

March 22, 2024



The Wee Voice

Newsletter



The Donway Covenant United Church



Our Mission

"To follow Jesus by sharing God's unconditional love as the Spirit empowers us."

Our Vision

We will follow Jesus...

- By being a local Christian church within the United Church of Canada; a community anchor for spiritual exploration and growth where life, worship, knowledge, service and song all contribute to our larger story.
- By welcoming and involving people of diverse faith, ethnicities, abilities, ages and stages of life, economic situations, sexual orientation and gender identities.
- By caring for all members with compassion, empathy and joy.
- By acts of service, reaching out to engage and support our community, the country and the world.
- By building bridges within our community, as a congregation recognizing the variety of religions and spiritualities in the most diverse city in the world.
- By using our facilities for religious, social, cultural, educational, or other programs that reflect our values.

We are an **AFFIRMING** Congregation



"Palm Sunday"
photo from Church of the Transfiguration

A Prayer in Spring

by **Robert Frost**

Oh, give us pleasure
in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think
so far away
As the uncertain harvest;
keep us here
All simply in the springing
of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure
in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day,
like ghosts by night;
And make us happy
in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating
round the perfect trees.

And make us happy
in the darting bird
That suddenly above
the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts
in with needle bill,
And off a blossom
in mid air stands still.

For this is love
and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved
for God above
To sanctify to what far ends
He will,
But which it only needs
that we fulfill.



The Church Office

is open four days a week

**Monday to Thursday,
9:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

Closed Fridays

If you plan on visiting it is best to 'phone ahead so Emily knows you are coming. If you leave a voice message Emily will get back to you as soon as she is free.

(416) 444 - 8444

We Hope You Will Join Us For Our Good Friday Service



March 29th at 10:30 am

and stay for the
**Good Friday
Hot Cross Bun Brunch**
that follows in the Auditorium



PLEASE....



We would ask that if:

- **you have COVID symptoms, or**
- **you have been in contact with someone who has COVID, or**
- **you have travelled outside the country**

you NOT attend, in person, church events until you have tested negative.



Thank you for your co-operation.

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah 50: 4 ~ 9

John 12: 12 ~ 16

"Preparing the Way"

Palm Sunday Jesus resolves to ride into Jerusalem and expose himself publicly, even though he realizes the dangers he will face since the Jewish leaders have been clamouring for his arrest. From the Roman Governor's view, this was a dangerous time to keep peace and order with the impending Jewish Passover festival and the last thing the Roman authorities wanted was a riot stirred by religious intolerance. So when Jesus enters Jerusalem the atmosphere is tense.

As Jesus set out from the Mount of Olives for the final descent into the holy city many people had gathered on the roadside to welcome him. Many of these had no doubt witnessed his healing, and listened to his preaching, but some perhaps were there to have a glimpse of this man who had been causing a stir by his radical teaching. As crowds go this would not have been much different from any other crowd then and ever since. The majority found themselves going along with the general consensus, which was to acknowledge joyfully Jesus as king. Yet we know, that within five days this consensus would drastically change.



On this wonderful day of waving palm branches and processing into Jerusalem it is easy to get caught up in the excitement of it all and get carried along by the moving parade. Our test however, comes the next day. Are we prepared to stay with Jesus as the atmosphere changes? Do we dare to stand as he faces constant conflict? Are we there for all the encounters that he will face this week?

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

Join us in the
Celebration of
Communion



Sunday Worship
March 24th

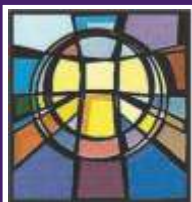


My Door Is Always Open

Drop by anytime during the day,
Monday to Thursday

You should be able to catch me every
morning and some afternoons. Call ahead to
ensure I am at the church.

Lorrie Daly-Price



***Missed a service?
Go to our web site and
you can stream it!***

<https://www.donwaycovenant.com/>



SERVICES for
LENT and
HOLY
WEEK

Mar. 24 10:30 am Palm Sunday
"Preparing the Way"
Communion Sunday

Mar. 28 5:00 pm Maundy Thursday
Dinner and Service

Mar. 29 10:30 am Good Friday
"The Cross"
Hot Cross Bun Brunch following

Mar. 31 10:30 am Easter Sunday
"Joy Comes In The Morning"



**Join us for Worship
in our Sanctuary**

The Worship Committee

**WANT TO STAY
UP TO DATE?**

Follow us and Like us on
Facebook

Donway Covenant
United Church



A Reason to Celebrate...

***25 years of the ESL (English as a
Second Language) Program!***

On Sunday, April 7th, during the **Worship Service**, we will celebrate the 25 years of the **ESL Program**, its volunteers and students!

We have invited former students and volunteers to join us for this celebration that includes cake and tea/coffee after church. This is an opportunity for all of us to personally thank our volunteers and chat with the students. What better way for them to use their English conversation and for us to welcome them and get to know them a little. We hope you will come out for this special event.

25 years of a running a program every week (except summer and Pandemic time) is an accomplishment worthy of much celebration and gratitude. This has been a much loved and treasured **Outreach** program that has meant so much to students and volunteers. Please read Cathy Rand's reflection on the following pages to better understand the value of this program.

Cathy is stepping away after 10 years serving as Co-ordinator of the program. We are looking for someone to take over that role, working with volunteers to re-establish the program, perhaps in new ways.

If interested, please contact the **Outreach Committee**, through the Church Office.

Vivian Yarwood
Chair of the **Outreach Committee**



Celebrating 25 Years

Reflections on 25 Years of ESL Program at DCUC

by Cathy Rand

It's January 1998. Norma Cowan and Audrey Marples wait in a **DCUC** classroom, wondering if anyone will show up for their newly announced **ESL Conversation Group**. Someone appears at the door. *"Is this where the ESL meeting is happening?"* And so began their welcoming and non-threatening program to help English learners improve their conversational skills.



It's January 2013. I have just recently joined the group as a potential discussion facilitator. I record in my ESL journal, *"I'm as buzzed as Norma says she is after every ESL afternoon, and she has been involved for fifteen years. It is amazing - the students, the teachers, the organization, the topics Norma chooses for discussion, the buzz amongst everyone returning from holiday break and passing around photos from the large Christmas party*



at the Cowan's home. There is so much enthusiasm and goodwill and camaraderie here." And so began what I sometimes referred to as my weekly international travel.

As people arrived each Wednesday afternoon for our two hours together, they enjoyed refreshments while we wrote their names and country of origin on the blackboard, an aid in not only then dividing us into smaller discussion groups but in learning one another's names. A record was set one day in May 2018 when nineteen English learners representing twelve different countries were in attendance. Therein lay one of the special features of the group. English learners would express appreciation for the experience we were giving them while we facilitators kept thanking them for all we were learning about life and cultures in their countries. It was definitely a two-way learning experience.

Discussion topics chosen lent themselves to comparisons and contrasts with countries represented by the group, whether about holiday traditions, the many special days on the Canadian calendar, current affairs, Canadian geography and history, hobbies, famous people, seasons, nature, famous quotes, politics, sports, music, family life, social norms, education, vacation preferences, our little human foibles, and so much more. And then there was what we Canadians learned about our own country as seen through the eyes of newcomers - what they found easiest and most difficult about life in Canada, what they liked best about Toronto, what they wanted to learn more about. And of course, we facilitators learned about what English learners find hardest and quirkiest about our language, its idioms and pronunciations, as we attempted to wade them through the tough learning.

continued

ESL Celebrating 25 Years

continued

We weren't always in classrooms with specific discussion topics for the day. The Cowan home will be a special memory for many ESL folk and their families. Norma and Don invited us to an annual Christmas tree decorating party, and again in June for a garden party before the summer break. International cuisine was on the menu at these potluck spreads. I recall one student looking around wide-eyed and saying in a soft voice, *"This is the first time I have been in a Canadian's home."*



Even in the classroom, we were not always focused on discussion topics of the day. Near Stanley Cup time, Frank Saunders and Ovi from Romania would arrive with hockey sticks, pucks and a cardboard box for a net, and teach newcomers how to hold the



stick and shoot the puck to score. Near Remembrance Day, Frank Lowe would bring memorabilia maps and logs from his time during World War II and tell stories of being a navigator sitting in the tail of the bomber. Other days we would have everyone bring in some favourite object and tell us the story

behind it.

The **ESL Discussion Group** has been meaningful to both learner and discussion facilitator, and no doubt uniquely so for each person. It has been a place to forge new friendships. It has been a place to enhance

language skills. As one attendee said, *"I learned English elsewhere but this is where I developed the confidence to speak it."* Another acknowledged perhaps we were doing more than just providing language help, with *"You help us to become Canadians."*

Many thanks to the volunteers from **DCUC** who served this program during at least the past eleven years (earlier records not available), including Helen Campbell, Norma and Don Cowan, Mary Joyce, Frank Lowe, Don McKerron, Eileen Russell, Frank and Nina Saunders, and more recent volunteers Kevin Chan, Linda Cowan, Bob McFadden, Marcia McKenna and Nancy Williams.

Thanks to the many English learners who made it so rewarding for volunteers to participate in the **DCUC ESL Conversation Program**, including special thanks to Ping Li who has been our social secretary and with the program from its early years.



ESL 20th Anniversary

Cathy Rand
Program Coordination (10 years)

CELEBRATION of 25 YEARS of the ESL PROGRAM

During the Worship Service on
Sunday, April 7th at 10:30 am

Followed by Cake, Coffee,
Tea and Conversation

We really hope you can join us on this special day to celebrate 25 years of the ESL Program at our church. Former ESL volunteers and participants will be there. So please come and connect with friends!



Frank Saunders

February 8, 1930 ~
March 16, 2024

***A Long Life,
Well Lived***

Sadly, Frank Saunders passed away at the tender age of 94, at 2 am on Saturday morning, March 16, 2024.

Frank and Nina have been valued members of **The Donway Covenant** for 20 years. They faithfully attended Sunday services. Frank created and offered a wonderful Bible study group in their Condo. His lessons were expertly researched and presented, in hand written notes, to the Bible study members. Frank and Nina were hospitable hosts, serving cranberry juice to begin the session and coffee and treats to end the evening. His sessions were always thought provoking and enjoyable.

Frank was an active member of the Stewardship committee at the Church.

Frank and Nina were members of our Hospitality team for many years, helping at Memorial receptions and Ladies' Fellowship Potluck Luncheons. During the latter few years on our team, he became a *Supervisor*.

They enjoyed the friendly fellowship of the Social club.

Frank spent many hours at the Electrical table at the Fall Sale.

Frank and Nina were excellent volunteers at ESL and many of the guests hoped to have Frank as their session leader. He was extremely knowledgeable.

He was often the first person to stand and express thanks to a speaker or organizer of an event.

Frank has been an active member of the **Don Mills Men's Club**, formerly the **Golden K Kiwanis Club**, for many years. He was on the Speakers Committee and spoke on many occasions about his Civil Engineer's projects in countries all over the world.

On a personal note, we have been close friends for 20 years. One Saturday afternoon many years ago, Nina called and said that Frank felt like going out for dinner, "*so call Norm and Marian*". That first dinner developed into a weekly dinner outing. Frank always chose the destination. He generally took the lead in decision making. We spent many special times together. We will cherish our happy memories.

Frank lived a good life and right up to the end he did it his way.

Rest in peace dear friend.
Norm & Marian Childerhose

I hate all those weathermen who tell you that rain is bad weather. There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing, so get yourself a sexy raincoat and live a little.

Billy Connolly

Take Time to Think

- Take time to think
 - it is the source of power.
- Take time to play
 - it is the secret of perpetual youth
- Take time to read
 - it is the fountain of wisdom
- Take time to love
 - it is a God-given privilege
- Take time to be friendly
 - it is the road to happiness

Ladies' Fellowship DEVOTIONAL



- Take time to laugh
 - it is the music of the soul
- Take time to give
 - it is too short a day to be selfish
- Take time to work
 - it is the price of success

-From **The Friendship Book**
of Francis Gay 1974

Roberta Walker Ernst



Minutes for Mission

PRESERVING CULTURE THROUGH LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION



Nine Elders represent about half of fluent Haida speakers today.



Credit: Haida Gwaii Skidegate

Take a moment to think about your favourite story.

Now imagine that story being at risk of disappearing because the language it's written in is endangered. This is something that nine Elders from Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, are passionately trying to change.

Once there were over 15,000 fluent speakers of Haida, but today, because of assimilation tactics like residential schools, almost all Haida people speak English at home. The nine Elders - with an average age of more than 80 - represent about half of the fluent Haida speakers who remain.

With partner support, the work of these Elders

in a research-based revitalization project keeps the Haida language alive and growing.

The Elders teach students the words, phrases, songs and stories of their ancestors. The response has been empowering, with language learners near and far dedicating themselves to study. Lessons are given through the Longhouse of Skidegate village, but the program reaches much further, with more than 120 online lessons available. The opportunity to connect across the globe has allowed Haida language, stories, and culture to be shared broadly.

The program also gives young people from the Haida Nation the opportunity to connect with the Elders to nurture their cultural pride and understanding. *"I appreciate the work the Elders are doing with our language and culture,"* said one young student. *"They work very hard every day so that my generation can remember."*

The Haida language is not the only Indigenous language that has been endangered. Your gifts to **Mission and Service** support programs and partnerships for Indigenous cultural revitalization around the world.

From the United Church of Canada website

<https://united-church.ca/stories/preserving-culture-through-language-revitalization>

submitted by **Lorrie Daly-Price**

Did you know?

There are **2,473 Endangered Languages** listed in **UNESCO's Atlas**, of which: 178 languages with between 10 and 50 speakers; 146 languages with fewer than 10 speakers; 577 critically endangered languages; and 230 languages that have become extinct since 1950.

Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger - a UNESCO Project

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000192416/PDF/192416eng.pdf.multi>

*If I forget my native speech,
And the songs that my people sing
What use are my eyes and ears?
What use is my mouth?*



*If I forget the smell of the earth
And do not serve it well
What use are my hands?
Why am I living in the world?*

*How can I believe the foolish idea
That my language is weak and poor
If my mother's last words
Were in Evenki?*

Alitet Nemtushkin, Evenki poet



FOOTPRINTS 2024

SUMMER DAY CAMP

We are now in the planning stages for another great summer of camp. This years team will include a Camp Director and four Counselors to lead the camp.

If you are interested in being considered for either position please send in your resume and cover letter to our Camp Administrator, Lorrie Daly-Price at

footprintssummerdaycamp@gmail.com

Deadline for Director Applications:

April 5, 2024

Deadline for Counsellor Applications:

April 12, 2024



Home Safe

Lecture Series

Wednesdays 1:30 ~ 3:00 pm

April 10 - Peter Bride on Caring for Family ar Home

*April 17 - Alexa Gilmour and Carla Leon on
Aging Well in Place*

*April 24 - Katie Griffiths from Alzheimer
Society of Peel
on Resources for care Givers*

Coffee and Tea served from 1:15 pm

There is no charge for these talks

Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive, Don Mills
www.jubileeunited.ca





featuring
**Common Thread Community Chorus,
 Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist
 Congregation Spirit Choir,
 and U of T Spirit Singers**

Saturday March 23, 2024 at 3:00 pm

**Neighbourhood Unitarian
 Universalist Congregation (NUUC)
 310 Danforth Avenue, north/east door
 Entry by donation at the door**



NEIGHBOURHOOD
 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



Ladies' Fellowship

Please help us donate to these very worthwhile causes. Please leave your donations in the baskets in the Narthex or in the basket outside of the Church office.

Remember, each type of item goes to a different partner, so please sort and bag each separately.

If you have any questions please contact Marian Childerhose or Carolyn Reashore. They would be happy to help!



USED STAMPS

We collected used stamps which are donated to Effect Hope (formerly the Leprosy Mission).

They are asking for "commemorative" stamps and international stamps. Please trim these from the envelope.

effect:hope
 The Leprosy Mission Canada



PLASTIC BREAD & MILK TAGS

They are given to the **Lions Club** and are melted down and used in 3D printers.



ALUMINUM TABS

For years we have been collecting aluminum tabs and delivering them to **March of Dimes Canada**.

March of Dimes Canada collects aluminum pop tabs year-round, and the recycling of these tabs generates revenue that benefit their **Assistive Devices Program** that helps buy, repair and maintain a wide variety of mobility or assistive equipment (including wheelchairs), and **DesignAbility®** program that modifies and custom builds products to increase independence that cannot be found on the market.



MILK BAGS

It takes about 550 milk bags to create 1 sleeping mat. 95% of the sleeping mats created at

St. Gabriel's Church are given to "**Canadian Feed the Children**" in Mississauga and are then shipped, postage free for the Church, to Central and South America, Africa and the Philippines. We attend a monthly gathering at **St. Gabriel's**, preparing the milk bags and weaving the mats. If anyone would like to participate in this worthwhile endeavour please contact us.



PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES



We have been able to partner with the **Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling (Lions' Club)** through Carolyn Reashore's optometrist.

If you have any eyeglasses that no longer fit your needs, please consider recycling them with us. Your generous donation will provide recycled eyewear free of charge to people in developing countries.



Place your glasses in a bag and drop them into the church mailbox.

MARCH 21ST - NATIONAL FLOWER DAY

While Canada does not have a national flower - the Maple Leaf isn't a flower! - each of the provinces and territories do.

In Ontario we are devoted to our Trilliums, but it will be a month or more before we find the blanket of white as we wind through forest trails.

So do yourself a favour, while the cold and snow is still about.....buy yourself a bouquet of flowers and place them on your kitchen table. I guarantee it will bring a smile to your soul!



tpl • toronto
• public library

Don Mills Branch 888 Lawrence Ave E

Programs you might find of interest!

Tea & Movies

Join us on the second Friday
of every month at 2:00 pm
for classic films in the Library's Auditorium.



Friday, April 12
Notorious
(2:00 to 4:00 pm)

**Tea and coffee served
before the film begins.**

Notorious is a 1946 American spy film noir directed and produced by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Cary Grant, Ingrid Bergman, and Claude Rains as three people whose lives become intimately entangled during an espionage operation.

No registration required.



What's that Bird?
A beginner's guide to
bird identification

Wednesday, March 27
from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Learn the basics of bird identification using clues like size and shape, colours, behaviour and songs. Find out about field guides, birding apps and other helpful resources, and discover great birding opportunities in Toronto.

**Please call 416-395-5710
for further details.**

**BOOK
CLUB**

April's Book
"Hamnet & Judith"
by Maggie O'Farrell

Tuesday, April 16
from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

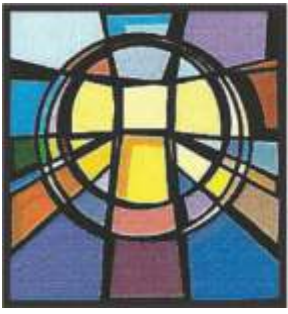
or **Thursday, April 18**
from 2:00 to 3:00 pm



Tech Help

Every Monday from 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Have a question about your tablet, phone, laptop, email of eBooks? Drop in on Mondays and a librarian will be available to help you with your technical questions.



The Donway Covenant United Church



Need pastoral care?

Call the church office and
Emily will direct your call.

Minister: Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price

**Music
Facilitator:** Tina Faye

**Church
Administrator:** Emily McLean

Custodian: Kim Morgan

Celebrating 9 years of being an Affirming Congregation



We are an Affirming Congregation



SHINING WATERS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



Created in God's image

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