

The Messenger

FOREST HILL
UNITED CHURCH
Aug - Sept 2020



Happy midsummer everyone!

I pray that everyone is having a chance at some rest in this great weather. It has been a long 5 months! The pandemic is still hanging over our heads but it is time that we try to come to some place of a new normal. This means being careful and following all the protocols as if they have always been wise and safe behavior. You know our Jewish ancestors followed the Laws of Moses which required washing of hands before eating a meal. This began thousands of years before the birth of Jesus and before hygiene was a 'thing.' One of the stories from the New Testament is about the Pharisees challenging Jesus' disciple about eating grain before 'ritually' washing their hands. "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" (Matthew 15:2) It highlights the struggle between what we want to do (eating now) and doing what is faithful and safe. This should challenge us to think about what we ought to be ritualizing at this juncture of time to protect the Holy gift of life? Our ancestors found a way to be fully engaged in life AND to be as safe as possible.

Mind you Covid 19 is largely an airborne virus so there are things like public singing that will have to put on the back burner until it is safe but what **CAN** we do now? Your Council and staff are asking that question and we seek both the leadings of the Holy Spirit and advice from the congregation.

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COMING IN SEPTEMBER

- September 3, 2020:
60th Anniversary
brainstorming meeting

That leads me into a very important invitation. Our present Council has been in place since the new smaller Council model was implemented under Rev. Peggy Rideout’s leadership. It is time for others to move into leadership as those who have been in leadership move off the Council. We want to be faithful to those who came onto the Council with the promise that this isn’t a life sentence. So far we have been faithful to that promise. But here is the thing we can only be faithful to this group of leaders and the next group if folks from the congregation step up and agree to a 3 year term on the Council.

Over the last number of weeks you will have had an opportunity to hear from those who are stepping back. One thing that I want to highlight is joy of their service. We make hard decisions like closing the church facility in response to the pandemic but we also laugh a lot. Ann Furlotte, our Chair, has been great at keeping the agenda manageable so that we meet from 7-9pm and it has been on ZOOM so we don’t have to leave home. We begin with a simple Bible study that affirms that the Spirit of God is moving within each of us and guiding us as a Council. The Council is intentionally small so that the majority of the work is done by the Units (See Ann’s description in this Newsletter). The main qualification for a Council member is to have a heart filled with compassion for the church family and for the world.

When we lead with the heart the head will follow.

So have a good talk with your heart and let us (Gary, Ellen or Ann) know if the Spirit is nudging you to say ‘yes’ to being on Council.

God Bless, Gary



FündScrip

powered by Fundstream Inc.

Where shopping is fundraising!

Order dates:

Aug. 16 & 30

Sept. 13 & 27



Did You Know or Forget?

**There is Coffee & Conversation
every Wednesday from 10-11 am.**

On ZOOM!

**Check your email for the link.
Never used Zoom? Click the link and
download. Yes, you can!!**

You're invited!!!!

The Forest Hill United Church Unit Coordinators play a vital role on the Council team of our community. We give great thanks for all who have served faithfully sharing their gifts of time and talent to our faith community as we partner with the world, discover God within and live out our faith.

It is time, now, for a few people to step away from serving in their coordinating role and a place at the Council team table. We invite each member of the congregation to discern and open their hearts to feel the Holy Spirit's nudge to offer their gifts as one of these coordinator positions. It is a place of great opportunity to not only serve but to discover more about yourself and your faith journey. Please have a look on the website to hear the current coordinators story of their experience.

Coordinator for Celebrate God

- * Attend council meetings
- * Support the ministers with the services as necessary
- * Meet with ministers to help shape the upcoming year
- * Support kids church
- * Put together the conference Sunday service
- * Arrange the employee sabbatical relief (perhaps)

Committees

- * Support the m & p committees for each of the four staff.
- * Support the Vacation Bible School committee
- * Support each group under the Celebrate God Unit (ie. Ushers)

Be In Community

- ◆ Includes all activities that strengthen and support the life of the congregation
- ◆ Communication (messenger, website, annual report, bulletin boards, mailboxes)
- ◆ Pastoral care (visiting shut-ins, cards, prayer shawls)
- ◆ Groups (men's breakfast, UCW, lunch bunch, quilters)
- ◆ Events (Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, post-worship refreshments, luncheons, games nights).
- ◆ Responsible to initiate and/or execute some special events
- ◆ Coordinator will submit a budget each year with input from the various groups.

For the most part, all aspects of Be in Community are self sufficient and run on their own, as a coordinator you will "check-in" on the groups (usually by e-mail) to ensure they know who you are, what unit they fall under and determine if there are any issues or questions where you can offer assistance. Regular meetings are not required.

Cont'd. on Page 5



Reaching Out to Others

- The two co-facilitators are responsible for seeing the money that comes into Reaching Out to Others gets used for projects in the community.
- Involvement can be direct or indirect but recently has been direct involvement
- Expectations are working with others in the community and building relationships.
- Areas of interest to date are: Chandler Mowat food program, backpacks, Neighbours day, Christmas families and other projects that are brought to our attention; Forest Hill Elementary School collection of school supplies for September
- Blessings Box oversee the filling of it and submit receipts for those wishing to be reimbursed
- Food gift cards for CM at Christmas and for the office for office administrator to distribute on an as needed basis
- Any other community program that FHUC wish to support.

Recording Secretary

- Take minutes at monthly Council meetings,
- Send to Chair for approval and distribute to Council members
- Send out correspondence and documents as requested on occasion
- Sign staff contracts as requested
- Take minutes at the annual General Meeting
- Take minutes at any other congregational meetings





August 1st 1834 - The Abolition of Slavery in Canada Slavery ended in Canada on August 1, 1834.

Many Canadians view slavery as something that happened in the United States of America from the arrival of the first slave ships in 1619 until the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, but fail to understand that the buying, selling, and enslavement of Black and Indigenous people went on for about 200 years in our own country (beginning with the arrival of Olivier le Jeune in 1628 to New France and ending with the Slavery Abolition Act, August 1, 1834).

Canada's slave trade was dramatically different than what one would find in the southern US, tropical European colonies, and South and Central America due to Canada having no large plantations.

Even though slavery was prohibited in France, King Louis XIV allowed for the importation of Black slaves to its colonies, including New France (modern-day Quebec), from West Africa. The main purpose in New France for these slaves was to clear land and construct buildings, while some were also servants in households. Marcel Trudel, historian, puts the number of slaves in New France at 4000 by 1759 – 2472 Aboriginal people and 1132 Black people.

After New France was conquered by the British in 1763, Black Africans began to replace Indigenous enslaved people as the norm.

On August 1, 1834, the Abolition of Slavery Act came into effect in the British Empire, which included British North America (as Canada was then known). It is estimated that on that day, 800,000 enslaved Black people were freed as it became illegal for anyone to be a slave in the British Empire.

August 1 is the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Canada. It is a day for us to reflect and have honest dialogue about the deconstructing of racism in our country.

WHY SHOULD WE REMEMBER AND COMMEMORATE AUGUST 1ST?????

1. IT WAS A LANDMARK HUMAN RIGHTS VICTORY

August 1 and the Abolition of Slavery Act meant that no one could be enslaved in Canada again, marking an important human rights victory in Canada.

This was a major turning point in the history of African peoples, and their descendants, who were colonized and enslaved under the rule of the British Empire.

2. IT HELPED BREAK BIASED THINKING

Slavery caused a false association of attributes of subservience, criminality, lack of intelligence, and dangerous with Black people.

August 1st marks the beginning of the end of that association.

3. IT ACKNOWLEDGES THE EXISTENCE OF SYSTEMIC RACISM

The belief that White people are superior to Black people and more deserving of privileges in society, has its roots in slavery.

Commemorating the ending of slavery reminds us that racism is systemic in our society and **needs to be rooted out.**

4. IT AFFIRMS THAT ALL PERSONS ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

COMMEMORATING AUGUST 1 IS ONE WAY WE CAN SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE FAIR TREATMENT OF ALL HUMANS AND AFFIRM THAT ALL PERSONS ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.



CONTINUED

5. IT RENEWS OUR DESIRE TO WORK TOWARDS A MORE JUST SOCIETY

Although slavery has ended, discrimination of Black people continued other acts of injustice such as "Canada's Jim Crow Laws" which allowed racial segregation to occur in public education, immigration, employment, and housing in formal and informal ways.

The commemoration of August 1st reminds us that the battle is not over and is a time to renew our work for the creation of a more just society.

6. IT WAS THE ORIGINAL PROCLAMATION THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER

The slave trade and the enslavement of African/Black People was one of the major movements of people in the quest for profit.

To commemorate the ending of slavery is a celebration that Black Lives Matter, not just in the past but in the present day as well.

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Self-Awareness

During these “quieter home bound times” congregant **Dorothy Elliott** has been so appreciative of the wonders of information floating over the internet! In reflection of our Forest Hill’s focus on social injustices of late, she offers these suggestions to feed your self-awareness and understanding.

1. A video by a transgender woman is an excellent video to watch for a bit of an insight into the trials and joys of those whom most of us don’t understand. Google “Paula Stone Williams” a video of Ted Talks series. Choose the video of Paula wearing a red sweater.

2. The video of Paula and her son tells of difficulties arising from Paula’s decision to come out as a transgender woman. Google “Paula Stone and Johnathan Williams”, another video of Ted Talks.

3. Another excellent video of Ted Talks is about a fairer and better system of economics. It’s not terribly hard to understand and is most enlightening. Google “Nick Hanauer The dirty secret of capitalism: a new way forward.”



Would you consider submitting something for our Guest Editorial? Is there something you would like to share - A new learning, easy recipe for 1 or 2 people, a book you enjoyed, the upcoming holidays, an opinion?

Please submit your editorial to office@foresthillunited.org. Let’s make this newsletter really reflect Forest Hill.

The Messenger in October



Send in your submission by September 4, 2020

If you have a book you are enjoying, a new learning you would like to share, a memory others would enjoy please consider sharing it by just sending the office an email or dropping it off by September 4th, 2020.

Thank you loyal readers. Special thanks to all who take the time to submit.

A Congregation Financial update :

A heartfelt thank you for the congregation's support during these "unprecedented times." As we are all so very aware in our own personal lives, the bills must be paid and it is so in our church life! As you will see below, our financials are cautiously healthy! We have been able to sustain the ministry of Forest Hill thus far and under Brian Clemen's "financial eye" we continue judicious about our expenditures. Some financial "wish lists and projects" that can be projected forward have been, as we want to be sure that any emergency can be financially supported.

To the end of June Total Revenue \$ 189,688.04

Expenses \$ 147,369.52

Net Income \$13,837.03

The council has been busy this summer as many changes have happened. The doors remain closed to the public until the end of August. Only a few people will be in for administrative work and daily checks for insurance purposes.

A committee has been formed to write up the new protocols we and all those using the church must follow when we do open up the church once again. This results with hiring our custodians to return twice a week starting now and increasing as the need arises when more people are using the church.

One change is the loss of revenue from two of our regular renters. The Police Choir and the ESL classes. We have received some interest from other groups wanting to use our facility.

Change two came up suddenly when our office administrator, Tanya, left us to accept a full time position elsewhere. The Ministry and Personnel committee moved quickly and found a well-liked and qualified person who started Monday August 17th. Our New OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR is SARAH VINCETT. WELCOME Sarah. A huge thank you goes out to Linda Nelson who learned the job and filled in and is now showing Sarah the ropes. Thank you Linda.

The property committee has been so busy that they needed another person to join in the "fun". Wayne Nelson is the new member on the team. They are doing regular maintenance on air conditioning and heating units and installing a fan in the lobby. These projects will cost about \$2200.00.

We are considering changing the locks to a card system. More information will follow.

We had a long discussion about a potential grouping rooms in the basement 5 days a week. After two council meeting we need more information which will happen through a zoom meeting shortly. Stay tuned.

Keep Reading and/or watching the services until we can see one another again. Thank you Brian Clemens for all the work it takes to put the services on YouTube.

Until we meet again,
Diane Dunseith,
a facilitator of council



THANK YOU

A note gratitude to:

The Men's Breakfast group for the donation of \$300.00 for the purchase of a new locked mailbox which was installed by Rob Steele and Dale Irvin. Another fine example of "Holy Currency" being lived out at Forest Hill!



Matt Kaufman, Tamarack - Greensleeve for the complimentary summer season lawn maintenance.

Shiels Electric for providing a pump seal for the boiler, free of charge to the church, which Dennis Dechert will be installing.

Murray Gordanier, Property Chair

Hello everyone,

We are in the midst of organizing the remainder of the photo sessions for the photo directory. Many people have contacted me about this process, and I want to assure everyone that I will be contacting everyone who had an appointment.



There is a meeting later this month to discuss this process and as soon as I know what is decided I will commence calls.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Sheryl Fischer

60
ANNIVERSARY

The Anniversary Committee is helping us look back, reflect and glow in the memories.

THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

* began as “ The Women’s Federation” on Tuesday Sept 27, 1960 until 1962 when it became “The United Church Women”

* from 1963 - 1974 there were 2 very active units which then changed to one unit, meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Since 2010 we have met Jan, Feb, March in the afternoons and in the evenings April, May, June, Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec.

* Over the 60 years, we have tried to fulfill our Purpose

“ To Unite all Women of the Congregation for the total mission of the church”

* In the Broader Church: have been faithful supporters of Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada, supported Camp Ganadoweh, Herb Wittich Depot Food for Children, St Paul’s College, Leprosy Mission (stamps), Sandy Lake Indian Reserve, Canadian Food Grains Bank and Five Oaks to name a few.

* In Forest Hill United: helped fund and furnish several Reno’s in the kitchens, provided financial support for one of the beautiful coloured windows in the sanctuary - Challenge - “Which one is it? , donating funds for other needed projects within the church, for many years have and continue to supply coffee, tea & sugar for Sunday Coffee Hour and in 2019 - 20 supplied coffee for the ESL classes on Wednesdays

“ to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service”

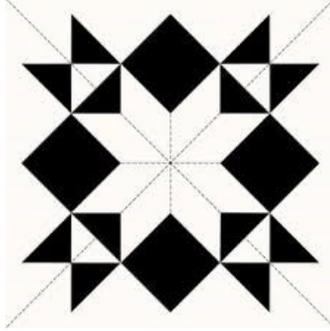
* provided monthly meaningful devotions for all women of our congregation enhancing spiritual growth and providing programming with interesting speakers covering a variety of subjects

* Many will remember: supporting needy families at Christmas, Potlucks with Alma-Goldstone partners in the Food Grains Bank, the Mitten Tree, hosting Annual Banquets for the CGIT & Explorers, being a Mystery Mom, 1994 United Church General Council in Fergus - preparing dinner for 600 attendees, in 2000 hosting the Fun Fashion Show by Highland Road United UCW, submitting recipes for the many Cookbooks, Christmas Stockings, Teas, Craft sales, Talent Tables, Auctions, Bake sales, allocating a donation to different places in our Community eg. Women’s Crisis Centre, Anselma House, Out of the Cold program etc, Card Parties and the list can go on and on....

A highlight over the years and still being continued is to sponsor a Foster Child through the Christian Children’s Fund of Canada which is now known as Children Believe.



QUILTERS



A larger group and now a smaller group of ladies continue to quilt. In the earlier years the Quilters created and stitched many beautiful banners and hangings which are still used today in our sanctuary. These ladies have contributed financial support to our General Fund over the years from their hours of 'stitching' efforts from the many quilts Quilted for members, friend and relatives.

* Many Women have served our congregation over these 60 years in Ministerial & Pastoral Care positions - Marilyn Rushton 1984 - 88, Margaret Collard (Diaconal) 1990 - 98, Marion Gils-McLeod 2007 - 11, Pegi Ridout 2012 - 17, Katharine Edmonstone (Diaconal) 2012 - 15, Ellen Baytown-Walker 2017 - .

Women have been a vital part of Forest Hill United over the past 60 years.

A special thanks for the booklet that was written by Dorothy Ann Carter "25 Years" and to Edna Bryce who had the UCW minutes from 1999 - present & Isabel Rice for info to write this article.

Submitted by Betty Kocher, President of UCW



Spirit Circle

Nurturing Our Prayer Life

Zoom Conversation Circle

with Rev. Ellen

Date: Wednesdays Sept.16-Oct.28



“...the Spirit calls us to the transformation of our inmost being, and indeed all of our faculties, into the divine way of being and acting.”

This Fall’s Spirit Circle theme is “Cultivating Interior Silence.” Using the written wisdom of Father Thomas Keating, this will be a time of deepening our spiritual understanding of prayer including the integration of Centering and Contemplative Prayer. We will explore what prayer means to us, how prayer supports our spiritual living, the many expressions of prayer and the fruits and gifts of the Spirit through our prayer practice. Everyone is welcome to join for all or any one of the sessions.

Please let Rev. Ellen ahead of time if you are planning to join this circle so she can send you the Zoom invitation.



One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque.

It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up; stood beside the little boy; and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning. Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?"

The pastor replied, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Which service, the 8:00 or the 10:30?"

Do You Print the Messenger?

Have you considered passing on your hardcopy to someone who doesn't attend FHUC? A neighbour, an adult child or someone who once asked where you go to church?





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