



Connections

Humber Valley United
the friendly community church

May 2018

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The Reverend's Pentecost Reflection

*Spring is in the air!
And with it, the Holy Spirit!*

Pentecost is one of my favorite times of the church year. It brings to mind confirmation classes, baptisms, and school graduation! It is a time when all seems possible in Christ - a time when tongues of flame can inspire, words of wisdom can be heard, and heavy hearts full of the cold winds of winter are given opportunity to lighten and lift into a new season of hope and possibility. For me, it is a time when the phrase, "It's all been said before" could never be more untrue! Ok, it is also a time when I am apt to wax poetic and personally expound with creative energy!

I believe that the Holy Spirit is alive in thought, word and action during this time of Pentecost in unique and ever-changing ways.

It can be a time of growth like no other. And for those who would like to pull me back down to earth, I say, "Forsooth, be thou not dismayed or perplexed by this springtime passion in my heart. For as Ecclesiastes teaches, to everything there is a season! A time for every matter under heaven."

Pentecost of the heart, though, may not descend on Pentecost Sunday.

I recall a Springtime when I thought life had ended. Not in the literal sense, but in a very real metaphorical sense of life

passing by – perhaps too heartlessly. An image of an avalanche comes to mind as I remember loved ones lost in grief, frozen in time, unable to move beyond their pain. Experiencing the death of a loved one is difficult, whether their parting is anticipated because of illness or age, or unexpected.

I believe that the same can be true for congregations. The Holy Spirit may be willing to descend, but the heart may not yet be open to receive.

While Psalm 139 teaches that God knows our inner-most being ("For it was you who formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb"), we rarely know who we truly are. God knows that some of us require longer time to grieve and to let go of loved ones than others. God knows that some are better at getting back on our feet and can handle rock-bottom experiences with ease. God knows that some of us are blessed with a sure-footedness that permits us to climb the steep slopes more easily.

I wonder what amount of love could be shared if we learn who we are in Christ. Our strengths may no longer be regarded as merely *our* strengths, but as strengths given by the Holy Spirit for the good of all. Into what shape would our congregation be formed?

Matthew teaches that God is with us no matter where we are (Matt. 28:20).



Are we with God?

Are we able to welcome the Spirit of Pentecost with an open heart and receive the strengths of the Spirit, the personal spiritual gifts that are waiting for us?

I pray that the Holy Spirit may bless our church that it may grow in harmony, strength, and wholeness in all its parts as the Body of Christ takes shape in new and wonderful ways.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Rick Tamas

Elder _____

Phone _____

Rev. Rick and I got together about a month ago to talk about what we wanted to see in this edition of *Connections*. We batted around a few ideas and we both landed on the theme "God is with Us." We both have a deep sense that this is particularly true right now in Humber Valley.

So I sent out some requests asking people to send me stories or poems about God being with them or with us. I got much less than I thought I would. I was expecting at least one story about an epiphany; someone taking a walk in the forest and feeling His presence. What came in was a little almost off-handed reference and the poem from Carol Zachar on page 16.

But the many articles that were submitted show – without explicitly stating it – that God is indeed with us here in Humber Valley. We sense it in Sunday service where the messages, the team work, the music and dance, the hand shakes and hugs all



bring God right into the Sanctuary with us. We see it in all the activities and events at HVUC. We see it in all the caring, dedication and hard work being done by so many of our congregation.

We are being held in the palm of so many hands and I know God is with us.

A Fairy Tale comes True

On May 19th a lot of us got up very early to watch Ms. Rachel Meghan Markle marry Henry Charles Albert David, the sixth in line to the British throne. Many of us have watched Meghan in the TV series *Suits* and may even have seen her on the streets of Toronto. Most people really like Prince Harry and I was lucky enough to see him up close when he came to Queen's Park to call on the Lieutenant Governor. We somehow feel connected to this couple.

The wedding was a wonderful spectacle for people-watching, for seeing the beautiful St. George's Chapel and the town of Windsor, for experiencing the pomp and circumstance of a royal wedding, and for sharing the same experience with people all over the world.



The love the couple feel for each other was evident on their faces and in their body language. It makes me smile just to think about it.

While the wedding was imbued in many deep layers of tradition it managed to blow the winds of change into the monarchy. And while Harry and Meghan did so much and included so many changing touches, the main source for that wind of change was Bishop Michael Curry. He talked about the power of love and fire on the eve of Pentecost.



"When love is the way -- unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive, when love is the way. Then no child would go to bed hungry in this world ever again.

When love is the way. We will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever flowing brook.

When love is the way poverty will become history.

When love is the way the earth will become a sanctuary.

When love is the way we will lay down our swords and shields down by the riverside to study war no more.

When love is the way there's plenty good room, plenty good room for all of God's children."

Bishop Michael Curry, St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, May 19, 2018.

God is with us and with them. May their fairy tale make true the promise "and they lived happily ever after."

I love to hear from you. Please send me your comments and suggestions. Susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Susanne Hynes

What Stephen Ministry Means to Me

Sometimes life is tough and it can throw us some serious curve balls. I've experienced it first hand last year as I took care of my mom during her last days. Palliative care doctors and nurses, God bless their souls, were so busy coming in and out, they didn't really have time to support me nor help me cope. But Reverend Mark Winger did take the time to come visit us. His presence gave me such comfort! It gave me the strength to keep going and provide my mom with the most peaceful and loving remaining days.

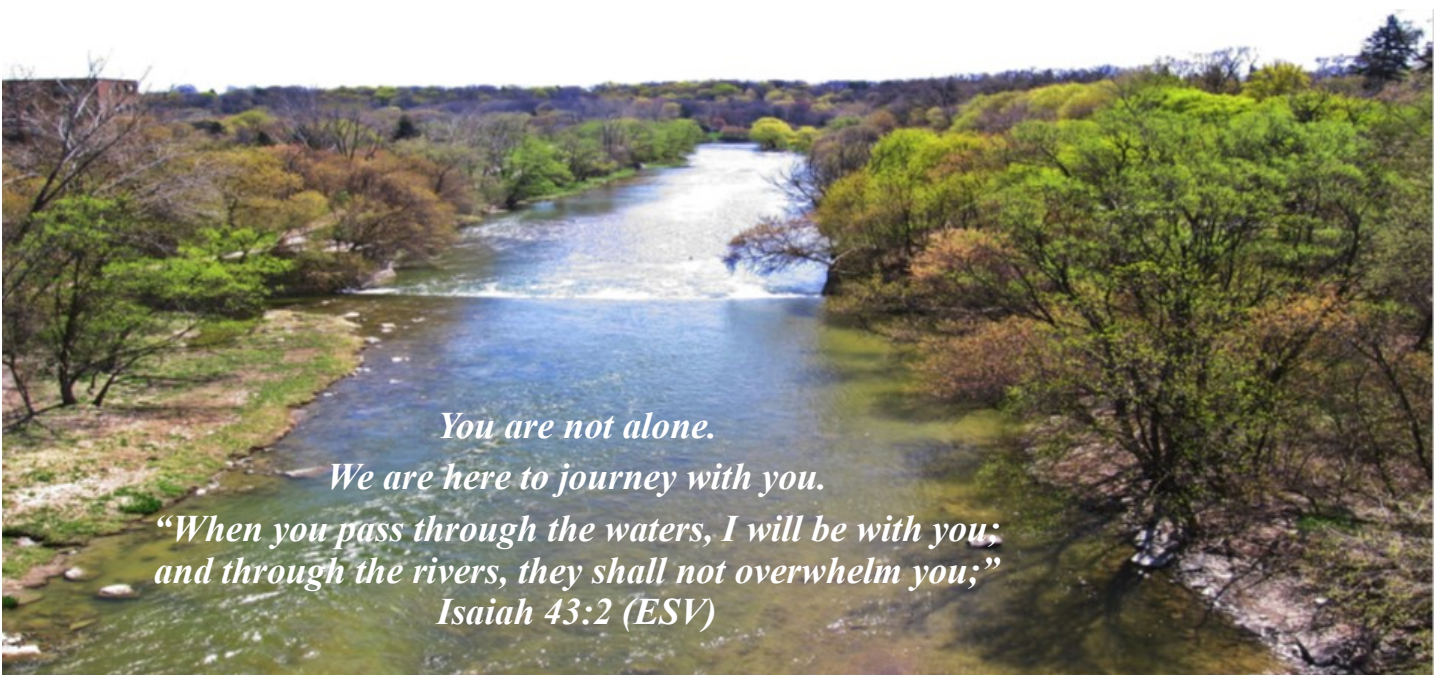
The Stephen Ministry is my opportunity to give back. To be there for someone in need of support through tough times, just like I did, as no one should go through it alone. My Stephen Ministry Commissioning is coinciding with the 1st year anniversary of my mom's passing. This can't be a coincidence.... Merci Mammie! Je t'aime! (Thank you, Mom! I love you!)

Geneviève Bailey

I find the things closest to my heart are often the most difficult to put into words. As far back as I can remember I was taught that all of us had been placed in this, God's world, to help others whenever we were able and to give back to our community. Over time I have discovered what an honour and a joy it is to be able to do this, however small the task might be.

One of our assignments while taking the Stephen Ministry course was to make up a motto to describe what Stephen Ministry meant to us. I love the beauty of God's world and after a great deal of thought I decided the photograph of the Humber River and the passage of scripture from Isaiah not only described my relationship between God and myself, a Stephen Minister, but also, the relationship as a Stephen Minister with my Care Receiver.

Barbara Clarke



You are not alone.

We are here to journey with you.

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;"*

Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)

Our Ministry Team

On Sunday, May 6 the Chair of Humber Valley's Leadership Council, Deb Turnbull, served coffee to our new ministry team — directly in front of the altar — to welcome Rev. Rick and Rev. Ian to Humber Valley United Church. The sermon that followed was a conversation



shared with us, reassuring us they are getting to know each other and are here for the people of Humber Valley. We already know Rev. Rick and are looking forward to getting to know Rev. Ian as they both work to help us heal and grow in our faith.



We'll be seeing a lot of Coach Rick and Coach Ian over the next two years.

To help us get to know them better, Carla Sandrin interviewed them both and their responses follow on the next two pages

Rev. Rick Tamas

Where were you raised and what was your family life like?

I was raised in Brantford ON. until I was ten years old when we moved to Etobicoke in Markland Woods. I am the oldest of five children, with two brothers and two sisters. Family life was busy, where my Dad went to work each day and Mom was the traditional homemaker. Our family was close, and we had a skating rink in our backyard where I loved playing hockey. I also participated in gymnastic competitions. I attended St. Clement and Michael Power High School before attending the University of Toronto and Ryerson.

What inspired you to go into the Ministry?

As a child, my mother would take me to church most Sundays. I didn't think too much about God back then, but seeds of faith were planted that I wasn't aware of. As I grew, ministry called out to me as I searched for a vocation that would bring meaning to my life.

Who had the biggest impact on you in your life and why?

We have life-changing moments at each stage of our lives. In kindergarten, I remember the kind words of a teacher inspiring trust. In high school, the encouraging words from my hockey coach made such a difference in my self-confidence. Also, I learned how the heart-felt words of a good caregiver could be life-changing in the process of healing.

What are your favourite things to do outside of church?

I love music, live theatre, playing djembe and guitar. My wife and I are learning about the finer nuances of wines and wine-pairing. I also enjoy our backyard "oasis" complete with water features and plenty of colourful flowers.

If you had chosen a different career path, what do you think you would have done?

I probably would have chosen to be a creative artist, making use of my passion for theatre and music.

Can you tell us about one/some of the most impactful experiences you've had in your life?

Going to Oberammergau, Germany to see the Passion Play was certainly one of the most dramatically inspiring experiences of my life. However, one of the most spiritually moving experiences happened, as I shared with the

Coach Rick and Coach Ian

congregation on Sunday, when I prayed with family around the hospital bed of a parishioner who was in a coma, and we witnessed her moving during the Lord's Prayer.

What is a little-known fact about you that you don't mind sharing?

I dabbled as an amateur songwriter and wrote the songs that were sung at our wedding.



What is your favourite movie/TV series and why?

I don't really have a favorite movie. Though I like solving a good mystery and enjoyed the new Sherlock Holmes series with Benedict Cumberbatch.

What do you enjoy most about your work as a minister?

I like the connection with God and with the congregation through the Holy Spirit. This can happen for me in preaching, prayer, and being present with someone. I feel fulfilled when I have been able to walk with someone through a challenging time and emerge stronger, wiser and happier.

What do you enjoy least about your work as a minister?

I think the hardest times for any minister are when a minister feels disconnected or misunderstood in their ministry. As we learned from our workshops together, these experiences can happen when "intent, action and effect" are not spiritually aligned. Also, making sure that I maintain some "me time" so that I can continue to provide the congregation with the best of me, not the worn-out me!

What makes you unhappy?

I am unhappy when communication breaks down.

What keeps you up at night?

Coming up with new "plays" for coach Rick to implement!

What makes you angry?

When people don't stop to listen, work together, or try to bully their way through as though their way is the only way.

What makes you laugh?

Being with good-hearted people encourages me to be my-

self, to laugh and to enjoy their presence. I feel that good-hearted laughter is contagious and can lift the spirits.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

I have had the opportunity to experience many different congregations throughout my ministry. HVUC impressed me as a congregation who is open to "looking in the mirror" and creating for themselves the chance to "get it right." It is my hope that this optimistic view continues and that the temptation to fall back into what was known or safe is not deemed as the best or easiest. This will involve those keywords, Passion, Vision and Trust as we move forward in faith. Thank you for this opportunity to share.

Rev. Ian Manson

Where were you raised and what was your family life like?

I was raised on a farm in Manitoba near a town called Domain, about 20 miles southwest of Winnipeg. I was an only child, and my parents were caring and supportive. Here I learned the value of hard work and cooperation, and the importance of respecting the land – all of which were important lessons!

What inspired you to go into the Ministry?

Our family regularly attended church, and it was always a place where I felt I belonged. I was given many opportunities to share and develop my talents, and, as time went on, some people I really respected suggested I should think about the ministry. So, after doing a couple of history degrees and working in politics for awhile, I went off to seminary, and discerned I was called to ministry.

Who had the biggest impact on you in your life and why?

Probably my dad. He was a strong, quiet man who loved what he did, and was unfailingly supportive. He was also very active in the local community, and taught me the importance of volunteering, giving back, and assuming one's share of civic responsibility.

What are your favourite things to do outside of church?

Outside of church I love to read, teach, write, kayak, and hike.

If you had chosen a different career path, what do you think you would have done?

If I hadn't gone into the ministry, I'd likely have become a university professor.

Can you tell us about one/some of the most impactful experiences you've had in your life?

One impactful experience was the three weeks I spent in Israel, Egypt and Jordan some years ago. Seeing and experiencing that part of the world made the Biblical story come alive in a whole new way.

What is a little-known fact about you that you don't mind sharing?

One little known fact is that, for two years in the early 80s, I was a member of Lloyd Axworthy's political staff (in his Winnipeg office) when he was a federal cabinet minister.

What is your favourite movie/TV series and why?

My favorite TV series remains M*A*S*H. The cast of characters is great, each is so very human, and the humor is sensitive and sophisticated.

What do you enjoy most about your work as a minister?

My work offers the opportunity to walk with individuals, families, and congregations, through some very significant moments. It's a real privilege.

What do you enjoy least about your work as a minister?

Sometimes, too many meetings in a week can make me want to scream!

What makes you unhappy?

I become unhappy when I'm put in a box and am told that I must do things one particular way. I'm also most unhappy when I see people being hurt and treated unfairly, and when injustices are allowed to continue.

What keeps you up at night?

Knowing I have a difficult meeting or conversation scheduled for the next morning can keep me up at night – as can too much coffee too late in the day!

What makes you angry?

I get angry when someone I love is treated poorly and unfairly.

What makes you laugh?

I really enjoy watching stand-up comics perform, and John Mulaney and Kathleen Madigan are two of my favorites. I admire their ability to tell great stories – and to make me laugh.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

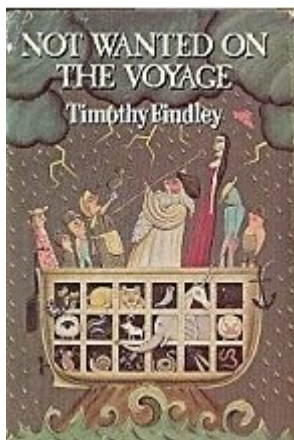
I'm happy to be here!

Interviews by Carla Sandrin.



The serviceberry tree that was planted to celebrate the joining of St. Luke's United with Humber Valley United is thriving and was in full bloom earlier this spring.

Wanted on the Voyage: Our I.I.M.!



Before beginning my ministry here at Humber Valley this past week, a friend who's done a lot of this sort of work suggested that I re-read Timothy Findley's classic novel, *Not Wanted on the Voyage*.

When I asked why, the person responded: "No congregation I've known ever has *wanted* to have an Intentional Interim Ministry imposed on them. Because that's the situation you're going into,

you may well find that some people at Humber Valley may direct some of their displeasure about the Toronto Conference decision at you, at least initially. So Findley's book offers a good analogy for how you may feel on occasion – "not wanted on the voyage."

I can happily report that, in the course of my first week here at Humber Valley, I have never felt "not wanted" on this voyage. Deb Turnbull and Constance Crosby have been unfailingly helpful and supportive. Rick has been most gracious, welcoming, and willing to help figure out how best to make our team ministry work. And the welcome that was offered here at Thursday afternoon's "meet and greet" was also warm and inviting. So I thank you – and I am pleased to be in your midst.

With that being said, I've also heard that there may well be questions about what an "Interim" or "Transitional" minister like me really does, and what my role here over the next two years will be. No two transitional ministers do things exactly the same way – so I'm happy to have been asked to share a few of my basic understandings with you.

And the first understanding has to do with what I'm NOT here to do. My job is NOT to try to tell you what to do or to impose some pre-determined "fix" on Humber Valley United Church. I'm not here to try and be anyone's boss, or to dictate how certain things must be done. There are some defined areas that we're to focus on, and it's my job to ensure that happens. But how we do that is up to us. So I'm here to work with you and to become one part of your team.

But what exactly does that mean? In addition to participating regularly in Sunday worship and being supportive of the Leadership Council, Rick, the staff, and all of you, I see

several different components to my work:

One is to help identify where the Spirit of God has been, and is, present in this place.

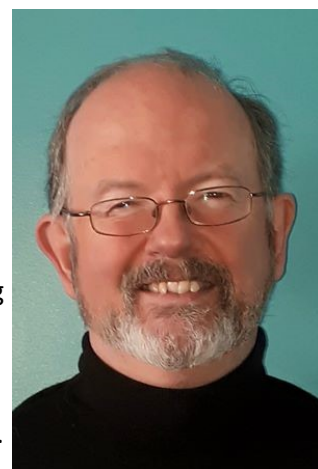
That will involve facilitating discussions, asking questions, doing lots of listening, and then helping you discern how you might name, celebrate, and build on this legacy and manifest God's Spirit in new and life-giving ways. All of this will be done openly and transparently – there are no hidden agendas – and no pre-determined outcomes.

A second is to help introduce and explore a range of different possibilities and options for the future.

These include matters related to: models of governance, methods of communication, styles of leadership, approaches to worship, and other programming initiatives that might be considered. But they could also include questions about music, stewardship, and much else. That does NOT mean everything is suddenly going to change or is up for grabs. But this can be an opportunity to explore some different approaches to certain matters, and discover what does and does not resonate.

A third is to find new ways of understanding, and developing meaningful relationships with the neighborhood in which we live.

All across Canada, and indeed North America, mainline Protestant churches (including United, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Lutheran) are facing unprecedented challenges related to declining numbers, aging membership, a diminishing leadership and volunteer base, and shrinking revenues. These challenges are very serious, and no magic remedies exist. But there's a growing recognition that, especially in "neighborhood" churches like this one, there can be real value in reaching out beyond our walls into the community – not initially to "evangelize" (to use that dreaded "e" word!) and try to "sell" ourselves – but rather to learn more about who our neighbors actually are; to listen to their hopes and dreams, their challenges and fears; and to begin to build new relationships with them. This can be done in various ways, but this work can be really interesting – and fruitful!



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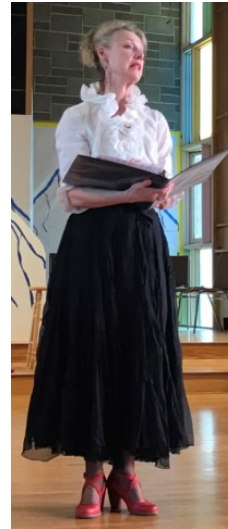
And a fourth task is to help you develop a plan for the next chapter of life here at Humber Valley that answers this question: “What ministry do you believe you’re being called to offer this community, that will connect with people’s deepest yearnings, that is sustainable, that will bring you life and joy, and that you believe is faithful?” The vision or plan you develop can have several different components, but clarity is important. And doing that work will prepare the way for a new and spirit-filled chapter of ministry here to begin.

These are some of the pieces of work upon which I believe I’ve been called to focus. And, to reiterate, my role in this enterprise is to be a supportive presence, to raise questions, to create safe spaces and places for open and constructive conversations, to raise possibilities and ideas rather than impose solutions, and to help you identify and unite around a common new vision for the future. This work won’t always be easy – and there will be some rough water along the way. But just as the Spirit was with Noah and all the critters on that Biblical voyage long ago, I know that the Spirit also will be with us. And I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with you, Rick, the Leadership Council and the staff, and share these next two years with you. May God bless us all.

Rev. Dr. Ian Manson
**Remarks to HVUC Annual Meeting
May 6, 2018**

Welcome Jill

Our music program at Humber Valley is in good hands. We are very fortunate that Jill Fillion, has agreed to lead the choir and play the piano for services during the next few months, including the summer services.



Jill grew up in Vancouver and appeared in her first musical, *Oklahoma*, at age 13, as a featured dancer. Favourite roles include Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Marion in *The Music Man*, Signora Naccarelli in *The Light in the Piazza* and Elsa in *The Sound of Music*. Jill toured throughout BC for three seasons with the Vancouver Opera Ensemble, and was guest soloist with the Vancouver

Chamber Ensemble, CBC Radio and the Kelowna Symphony. She was a member of both the touring and Toronto companies of *The Phantom of the Opera* and the original cast of *Ragtime*. She has since enjoyed three seasons with the Charlottetown Festival, seven with Drayton Entertainment and two with Theatre by the Bay.

Source: Wellseasonedproductions

We look forward to her leadership in this very important part of our church life.

Daytimers



DAYTIMERS: you still have two more months to come and enjoy the camaraderie, taste and inspiration of Daytimers before we break for the summer. On May 28th, Wendy Wiltshire will be overseeing a lunch which features pulled pork. The cost of this lunch is \$8. Anita Csapo, the spiritual advisor to the Dorothy Ley Hospice, will give us an illustrated insight into how her work benefits people in the latter stages of life and their families.

On June 18th Sally Jo and friends will prepare the lunch and Tapestry residence will supply our dessert. This will be a free

lunch, thanks to a generous donation from our friend, Gisela Maiezza, who passed away recently. Jill Fillion will treat us to some of her stunning Flamenco dancing.

This is a great time to thank our fantastic, fifteen person strong organizing team and our dedicated drivers. Ask anybody who attends if they have a good time. Our attendance averages about 70 guests. Why don’t you come and see for yourself, if you have never been. I promise you won’t be disappointed.

Judith Dallimore

Lorraine and Lynn

Andrea Ostvik Van der Vliet was once again thrilled to present the **Fred Van der Vliet Award for Innovation and Creativity** at HVUC's Annual Meeting on May 8.

The very deserving recipients were Lorraine Pearsall and Lynn Manning. The following are excerpt from Andrea's speech:

Lynn is known as 'the kitchen queen', a term she actually hates. Still, she has been a steadfast 'lead' meal designer, food shopper, chef, server and cleaner-upper since joining HV from St Luke's in 2010. Yes, she has lots of helpers that lighten her load, but Lynn is often at the helm of hospitality, sometimes cooking up meals for crowds single-handedly. She's been known to cook chili dinners for groups of more than 100 people! She is especially noted for taking charge and organizing and serving at funeral receptions, as well as at virtually every meeting and event here that includes food, and I could go on and on about her famous homemade muffins and cakes! As spectacular as all this is, the Fred Van der Vliet Award is not a service award.

Where Lynn has excelled in innovation and creativity is in preparing her food dishes with flare and sourcing amazing deals! One example of this is when she volunteered to plan the menu, shop, and cook to feed 30 people once a week for our Alpha program. We actually had zero budget for this program and yet Lynn managed to pull off a complete meal, including dessert, on modest donations, for 12 weeks!

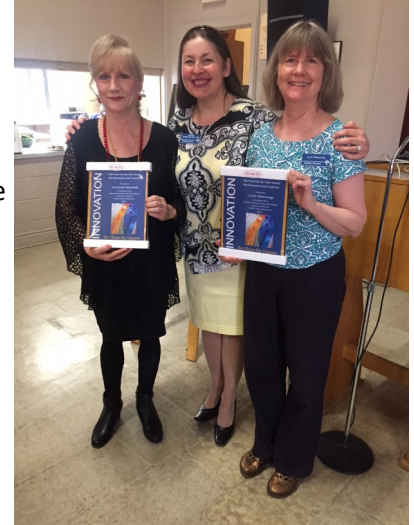
Creativity around food is not her only area of innovation. Each year during Week of Guided Prayer, Lynn brings the theme alive by bringing in props, visual aids and leaving the recipients with mementos that help us all recall the week and its message whenever we see them. We all know the bible story of Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Lynn is a self confessed Martha. But you know, she's also a darn good Mary when

it comes to her role as a Stephen Ministry leader and member of the Pastoral Care Team! Her care and compassion knows no bounds!

Our other recipient this year is Lorraine Pearsall. Lorraine is one of those quiet people that goes about contributing in her own special way until she became well known for her artistic skill. Over the last years, Lorraine would answer the call from Carolyn Whiteside for volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary for special occasions. Lorraine then started to adorn the tables at the monthly Daytimer's lunches and create themes. Once the cat was out of the bag that we have a wonderfully innovative decorator in our midst, Lorraine has been called upon to create excitement for so many events in the life of the church. I think we will all agree that when a topic or theme is highlighted with visuals to support, it makes a lasting impression in our memory. Lorraine has themed our coffee hours for everything from Valentines, Easter, St Patrick's and Christmas, to the special events like the Auld Lang Syne service, Remembrance Day, Licia Bryden's baby shower, and Rev Mark's goodbye and send off to India event, and of course our recent Penguin dinner and play, where the dinner table centre pieces were awesome and so much fun! And by the way, Lorraine not only decorates, and plans the theme, but then she shops on a shoestring budget, and comes into the church when others are not around to do all the decorating work on her own!

Lorraine is a wonderful example of where a special gift has been discovered and has flourished and is being shared lovingly with our congregation!

Please join me in welcoming Lynn and Lorraine into membership of a select club as the 2018 recipients of the Fred Van der Vliet Award.



We knew from the outset that 2018 was going to be a challenging year financially and so far, that prediction holds true. At the AGM in early May, we presented an amended 2018 budget for discussion and approval. The ministerial changes at the church arising from the Toronto Conference directives last November have had a significant impact on payroll which currently accounts for nearly 70% of our operating expenses. That amended budget, as approved, forecasts that the operating deficit for 2018 will be in the area of \$62,000.

Although a deficit of this level is not sustainable long term, Humber Valley has financial reserves available to us that can cover this year's losses. Accordingly, it is important to understand that such a deficit will not threaten our long-term viability.

The largest impact on payroll expense is in the first half of the year which is a key contributor to the fact that we are running a large year-to-date deficit of approximately \$58K. However, Paul Chant's salary comes off the books at the end of May and our financial obligations to Rev. Winger will be fulfilled by the end of June. Therefore, monthly payroll costs during the last half of the year will come closer to long-term expectations.

In addition to regular congregational givings, the Leadership Council is planning some fund-raising events between now and the end of the year with a view to supplementing our regular income.

Rental income is also a key component of our revenue. Meetings will be held with all of our regular tenants between now and the end of June. At these meetings, they will be advised of changes in annual rent along with other items of financial relevance. Achieving the ideal rental rate is always a balancing act between maximizing income and maintaining a positive workable relationship with our tenants. Cheryl Drake is the face of the church for the daily interactions with this group and she does an amazing job of keeping things on an even keel. Thank you, Cheryl.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer.

Blessings

Gary Halpenny.

Chair, Stewardship and Finance Committee

The table below shows the financial results to the end of April 2018. Results for the same period in 2017 are included for comparison purposes.

	January – April	
	2018	2017
Sources of Funds		
PAR, Envelope, Stock Givings	\$95,484	\$91,202
Use of Church	\$56,792	\$57,388
Trustees	\$6,582	\$6,645
Other (Loose Givings, Solar, etc.)	\$5,775	\$5,415
Outreach, Capital Givings	\$17,279	12,147
Total Sources of Funds	\$181,912	\$172,797
Expenditures		
Payroll	\$162,436	\$140,164
Building Expenses	\$23,156	\$24,935
Office	\$14,134	\$8,579
Presbytery Assessment	\$3,983	\$4,208
Music	\$12,073	\$10,658
Other Committees	\$7,498	\$10,851
Total Expenditures	\$223,280	\$199,395
Transfers to Outreach and Capital HF's	\$17,279	12,147
Operating Deficit	\$58,647	\$38,745



Humber Valley celebrated the Easter season with music, words, dance and food.

On Maundy Thursday, a Seder Potluck Dinner was shared by many and was followed by Holy Communion.

Under the direction of our Minister of Music, we were treated to a three part cantata -- *Hallelujah! What a Saviour! The Crucified and Risen Christ* -- that began on Palm Sunday, continued on Good Friday and climaxed on Easter Sunday. HVUC's Liturgical Dance Group performed to "Celebrate Jesus" on Palm Sunday. After the service several people helped knead the bread that served the Sunday Communion. As is our tradition, people left the church in silence after the very moving Good Friday Service. The chancel screen had been getting darker throughout Lent and was completely dark for the entire service.



Easter Sunday morning began with a sunrise service on the hill by Humber Valley Junior Middle School. We were joined by people from St. Giles and shared breakfast (made by the men of HVUC) with them in Steed Hall.

When we entered the Sanctuary for the 10:30 worship, the chancel screen was once again fully lit and there was an array of daffodils in front of the altar. The service included Holy Communion. The daffodils were delivered to sick and shut-ins from our congregation.



Who Says Penguins Can't Fly?



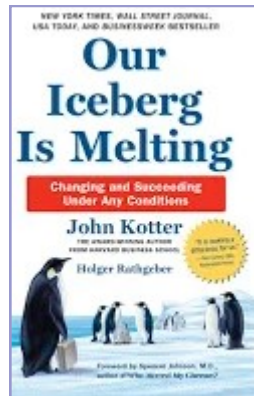
Peter White aka Peter Penguin promoting the event.

Who says penguins can't fly? Maybe it is technically true, but if you were in the church on April 21, 2018, you know that a whole colony of penguins soared right off the stage and into the hearts of the Humber Valley congregation.

How did this come about? It was one of those situations in which, after initially seeming hopeless, all the stars aligned and a miracle happened.

In the bleakness of mid-January 2018, Humber Valley United Church was still reeling from the abrupt and unexpected departure of Rev. Winger, and not knowing what lay ahead.

Ron Crago, a member of the HVUC Strategic Planning Team, brought a book to the January Leadership Council meeting that he said had some valuable lessons for our church. John Kotter, a Harvard professor and expert in change management, wrote "Our Iceberg is Melting", a fable about penguins who are faced with a crisis and have to decide how to handle it. Ron felt that everyone in the church should read it.



The Anniversary Planning Committee was looking for an event to replace a planned Gala, for which no one was in an appropriate mood. Someone suggested making a musical presentation of the Kotter book, and presenting it on the night originally reserved for the Gala. What a challenge! After considerable debate, Joan Belford undertook to write a script and some lyrics, Peter White said he would take on the logistics of sets, lights, and sound, and others stepped up to arrange food, tickets, and all the other necessities. With the addition of the talented George Turnbull as co-director, cinema-

tographer and choreographer, we were underway.

First, we had to ask Professor Kotter for permission. This is a man who gets \$40,000 to do a lecture. But Deb Turnbull, our fearless leader, emailed him and he replied within 15 minutes: "If it will help your church, go ahead."

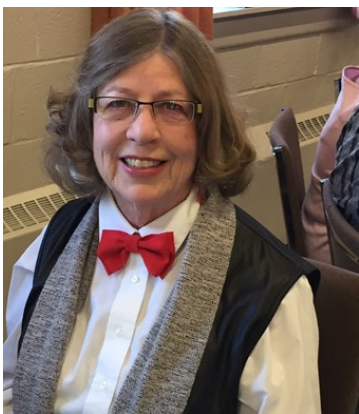
To give people an opportunity to discuss Professor Kotter's ideas, we arranged to have a dinner following the play, with one person who had read the book at each table to act as facilitator. We also wanted to ensure that no one would be stuck in the kitchen during the event, so we brought in food from an outside restaurant. This was a major departure from HVUC custom; however, we did maintain the custom of having wine, with a reception before the presentation, complete with penguin crackers.

We timed the event to attract all ages: after work hours, but early enough that children could still get to bed on time, and older people would not have to drive late at night.

Originally we were hoping to make the event a fundraiser, but we decided it was more important that as many people as possible see the play. The ticket price was thus pared down to just enough to allow us to break even if 100 people came. We later added a live auction, as a means of raising some funds without increasing tickets prices.

From the very beginning, this was meant to be a congregational event. We held no auditions; we simply said anyone who wanted to be a penguin was welcome. In the end we had a cast of 37. The youngest was 10; the oldest was 91. Every penguin had a line.

We had a few headaches on the road to the presentation. Finding practice space in this crowded church was a struggle. Two of our dates were lost to Easter and the AGM. Once we had to trek to St. Giles to rehearse.



Joan Belford wrote the script based on the book. Her energy made it happen.



At Humber Valley They Can!!!

Ticket sales lagged and we worried about covering our basic costs. Then in the last week, when we sold 178 tickets, our food supplier said he couldn't increase the food quantities. It took some sweet-talking from Judith Dalimore to get that one settled.

But we had many angels. A few people offered financial support that freed us from worrying about every nickel. Our organist and soloists not only participated in the show, but gave us guidance and advice based on their professional experience. When Jill taught the actors how to walk like penguins, she completely transformed the show.

Several gentlemen of the congregation lent us tuxedos, one of which had \$10.00 in the pocket. Four ladies turned scraps of material into costumes at no cost. The Camera Club lent some photographic equipment. Sets appeared like magic. Zoran figured out how to split the screens so that the cast could have the script on the rear screen. When our mascot penguin Peter fell ill, people came from every direction to help fill his shoes.

Our acting Minister, Rev. Rick Tamas, was a tremendous factor in our success. Not only did he volunteer to be in the play, he kept the production in the minds of the congregation in the weeks leading up to the presentation, and he summed up the entire lesson of the play in his sermon, as Pastor Penguin, the day after the play.

Altogether we had 66 people involved in the cast and crew of "Our Iceberg is Melting", most of whom had no experience in theatre. Some did not know each other before rehearsals started, but they are a true "colony" now.

On April 21, 2018 the audience came anticipating a home-grown, less-than-perfect presentation, and the cast members were very nervous. But the production surpassed all expectations.

It was a wonderful show. More than that, it blanketed all present with a warm spirit that has persisted to this day. Continued on p.14



Moving Icebergs



Continued from p. 13

Working on the “Penguin production” accomplished many things: It galvanized the church community in a positive activity; It brought forth talents and capacities we didn’t know existed; It lifted our spirits; and It proved that when we work together, we can move icebergs,

Who says penguins can’t fly?

At Humber Valley, they can!

Peter and Joan



Before and after the Penguins

The Penguins production was preceded by a wine reception in the Hearth Room. Penguin hors d’oeuvres specially prepared for the event were served. It got quite warm and animated as people chatted in anticipation of seeing the show.

Steed Hall was



decorated as an iceberg with penguin centrepieces. It looked splendid. We all shared a lovely meal. Eight amazing prizes were auctioned off by the Orr brothers who got right into the spirit of the event.

Even though it had been decided that this would be primarily a spirit-rising event it did raise some funds to help church finances.



Thank You

We can’t name everyone who contributed to the success of this wonderful event. But you know who you are — and all of us at Humber Valley are grateful and so happy that so many people worked so hard to make this happen.



Hike for Hospice 2018—Most Successful

Congratulations to the congregation for strong support of the Dorothy Ley Hospice annual fund raising Hike again this year. For almost thirty years, we at HVUC have been community partners with the Dorothy Ley Hospice.

Our Outreach and Action Committee kicked off this year's campaign with a one thousand dollar donation. And then the congregation rose to the challenge and raised a further \$5,465 in personal donations to the Hike. That level of support is hugely appreciated by the Hospice and represents a significant component of the \$125,000 that was raised overall, the most successful Hike in its sixteen year history.

As impressive as those numbers are, it is important to know that every year the Hospice must raise over one million dollars, on top of their funding from the Ministry of Health, in order to provide palliative care at no cost to their individuals both in their own homes and at the Hospice Residence.

This year was special. Not only did we, as Margo's HVUC Marchers, donate funds to the Hike, we also demonstrated our HVUC spirit and commitment to our community by enthusiastically participating in our own satellite Hike for Hospice. Because the ice storm postponed our Annual Meeting to the day of the Hike it made it difficult for Margo's Marchers to participate in the actual Hike at the Hospice. So we happily declared one lap around the church equivalent to the real five kilometre Hike and invited the entire congregation to participate in the walk and to contribute to the fund. We were cheered on by our Sunday School children who made sure everyone of us, young and old, made it to the finish line.

Dorothy Ley Hospice supports the physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs of individuals (and their families and friends) who are living with life-limiting illness. Our support of the Hospice ensures those served may live fully, on their terms in the time that remains, with comfort, grace and dignity.

Ron Crago



Movie Night — World Premier

Join us to see the World Premier of HVUC's

"Our Iceberg is Melting"

June 9th at 7 pm

Refreshments will be provided at a modest cost.

A DVD OF HVUC'S performance of - "Our Iceberg is Melting"
is available to be ordered.

(The DVD cannot be copied

and is for your own personal use only)

Contact Deb Turnbull dtgbc01@gmail.com

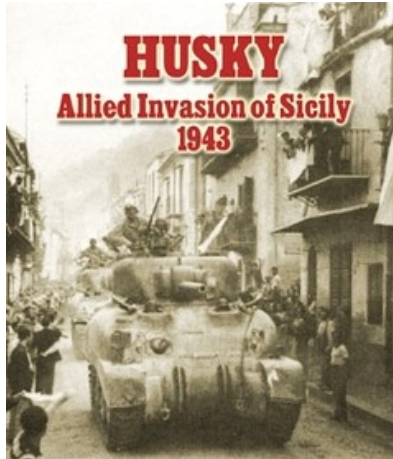
Copies are \$25 each and will be available as of June 9th

75th Anniversary of Operation Husky

On July 10, 1943, about eleven months before the D-Day invasion of Normandy, Operation Husky was launched. It was an invasion of Sicily by the Seventh United States Army and the British Eighth Army. The First Canadian Infantry Division and the First Canadian Army Tank Brigade were attached to the British Eighth Army.

The Canadians had sailed from Great Britain in late June, 1943, joining a Mediterranean invasion armada of nearly 3,000 Allied ships and landing craft. It was the first large-scale land operation of World War II in which the Canadian Army took part.

The Sicilian campaign ended on August 6, 1943, with the defeat of Italian and German forces, and the overthrow of Benito Mussolini, the fascist Italian dictator. On September 3, 1943, the day the Allies invaded Italy, the new Italian government surrendered. The Germans, however, immediately took control, occupying Italy and fighting the Allies until April 29, 1945, when they agreed to an unconditional surrender of troops in Italy, to take effect May 2, 1945.



The Canadians were not in Italy at the time of Germany's surrender, as, in February of 1945, the First Canadian Corps had been transferred to North-west Europe, to be reunited with the First Canadian Army. They joined in the drive into Holland and Germany, which led to Germany's unconditional surrender in Europe on May 7, 1945.

92,757 Canadians served in the Sicilian and Italian campaigns. Of these, 5,764 were killed, 19,486, wounded, and 1,004, captured. About one in four was a casualty.

Most of the Canadians are buried in Sicily and Italy in seventeen Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries. The only exclusively Canadian cemetery is the Agira Canadian War Cemetery in Sicily, where 490 Canadians are buried. 192 Canadians with no known graves are commemorated on the Cassino Memorial in Italy.

Jack Berryman

April, 2018

GOD IS WITH US

Almighty GOD is in the Heavens ABOVE us

HE is in the world AROUND us

HE is in the earth BENEATH us

HE is in our transit LEADING us

HE is always at our backs PROTECTING us

The earth is HIS creation

Our water planet!

The trees grow tall in worship to HIM

The birds sing to HIM

Be still and know that HE is within YOU and ME when we call on HIM

Carol Zachar

May, 2018



Farewell Paul

It was with mixed emotions that we said goodbye at the end of April to Paul Chant our talented Minister of Music for the past 12 years. Our emotions were mixed because there was much sadness and tears expressed by many people in having to bid Paul *adieu* after such a successful music leadership role at Humber Valley. But there was also an outpouring of good wishes for a successful career in his new church in Savannah, Georgia, where he is now the full-time Director of Music at the United Methodist Church of Skidaway Island.

On Sunday April 22nd, following the morning worship service, Deborah Turnbull, Chair of the Leadership Council, presented Paul with a purse and a book of photographic memories compiled by Susanne Hynes. In addition, two special *bon voyage* cakes were enjoyed by those attending the farewell event in the Arthur Steed Hall. Catherine Clemens and David Dallimore paid tribute to Paul's contribution to the music programs at Humber Valley and Michelle Madill presented Paul with a gift from the Sunday School.

During Paul's time at Humber Valley, he was able to inspire members of the choir, the soloists, the Handbell Ensemble and the Junior Choir to perform at increasing levels of competence and sophistication and in a variety of music genres including classical organ and choir music, gospel and spirituals, musical theatre and contemporary music. However, it was not only Paul's sheer musical skill which was inspiring but also his friendliness, patience and ability to get the best out of the people he worked with whether they were professionals or amateur volunteers. Paul set very high standards for musical performance which were appreciated by the church congregation and musical concert audiences.

Paul is settling in well in his new church and hopes that many Humber Valley members will visit him in Georgia.

David Dallimore



Gail Hamblin will head the search committee for a new Director of Music for Humber Valley.

Why Go to Church on Sunday

Judy Smith asked that we include the item below in Connections. It really is a piece related to our God is with Us theme and has a lovely message (even if it may make some of the feminists among us a tad uncomfortable). She got it in a forwarded email and the author is unknown.

If you are spiritually alive, you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope.

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I am wasting my time, and the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the editor's delight it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for almost 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of

those meals.

But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work.

If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today.

When you are DOWN to nothing
God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment.

Submitted by *Judy Smith*



Many of the photographs in this edition of *Connections* were taken by Nancy Roper.



On a recent Sunday in Lent (note the partially lit Chancel Screen) five lovely ladies in the congregation all wore pink.

The *United Church Observer* is an award winning Canadian magazine. Many in our congregation subscribe to the print edition and have it delivered to their homes. It makes fascinating reading; filled with thoughtful articles about our faith, our society and our world.

Did you know that you can have it delivered to your computer or your mobile phone so that you can read it anywhere.

To subscribe go to the Observer's website at <https://www.ucobserver.org> and enter your email.

Here is a recent column that may be of interest as we begin to plan for the future of Humber Valley United:

Christians need to take risks and 'be the church'

By Shawn Ankenmann

With fewer and fewer people attending traditional Sunday morning worship, some churches are coming up with innovations, such as Jazz Vespers and Messy Church, as well as worship services held on different days or settings. Though church leaders undertake them with the best of intentions, they're simply moving the box around and redecorating it. It's still church. Instead, we need to step outside the familiar — and the comfortable.

The church is being called to minister to the greater community, and that doesn't mean bringing a vision of what church is and will be. Instead, it requires us to allow the community to tell us what it needs. There's huge potential when a congregation is open to addressing the needs identified by the community, itself, and reaches beyond what people define as "church" to offer ministry, utilizing the assets and capital at hand.

In my own ministry, I found myself in a community that lacked a hub, where people could gather for coffee and conversation. Our rural Ontario town of 700 had several food venues, but no coffee shop.

Over the last 20 years, I have had many conversations and composed more than just a few sermons in such a place. The value of a coffee shop to the life of a small, rural town cannot be understated. It provides a place for people to gather while getting caught up on the latest news or gossip. It offers much needed part-time

jobs for local students and, most importantly, it's where the local community is built, affirmed and celebrated to tourists and locals alike.

So with the blessing of my congregation, I set out to establish a coffee shop specializing in the social justice values long held by the United Church of Canada. Our coffee, tea and chocolate products are fair trade and organic. We sell products from local producers and artists.

Although the shop is not formally connected to my congregation, it quickly became a component of the ministry that we share with the greater community. People are more comfortable meeting with me here than in a church office or their homes. As a result, most of my pastoral conversations happen in the shop. We also act as a hub with numerous community groups and neighbouring clergy using our facilities for meetings and conversations. What's more, being a community-minded barista allows me to have meaningful contact with people who would not otherwise reach out to the church. Doors open when fresh coffee is offered!

By identifying the needs of those around us, and having the courage to reach out and address them, congregations can do the same, be it establishing a day care centre in the church basement, offering a seniors' lunch in the fellowship hall and, yes, even offering something different and radical, like a coffee shop or a café.

Partly because of my role as minister, our shop remains a safe place where all people — regardless of gender, race, orientation, abilities or disabilities — can meet and greet each other with openness and respect. Though not officially a part of the church, it allows for a different kind of ministry, in which much needed community-building can happen over coffee and conversation.

From the April 2018 edition
of the United Church Observer.

Shawn Ankenmann is the owner of Highland
Grounds coffee shop in Flesherton, Ont.

Bids 'n' Bites

*Bids 'n' Bites
has been happening
for at least fifty years.
Women from the whole
neighbourhood look
forward to coming
year after year.*

Our wonderful UCW and Young Families have again come together to produce another successful Bids & Bites.

On Wednesday April 25, 37 tables of bridge players enjoyed sandwiches and squares and a few hands of bridge.

The setting looked lovely thanks to our decorators and set up teams. The delicious food was beautifully presented, thanks to our sandwich makers, bakers and servers,

door prizes added to the ambiance, thanks to the generosity of our neighbourhood sponsors, as well as the volunteers who canvas and organize the prizes and auction.

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful women of Humber Valley who help each year to make this a success. We had a profit of **\$5690.00**

God is with us keeping us healthy and happy to participate.

The additional elements of silent auction and

Linda Grass



Silent Auction Crew



Kitchen Crew

We would like to thank our sponsors for their continuing support.

The funds we receive for these ads help defray the costs of producing Connections.

If you would like to advertise in Connections, or if you know someone who might like to advertise, please contact the office at 416-231-2263. We reach an audience of about 200 people in print and more on the Humber Valley website and Facebook page.

We encourage everyone to consider the services our sponsors provide.



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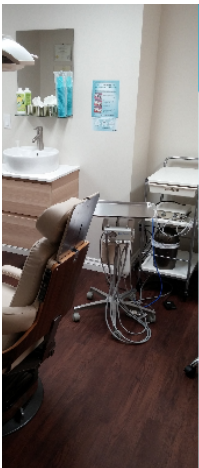
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Upcoming Services and Events

Sunday May 27 – Rev. Dr. Ian Manson preaching on John 3: 1-17, “Of Water and Spirit”.

Sunday June 3 – Rev. Rick Tamas preaching on Psalm. 139, “Known and Loved”.
Croatian Choir singing.

Saturday June 9 – World Premier of “Our Iceberg is Melting.” Reception begins at 7 pm and the movie will begin at 7:30 pm.
Refreshments available for a modest price.

Sunday June 10 – Covenanting Service for Rev. Ian and Rev. Rick to celebrate the covenant among HVUC, our ministers and the broader church.
Rev. Deanna Wilson preaching. Reception to follow.

Sunday June 17 – Father’s Day. Rev. Ian preaching on Mark 4: 26-34, “Mustard Seed Faith”. Holy Communion

Sunday June 24 – Last Sunday in the Sanctuary.
Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas preaching on Mark 4:35-41, “Peace! Be Still!”.
(Rev. Rick will receive his Ph.D. at a commencement ceremony at Wilfred Laurier University on June 14)
Celebration of our dedicated volunteers who have given their time for property projects.
Rededication and tour of the lower level of the church.

Sunday July 1 – Canada Day. Rev. Ian preaching on Mark 5: 21-34, “God Keep Our Land.”
Cake to celebrate Canada’s birthday.

Sunday July 8 – Rev. Rick preaching.
Series on “Living the Beatitudes”

Sunday July 15 – Rev. Rick preaching.
Series on “Living the Beatitudes”)

Sunday July 22 – Rev. Rick preaching.
Series on “Living the Beatitudes”)

Sunday July 29 – Pulpit Exchange with St. Giles Presbyterian Church.
Rev. Stuart Morrow who is a visiting minister from Ireland preaching at HVUC.
Rev. Rick preaching at St. Giles.

Sunday August 5 – Rev. Ian and Rev. Rick preaching.
Holy Communion.

Sunday August 12 – Rev. Ian preaching.
“Our Father” – First of a 5-Part series on The Lord’s Prayer

Sunday August 19 – Rev. Ian preaching.
“Thy Kingdom Come” – 2nd of a 5-part series on The Lord’s Prayer

Sunday August 26 – Rev. Ian preaching.
“Our Daily Bread” – 3rd of a 5-part series on The Lord’s Prayer

Sunday September 2 – Rev. Ian preaching.
“Forgive Us” – 4th of a 5-part series on The Lord’s Prayer

Thursday September 6 – Choir Practice resumes at 7:30 pm

Sunday September 9 – Rev. Ian preaching and Rev. Rick presiding.
“Lead Us Not Into Temptation” – Last of a 5-part series on The Lord’s Prayer. Holy Communion
Junior Choir resumes

Sunday September 16 – Rev. Ian presiding and Rev. Rick preaching. Celebration of HVUC’s renters.

Monday September 17 — Handbells at 6:30 pm

Community Fall Barbeque

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Please plan to bring your friends and neighbours to our annual Community Fall BBQ to be held on HVUC’s front lawn and in Arthur Steed Hall.

We will honour and celebrate our renters and groups that partner with us in our community ministry.

Hot dogs, corn, salad, dessert

Rock climbing and games on the lawn

Free for all with an opportunity for donations to offset our costs.

**Blessings from
The Hospitality Ministry of HVUC**



Carol Zachar's Long Choir Service

During the morning service on Sunday April 8th, Paul Chant presented Carol Zachar with a certificate and flowers to commemorate her over 40 years as a member of the Senior/Chancel Choir.

Carol's choir singing career started at Mimico United Church where she sang in the Junior Choir. When Raymond Gould arrived as the Director of Music at Mimico, Carol joined the Senior Choir. Carol came to the Humber Valley choir as an alto, under Raymond's leadership, in 1971.

Carol's dedication to actively participating in the music program at Humber Valley for all those years is much appreciated and is a wonderful example for all of us, of continuing loyalty to our church community.

Thank you Carol.



AFTERNOON TEA!

August 19

We think everyone knows that England is famous for its afternoon teas. What you may not know is that they actually have a 'Afternoon Tea Week'.

It starts on August 14th and runs for exactly one week. Tea rooms, cafes, large hotels, streets, neighbourhood and individuals hold afternoon tea parties during that week, right across the country.



Being English, we thought it might be fun to hold our own symbolic afternoon tea. Even though, after our service on August 19th, it will technically still be morning, we thought we would bring some English fayre and turn the coffee time into an afternoon tea party. If you are in town that weekend, please come and celebrate with us.

*Judith and David
Dallimore*

Keep the Date

HVUC 66th Anniversary Sunday October 21, 2018



This service will feature Linnea Good with musical and liturgical elements.

Linnea Good's life journey is an example of how faith can empower a person to become something bigger and more beautiful than they ever could have imagined. The eldest daughter of an accountant and a librarian, her early start on a music career was as a children's animator at the local church in New Brunswick. She was 12 years old then and has hardly looked back since in her quest to create music that is memorable, faithful and

socially relevant. Thirty-five years later and now living in the west, she has written songs that have become contemporary classics, recorded 10 albums, travelled the world with her music, married and had three children with musical partner David Jonsson. While her career journey has taken her down many paths, Good has always set a consistent example by challenging people, through her music and stories, to ask the hard questions of themselves and seek authentic joy in their lives

Transition Update—What's Next

The first phase of the transition team's work is now complete – new ministers hired - not just one but two. And we've had a wonderful message from the two of them about working together in harmony. To celebrate the joining together of our new ministers Rev. Dr. Ian Manson and Rev. Rick Tamas with God, with our congregation and with Presbytery there will be a special 'Covenanting Service.' It will be held on Sunday June 10 with our Transition Team's own Rev. Deanna Wilson delivering the sermon. Of course there will be hospitality afterwards to celebrate this great day!! Please be there to show your support.

The next phase is now in the planning stage and the Transition Team will be providing a visual roadmap and timeline to the congregation in mid-June. Expected actions, meetings, and thinking in the three-prong areas of Mission (strategic plan), Healing, and Governance will be explained.

Rev. Ian will be actively getting to know the congregation and its various groups and committees by and joining their meetings over the month of June. If you have a group and wish to meet with him, please contact him through the office.

So stay tuned! Your input is needed and will be called upon soon.

Your Transition Team,

*Ron Crago, Gail Cook-Bennett, Mary Moffat-Johansson,
Alanna Goodman, Rev. Deanna Wilson and Constance Crosby (Chair)*

Covenanting Service June 10

A Covenanting Service for Rev. Ian and Rev. Rick to formally celebrate their ministries with Humber Valley United Church will be part of the Sunday service on June 10.

Rev. Deanna Wilson preaching on "Being with ..."

Reception to follow in Steed Hall.

Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas

Rev. Rick will receive his Ph.D. at a commencement ceremony at Wilfred Laurier University on June 14

Congratulations!



Summer Services Start on July 1

Worship services will be held in Steed Hall and begin at 10:am

Dress is casual and refreshments will be served.

Bring your friends and visitors.

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the friendly community church

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