

What a Friend we have in Jesus The Reverend's Reflection



Crunchy or smooth? Smooth.
Knit or crochet? Crochet.
Red or white? Red.
Standard or automatic? Automatic.
The book or the movie? The book.
Tea or coffee? Tea.
John, Paul, George, or Ringo? George.
Worry or prayer?
Worry or prayer? Um...

You'd expect this would be a no-brainer for a minister. Perhaps it is for some, but not always for me. I often default to worry. I have been known to freak out a little from time to time; in fact, as recently as August 15, the Saturday before coming to Humber Valley.

What if I've forgotten how to preach? What if I get lost on my first day and am late for my first meeting? What if they don't laugh at my jokes? What if God has changed God's mind and intends for me to pursue something else, anything, as long as it isn't ministry?

All of this was spiraling in my brain that Saturday as I strolled the aisles of my local home goods store, trying to focus on anything but the new gig on my horizon. What if, I started to think as I made my way down the aisle of mugs, an aisle that doesn't usually entice me. What if I...

I stopped. Because God spoke, because God's words were printed on the mug in front of me: "Worry less. Pray more."

I bought that mug. Who wouldn't?!

I know I shouldn't need a mug to remind me to pray more and worry less. When I'm in freak-out mode, I know I should turn to God. I've heard the stories people have told me of prayers answered; I've had a few of my own prayers answered by God. I know I should trust God. And I do. Sometimes. But not always.

Sometimes I need the simplicity of mug-speak; and other times I need the words of a hymn, even one I'm not particularly fond of: "Are we weak or heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?" Always I need to stop and listen for God's voice. I know this. You know this, right?

I pray that sometime soon this will be my default response. We are all, indeed, cumbered with a load of care. "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!"

Worry or prayer? Prayer.

May it be so.
Yours in Christ,

Lena

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STAGED RE-OPENING

We will be re-opening our church in a staged way with some outdoor services (Sept. 27th and Oct. 18th) and getting back to in-sanctuary services beginning on Nov. 8.

Details about pre-registering for in-person services will follow.

See the back cover for details about services.

This is a smaller edition of *Connections*. We are publishing it mainly to reach those without computers, and those who do not receive our in-house magazine, *Keeping in Touch*.

It contains a lovely message from Rev. Lena, a report from the Chair of our Board, Deb Turnbull, and news about how we hope to re-open Humber Valley United Church. Our re-opening is contingent on what happens with the pandemic: will there be a second wave, how serious will it be, how will the children, teachers and staff do in school and, also, how will the schools that operate in our church make out? Our prayers are with them all. And our prayers are with our church family.

It is just short of six months since the bars and restaurants were closed on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. We are in our third season of the pandemic, soon to be the fourth. The fear we first felt has turned into acceptance and coping and some return to normalcy. For me there was relief from the very busy schedule I had set for myself and I found time to think about what I really want to do and what is most important to me and my family. For many there was isolation and loneliness. For people in nursing homes, there was sickness and separation from family and caregivers. But our Humber Valley United Church family has helped us all with companionship, caring, a sense of purpose and messages of hope.

What will be the legacy of this pandemic? What have we lost? What have we gained? Next year at this time, what will we be writing and saying?

One of my favourite features in *Keeping in Touch* (apart from the jokes) is the photos people sent in of their gardens and pets. Do you remember the picture of the wild turkeys on Nancy Roper's driveway? Do you remember the gorgeous wall of flowers in Cathy Wilkes' garden? Do you remember the Crago's picture of the first crocuses in April? Do you remember the wide expanses of yellow dandelions?

I haven't received many photos of gardens lately. Most likely, it is because the gardens have climaxed and are starting into their final stages before the winter. I thought I would share a couple of photos of late summer, early fall signs I found on my walk along the transmission line trail just south of the railway line (access on Montgomery Road). And a couple of photos Sally Jo sent me of HVUC's gardens which have been cared for by Carolyn Whiteside and Bruce Boyd.

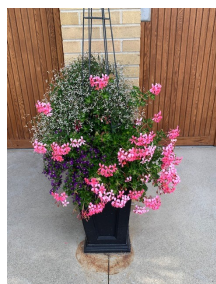
How about playing Rev. Lena's get-to-know you game? Here's my version:

Flat water or fizzy? Fizzy | Phone or text? Text
Pasta or salmon? Salmon | A swim or a walk? Swim
Jeans or leggings? Leggings | Mango or apple? Apple
Sneakers or Birkenstocks? Birkenstocks
Jonas Kaufmann or Michael Bublé? Jonas

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

Susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Susanne Hynes



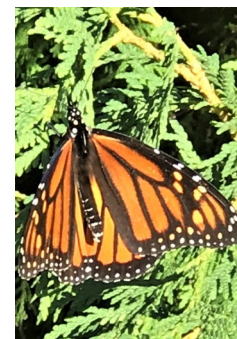
HVUC garden and planter at front of church. Thanks for caring for them Carolyn and Bruce.



Ripe giant sunflowers with many seeds already eaten.



Goldenrod along a wood fence.



Monarch butterflies gathering for their flight south.

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Lena Medeiros to Humber Valley United to serve as our supply minister while we continue our search for a full time minister. Rev. Lena was previously at Sheridan United Church and at Glenn View United in New Brunswick.

She began her contract with us on August 15th and has been busy ever since meeting many of you in small meetings and beginning to get to know many more of you on Zoom. Please reach out and get to know her. We are blessed she is with us.

Rev. Lena will be preaching most Sundays. Her office hours are 10:00 to 3:00 Monday, Wednesday & Thursday.

A different summer for each of us is coming to a close. I have so enjoyed seeing so many of you on the Zoom calls for our seniors' programming, for Daily Bread— and, of course, on Zoom calls for various Board and committee meetings. I was blessed to have physical-distancing lunches with some of you and have enjoyed seeing a few of you on Sunday mornings in the church parking lot while listening to the music ring out from the carillon. Thank you to those who have played the carillon for us during the summer including: Sally Jo Martin, Allan Jones, David Dallimore and Catherine Ireland.

Of course, I am highly biased, but I have loved our summer services – the 10 services beginning July 5th – talk about contemporary and innovative. Thank you to everyone who participated and to George who spent hours editing them together (I know since I live with him).

"Keeping in Touch" (KIT) – what would we have done without this communication tool? We have been kept together because of it. A big thank you to Susanne Hynes for her hours and hours of work to keep us all connected in a compassionate and humorous way. Thank goodness she has agreed to continue publishing KIT at least once a week. Also, thank you to all our contributors and financial supporters.

Our major tenants returned to the church to begin classes on September 8th. Strict COVID-19 protocols are in place. Thank you to our re-opening team (Sharon Dowdall, Peter White, Constance Crosby, Sally Jo Martin, Roger Wallis, Lynn Manning) for preparing a report providing guidance on re-opening. Some of the recommendations can be found in a separate article in this "Connections."

If you come into the church, please enter through the Anglesey door as the other doors are being used by our tenants for their teachers and students. Please wear a mask at all times and sign-in and sign-out on the sheet located right inside the door. Please use the hand sanitizer on your way in and out. Of course, do not come to the church if you feel sick or have been exposed to the virus.

The Worship and Music Committee, working with Rev. Lena, Jill and George, have now approved the schedule for the upcoming services (see the listing on the back cover). All our September services will be online except the 27th service which will be an outdoor service to be held at the front of the church, followed by the Hike for Hospice. We will also have an outdoor service on October 18th (Thanksgiving II) with a surprise rendition of our annual "pie Sunday."

A soft-opening of the church will take place on Sunday, November 8th (Remembrance Day). This means that only a limited number of people will be encouraged (by invitation only) to come to the church for this service. Included will be our greeters and ushers and any people who might help with marshalling people once the church reopens for services in the sanctuary.

A hard-opening (for all through a pre-registration process) will take place on Sunday, November 29th (Advent I) with details to be shared with you in the coming weeks.

All our services, whether outdoors or in the sanctuary, will continue to be filmed. Each will be premiered on our Facebook page with the exact times of the each premier to be shared in future communiques.

We all want to get back to church to see our friends and to share services with our new minister, Rev. Lena. We want to do this in a staged and safe way and the re-opening team has come up with a plan to do this.

I can hardly wait to see you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me to discuss any concerns or issues as I am always there for you.

We are the church together.

Blessings,

Deb Turnbull



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

We are reporting a year-to-date operating deficit of more than \$43,000 as of the end of July. Givings have continued to be maintained at reasonable levels despite the fact that the church has remained closed for more than 5 months. For that we thank all of you. The revenue stream was further enhanced by the receipt of a \$10,000 bequest from one of our parishioners.

The main contributor to the increased deficit has been the loss of rental income since many of our renters ceased operations in March. Expenses are generally in line with budget thanks to the efforts of both staff and the operating committees. The revised budget approved at the April AGM estimated that we would end the year with an operating deficit of around \$55,000. However, that assumed that the church would be in full operation by September 1. That is clearly not happening. Opening will take place gradually over the next few months. Therefore, we expect that rental income for the Fall to be less than budgeted and a couple of major fundraisers planned for the next couple of months have been cancelled. As a result, it is reasonable to expect that the operating deficit will be larger than originally budgeted.

We are going through challenging times but we are fortunate the we have the financial reserves to act as a backstop until we return to "normal". As always, a sincere thank you for your ongoing support of Humber Valley United Church.

Gary Halpenny

Chair, Stewardship and Finance Committee

Humber Valley United Church

Sources of Funds	2020	2019
PAR Givings	93,811	93,806
Envelopes/Stock Donations	59,358	76,247
Use of Church	57,066	105,799
Trustees	6,332	9,498
Other	60,021	18,254
Subtotal Operating Funds	276,578	303,604
Receipts for Grants, Capital, Outreach and Special Initiatives HFs	51,148	14,512
Total Sources of Funds	327,726	318,116
Expenditures		
Payroll	215,284	241,618
Building Expenses	33,614	40,618
Office	10,978	12,032
Mission and Service	500	3,373
Presbytery Assessment	8,761	8,761
Music	20,078	17,399
Other Committees and Grant funded expenses	30,377	16,902
Total Expenditures	319,592	340,703
Transfers to HFs	51,173	14,512
Operating Deficit	(43,039)	(37,099)

Seeking a Minister

The search committee at Humber Valley United Church has started up again.

Humber Valley United Church is searching for a transformational minister with a broad, deep, progressive interpretation of Christianity, who would attract people thirsting for meaning, guidance and connectedness.

We are seeking a Minister who will help our church balance the desire to keep pace with the changing societal views, with the need to maintain basic Christian values. We seek a Minister who is prepared to lead

transformational change in our church.

Here are the committee members:

Ron Crago	Gail Hamblin
David Kitchen	Ted Loewen
Mary Moffat-Johansson	Allan Orr
Brian Thomson	George Turnbull
Pippa Van der Vliet	

If anyone knows of a minister that they would like us to consider, please approach one of the committee members.

Allan Orr, Chair

September often feels like a new fresh start! It's a good time to reconnect and get back to some of our favourite fall routines and activities. At Humber Valley United Church we're getting ready to launch our Fall programs for the 55+.

Our Summer Living program offered people a chance to participate in a variety of virtual programs from home or even from the cottage! Fitness and Yoga, Art appreciation and Memoir writing were all very popular! We had some fun with cooking, sharing recipes and preparing healthy salads and summer produce. Our gardening sessions introduced us to some nifty gardening tools and learning more about vegetable gardens and urban farms! The Drop in book club discussed some interesting books and we enjoyed getting creative at our monthly Paint Days with Licia. We wrapped up the summer with a virtual campfire sing a long complete with s'mores, and accompanied by Colleen Isherwood on guitar!

This Fall, thanks to support and funding from the United Church of Canada's Seeds of Hope and the Government of Canada New Horizons for Seniors, we're going to continue to offer our programs via Zoom and will offer extra support for anyone who needs technical assistance. Our Fall Fun Guide and calendar will be released in early September and weekly eblasts will give you an idea of what events are happening each week. We will be launching a

new website and Facebook page to let others know about our programs! Please invite friends, family and neighbours to join in any of our programs! All are welcome!

Until we can meet again in person we'll make sure we provide lots of opportunities to stay active, connected and creative. You can look forward to virtual Daytimer's meetings to stay connected with friends and enjoy some interesting and entertaining presentations! We'll have more kits available so you can participate in interactive Zoom activities and we also have a lending library of audio books, DVDs and paperbacks available all delivered to your home.

Contact Anne Pietropaolo, Seniors Program Coordinator for more information at anne@hvuc.ca or call 416 231 2263 x 31.

Anne Pietropaolo



Communications Committee Report

We have been working since the fall of last year on a project to replace our existing outside signs. As was pointed out in an earlier report, the existing signs are showing wear and tear and it is difficult (and in winter dangerous) to change the text on them. Our signs are a very important means of reaching out to the community.

We worked with a company (GreenTak) that has installed electronic signs for many other churches. They stick-handled getting all the necessary permits and approvals from the City of Toronto.

We are very pleased that we have now received all of the permits and approvals.

Unfortunately, the church Board did not put this

project on its 5-item priority list so we are, at present, not able to fund the job.

We hope the funding will appear like a blessing.

Over the summer a lot of work was done on the redesign of our website. Kelly presented us with a model for the site and one of the summer students populated it with a lot of our information. We hope to be able to launch the new site in the next month or two.

I would like to welcome three new members to the Committee: Rev. Lena, Colleen Isherwood, and Nancy Roper. They bring fresh insights, a talent for writing and a talent for newsletter design and production.

Susanne Hynes
Chair

Decisions on Re-opening

In August an ad hoc group formed by the Board began work on a plan for re-opening the church to worship. HVUC had already re-opened in June to staff and tenants' staff; the renter PedalHeads; and for a funeral service, as was permitted under the Ontario Stage 2 Re-opening Framework. The federal Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam has recently warned of a possible "explosive second wave" over the fall period, reflecting concerns about children going back to school at the same time as bars and restaurants have opened.

Many churches have been open for worship since June, and many around us plan to open for the Christmas season. We understand that the risk of getting this wrong. Having an outbreak at the church could create a serious health hazard as well as a reputation hazard. But the need for opening is real to our congregation.

After much thought, many meetings and discussions, and consultation with potential users, we outlined to the Board our recommendations the important considerations as follows:

- Mental Health, sense of normalcy, community of faith, being a responsible landlord, are important factors.
- Navigating the mandated health rules and protocols, particularly those for religious and school activities will be different for all of us.
- Caring for the most vulnerable amongst us is essential.
- Communicating what safety and health precautions are being taken and asking for rigid cooperation with the established and likely changing protocols for re-opening and holding indoor activities will be challenging.

With forethought, education, training and Christian love, we will accomplish the balance among the considerations. A positive attitude, intelligent risk management, Board support and guidance, our new Minister Rev. Lena, and excellent staff to guide our work will help us succeed in maintaining activities in our church building in a way that supports as safe an environment as possible.

Please bear the above in mind as we move forward, adapting to new rules and guidance in the process of reopening Humber Valley United Church.

The ad hoc group recommended a slow, staged re-opening, responding as needed to any changes in COVID-19 risk and science. They noted there are choices the church can make on the continuum between safest use which is "no use", OR "essential use" (only for essential church services), OR "limited non-essential" use, OR "full use".

THE BOARD ACCEPTED THAT

the sanctuary be limited to essential use only

non-essential use of church facilities for tenants, renters and church groups, be limited, and staged.

Adherence to government COVID-19 regulations and guidelines (mandatory distancing, masking, sanitizing, collection of contact info etc.) is implicit in these decisions and required by all users.

The board adopted the following principles

1. To provide the safest environment for church worship services, the sanctuary will be used only for church services, (worship, funerals, weddings) allowing generally 5-7 days between each use. This period is accepted as the time in which viruses become deactivated. While the Music Director may continue to practice the organ, this means no informal meetings or use by other groups.
The numbers of attendees will be limited to 100, which represents 30% of the capacity as allowed under Stage 3 regulations. There will be no choir, or congregational singing or oral prayers.
An on-line reservation system (such as Eventbrite) will be used to facilitate declarations of health and adherence (masks; non-attendance when sick, etc.); provide contact tracing information; and allow call-ins or other methods of pre-registration for those without access on-line.
2. All one-off social activities be suspended (Bids & Bites; birthday parties, concerts, etc).
3. Tenants' use, constrained to essential purposes), continues and space priority is given to their

Continued on next page

If This Ol' Church Could Talk!!

Yes, I am still standing. But I sure miss you all coming to visit. Deep in the bones and timbers of your church there are vaults of memories and sentiments:

*Our kids went to Sunday school here.
We were married in this church.
Words that still echo in the halls.*

During the past months my empty halls and vacant rooms have only echoed with the soft padded soles of Zoran's shoes as he goes about fixing and washing; waxing and polishing all the inner bones of my structure.



And like Mother Nature planned, the grass grew and the flower beds responded to the tenderness of the hands of your gardeners and the joyful cries of children resounded in the parking lots as they learned to master the 'two-wheel bike'.

But what of you? This pandemic has scared all and you find yourselves restricted to a regime of telephone calls, e-mails and zoom meetings where you (and we) have re-learned the art of 'putting up your hand to be recognized'. Outside of your tight circle of friends, you have been forced to restrain from contacts, hugs and handshakes.

As you can see in Sharon's article, this summer the Official

Board struck an ad hoc committee to examine how and when we could take down some of those barriers in a manner that does not endanger your staff and your congregation.

One of the most plausible methods of stopping the spread of COVID -19 is to eliminate the air borne particulates of the virus. With this in mind, considerable attention was directed at air purification approaches to allow us to gather to worship while being mindful of the physical aspects of prevention – masks and social distancing. So once again we have undertaken a solution to our own dilemma. The approval to purchase 6 portable HEPA air purification units of varying sizes to adapt to the rooms and sanctuary of your church was given and four units arrived on Thursday and were immediately moved into locations to protect your staff. Two substantially larger units have been ordered as well.

So, I am getting ready to greet you all, with cleaned and polished bones and full of healthy air and I pray, from deep in my heart, that you will soon be able to return to me.

Peter White

speaking for our church building.
Property Team



From previous page

additional space needs required due to COVID. The tenants are the three schools: Mindwerx4kids, Hillside Montessori, Filipok, and a new tenant under discussion, Go Project.

4. Renters and church groups' use be staged to collectively be not more than once every second or third day per room so that initially the facility is not at full use: to reduce viral load; to give an opportunity to build cleaning capacity; and to evaluate risk. Once HEPA filters are installed, the time period between uses may be decreased. Four smaller mobile HEPA filter Air cleaners are now in the church building available for use.
5. The church augments cleaning capacity.
6. The church purchase 6 HEPA mobile filtration units to be used in offices and to filter air in rooms used by

7. renters and church groups. 4 smaller mobile HEPA filter Air cleaners are now in the church building available for use. 2 larger capacity units are in order.
8. If community transmission risk becomes significant, we will scale back use.

Please note the dates for services on the back cover and the staged reopening of the church building for church activities, Committee meetings, UCW, Men's groups, senior and youth activities, rental groups and other uses will follow.

As we continue the opening process, training for marshals, cleaning protocols, details on how to register and participate in activities in the church will be forthcoming.

Sharon Dowdall

Turner & Porter

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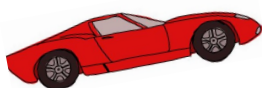
The Haircut and the Car



A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.



After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.

"The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply!)

"Did you also notice they all **walked** everywhere they went?"

Humber Valley United Church
and

DOROTHY LEY HOSPICE

Community Partners for Thirty Years – Stronger Together

Humber Valley's annual Hike for Hospice in support of the Dorothy Ley Hospice is well under way, August 30th to September 27th. But you will have noticed, thanks to COVID-19, it isn't quite the same Hike as usual.

The Hike for Hospice this year has gone VIRTUAL and, in our well-recognized tradition, Humber Valley is enthusiastically joining in. Even at this early stage your donations are being received with much appreciation.

We at Humber Valley are famous at the Dorothy Ley Hospice for our innovative satellite "Hike" around the church which, for the past two years, has been happening right after a May Sunday Service, concurrently with the main five kilometer Hike at the Hospice. That large, main Hike for Hospice cannot happen this year.

In the meantime, as you have seen in our earlier announcements in *Keeping In Touch* and eBlasts and at the DLH Hike for Hospice website (www.dlh hike.org) and on Facebook, you are being encouraged to "hike anytime, anywhere". Or, as we have said, walk, run, stroll, roll or just donate.

The need for your donations is great. The palliative care teams at the Dorothy Ley Hospice support the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals (and their families and friends) who are living with life-limiting illness. Exemplary palliative care is provided either in the community in the individual's home or in the ten-bed free-standing Residence near Sherway Gardens. In either setting, The Dorothy Ley Hospice ensures those served may live fully, on their terms in the time that remains, with comfort, hope, and dignity.

You might well ask why does the Dorothy Ley Hospice need to fund raise? The Hospice is supported by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for 65% of their operating budget which leaves the Hospice to raise the balance, an amount in excess of \$1,000,000 yearly.

That's where we come in because the Hike for Hospice is their major public fundraising campaign and this year it is even more challenging because of COVID-19. This year the Hike goal is \$125,000. Let us see if we can continue to

do our part.

One of the ways that the pandemic has made this year's Hike for Hospice more challenging is that in past years I have been able to speak with you, as a volunteer at DLH, during church services and at coffee hour. If I can provide you with any information about the services offered by Dorothy Ley Hospice or volunteer opportunities at the Hospice, please feel free to contact me by email at rwcrago@gmail.com and I will be happy to respond by email or speak with you by phone.

I had the privilege of having Dr. Ley as one of my professors at the University of Toronto. Dr. Ley described palliative care so well when she said:

"Spiritual care lies at the heart of hospice. It says we are here. We will be with you in your living and your dying. We will free you from pain and give you the freedom to find your own meaning in your own life – your way."

We will comfort you and those you love – not always with words, often with a touch or a glance. We will bring you hope – not for tomorrow but for this day.

We will not leave you. We will watch with you. We will be there."

Ron Crago,

one of the HVUC Margo Marchers

What's the Origin of our Hike for Hospice Team Name "HVUC Margo Marchers"?

In 2017 HVUC became aware that we could increase our longstanding outreach support of our community partner, The Dorothy Ley Hospice, by participating in their fundraising Hike for Hospice.

Margo Watt's end of life care and support for her family and friends had been provided by The Dorothy Ley Hospice in 2016. A confluence of events led Margo's family and friends at HVUC to the realization that Margo could be fittingly remembered by establishing a Hike for Hospice team called the HVUC Margo Marchers.

Margo grew up at HVUC and throughout her life she remained an enthusiastic and committed member of her church. Margo's friends at Humber Valley knew that if she had been able to participate in a DLH Hike for Hospice she would have been sporting not only the DLH logo but also her trademark fascinator. Margo is survived by her husband Mike and their children Michelle and Ryan, and grandchildren.

How Do I Donate to our HVUC Margo Marchers Team?

As in previous years, there are TWO EASY WAYS TO DONATE to our HVUC MARGO MARCHERS TEAM for the DLH HIKE FOR HOSPICE 2020:

Donate by mailing your cheque to the HVUC Church Office, 76 Anglesey Blvd, Toronto, M9A 3C1. Make your cheque payable to Humber Valley United Church. Be sure to mark your cheque "Dorothy Ley Hospice". You will receive your charitable donation receipt from HVUC.

Go online to www.dlhhike.org Click on the large black DONATE button. Click on the green "Search for a team". Enter HVUC Margo Marchers and click Search. Click on the green "HVUC Margo Marchers" to view our home page. Click on the black "Donate Now" button. You will receive your charitable donation receipt from Dorothy Ley Hospice (it will be an attachment to an email you will receive from Jillian Sheffield acknowledging your donation).

*Undeterred
and with true HVUC spirit
we are hoping we can still have
our one-lap walk
around the church
after an outdoor service on
Sunday September 27th
(in full compliance of course with Public Health safety guidelines).*



Outreach - Fall 2020

CAPITAL OUTREACH FUNDS have been allocated for Fall distribution to the following:

DOROTHY LEY HOSPICE - \$500

Members of the congregation are encouraged to make their own donations during September, either on line to the hospice or with a cheque to HVUC designated to DLH.

SLEEPING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD - \$500

Honouring the 50th anniversary of this charity which was founded by HVUC members Margaret and Murray Dryden in 1970. From a beginning of 50 bedkits, the charity has now distributed over 1,750,000 kits to children in developing countries.

YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER - \$1,000

To cover costs for 4 Sunday dinners: September to December. HVUC usually provides purchased food items for one Sunday dinner each month. COVID prevents our doing that so the \$250 per month shows our continuing support.

Individuals are invited to donate to YWS through the church, with tax receipts provided.

Indspire - \$500

We continue to support this Canadian charity that supports indigenous youth with education bursaries and employment training.

Advent - Water for Life campaign

We will plan another campaign to raise money for the building of wells in Africa with GAIN (Global Aid International Network). Also we will raise money for Water First, an Ontario-based charity that works with indigenous communities providing safe water and employment opportunities.

Fundraising

Thank you to all of the people who have sponsored an Edition of Keeping in Touch in honour of someone (or several someones) special. These dedications have not only given much-deserved recognition for the person named; they have provided an opportunity for the readers to learn a little more about the subject. Many thanks to Susanne Hynes and Nancy Roper for these word portraits. As one member of the congregation said to me: "I know more about some of the people in the congregation now than I ever did before, and I have been sitting three rows away from them in church for years".

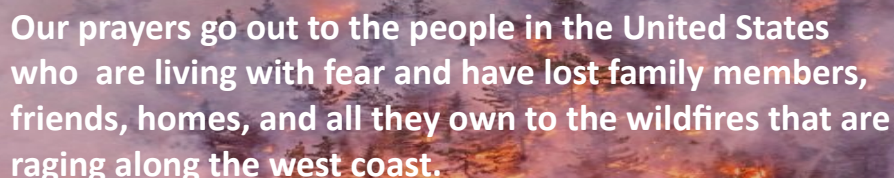
The KIT Dedications have now raised \$2900.00. Susanne Hynes, you are a champion!

The HVUC COVID Memories Project was initiated by the Fundraising Group as a potential fundraiser. We have received so many great pictures and stories for our slide show and scrapbook that we would like everyone to have a chance to enjoy it. The slide show will, of course, be free whenever it is shown, but we would also like to make copies of the book available for the congregation to purchase. We are currently exploring ways to do so at a reasonable price.

As we all know, even when mostly closed, the church has ongoing expenses such as staffing and utilities. The Fundraising Group will meet in September to try to devise a scheme that not only elicits financial support for the church, but also puts the fun in fundraising. All brilliant ideas gratefully accepted. Please send to jbelford@pathcom.com.

Joan Belford

Chair, Fundraising



Our prayers go out to the people in the United States who are living with fear and have lost family members, friends, homes, and all they own to the wildfires that are raging along the west coast.

Worship and Music Fill Us

In a recent article in *Keeping in Touch*, I wrote about forest bathing as a therapy, as a way to improve health, mood and creativity. To me though, “music bathing” is the best therapy. I listen and immerse myself in music that goes with how I feel and what I need – comfort, delight, inspiration, sorrow, and worship.

Yesterday I watched online a live recital by Joyce DiDonato, one of the opera stars performing in the Met Stars Live in Concert series. She is one of the best singers of our time and she had me in tears from start to finish of her concert. She ended with Roger and Hammerstein’s “When You Walk through a Storm”. Indeed, “hold your head up high and don’t be afraid of the dark. At the end of the storm is a golden sky, and the sweet silver song of a lark.”

Music is an integral element in worship. We best feel, and express, our emotions through listening to and participating in music. This autumn, while music will be a part of Humber Valley worship, we will not be allowed to sing aloud and we will not have our chancel choir to lead us in hymns or provide anthems. This summer our hymns and solos have been sung or performed by the soloists whom we have hired, and thereby are supporting, in this very difficult time for the performing arts community.

We need to support our performing arts community in this pandemic time, they have been hit very hard. Here is an excerpt from a recent interview with Rob Kempson:

“I mean—the world has changed, and any life in the performing arts has been irrevocably altered I think. While many industries seem to be resuming to something resembling a pre-pandemic lifestyle, I don’t think we will really see a full return for the performing arts until there is a reliable vaccine. That means there is still a lot of uncertainty ahead for myself, my friends, and my colleagues

...

I think the most challenging aspects of this isolation period have been mental and emotional. I feel a profound loss of momentum in my career: the feeling that things were trucking along nicely is a rarity for a director/playwright, and I was starting to have that feeling. There were things in progress, and at different stages, that made me feel like

I had lots on my plate moving forward. That momentum is hard to quantify—conversations with artistic leaders, readings of new work at your kitchen table, design meetings to establish a clear concept. Those are the difficult losses because they are so much more intangible than money.”

Szekers, Joe, [““Moving Forward”: a conversation with Rob Kempson”](#) Onstage Blog, c Sept. 2020

We have many people to thank for all their hard work during this summer of COVID. In particular we are grateful to the people who created and delivered our summer worship services. These services were personal, innovative, challenging, and worshipful.

Deb and George Turnbull
The Goodman Family
Judith and David Dallimore
The Kitchen Family
Carla Sandrin
The Moffat Johansson Family
Claire and Maddie Hatje
Anne Pietropaolo
Joan Belford, Peter White and grandchildren
Constance Crosby, Gail Cook-Bennett and Ron Crago

And constant as the northern star, our Music Director, Jill Fillion. And always there, our carillon players who rang out the invitations to worship and gave us an excuse to gather in the parking lot.

A special word of thanks to Michelle Madill whose prayers during Children’s Time we loved. And, of course to George Turnbull for being our producer.

And now we have a full program of worship and music as we head into fall. See the back cover for details.

Susanne
Hynes



Fall 2020 Worship at Humber Valley United Church

All services will premiere online on Sunday mornings at 10:30; outdoor services premiere online at 3:00 pm. They can be viewed any time on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/humbervalleyunitedchurch/>. Physical distancing, masks, and hand washing protocols are in force at all in-person services.

September 20 - online service. Rev. Lena preaching. Licia leading the "Encountering the Child Within"

Details about these later services will be provided closer to the dates in Keeping in Touch.

Sept. 27 – outdoor in-person service in front of HVUC.

Rev. Lena preaching. Jill on keyboard outside. Park in the Wimbledon lot or, if you have mobility issues or would like to stay in your car, a few parking spaces will be available in the circle and on Anglesey in front of the church. Chairs will be set up spaced for physical distancing. You are also welcome to bring your own lawn chair. **Service followed by Hike for Hospice.** The service will also be recorded and premiered online at 3 p.m. that afternoon. **If it rains** the service will be indoors and recorded—with no in-person attendance.

October 4 - online service. Rev. Lena preaching. World Communion Sunday.

October 11 - online service. Rev. Lena preaching. Thanksgiving Sunday.

Oct. 18 – outdoor in-person service in front of HVUC.

Rev. Lena preaching. Jill on keyboard outside. Thanksgiving II. A "pie-related" surprise awaits all who come. This will also be taken or mailed to people unable to join us in person. Water bottles will be provided. See Sept. 27 for details about attendance.

October 25 - online service. Rev. Lena preaching.

November 1 - online service. Rev. Lena preaching.

November 8 – in-person service in the sanctuary.

Remembrance Day Service. David Dallimore and Howard Langstaff are organizing the service. Up to 50 people can pre-register to come to this service. Soft-opening of the church with people invited to who will help with future services including: ushers, greeters, elders, Worship and Music Committee, Board members.

November 15 - in-person service in the sanctuary.

Rev. Lena preaching. Up to 50 people can pre-register to come to this service.

November 22 - in-person service in the sanctuary.

Rev. Lena preaching. Up to 50 people can pre-register to come to this service.

FULL OPENING OF THE CHURCH

November 29 - in-person service in the sanctuary.

Advent I. Rev. Lena preaching. Day of celebration and new beginnings. A maximum of 100 can pre-register to attend (as per current guidelines which may change).

Humber Valley United
a connected, creative, caring church



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