community and later became the Senior Minister, preaching at the 11 am service. Under his leadership his congregation grew and he and his family were an integral part of the church family. It was during his time at Chartwell that he completed his Master of Divinity at the Tyndale Seminary (2010).

But Trevor's faith was evolving. After a number of years it no longer fit as well with his congregation's. It was also during his Chartwell ministry that Rev. Trevor was severely challenged by four surgeries for ulcerative colitis; surgeries which left him temporarily helpless and left him altered. At the age of 31, bedridden, he was given time for reflection and reassessment. He was looking for a more progressive approach to faith, spirituality, and the human reality. He did some work at the Fuller School of Theology in Pasadena, California. His faith-transition was well under-way. Trevor was accepted in a doctoral program at the progressive Claremont School of Theology near Los Angeles. He and Marisol packed the three children and dog, Raffiki, into their car and drove across the continent to a new beginning – in search of a new belonging. Trevor's doctoral thesis, "[Plan B: Toward a New Belongingness](#)" examined his experience with and transition from evangelical Christianity. His thesis-related group work helped provide "a greater understanding of the scope and significance a faith-transition can play in one's life and wellbeing". Trevor moved beyond an evangelical understanding to a forward-looking process theology perspective, where nothing (our relationships with God and with each other) is static and everything is becoming. He earned his Doctor of Ministry in 2017.

While in California Trevor and Marisol got involved in film production and they completed a film, [Saint Judy](#), whose official trailer on YouTube has had more than 200,000 views and can be viewed on Netflix. The family also found time to attend hockey games, following the LA Kings and the Anaheim Ducks – and certainly the Maple Leafs when they came to town.

When they returned to Ontario the Brisbins decided to try a less suburban lifestyle and moved into a house in the Roncesvalles neighbourhood. Trevor returned to ministry

## Daytimers Ripple Effect

### Rev. Trevor, Continued from p. 3

and was a guest preacher at a number of churches including Roncesvalles United where he and his family attended. Continuing with the work he did at Claremont Trevor was the co-founder/co-facilitator of the Progressive Faith Collective organization “who hold monthly gatherings for those who no longer feel connected to or welcomed in their faith tradition.” He is also very interested in teaching, having led bible study at Roncesvalles and earlier at the Syl Apps Youth Centre in Oakville.

The Brisbin family, like so many others have been struggling to balance home, school, recreation, and work during the pandemic. Pre COVID, Trevor coached little league baseball and hockey. The family loves outdoor activities, skiing and skating in the winter. In the summer cottage life includes swimming, boating, paddle-boarding and visiting with neighbours and friends. Trevor and Marisol like to cook together and listen to music. Trevor’s favourite is the singer-songwriter genre.



Trevor was very excited to find Humber Valley United, a church that was seeking a transformational minister; a church that is looking to the future and a renewed understanding of our relationship with God and our place in community.

We can’t wait to meet the Brisbins in our church – in the Narthex, in Steed Hall, in the parking lot, and in the Sanctuary – as we share our journeys of faith.

#### Further Reading:

[A Pastor and a Hollywood Film Producer](#), Claremont School of Theology, March 15, 2019  
[Dr. Rev Trevor Brisbin](#), Clergy Support Memorial Church, Ontario  
[Plan B: Toward a New Belongingness](#), Trevor Brisbin, Claremont School of Theology, 2017

*Susanne Hynes*

Each month our HVUC Daytimers share a meal prepared and delivered by the Daytimers team. We enjoy a delicious lunch and a virtual meeting with friends to hear inspiring, entertaining and informative speakers. The Daytimers team is dedicated to providing this well-loved program through the pandemic until we can safely resume our in-person programs.



While we are so grateful for the good food and friendships we are blessed with, we are all aware that many others, especially our most vulnerable seniors, may be struggling with food insecurity, isolation and loneliness. We have invited our Daytimers guests to donate \$5 to share a care kit with a senior in need, living in our local community. Many of our Daytimers guests have given to this program and we were able to launch the care kits this month. The first care kit that was created was the Winter Warm up bag, with nutritious soups, crackers, hummus, applesauce, hot chocolate, cookies, a mug and masks, sanitizer and a cloth mask, donated very generously by Gary and Janet Ward.

We are also very thankful to The United Church of Canada for an Innovation Grant which allows us to test this pilot project and discover how we can find new and creative ways to support our seniors and reach out to others in our community.

Through a growing partnership with Mabelle Arts, we are helping to provide nutrition kits, wellness resources, personal care and household items to 50 seniors each month.

Mabelle Arts serves many people including seniors who live in community housing along Mabelle Ave, near Dundas and Islington. Each week they host a Food Market and during the COVID 19 pandemic they have found the need for food has dramatically increased and seniors are in a crisis situation.

Mabelle Arts also provides remarkably interesting, innovative and creative arts programming in the community. We hope to explore further partnership opportunities and learn from their experience. For more information about Mabelle Arts visit [www.mabellearts.ca](http://www.mabellearts.ca)

*Anne Pietropao*

I just wanted to take a few minutes to update you on what has been happening at the church in the last few months.

2021 has been a busy time of renewal and new paradigms. Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin joined us on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and we were off running towards new beginnings. Our services continue to be online – now on our HVUC YouTube channel. George has stepped back to work on his Ph.D. and David Peck has joined us to film and edit the services (George will continue to mentor and support him and work on one-off events). Thank you to George for all your efforts over the last eight years and, particularly, in the last year – when you jumped in with both feet into our new virtual world.

Trevor has begun to lead our transformation. He is bringing new ideas and asking us to look at our faith in new ways. He is also challenging us to get more involved in sharing and acting on our faith. The staff now all report to him (at his request) except for Zoran and Dragan who report to the Property Committee. This new arrangement is working well.

The Board has approved the purchase and construction of new outdoor, electronic signs. Construction should begin in April or as soon as the snow melts. Thank you to Susanne Hynes and the Communications Committee for their leadership in this area.

We ended up in the black at the end of 2020 – who would have guessed? Thank you to everyone for your continuing support of our church and our ministries. Fundraising exceeded all expectations, raising more than \$18,000, in a year of COVID - congrats to Joan Belford and her team. What a fun year we had from a car rally to a shredding event to Lenten cans and Fundscrip Gift Cards, among other fund raisings activities.

Thank you to Anne and Beverley for leading our vibrant seniors programming. We have just received \$4000 from the United Church of Canada through the Mission and Service givings to continue to grow this program working with community partners including the Mabelle Arts Centre, the Syme Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre and the food security programs at Windermere United and St. James United. The program continues to support our own congregation and vulnerable and isolated seniors in our broader community. Please continue to participate in these programs and invite your family and friends from

near and far to do so too. All welcome. We have applied to the Federal Government's New Horizons for Seniors program for additional support and hope to know by mid-March whether we have secured this or not. Our seniors' program will continue one way or another with modifications if we do not have outside support. We will be celebrating our seniors' program as part of the Daytimers activity on March 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. Hope you can all join us.

Pastoral Care continues to be a priority supported by the Pastoral Care team under Kathy Kitchen's leadership and Stephen Ministry under the leadership of Joanne Stener-son and Lynn Manning. COVID did not hold back our Out-reach activities with our continued support to the camps, to Water First and the Global Aid Network, Effect Hope (leprosy), Youth Without Shelter, the St. James Food Bas-ket, Women's Habitat, Ernestine's Women's Shelter, and Sistering Women's Shelter.

We are developing a new logo and we have a new banner on our social media (thank you, George) and our website is being redesigned (thank you to Kelly, Colleen and oth-ers). Thank you to Susanne for continuing to edit "Connections" and "Keeping in Touch" – you have kept us "connected" during the pandemic. UCW has continued to meet monthly as has the men's group and the Fred Torrie lunches.

I am sure there is much more but just wanted to let you know we continue to be a faithful community trying to support each other and our wider community during a pandemic.

I will try to communicate more often as I want everyone to know what is happening.

If you have any questions or com-ments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are the church.

Blessings,

*Deb*



### Introduction

The response to a request for pieces about Life in a Minor Key, a theme in support of our Lenten sermon series on the Book of Lamentations, has been wonderful. Received are some true stories, memoirs, some fiction and some poetry. All are about times of trouble, some find hope, others not seeing hope yet. One even said she wouldn't share, but did share her "not sharing".

We all want God to see our pain, we want others to understand. We ask the question "Does anyone know what this feels like?" And in Rev. Trevor's words:

"May we be the people  
who see each other's suffering.  
May we become the good news  
of our Christian faith."

### The Gift

I sat, lonely, before my fire and prayed  
For wisdom yet  
For stillness to remember  
or  
Courage to forget!

I thought to give him everything he needed.  
My heart, body, mind and soul.  
And locked it in my heart.  
But then one day, I lost him.

Awakened with a start.

I had  
Forgotten to give it to him.  
Found it,  
Locked in my heart.



### I am not Going to Share It

I am not going to share it at this time. Writing and thinking about this whole topic of Loss has made me feel so sad - not just for myself but for others whose losses are far, far greater.

I feel so blessed in my life, but the tragedies on the news, particularly Texas at this time, the loss of life (COVID), loss of health, the loss of love (breakdown of relationships), the loss of memory (just had a friend diagnosed with Alzheimers), loss of jobs and businesses with the loss of financial stability and dignity. It is all so heart-breaking with no real end in sight.

So, I am going to try to move to the positives in life - of which there are so many, including the distraction and new friendships of this group. And, like many, I am connected with my wonderful family and friends via technology. This is not meant to make you feel bad for me - I am fine, just a down moment and I bounce well!

It is so many others that need our help and prayers at this moment - and perhaps this reflection on loss will move us to do more for others less fortunate.

*Carolyn Booth*



*Judy Smith*

## A Reflection on Loss

A favourite hymn in Voices United is #703 - In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower, in a seed an apple tree  
In cocoons a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits  
to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

The power of that hymn helped me to mourn when two deaths rocked our family in the space of only three months.

Our first grandchild died at full term during birth and three months later our mother, the matriarch of the family, died peacefully at the age of 99.

The bulb becomes a flower and blooms for a very short while - our grandson.

The seed becomes a tree and lasts for years - our mother and grandmother.

And God was there to share my sorrow and provide strength in coming to terms with the fragility and uncertainty of life.



## Lamentations

Thomas was only five years old when he was diagnosed with a hormonal form of Dwarfism, an inherited stall to his growth rendering his body quite childlike even into manhood. A tragic condition, but being born in 1914, little medical knowledge of this affliction was even known. Growing up angry and guarded, trust was an unknown in Thomas' world, even with his parents. He suffered the psychological limitations put upon him as a growing child, by the suspicious, societal views of Dwarfism in the 20's and 30's. His skeletal dysplasia was viewed as a problem, not a difference, thus wounding deeply his already fragile self esteem. He was home schooled because the bullying was so intense, further denying him friendships, and thusly sealing his fate for a very lonely life. Thomas committed suicide in his 50's. Riddled with arthritis and becoming even more compromised, he ended his pain. I doubt he ever truly felt worthy of being loved.

Personal perspectives on our fellow man are an important and necessary part of our growing and becoming more empathetic Christians. It demands we reconsider previously formed scrutinies of persons we once rebuffed, because of a simple lack of understanding. Reflecting on the pain, distrust and loneliness Thomas must have endured his whole life, I am grateful that a cure for this devastating condition is now available. But I am even more grateful that humankind, in general, is becoming better informed about such conditions and disabilities, and for the normality with which those suffering such life altering afflictions are now accepted.

*Sally Jo Martin*

*Judie McMillin*

## I Wept

I am mad at you God  
Sorry to say  
When you callously carted  
My child away.

I am mad at you too  
Oh child of thine  
You gave God no choice  
But to take you this time.

My heart was broken  
The day they placed my child, in the ground  
It was November, bleak and cold  
As family and friends, stood around

I glance up to Heaven  
Way past the moon  
Still angry inside, when I think  
My child left this earth, too soon

Not sure why  
It had, turned out this way  
Though Christmas be white  
Mine was grey.

I remember the day my child was born  
I held that child, tight to my breast  
My heart, overwhelmed  
I knew, that God sent me, another best.

So proud I was  
Of this child to me born  
But I never thought back then  
Today, I would mourn.

My child was not easy  
Made my life hard  
The pain I bared  
It left a scar

I have to say  
My child's life was incomplete  
Because Demons living inside  
Took control of it.

I heard someone said, in the Bible  
When Lazarus died,  
Jesus wept  
Today at this time, in my life  
When my child died,  
I wept.

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The wind gusted fitfully, it was cold, but the day had promise as the sun played on the broken, fractured face. Roy's progress was tentative and spasmodic, suddenly he slithered and fell crashing jarringly from ledge to ledge. With an assured competence, Peter held him on his last runner, and lowered him to Keith and me. Blood and shock but mostly the latter, no serious injuries. On the two doubled ropes Keith and Peter lowered away as I held him out from the cliff. In one long swoop we crossed the bergschrund and reached the relative ease of snow and ice and soon we were back at the skis for rest and recuperation.

From the col the glacier led simply, seductively home-wards; the gradient was too steep to ski, so Pete led off followed by Roy, Keith and I collected all the gear and followed a hundred yards or so behind. A series of decisions, each so easily made, each individually defensible, and yet in total, so completely wrong. We should have back-

tracked the mornings route, on which the dangers were known; we should have put the skis on; we should have roped up as a unit of four, I should have led and Pete should have been last man. But none of these were done – Roy's fallen, Roy's O.K., let's get home, a simple, lethal sequence.



The slope is convex, Peter and Roy disappear from our view and them we hear or maybe feel a scream, a spasm of agony and Roy, crawling, crying, incoherent, reappears. The message is simple, an open snowslope and no Peter. I am jelly, Keith is blank. We leave Roy in the snow and follow the single line of footsteps to a minute broken hole in the snow. The iceaxe plunges through and up to my shoulder and yet I am still ten feet from the hole. We yell, shout, scream – nothing but the echoes, the wind and the silence. Held by Keith, I hack a hole through the snow and expose an enormous blue cavern, maybe 50 ft. across and seemingly bottomless, just dark grey at depth.

Hours later we have found where the crevasse closes, and

held by the others I make a 120 ft. free abseil through a blue-grey-white, silent cold world. The crevasse seems endless and we run out of rope so I untie and climb to the base and traverse 150-200 ft. towards the minute speck of blue light, so high above the void.

Suddenly there is colour in my blue-grey-white world, but there is no reply to my flood of tears, words and cries, for Pete's neck is broken and his skull is a mess of porridge and he's frozen solid. A 150 ft. free fall to glacier ice and what's left – a widow and three children; a cairn on the windswept base of Connatsbjerg; and the memories that persist.

### A month later.

The weather had been good, the intense blue arctic skies, the pure, clean sparkle of arctic sun but now the wind is up and the cloud is down. The snow flurries smother everything and bite into your face, time to batten down, and Keith and I did. Noise, people, three people - three people? The fear, the adrenaline. "Where's Chris?", "Chris is dead".

One last peak; the long line of a slanting corner, fine dry granite, long steep open leads; up, up the red-grey rock into the azure sky. Then, seemingly from nowhere, a grey world of driving, blowing snow, drifting spume, snow avalanches. The corner begins to break up and subdivide, the rock deteriorates and suddenly a massive block pulls out and careens mindlessly down. A little yellow helmet is nothing to a half ton of falling rock. Chris lives and is unconscious, and is lowered and lowered and lowered to the glacier and he is dead.

In the grey dawn of the morrow we roll his body into a bivvy sheet and push the frozen mass into a crevasse, and say some ritual words.

And again – what's left; - and again – a widow and three children; and again a cairn on a desolate moraine; and the memories. The memories that persist.

*Roger Wallis*

## Loss and Lamentations: The Silver Lining

At the 'mature' age of 75, I, surprisingly, have most of my original body parts.

But, like many children of my generation, we almost always got put 'under the knife' at the first sign of tonsillitis or appendicitis.

By about the age of 5, I had my tonsils and adenoids removed. I don't remember much of this, except for lying on the kitchen couch for several days afterwards, being pampered with jello and popsicles.

Lest you sound suspicious of a couch in the kitchen... maybe not in all houses, but in ours, we had a sofa or couch or bed in every room of the house. My dad was a master 'napper' and had perfected the art of the 30 minute nap.

He wanted a nap after every meal. So right behind his chair at the kitchen table, was put a narrow cot of metal springs topped with a feather 'ticking' mattress, tucked under the window. He only had to swing the chair around and drop into it for a quick rest. The dining room sported a pull-out chesterfield, that could have accommodated 2 guests if ever needed. The living room of course had a sofa and all the rest of the rooms were bedrooms where at least one or more real beds resided.

To keep warm and stay close to mom when any of us was not well, the perfect place was on the kitchen couch, fuelled by a wood burning stove and handy if she needed to replace the mustard plasters, or dose us with Vicks Vaporub or other medicine, or just check on us. It meant dad had to move a few extra feet to the dining room chesterfield for naps.

My appendix lasted a bit longer, but one day when I was 11, I complained to my mother after school that my side had hurt with every step I took on the walk home. Nothing for it but to put me in the car and drive into town to see whichever doctor was on duty.

No one ever had an appointment. You just showed up, checked in with the nurse and sat on the waiting room bench, with its high leather backing that ran all the way around the room, for your turn...often a quiet endurance of several hours.

Dr. Moore diagnosed appendicitis, and even with no history, made immediate plans to remove it. In late September, 1957, I was taken to Stratford hospital and the offending appendix was removed ( and declared by Dr. Moore to be

in a state fit to burst at any moment). Dr. Moore was a whiz at stitches, and did such a neat job that there is no scar left. After the better part of a week in hospital I was sent home to recuperate for another week or 2.

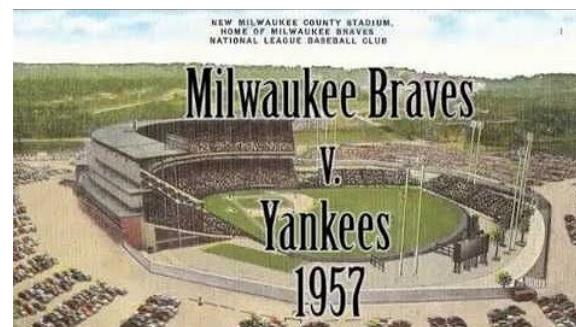
I was despondent as I would be missing the Mitchell Fall Fair - 'the Biggest Little Fair in the County' . It was a special year and there would be a parade, in which our S.S. #5 Hibbert school had been invited to march. We had been practising right from day one of school, had a banner ready and uniforms planned. Everyone was excited to be in the parade. I would miss it all, at home here on the kitchen couch.

But, never mind. There was an even better treat in store – one that was well worth the loss of the Fair parade. It was the World Series, live on television and on for the exact time I would be unable to go to school.

I spent all day every day on the living room sofa, glued to our black & white television, rooting as the New York Yankees battled the Milwaukee Braves for 7 full games – a nail biting series with the Braves finally winning.

That was a 'silver lining' to be sure. ...and Dad had his couch back!

### Carolyn Whiteside



## Scarlet Ribbons

Anna was my patient. She was three years old. Pretty, blond, bright and dying. She had an incurable genetic disease. I nursed her for a month. Her signature look was her scarlet hair ribbons. It didn't matter how sick she was, she insisted on having her scarlet ribbons tied in her hair.

When she died her mother and I each tied a scarlet ribbon in each side of her hair before she was placed in her miniature casket.

I attended the funeral. The casket was draped with scarlet ribbons. The minister referenced these in his eulogy. "Let these be the legacy of this bright, brave little girl" he said. "Picture them in your heart and Anna will be forever with

you". A young teenage soprano sang her a goodbye song - of course, 'Scarlet Ribbons'. When I sang this with the choir at Humber Valley, sixty years later, Anna was right there in my heart.

*Judith Dallimore*



## COVID

COVID-19 meant a sudden stop to (almost) everything for us. That was OK for a while but then the months dragged on and on. Little inconveniences became big inconveniences none greater than the inability to visit with family, especially the grandchildren who we normally saw once, maybe twice a year. It has been 19 months since we had a real visit and a hug.

We now think of the positive, thanks to Facetime and Zoom we have weekly chats with the individual families and sometimes a game on Zoom with all 4 families.

We hope this might become a habit and will continue long after COVID-19. We do "see" them and note how much they have grown; so until we can travel again we are thankful for these modern advances especially as our parents only saw our children every two years, if they were lucky, and only heard them on recorded tapes.

## Mrs. X

My work was in a seniors home so I knew my patients quite well as I would see them regularly over a period of time and they often talked about their families.

This particular lady was delightful and we had many conversations especially about her grandson. One day she forcefully told me that if she passed away whilst in my department I was not to resuscitate her, nor was I to call the nurse. I prayed that would never happen.

Mrs X eventually had the opportunity to see her grandson graduate from Harvard University as a fully fledged Doctor as was her wish.

She died the next day from a heart attack

*Marg Wallis*



## Out the Window

Snowing. Three days of snow. It seemed like it would never end. March.

Jean sat at her kitchen table, peeling potatoes and gazing out the window at what underneath was her garden. The fence was buried and only the tops of the spruce trees were visible. At least the wind had stopped; now there were just the never-ending flakes. The snowplow hadn't been by since the first day. The electric wires had gone down the second day. Newfoundland Light and Power couldn't reach them. The cold, the dark skies, the lack of a horizon, all created such a sense of being buried alive.

There was no knowing when it would end. "Are we like a northern Noah but our ark is foreclosed and couldn't go to sea in the ice anyway?" she thought.

Keith came into the kitchen, unshaven, frowning and sat himself down at the table. Not a word was spoken. Jean gave him a cup of tea and busied herself with making dinner\*.

They hadn't spoken more than a few words in the last month.

Ten years ago they fell in love at first sight and were inseparable. She worked at the local store and he worked the cod and lobster fisheries with his Dad and three brothers. Jean and Keith were married in June of the following year and moved into Aunt Maureen's old house. Right by the dock and with good soil so there had always been a vegetable garden.

Keith was gone a lot during the cod and lobster seasons. The work was very hard and hazardous but exhilarating, and the Hackett men, proud fishermen for many generations, loved it. Jean always welcomed him home with a great meal which they could barely finish before making love for hours, making up for time lost. The next morning he filled the room with his gorgeous voice, telling the fishing and ocean stories. She filled him in on the family and town gossip. Arm in arm they went to the pub with everyone else to share a beer and dance to the bands that toured the little towns in the good weather, or to the town's disc jockey, Keith's brother Ed.

Then, six months ago, the cod moratorium was announced.

The family relied on that catch to pay the mortgage and insurance on the boat. No money would be coming in till lobster season starts in April. The relief money from the

government, "the Goddamn Dole" was enough to keep them in food but not enough to cover their business costs. Jean lost her job in the store because business was down so much. And the "Elsie" was repossessed. So Keith would have to hire out on someone else's lobster boat for little pay.

Keith spoke less and less, unable to express his grief at the loss of livelihood. Jean tried gently, Jean asked questions, Jean gave him a beer, Jean got him to go for walks with her. But he could not talk to her about it.

After dinner, Keith put his dishes on the counter by the sink, pulled on his coat, and trudged through the deep snow to the empty boathouse. He shovelled the snow from the door and refreshed the fire in the wood stove. He knew Jean was looking out her window at the garden. He was looking out his window at the now-buried dock and the invisible sea, white on white on white.

Gone, bye, she's gone.

*Susanne Hynes*



**This story was inspired by the above wood collage by Ben Ploughman who lives in a small town in the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. It is entitled "Gone, bye, she's gone". I bought it at the One-of-a-Kind Show in Toronto about twenty years ago.**

**It refers to the cod moratorium imposed in Newfoundland in 1992. The moratorium deeply affected outport life on the island; it took away a livelihood that had sustained the fisherfolk for four hundred years. It changed people's lives in many, often unexpected, ways.**

## Bitter Sweet Game

A year ago today we celebrated as Rebecca and her team won the Gene Harrington tournament in Buffalo. She played amazing — her whole team did. One of their goalies was in the hospital, and the team wore pink tape to support him and show their regret he wasn't able to be on the ice with them. One of our strongest defence players was suspended before the finals and a few more players couldn't attend. So everyone had to work extra hard, play in different positions and they were all exhausted. (The partying all night didn't help.) We scraped by into the quarter-finals and the team kicked butt from there.

In the final it came down to playing the home team with all their home support screaming some pretty horrible things and trying to discourage our team. We behaved and were polite Canadian parents.

Tied 2-2 in the last minutes of the game, one of the wingers, a new member to our team, scored the winning goal. It was such a great moment!

If only we had known it was the real end of an era. Ten years of hockey just done — in an email. No end of year party, no playing together for their last year which was completely stolen from them. (Along with so many other things: no prom, no senior year.) They all go off to university and other adventures from here.

I am so glad we had that weekend's incredible memories, but so bitter sweet.

*Sylvia Taylor*



## Memoir: War and Peace

*With apologies to Leo Tolstoy*

My earliest childhood memory was being snatched out of bed in the middle of the night by my mother in England to the sound of a very noisy air raid siren and taken hurriedly to the air raid shelter in our back yard. The shelter was big enough to seat about 6 people and was constructed of concrete, corrugated iron and sand bags. It was sunk about three quarters deep into the ground.

Most air raids took place at night. I can remember being very frightened by the air raid siren and the activity which followed — the sound of bombs dropping and exploding and also the sound of English guns trying to shoot down the enemy planes. I remember the sky being lit up by search lights trying to seek out the enemy bombers to make them better targets for our gunners.

All of this took place in Portsmouth where I was born. Portsmouth was one of the Royal Navy's main bases and hence was a big military target. I remember seeing big piles of rubble where whole blocks of houses had stood in the area surrounding the naval yards. A lot of civilians worked the dockyards but many of them and their families lost their lives during the raids.

The risks of being bombed and killed were very high. As a young child I had to cope with this and also had to exist without any new toys. Toys were virtually impossible to buy during the war so I had to make do with second hand toys or ones my father was able to make with any scarce wood or other items.

So my early childhood memories were truly frightening. But when we heard the "all clear" on the air raid siren we knew the bombing raid was over for that night and that we could go back to our homes and settle down to sleep. What a great feeling of relief to know our house was still standing and that we could again experience the warmth, peace and security of our home. And when the war ended in 1945, the rainbow really shone!

*David Dallimore*

## The Kindness of Strangers

Our memoir group was asked to write briefly on loss. Like all of us, what springs to mind immediately are the fear, the deaths, and the loss of community imposed on us by COVID 19. But as I thought about this topic, I am aware that I am feeling a deeper loss. It has nothing to do with the pandemic, but the pandemic has given me time to think about it.

Like Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar named Desire*, "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers". By that I mean that I have always had faith that people are inherently good, and that, as long as I don't do something unlawful or stupidly risky, I can depend on reasonable people to assist me, if and when I really need help. This belief has enabled me to travel unaccompanied in foreign countries, to tackle undertakings for which I do not feel fully prepared, and to move to new places where I knew not a soul. For the most part, my faith has been rewarded. I have led a very privileged life.

But lately, I am beginning to have doubts. I see the world around me dissolving into chaos. I see disrespect for the law, even among those whose job it is to uphold the law. I see corruption becoming an expected aspect of business and governance. I see Truth and Facts and Science regarded as optional. I see people ignoring each other's needs, and proudly proclaiming, "Me First." I see people disre-

garding the importance of connecting with each other on a meaningful level.

I fear that civil society, as I have known it, is breaking down. I have lost predictability; I have lost a sense of safety. Most of all, I have lost my optimism that the chasm between those who are privileged and those who are not, can ever be bridged. With the time that the pandemic has given me to think about life, these are losses I deeply mourn.

And yet..., and yet I still see signs of hope. I hear of a man building tiny shelters for the homeless, and other people rallying to fight City Hall on his behalf. I read about health care workers teaching elderly patients to use iPads so that they can have safe contact with loved ones. I learn of young Americans volunteering to help older people work through an electronic portal to get an appointment for a vaccination. And I see the incredible humanity exhibited in our small groups, especially this one.

I have decided to move forward warily, but I will still depend on the kindness of strangers.

*Joan Belford*



### Hymns Hymns Hymns

#### Spring Hymn Sing - April 23

Enjoy your favourite hymns on April 23rd at 4 pm when Judith and David host a SPRING HYMN SING. This will feature Jill and some of the soloists and the hymns will be the ones you choose.



Send your two favourite hymns to [judithdallimore@rogers.com](mailto:judithdallimore@rogers.com) before the end of March and we will compile Humber Valley's TOP TWELVE.



## Living Room Concerts:

ENJOY MUSIC AND COMPANY VIRTUALLY IN YOUR OWN HOME

# Crowd-Pleasing Folk and Country Classics

**Sat Mar 20 7-8pm**

Musical duo and real-life sweethearts Jesse MacMillan and Anna Sudac have been co-creating and performing together since meeting in 2012.

Over the last 8 years they have crossed Canada twice-over performing aboard VIA Rail, recorded an EP of original music, co-starred in dramatic plays and musicals, performed at weddings, art galleries, theatres, and even a couple fish fries. The pair's favourite

collaboration is their 3 year old daughter, Etta.

Anna and Jesse look forward to sharing an hour of original music and crowd-pleasing covers of songs spanning decades and musical genres, with nods to classic country and folk tunes, and their favourite artists, from John Prine and Patsy Cline to Fleetwood Mac and the Bee Gee's.



**REGISTER HERE**

*Humber Valley*  
UNITED CHURCH

### -and some unexpected surprises-

This March marks the one-year anniversary of our 55+ virtual programs on Zoom. It has been a challenging and difficult year in so many ways, but along the way we have discovered some unexpected surprises. Together we had to embark on a steep learning curve to adapt our programs to a virtual format. We had to learn some new technological skills and get comfortable with a new way of communicating. It was very daunting at first, especially for those of us who, like me, are sometimes wary of or intimidated by new technology.

In some ways, the fact that virtual meetings were new to most of us and Zoom was a whole new world, meant that we were all beginning together from the same starting point. It was a bit of an equalizer! We quickly learned that we would need to rely on each other to help navigate this new format. We built a sense of trust as we made mistakes together and had to laugh and keep on trying. There was a great deal of trial and error but that made us open up to new ways of doing things that we hadn't thought of before. We found ways to make praying and singing, yoga, painting, dancing, and sharing a meal possible even though we have been living through a pandemic. We discovered how strong our bonds of friendship are and learned new things about each other through sharing our stories and struggles. What unexpected surprises have you encountered?

Expect  
the unexpected.  
And whenever  
possible,  
be the unexpected.

As we begin to look at the road ahead in 2021 there are more unknowns. When will we be able to gather in person again? How can we keep the best things about Zoom and blend it with live in person experiences? How can we best reach out to our neighbours, friends, and the community? Let's listen, let's pay attention, let's notice the little things, and we're sure to find more unexpected surprises.

*Anne Pietropaolo*

### Youth Group

The youth group is continuing to meet weekly on zoom for games, character studies and fellowship! Recently we all participated in a valentines baking day and made cookies for seniors in our church!



We had a blast and hope to take on more projects like this in the future and are looking forward to when things open up and we can do even more!

*Licia Meldrum*

Let's meet at  
**Youth Group**  
for games, Bible learning  
and just hanging out!

- Mondays 4:30-5:10
- Grades 7-12

Contact Licia Meldrum



# Stewardship Update

This report shows the financial results to the end of December 2020. Results for the same year-to-date period in 2019 are also included below for comparison purposes.

It is clear that we, as a church, successfully navigated the year of COVID 19. At last year's AGM, the congregation approved a budget that forecast an operating deficit of more than \$54,000. A deficit of that level was still anticipated as recently as last fall.

Things turned around dramatically during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and we ended the year in a surplus position. There were a number of key contributors:

1. Annual givings equaled the level budgeted in April.
2. Unbudgeted Estate and In Memorium givings totaling \$40,000 were a welcome addition.
3. Following the Stewardship campaign in November, we experienced a record level of givings in December which put us over the top.
4. Canada Helps emerged as an important source of online giving not only for members who, due to Covid, had difficulty managing traditional givings methods but also for non-members who watched our online services and decided to donate. Total Canada Helps givings were \$23,500 last year compared with \$5,500 the previous year.

Overall, a phenomenal outcome from a difficult year. To every one of you --- thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! You have demonstrated once again the vibrancy, the loving nature, and the generosity of this congregation and it gives me great confidence that we will successfully navigate the difficult times that still face us.

If you are not on PAR, please remember to continue your envelope givings even if you're not attending church. Better still, take the time to switch to PAR since it facilitates your giving plans.

Respectfully

*Gary Halpenny*

Chair  
Stewardship and Finance Committee

<b>Sources of Funds</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
PAR Givings	158,703	159,384
Envelopes/Stock Donations	125,704	153,129
Use of Church	119,210	232,366
Trustees	22,520	18,996
Other	152,645	62,060
<b>Subtotal Operating Funds</b>	<b>578,782</b>	<b>625,935</b>
Receipts for Capital, Outreach and Special Initiatives HF	89,142	67,556
<b>Total Sources of Funds</b>	<b>667,924</b>	<b>693,491</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Payroll	370,594	409,002
Building Expenses	51,930	62,648
Office	21,246	26,797
Mission and Service	3,868	7,344
Presbytery Assessment	17,521	17,522
Music	32,412	32,176
Other Committees	65,788	28,294
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>563,359</b>	<b>583,783</b>
Transfers to HF	89,142	67,561
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>15,423</b>	<b>42,152</b>
Transfer of Surplus to Capital HF	0	42,152
<b>Final Position</b>	<b>15,423</b>	<b>0</b>

from your  
HVUC FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE.

### 1. **Gratitude Calendars**

**You may need to hide them.** We heard this morning that some people are so grateful for sunshine, that they have given it a higher value than a call from their children. So keep those calendars in a safe place; we do not want any hurt feelings.

If you have not yet started keeping your Gratitude Calendar, start now, and just assign things a slightly higher value; i.e., make your lower limit 15 cents, and your upper \$2.50. By the way, if you want to make your upper limit \$50.00, we are OK with that. The sky's the limit!

### 2. **Gift Cards**

**It is okay to spend your Gift Cards on yourself.** Contrary to their name, you do not have to give your Gift Cards away. You can use them yourself to buy groceries, gas, hardware, drug store essentials, whatever. The Gift Cards can be used to order from websites too. Purchase your gift cards through the HVUC Fundscrip fundraising program, which includes about 140 vendors. HVUC gets 3-6% back on every card at no extra cost to you. The next order deadline is March 23. There is an order form accompanying this edition of Connections.

### 3. **Keeping in Touch (KIT)**

**You can honour more than one person, and each will still feel honoured.** Even if you made a dedication in KIT in 2020, you can make another one (or more) in 2021. Maybe you want to follow Wanda Sekunda's example, and honour someone who used to be a member but has perhaps moved away. Wouldn't that person get a lift when you send them a copy of KIT dedicated to them! To make a dedication, contact Susanne Hynes, [susanne@hyneslegal.ca](mailto:susanne@hyneslegal.ca). Dedications cost \$50.00 each.

### 4. **Shredding Day**

**You do not need to shred your confidential documents.** You can put them in a box and save them for our Shredding day. Yes, we are doing it again, on Saturday October 16. Wasteco is sending us a bigger truck this time, so start saving your papers now. Volunteer box handlers, start lifting weights.

### 5. **Car Rally**

**You do not need a driver's license to enter our car rally.** But you do need to be able to read directions – and you need a driving partner who does have a driver's license and will appreciate your navigation skills. Start planning now for the Second Annual HVUC Car Rally, the weekend of October 23.

### 6. **Virtual Dinners/Local Restaurant Support**

**Sometimes our most successful events do not raise any dollars at all.** Our Virtual Dinners/ Local Restaurant Support campaign is not intended to raise funds for HVUC; it is our way of telling some of our local businesses that we care about them, that we recognize their struggle, and we want them to survive. The restaurants we have contacted to date are totally thrilled with our intentions.

So far, we have gotten sticky fingers eating pancakes from Dundas Street Grille on Shrove Tuesday, and crunched through the delectable batter on the treats from Kingsway Fish and Chips. We have 5 more dinners planned dur-

# Fundraising is Enjoyable!

ing Lent: **Ottimo will be Wednesday March 3, Mai Bistro, Thursday March 11 (order March 10), and Lenny's March 24.** Watch KIT for the details of our remaining dinners. There will be a reminder e-blast the preceding day each week.

**Please know that you are welcome** to join the Zoom dinners even if you do not buy food from the restaurants. Getting together by Zoom to share these meals is a chance for us to chat with some people we may not ordinarily meet in coffee hour, and also provides an opportunity for Reverend Trevor to get to know us better. These meetings have not only been fun, they have been very informative. Last night we discovered that we have at least two members of our church who were married in ceremonies held in a language they do not speak, and they are not sure exactly what they promised.

## 7. The HVUC Fundraising Committee

***Being on the Fundraising Committee is actually enjoyable.*** We try to put the fun in fundraising. We are working on some additional ideas, including auctioning off our handymen/husbands. If you have an inspiration for us, or would like to join our team, please contact Joan Belford, [jbelford@pathcom.com](mailto:jbelford@pathcom.com).

***Thank you for your outstanding support in 2020. Let's do it again in 2021.***

*Joan Belford*

## Educational Study Programs

Since COVID, our Educational Study Program has changed gears just like many other programs at HVUC and moved to the Zoom platform.

As disappointing as it is not to see each other in person, it is wonderful to watch, listen to, and discuss our topics virtually together. Typically, we meet for 1.5 hours on Wed. evenings, starting with an intro, a music or inspirational video clip, and a 30-min. presentation of our topic followed by a facilitated discussion.

In 2020 our theme was "sermons/talks" from several different faith groups - Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Jewish, Episcopalian etc. Themes ranged from Black Lives Matter to Social Justice to Coping with Covid. Learning about different biblical/spiritual perspectives was indeed mind-broadening.

So far this year, we have focused on the teachings of some of the most renowned (American) Spiritual Leaders. We learned about what it means to be a "Conscious (evolved)" spiritual being, the importance of living in the present, and the journey to personal transformation.

"True personal growth is about transcending the part of you that is not okay and needs protection."

Michael A. Singer, [The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself](#)

After Easter, we have some interesting topics lined up.

- Members of The Stephen Ministry team have kindly agreed to give a crash course in becoming the best (and most caring) listeners we can be, and
- Constance Crosby, who is studying Egyptology at the moment, is going to regale us with some of her fascinating learnings.

Stay tuned for specific dates and topics and remember, ***all are welcome to join any time!***

**Email Carla Sandrin with questions or to sign up**  
[csandrin@rogers.com](mailto:csandrin@rogers.com)

*Carla Sandrin*

As COVID carries on longer than anyone thought possible, **Unit 7** has adjusted its activities to fit the times. Usually, we finish the calendar year with a Christmas party that sometimes includes a Carol Sing; then in January we make lunches for Youth Without Shelter; and in February and March we hold joint meetings with Unit 6, which often include a speaker.

There was no party in December, for obvious reasons, but we did get together online for a Carol Sing. It worked out quite well, and everyone seemed to have fun. Mary-Ellen McNaught, founder of Unit 7, who now lives in Collingwood, Ont., joined us for the event. One drawback of Zoom is we can't hear each other sing along, as there's a lag between the voices. Participants hear the lead singer, they can have a duet with the singer, and they can also enjoy watching everyone's actions as they sing. We unmuted everyone for the last two songs, and laughed at the results!!

I'm really proud of how our group handled the Youth Without Shelter lunches. Normally, people bring various supplies and we all meet in the church kitchen to assemble the lunches. Unfortunately, that was not possible due to COVID. Kathy Kitchen came up with a way to prepare the lunches in a COVID-friendly way. Jennifer Brown kept everyone organized, using one of her famous databases. Some people made crudités and sandwiches at home; others bought lunch bags, fruit or drinks; and still others opted to donate new clothing, toiletries, or money. On January 12, people brought their items to the church.

Kathy and a few other Unit 7 members, assembled the lunches at the church — observing COVID protocols, of course — and delivered them to YWS. Our January 12 meeting featured Mike Burnett of YWS, who told us about the great work his charity is doing here in Etobicoke.

Our Feb. 2 meeting with Unit 6 — and Unit 9 this year — featured Carole Clarke, who told us about her winter home in Barbados, where she is currently enjoying the sun

and ocean views with her husband at their winter home. This was a wonderful break from our cold Canadian winter! We also got to say hello to Rev. Trevor Brisbin and his wife, Marisol, during the meeting.

On March 9, we will gather with Units 6 and 9 once again. The speaker this time is Risa Shuman, the television producer who worked closely with Elwy Yost, longtime host of *Saturday Night at the Movies*.

*Colleen Isherwood,  
Unit 7 Leader*



Marisol and Trevor dropped into the Unit 6 and 7 meeting for a few minutes to say hello

**UCW Unit 6** certainly hasn't been hibernating over this very unusual winter. We usually forego a January meeting as many members are away, but with the current travel restrictions and the success of our monthly Zoom meetings since April 2020, we carried on. We very much appreciate the technical help of Kelly and Anne in connecting us.

Wendy Oliver led the January 5th meeting and had us reveal our resolutions and intentions for the New Year. There were many stories that started, "If it weren't for COVID, I'd be in Mexico, on a cruise, at our Florida condo...." but we were all grateful for the comfortable and safe lives we live in Etobicoke.



Our unit usually shares programs in February and March with Unit 7. We continued this tradition on Zoom this year. On February 2, we joined with members of both

## Units 6 and 7

Units 7 and 9 to learn of the history, culture and beauty of Barbados. Carole Clarke has visited this island for 46 years and to the strains of "Yellow Bird", she graciously told over 50 women about life at a tropical pace. In addition to music, we toured the island by video and could imagine the colours, crafts, food (and drink!) of this gorgeous destination.

We will be joining with Unit 7 on March 9 when Risa Shuman will share her stories of being a producer at TVO which included working with Elwy Yost of "Saturday Night at the Movies" fame. This promises to be a wonderful fun evening. Our Zoom meetings are allowing members of Unit 6 to really stay connected for fellowship and support during these uncertain times.

*Catherine Ireland*

Unit 6 Leader



UCW Units 6 and 7 meeting jointly in February.

**Humber Valley United Church presents**

# **Zooming to New Horizons**

**A Celebration of 55+ Programs  
in Central Etobicoke**

**Monday, March 29, 12-1:00 pm on Zoom**

A virtual showcase of our programs throughout 2020 including live music, interactive demonstrations of fitness, chair yoga and seated dance, highlights from creative writing and memoir, and some of our most popular workshops!

[Register Here](#)



**Support HVUC when you Shop**

**Fundscript Gift Card Program**

Make gift giving easy and safe and use for your own purchases.

Over 230 vendors.

**Next Order Deadline is Tuesday March 23**

**The order form is attached to the print edition or [click here](#).**

## Call for Nominations

### The Fred Van der Vliet Award for Innovation and Creativity

This award was created in 2014 to recognise members or adherents of HVUC who have proposed innovative/creative ideas and solutions during the past year which could make a significant contribution to advancing the work of the church.

Winners to date have been Joanne Stenerson, Bill Ca-hoon, Jim Koziak, Judith Dallimore, Lorraine Pearsall, Lynn Manning, Joan Belford and Alanna Goodman.

Fred Van der Vliet was a man brimming with new ideas and alternative solutions to issues and activities in the church. Examples included an improved way of measuring weekly church attendance, organizing a fall hike, and the Robbie Burns event.

Recipients will be lay members or adherents of HVUC. Your nomination submission should show how the project(s) in question has/have involved new thinking or concepts or has involved building on an existing program in an innovative way.

Innovative and creative ideas could be in Christian education and youth, music, outreach, worship, spiritual transformation, our buildings, furnishings and/or equipment, seniors, membership growth or governance.

Nominations should be submitted to [Gary Halpenny](#) or delivered to the church office on or before March 14th.

*Gary Halpenny*



## Clearing Your Bookshelves?

If you are getting rid of books this winter and spring, you can donate them to a fundraising activity to be held next October to benefit Sleeping Children Around the World.



They are planning a book sale - Buck A Book - and hope to collect thousands of paperback or hard covers as inventory. Sally Jo will store them safely in her garage until October.

Phone her at 416-231-3477 for more information.



## Belfry Notes

Who is the little person who climbs to the top of the church tower to play the bells calling worshippers to Humber Valley United Church every Sunday? Do you imagine it's someone like Lon Chaney as the famous "Hunchback" of Notre Dame in 1923 Paris? It's nothing so sinister.

Have you been near Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral in London to hear the "changes" ringing over the city; or on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to hear the Dominion Carillonneur Andrea McCready play a concert on the 53 bell carillon in the Peace Tower? It's nothing so grand.

The bells at Humber Valley are not at all like the full wheel of huge bells where ropes are pulled by "pealers" in towers throughout Europe; nor are they like the stationary bells in our Peace Tower with internal clappers connected to piano keyboard-like levers which are hammered with both fists.

Tucked in a high corner of the stairway hall to the left of the chancel screen is a keyboard similar in size to a child's toy piano.... only having 25 notes with a range from the G below middle-C to a G in the second octave above middle-C. This keyboard is housed on a plain oak platform at desk table height with 2 switches to the right and a shielded lamp hanging just below eye level. To the right is an imposing metal cabinet with dials, knobs, and wires behind a locked door with glass windows. Yes... it's all done with the magic of electricity. This instrument made by Schulmerich Electronics in Pennsylvania connects with powerful speakers to send finely tuned notes through the entire neighbourhood as well as within the church sanctuary. It's amazing that such a tiny keyboard creates such magnificent sounds.

Despite the area sometimes feeling like a dusty storage cupboard (complete with stacks of chairs, extra fluorescent lighting tubes, music stands and props for plays), the carillon corner can also feel quite magical. It is so hidden away that many parishioners have never even seen it. As there is a huge window with panes of coloured glass to



the right and the spindles of the staircase going down to the basement on the left, it almost feels like being on a tiny balcony but completely hidden from view.

A small group of volunteers take turns playing the carillon every Sunday to invite and welcome all to worship. The technique of playing this instrument can be very simple as one plays the melody with just the right hand. There are only the real variables of tempo and harmony available and every member of our group has the skill to use these devices to great advantage.

The music selection is entirely up to the player .... each has his or her own style and preferences. On special holidays like Easter, Canada Day, Remembrance Day, and in the evenings for the week prior to Christmas, specific tunes and carols are selected. Some weekly repertoires include familiar hymns of our youth, hymns to correspond to the church's calendar or the theme of the sermon, popular religious music, classical compositions, and even popular pieces like "We'll Meet Again", "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" or "It's a Wonderful World". I like to always include the hymns planned to be sung during the service.... almost like a warm up or rehearsal for the main event.

Knowing that many people have favourite hymns, I take "requests" and dedicate certain pieces. I also play special hymns for members of my family - "Eternal Father..... for Those in Peril on the Sea" for my father who served in the RCNVR during World War II and "In the Bulb There is a Flower" for my mother. Even my grandmother is memorialized by my playing "How Great Thou Art". Some Sundays, when the sun is pouring in through the south-east facing window, it almost feels as if the notes are rising to heaven on the sunbeams and I can imagine them listening to the bells and my silent voice singing to them.

Pre-pandemic, we played from 10-10:30 a.m. as people arrived at church or sat quietly in the pews, but now our half-hour concert is held for dog-walkers, drivers, joggers, bus riders, neighbours and friends cruising by the parking lot starting at 9:30. The sound of the bells playing both secular and sacred songs every Sunday morning remind all that Humber Valley United Church still has an important and ongoing presence in the community and in our lives.

*Catherine Ireland*

## Electronic Outside Signs and Logo

At its January meeting the HVUC Board approved the recommendation of the Communications Committee that we proceed with the installation of new electronic signs in the same locations as the existing signs.

The company that installed the signs at Kingsway Lambton, All Saints Kingsway, St. James United, and Timothy Eaton United has been engaged to do the work for us.

We would like to thank the many people in the congregation who have donated funds to pay for this project. To date we have raised \$29,000, just shy of our goal of \$32,000. A focus group has been formed to provide feedback about the possible final design of the signs.

Installation is scheduled for mid-April, once the weather permits.

The new signs will enable us to change the messages from a computer console, rather than having to physically install letters (a job that takes a couple of hours and is very unpleasant, especially in winter).

The current Wimbledon sign, with a great message, is badly damaged. The once-clear cover has been taped up to hold it together and the metal letters below it are losing bits of themselves.



Existing sign to be replaced.

The current Hartfield Road sign is carrying a message in support of our sermon series on the Book of Lamentations. Our new electronic signs will enable Rev. Trevor to communicate much more easily with the Humber Valley community.



You may also have noticed that we have begun consistently using the above way to write the name of our church. It is appearing on our social media, on posters and ads and soon will be incorporated into letterhead and other HVUC documents. It is a slightly updated version of the way we have been writing the name of our church (in some places) for about ten years now and will replace the Lucida Calligraphy script we have been using.

*Susanne Hynes*  
Chair, Communications Committee

Donations to the Electronic Outside Signs fund are still gratefully being accepted.

Please send a cheque to the church office and mark "Outside Signs" on the subject line.

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Home Health

# Lent and Easter

Please note that services will continue to be shown online via our church YouTube page at the times shown in the schedule below.

The surest way to access our YouTube is to click on the link on our website homepage.

All Sunday services in March will be premiered on YouTube at 10:30 am and will be followed by Lobby Talk.

We will continue with our Virtual Dinners until Maundy Thursday.

Eblasts announcing the restaurant and with the zoom information will be sent the day prior.

Thursday, April 1 - **Maundy Thursday** - 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.  
Dinner together with Reflection - on Zoom

The final in our series of Virtual Dinners during Lent will take place on April 1, Maundy Thursday, at 5:45 PM. Rev. Trevor will lead us in contemplation of what has become known as "The Last Supper". Whether you order take-out or cook your own, please plan to join us as we mark this important Christian event in communion with each other through sharing a meal together. Details will be announced in KIT.

Friday, April 2 - **Good Friday** - 10:30 a.m.  
Service on YouTube

Sunday, April 4 - **Sunrise Service on Easter Morning**  
7:30 a.m. On Zoom

Sunday, April 4 - **Easter Morning Service** - 10:30 a.m.  
Hallelujah Service. On YouTube  
No Lobby Talk after the Easter service

Sunday, April 11th - 10:30 a.m.

**Guest Minister:** Rev. Dr. Kristine O'Brien. YouTube  
Lobby Talk with Trevor after the service

Sunday, April 18th -

10:30 a.m. On YouTube  
No Lobby Talk after the service  
2 p.m. - **Covenanting Service** for Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin  
Service on Zoom

Friday, April 23rd - 4 p.m. -

**Hymn Sing**. - with Jill Filion and the soloists; David and Judith Dallimore. YouTube

Sunday, April 25th - 10:30 a.m. - YouTube

Followed immediately by the  
**Annual General Meeting**  
for Humber Valley United  
Church on Zoom



76 Anglesey Blvd.,  
Etobicoke, Ontario M9A 3C1  
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Managing Editor: Susanne Hynes  
Published by Humber Valley United Church



Minister: Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin  
Director of Music: Jill Diane Filion  
Church Administrator: Kelly Wells  
Church School Leader: Claire Hatje  
Church School Leader: Michelle Madill  
Church School Leader: Allison McColeman  
Faith Formation - Youth and Young Families Coordinator: Licia Meldrum  
Seniors' Program Coordinator: Anne Pietropaolo  
Finance Officer: Anita Wakeman  
Property Manager: Zoran Mrkovic  
Sexton: Dragan Mrkovic  
AV Director: George Turnbull  
Room Bookings: Janet McColeman

NAME	TELEPHONE	PAYABLE TO
		Humber Valley United Church

76 ANGLESEY BLVD TORONTO ON. M9A 3C1

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NOTES

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### THE ESSENTIALS

Grocery												
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Loblaws, Bloor Street Market, Extra Foods, Fortinos, No Frills, Real Canadian Superstore, Real Canadian Wholesale Club, Valu-Mart, Your Independent Grocer, Zehrs	3%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		
Longo's, Grocery Gateway	3%	\$20 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
M&M Food Market	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Metro (Ontario), Food Basics	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >				
Sobeys, Foodland, FreshCo, IGA, Price Chopper, Safeway	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >				

### Gas

Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Esso, Mobil	2%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Irving Oil	2%	\$50 >										
Petro-Canada™	2%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$500 >		
Shell	2%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$500 >				
Ultramar	2%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >				

### OTHER CATEGORIES

Restaurant & Coffee												
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
A&W	4%	\$10 >		\$25 >								
Abbey's Bakehouse, Canyon Creek®, Duke's Refresher® + Bar, Jack Astor's Bar and Grill®, REDS® Wine Tavern, Scaddabush Italian Kitchen & Bar®, The Antler Room, The Loose Moose®	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Applebee's	4%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Boston Pizza	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Earls Kitchen + Bar	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
JOEY	6%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Kelseys, Bier Markt, D'Arcy McGee's, East Side Mario's, Fionn MacCool's, Harvey's, milestones, Montana's BBQ & Bar, New York Fries, Paddy Flaherty's, Prime Pubs, State & Main, Swiss Chalet, The Pickle Barrel, The Ultimate Dining Card, Tir Nan Óg	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
McDonald's®	2.5%	\$15 >		\$25 >		\$50 >						
Moxie's Grill & Bar	10%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Pizza Pizza	10%	\$25 >		\$100 >		\$500 >						

**IMPORTANT NOTE :** Retailers, rebates and card denominations subject to change without notice. Retailers, rebates and card denominations indicated on the FundScrip website will supersede those on this paper order form.

## Restaurant &amp; Coffee (Continued)

Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Red Lobster	5%	\$25 >										
Starbucks	5%	\$5 >		\$25 >								
St-Hubert BBQ, St-Hubert Express	4%	\$25 >										
SUBWAY®	3%	\$25 >		\$100 >		\$500 >						
Teriyaki Experience	10%	\$10 >		\$25 >								
The Chopped Leaf	10%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
The Keg Steakhouse + Bar	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
The Old Spaghetti Factory	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Tim Hortons	2%	\$15 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >				
Wendy's	3%	\$10 >										

## Apparel

Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Aerie	6%	\$50 >		\$100 >								
American Eagle®	6%	\$50 >		\$100 >								
Claire's	4%	\$20 >										
Gap, Baby Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Harry Rosen	5%	\$100 >										
La Senza, La Senza Express	7%	\$25 >										
La Vie en Rose, Bikini Village	8%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Lululemon	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Mark's	7%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Roots, Roots Kids	10%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >				
Simons	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Suzy Shier	6%	\$50 >		\$100 >								
Warehouse One	6%	\$50 >										

## Business &amp; Office

Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Staples	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$200 >		\$500 >		

## Children &amp; Toys

Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Build-A-Bear Workshop®	7%	\$25 >										
Scholar's Choice	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
The Children's Place	8%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Toys R Us, BabiesRus	2%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						

## Department Stores

Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Amazon.ca	2%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		
Dollarama	3%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >						
Giant Tiger	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Hudson's Bay	3%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >				
Walmart	3%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		
Winners, HomeSense, Marshalls	6%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		

Electronics														
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Best Buy	1.5%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >								
The Source	2%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >								
Entertainment														
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Chapters, Coles Books, Indigo	5%	\$5 >		\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >				
Cineplex, Galaxy, Scotiabank, SilverCity, The Rec Room	4%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$100 >								
Landmark Cinemas	4%	\$25 >		\$50 >										
Health & Beauty														
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Bath and Body Works Canada	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >										
Fruits and Passion, Nature Collection, THE FACE SHOP	10%	\$25 >												
Regis Salons, Borics Hair Care, Hairmasters, MasterCuts	5%	\$25 >												
Rexall	2%	\$25 >		\$50 >										
Sally Beauty®	10%	\$25 >												
Sephora	4%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >						
Shoppers Drug Mart	3%	\$25 >		\$100 >										
Home & Garden														
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Canadian Tire	4%	\$10 >		\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Club Piscine Super Fitness	4%	\$100 >		\$250 >		\$500 >		\$1000 >		\$2500 >				
Home Depot	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		\$500 >				
Home Hardware, Home Furniture	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		\$500 >				
Lowe's	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		\$500 >				
RONA	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$500 >						
Stokes, ThinkKitchen	6%	\$25 >												
Specialty														
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
App Store & iTunes	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >								
DAVIDsTEA	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >										
DeSerres	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >								
Groupon	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >										
Kernels Popcorn	5%	\$15 >		\$25 >		\$100 >								
Laura Secord	7%	\$25 >												
MOLLY MAID	4%	\$100 >												
PetSmart	2%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >						
Sports & Leisure														
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Bass Pro Shops	4%	\$25 >		\$50 >										
Cabela's	4%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >								
Foot Locker	5%	\$25 >		\$50 >										
Golf Town	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >						
LifeExperiences.ca	7%	\$100 >												

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Sports & Leisure (Continued)												
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Running Room	6%	\$25 >		\$50 >								
Sport Chek, Atmosphere	4%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Travel												
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Best Western	2.5%	\$50 >										
Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, WillowStream	8%	\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >						
Others Retailers												
Retailer	%	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	\$	QT	Total \$
Ivanhoe Cambridge, Bayshore Shopping Centre, Conestoga Mall, Mapleview Centre, Oshawa Centre, Outlet Collection at Niagara, Vaughan Mills	3.5%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >						
Oxford Gift Card Plus, Hillcrest Mall, Scarborough Town Centre, Square One Shopping Centre, Upper Canada Mall, Yorkdale Shopping Centre	3%	\$25 >		\$50 >		\$100 >		\$250 >		\$500 >		

TOTAL OF THIS ORDER

\$