



**FOREST HILL
UNITED CHURCH
KITCHENER
June 2021**

The Messenger



**Guess who is coming to ...
not dinner... but
Sunday Service!!!**

One of the Forest Hill United Church highlights that I have enjoyed since coming to Forest Hill is the "Guess Who is Coming to Dinner" event that has been a tradition the past few years, as I understand.

While Gary is off; out and about on his sabbatical, and while we are still not in the church building for a while yet, have no fear the Forest Hill "planning ants," have been busy! I have become quite excited about our summer plans as they have evolved and I hope you will be too!

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Thirteen diverse services have been planned. In the spirit of community and collegiality, some services are being provided by other Kitchener Waterloo and neighbouring United Churches. Three guest speakers from the United Church General office and a P.HD candidate from Emmanuel College are coming and several of our own Forest Hill congregants have stepped up to offer their gifts of ministry.

I am pretty sure that each Sunday God's Holy Spirit will be present and you will come away with a new nugget to ponder; perhaps a "new to you" learning; perhaps a new perspective you are willing to have a deeper look at; perhaps something you see in another service that you think might be something to consider here at Forest Hill. My hope is that you will join with us to share a Sunday service with one of the guests each week and that your curiosity is being tweaked!

To that end who is coming on Sunday will be kept a secret until Brian gets the service up on YouTube...so come on in and sit down, and remember "Coffee on your Sundae" will continue to be served at 11:30 andeven maybe a parking lot communion. Stay tuned!

Before we know it Gary will be back with boundless renewed excitement of new visions for our faith community on the hill. In the meantime be well, be safe and enjoy your summer plans. May they be a relaxing time of making your heart sing with gratitude for the time to reconnect with friends and family.

Rev.Ellen





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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!!**





COFFEE ON YOUR SUNDAE ZOOM MEETING

EVERY SUNDAY @ 11:30AM

A REMINDER AND LINK WILL BE SENT OUT TO THE CONGREGATION THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE MEETING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THE WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICE

Reaching out to Others

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We are happy to report that we were able to support oneRoof Youth Services with \$3000. They will use this money to help out homeless youth in our community. Thank you to all who donated to keep our local outreach program running during these difficult times. Please read the heartfelt thank you letter that we received from oneRoof.

Shelley Steele



June 7, 2021

Forest Hill United Church
121 Westmount Rd. East
Kitchener, ON N2M 4Y6

Dear Forest Hill United Church:

On behalf of the oneROOF Youth Services Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the youth we serve, I would like to thank you for your partnering with us as we continue to support the youth of Waterloo Region.

Youth who are homeless, or at-risk of homelessness, rely on oneROOF Youth Services to provide basic needs, shelter and staff support; as well as referrals. Your generosity allows us to continue to offer these services to youth, and helps us to address the growing gaps in services for this vulnerable population.

With your support we can create a revolutionary space for youth; one central campus, one safe and trusted support centre, one goal: investing in our youth and our community. Thank you for joining us in our belief that one youth on the street is one too many.

If you have any questions about oneROOF Youth Services, the supports we provide, or volunteer opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us at 519-742-2788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy B', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Sandy Dietrich-Bell MSW, RSW
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for your compassion
in answering our call out to help
us through this challenging time.
We are so very grateful for your
generosity and kindness. A sincere
Thank-you for recognizing our need.
Take care
Bonnie Ke

oneROOF Youth Services, 35 Sheldon Ave. N., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 3M1
519-742-2788 (phone) info@roof.org
Charitable Number: 890388242 RR0001

Summary of May Council Meeting

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Here are a few tidbits from the May 2021 Council meeting

- **Financial Up-date - End of April**
 - **Revenue - \$120,197.91**
 - **Expense - \$110,551.44**
 - **Net Income - \$9,646.47**
- **Givings have dropped slightly so we need to be mindful of this moving forward.**
- **Property Items**
 - **Rock thrown through electronic sign at street. Cost to repair is approximately \$13,000. Insurance Company has been approached and we are awaiting response regarding coverage and limit**
 - **New heating cable is required on downspout from Fireside room roof - \$1,100**
 - **Painting outside wood frames on lower windows in kitchen, youth room and corner office in lower level. This will be done by property committee**
 - **Removal of a couple of trees has been recommended. Murray Gordanier will get a cost and report to Council**
 - **Murray is obtaining an estimate of costs as well for new cleaners for the church**
- **Rental request for a summer camp at the church - July/August. Council discussed and approved based on provincial regulations**
- **Youth Leader Job Description was presented by Rev. Ellen and discussed by Council. Additional discussion will be had at June meeting**
- **Rev. Ellen's hours will be increased by 10 hours per week effective June 15th to September 30th, to cover extra duties while Rev. Gary is on sabbatical**
- **Further discussion on Hybrid Church Model - on-line and in person service**

The FHUC Council





*Bless the food
before us, the family
beside us, and the
love between us.
Amen*

Blessings Box

Just an update that we have been fixing the Blessings Box and that is why it hasn't been up for just over a week. Rob Steele has been working on it to help it stand up better to the weather that has been wearing away at it.

A big thank you to everyone who helps keep our Blessings Box filled with food and toiletries for those in need in our immediate community.

A reminder to put in items as you would purchase them and not to individually re-package things yourself. The health department would frown on this action. Any boxed or canned items are welcome.

**Thank you
Shelley Steele**





We remember in our prayers of gratitude for the healing presence of God's Holy Spirit for the following people:

Betty Cooper who continues to receive care in Freeport Hospital.

Marilyn Woods who recently underwent eye surgery and is recuperating at home.

John Wilson who underwent surgery recently and is also at home recovering.

Lawrence Cresswell who is doing well at home now with tender caring from Elizabeth.

May they be sustained knowing that others are thinking and praying for her during this time of concern.

A Moment of Reflection on Spring and Newness in our Lives by Doug Sullivan

We can tell spring is here by the recent warmer weather, the spring rain, and the wondrous growth of our trees, shrubs and plants.

But the vibrancy and newness of life has been muted by the pandemic and social distancing.

So don't feel bored, stagnant, or unstimulated.

One simple solution is to pursue newness – do something different or even the same activity in a different way, in a new part of your residence, at a new time, wearing something different than usual.

Friends I know have taken up history – to learn something new and being energized and brightened when talking about what they were learning.

Personally, I love Pierre Berton – The Last Spike, The Great Depression, Vimy, Niagara, etc.

Think of a hobby you used to have – go online, read books, and improve your skill a little. Cook, bake, draw, sculpt with Playdough, garden, write poetry, sing (we luv M.J.), walk, go birding, call old friends or family members.

One final step is to share what you have been doing or learning with someone.

That will encourage new ideas the other person hadn't thought of, and encourage us to do so something we could do next..

So don't let sameness keep you in a melancholy state of life.

Pursue newness and experience the energy of life that will come !





Angels Singing

There was a time when we feared six feet under.

Now we stand six feet apart.

So close, so far, we do not touch.

We reach each other with our hearts.

Tired we are of misinformation.

Of opinions, right and wrong.

Of social status and impending doom.

Tired of the same old song.

Lest we forget friendships and family.

The desire to live and love.

The need to reach out to one another.

The reason we look up above.

Together in spirit we stand strong.

The sun is still rising and birds are chirping.

The songs of up rider gently on the wind.

And the words that move us are angels singing

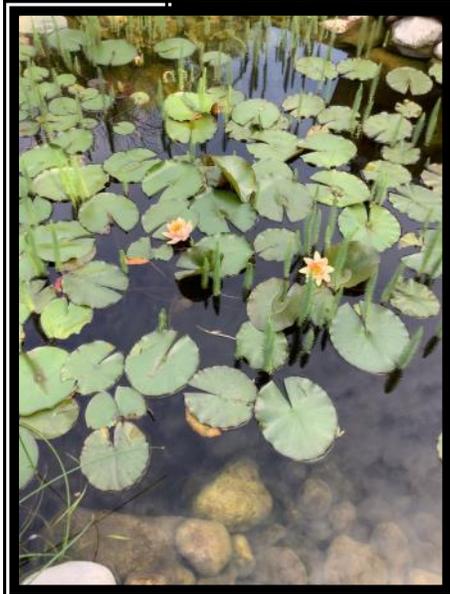
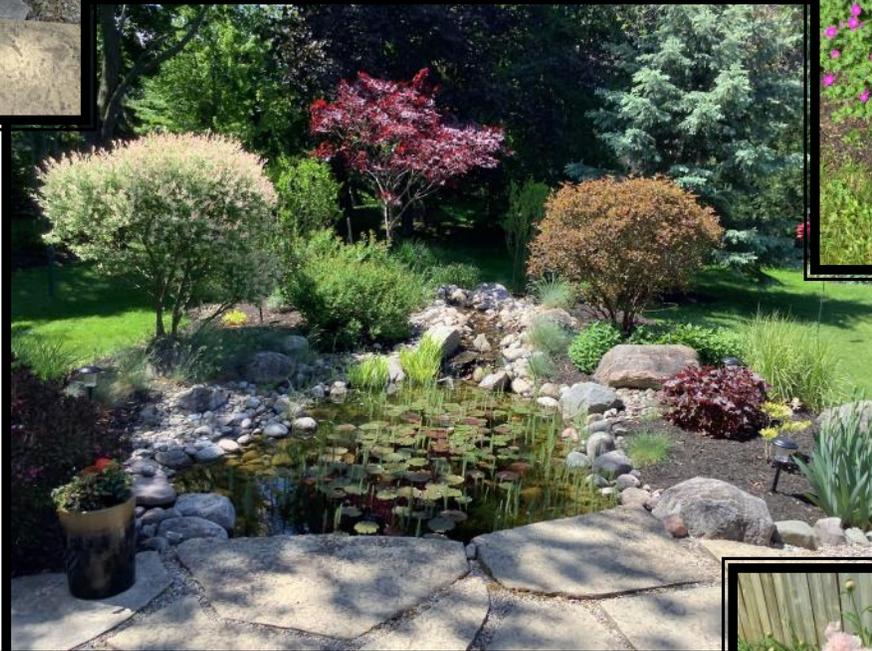
Gennaro Pamieri



Thank you to Barb Maughan for your lovely contribution!

NATURE'S GIFT FOR JUNE 2021

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**Thank you to Bob & Sharon
Elliott for sharing the lovely photos of
their backyard.**

Property Report:

Enclosed is a report from the Property Committee:

- 1) **Re-furbishing window frames along Sanctuary side of building - including window frames on the first floor, outside basement kitchen window, former youth room window and office area beside choir storage.**
Coordinated by Jeff Ontonovich
- 2) **Yearly inspection of fire detection system.**
Coordinated by Murray Gordanier
- 3) **Sanitation of Gordanier Room , Dennis Square, Former Choir Room and Basement Women's & Men's Washrooms.**
Coordinated by Rob Steele
- 4) **Repair damage to Church Sign**
Coordinated by Murray Gordanier
- 5) **After discussion with Matt from Greensleeve about the delay in getting the grass cut the week of May 17th, it was explained to me that they couldn't cut grass for 1 1/2 days due to rain. This in turn backed up all of his clients including Forest Hill and we are receiving this service for free (at this point). The landscapers will do the lawn as often as possible.**
Coordinated by Murray Gordanier
- 6) **Removal of dead trees along sanctuary side of building - pricing for work being completed for Council approval.**
- 7) **Installation of heating cable at back of church and outside plug.**
Coordinated by Murray Gordanier
- 8) **Review of janitorial services for the church on hold until government direction is obtained.**

Murray Gordanier - Property Chair





A very big 'thank you' goes out to Rob Steele, Dennis Dechert and Wayne Nelson for checking the church on a continuous basis for insurance purposes.

Murray Gordanier



News! News! - **It is up and running!!!**

FHUC partners with Little Free Diverse Libraries

Please see this webpage to hear more about the project. [https://
www.kwlittlefreediverselibraries.com/](https://www.kwlittlefreediverselibraries.com/)

The vision presently is to locate the little library close to the Blessing box. One thing the LFDL folks are wondering is if there is someone in the congregation that would act as a steward of our LFDL? This means keeping an eye on the library to see that no trash gets put in there and if the books run low to contact the organizers to get some more. The Blessing Box has largely been treated with respect so we expect the same for the library. Ironically the one problem we have had with the blessing box is that someone early on was putting books in there! The LFDL is intended to give voice to Indigenous and marginalized writers and so we hope that an exchange of book written by these authors will increase understanding in our city and country.

If you have questions let Rev. Gary know.





The Food Trucks are Back at FHUC

**Trucks will roll into Forest Hill every Monday evening from
4:30 – 8:00 PM.**

Next up in June is:

June 28: Pierogi Pigs and Schmuck Truck

Public Health restrictions have been eased:

- **we're now allowed to host 2 trucks each Monday evening**
- **pickup only (picnic tables are not available)**
- **Six foot physical distancing in effect**
- **No access to church building**

**Please come out and support the local food trucks as you
can!**



Looking for recipe submissions. Come on people lets share some good recipes!



Strawberry-Rhubarb Oatmeal Jumble

YIELD: 6-8 PEOPLE WITH LEFTOVERS

© Chef Michael Smith

INGREDIENTS

2 cups (500 mL) of quick oats

2 cups (500 mL) of brown sugar

1/2 cup (125 mL) of all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon (15 mL) of cinnamon

1/2 cup (4 oz) of melted butter

1 tablespoon (15 mL) of vanilla extract

1 standard size bag (21 oz/600 g) of sliced frozen strawberries

14 – 16 stalks (40 oz/1.1 kg) of rhubarb, cut into 1" chunks

PROCEDURE

Prepare and preheat your oven to 350 °F. Turn on your convection fan if you have one.

In a large mixing bowl, mix together the oats, brown sugar, flour, and cinnamon. The flour will help thicken the juices released by the fruits.

Stir the vanilla into the butter and stir into the oats. Thoroughly mix everything together.

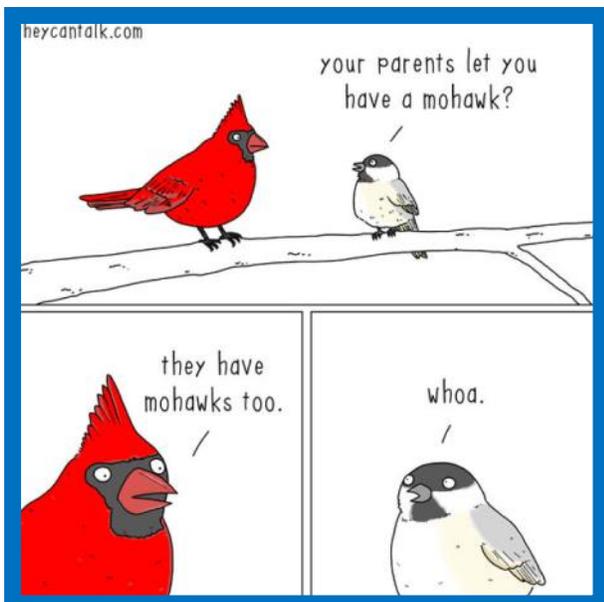
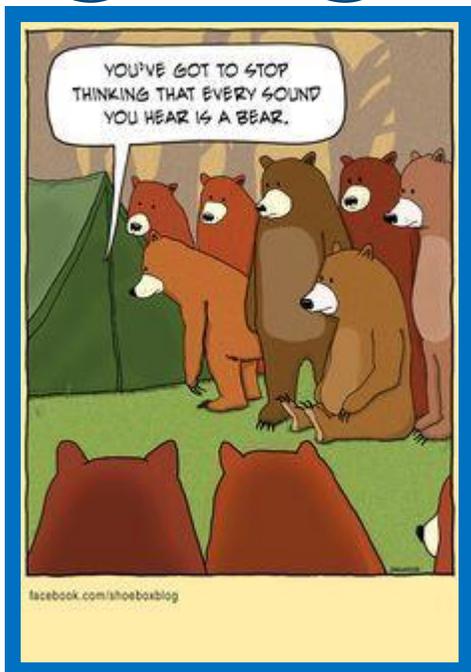
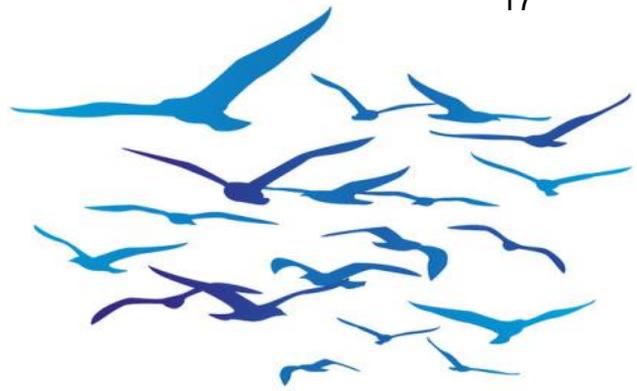
Add the berries and rhubarb and toss thoroughly. Place in a standard 9" x 13" baking dish.

Bake until bubbly around the edges and lightly golden on top, about 1 hour.

Cool on a cooling rack for at least 15 minutes.

Serve and share!

COMIC CORNER



VIRTUAL CHOIR



ONLINE CHOIR SINGING

The Forest Hill Choir is meeting every three weeks for a Sing-a-long on Zoom.

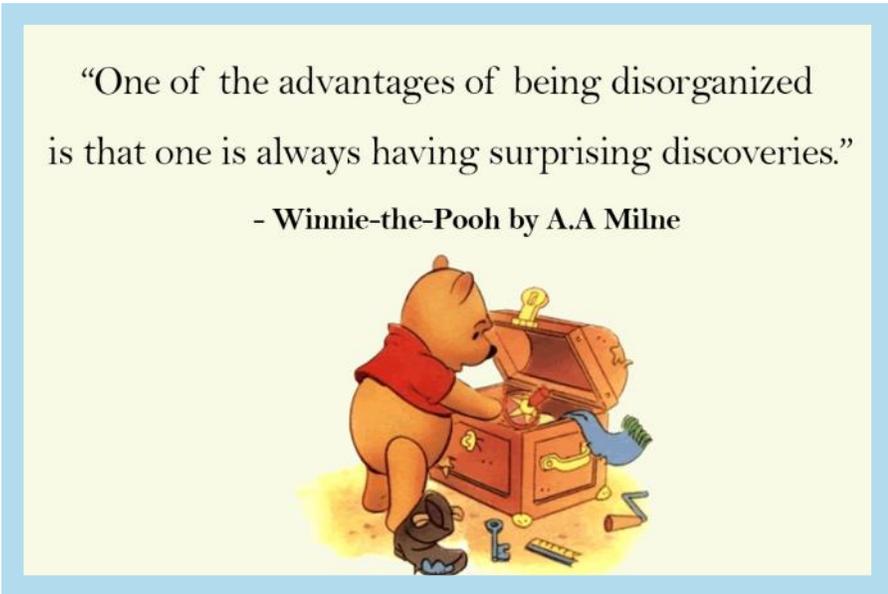
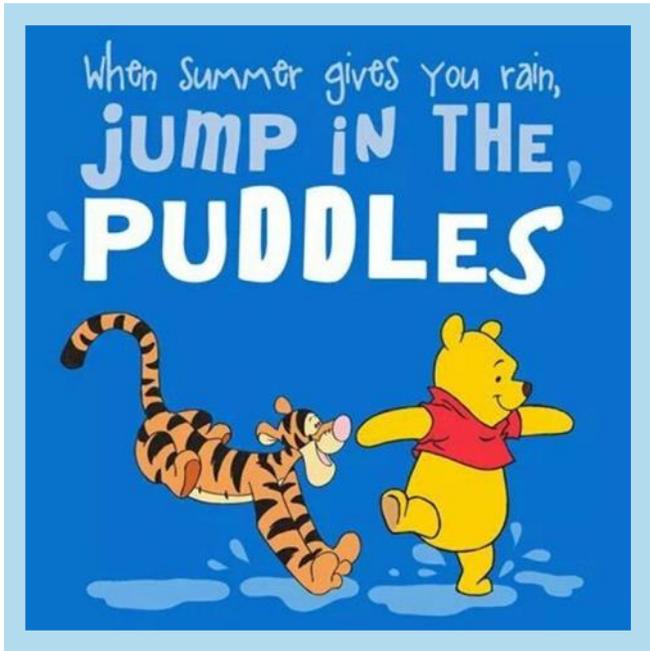
We gather on Zoom for 45 minutes to socialize, and then sing together with mics muted. New members or drop-ins are welcome.

Please let M.J. know in advance if you would like to come so she can supply you with the music for the week.

After a summer break, we'll be back with our virtual choir sing

September 16th 7:00pm.







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