

February 20, 2026

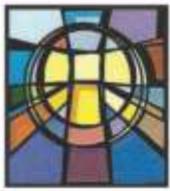


YEAR of the HORSE

2026

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**



**HAPPY CHINESE
 NEW YEAR 2026**



by Natasa To

Red lanterns bloom in velvet night,
 Gold tassels whisper soft and bright.
 Winter loosens, frost grows thin -
 A lunar dawn is ushered in.

The drums awake the waiting street,
 With lion steps and thundered beat.
 Crimson couplets guard each door,
 Brushing luck on threshold floor.

Incense threads through hopeful air,
 Carrying wishes everywhere.
 Old debts fade like dying snow,
 New rivers of fortune start to flow.

In twenty-twenty-six we ride
 The Horse with strength and
 fearless stride -
 A year of courage, swift and free,
 Of wild heart and destiny.

Hooves of fire across the sky,
 Chasing dreams that dare to fly.
 Not reckless flame, but guided spark,
 A lantern blazing through the dark.

Families gather, plates aligned -
 Fish for plenty, sweets for kind.
 Laughter folds through steaming rice,
 Memory warmed with ginger spice.

Red envelopes, crisp and new,
 Pass from elder hands to youth -
 More than money tucked inside:
 Blessings, hope, and ancient pride.

Fireworks stitch the midnight seam,
 Splintering the old year's dream.
 Ashes fall like silver rain—
 What was lost becomes our gain.

So lift your cup to sky and star,
 To journeys near and roads afar.
 May hooves beat strong in every
 heart,
 As fresh beginnings rise and start.

Let joy increase,
 Let restless spirits gallop toward
 peace.
 Under lantern glow we say:
 Welcome, luck. Welcome, day.



**“2026 Year of the Horse”
 stock art**

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

“Faith Being Tested”

Genesis chapter 2: verses 15 ~ 17
and chapter 3: verses 1 ~ 7
Matthew chapter 4: verses 1 ~ 11

Temptation, confession, repentance, and forgiveness - or learning to recognize unhealthy pulls before they take hold - these are part of the invitation as we begin the Lenten journey. Lent asks us to pay attention to our choices, our patterns, and the direction of our lives.

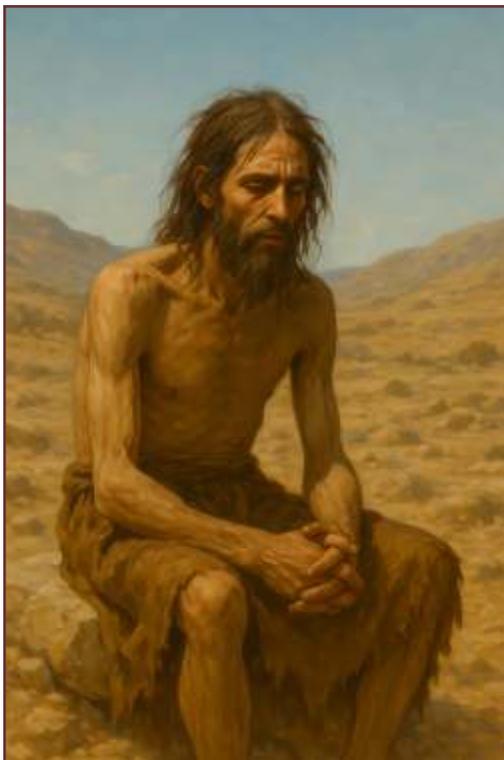
In this week's reading from Matthew's Gospel, we hear that Jesus, too, faced deep temptation. In the wilderness came powerful voices:

“Use your gifts only for yourself.”

“Take the easy path.”

“Choose influence and control instead of trust.”

These were not small tests - they touched hunger, identity, and power. The



struggle was real, and the choices mattered. The same is true for us. Turning around

when we've gone off course can be hard - but this is the heart of Lent: not guilt for its own sake, but honest reflection that opens the door to grace.

When have you changed direction and found new life?

When have you named a misstep and received forgiveness?

When have others helped you choose what is life-giving?

Lent reminds us: we do not walk this road alone. Grace meets us not only after we fall - but also in the strength to

choose a better way.

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

A Meaningful Thing to Give Up for Lent - Give Up Doomscrolling
**Fast from endless bad news or social media spirals. Instead:
Choose one trusted source and one hopeful story each day.**

Lenten Prayer Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

*Loving and faithful God,
as we begin this Lenten journey,
we come honestly — just as we are.
Help us to look gently and truthfully at
our lives -
to notice where we've drifted,
where we're tired,
where we need to turn again toward
your love.*

*Give us courage for the small changes
that matter, and patience with ourselves
along the way.*

*When we falter, meet us with compassion.
When we try again, meet us with
encouragement.*

*Walk with us through these forty days,
and keep drawing us closer - to you and
to one another.
Amen.*

JOIN US
 after **SERVICE**
 in the Auditorium
Coffee Time & Fellowship



Join Us
**“FRIDAY
 DROP BY”**



Bring a friend ~ Meet a friend! ~ Have a coffee!

EVERY FRIDAY
 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 in the Church Living Room

The Church Office
(regular hours)

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



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



**Want to know what's going on?
 What's coming up?
 Go to our web site and find out!!!**

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

**SERVICES
 for
 LENT**



- Feb.22 10:30 am 1st Sunday of Lent
“Faith Being Tested”
 Communion will be served
- Mar 1 10:30 am 2nd Sunday of Lent
“Sliding Door Moments”
 guest preacher Rev. Cynthia Stretton
- Mar. 8 10:30 am 3rd Sunday of Lent
“A Story Worth Telling”
- Mar. 15 10:30 am 4th Sunday of Lent
“Seeing Again for the First Time”
- Mar 22 10:30 am 5th Sunday of Lent
“To Wait and Trust”
- Mar 29 10:30 am Palm Sunday
“It Started With A Parade”
 Communion will be served



**Join us for Worship
 in our Sanctuary**

The Worship Committee

I am on holiday and heading south on **Monday, February 23**, returning to the office on **Tuesday, March 3**.

For Pastoral emergencies please call the office

(416) 444 - 8444

and Emily will direct your call

Lorrie



WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE?

Follow us and Like us on

Facebook

Donway Covenant United Church





LENTEN REFLECTION

Changing Course

As we begin the season of Lent, we are invited to think about change - about what in us might be ready to be reshaped, redirected, or renewed. And if we're honest, change is rarely easy. It's almost always more comfortable to stay with what we know - the familiar habits, familiar reactions, familiar paths - because at least they are predictable. Even when they are not life-giving, they are known.

These days many of us have been watching the Winter Olympics - athletes pushing themselves, adjusting technique, changing strategy in real time. What looks smooth and effortless on the outside is actually constant correction and recalibration underneath. Tiny shifts in posture or timing can mean the difference between a safe landing and serious danger.

It reminds me of an old sports broadcast clip - a ski jumper who appeared to lose control and crash off the side of the jump. For years it was shown as "the agony of defeat." But later the

athlete explained that the surface had become too fast. Partway down, he realized that if he continued as planned, he would overshoot the landing zone. So he made a split-second decision to fall intentionally - a hard choice, a painful choice - but one that saved his life. Changing course looked like failure in the moment, but it was actually wisdom.

Lent invites that kind of honest reassessment. Not dramatic for the sake of drama - but courageous enough to adjust direction when needed. Jesus calls people not just to believe, but to turn, to follow, to choose life-giving paths even when they are harder.

Week by week in this season, as the light grows among us, we are reminded that change is not about shame - it is about hope. Not about falling short - but about choosing a better landing. Not about defeat - but about life.

As the light grows among us, may it grow within us.

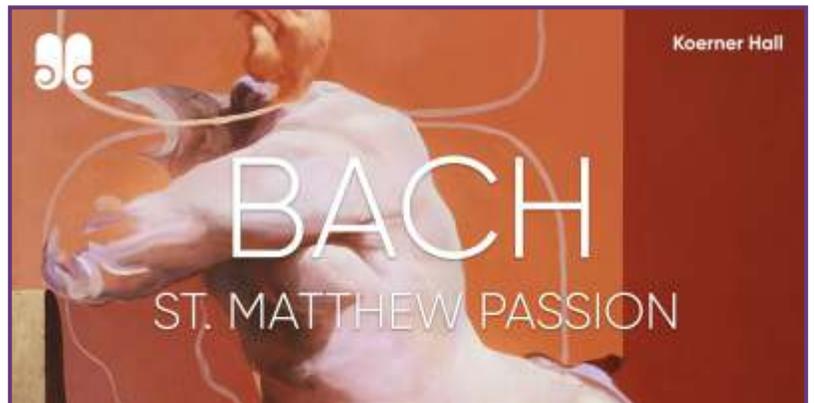
Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price



LENTEN MUSIC

St. Matthew Passion

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* is a monumental work of drama, devotion, and unparalleled musical genius. With its soul-stirring arias, intricately woven chorales, and emotionally charged narrative, this spiritual masterpiece remains one of the greatest choral works ever written. Under the baton of Jean-Sébastien Vallée, the **Toronto Mendelssohn Choir**, along with exceptional soloists and instrumentalists, brings Bach's timeless music to life in a profoundly iconic performance.



**March 24 at 7:00 pm
and March 25 at 7:00 pm**

Hope you can join us! Annie Griffin



**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

To buy tickets **CLICK HERE**

<https://www.tmchoir.org/event/st-matthew-passion/>

Join Us for

Thursday, February 26th

from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Lunch with Marian

Join us for *Lunch with Marian* on Thursday, January 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Church living room.

Please bring your lunch and I will provide beverages and dessert.

Bring your knitting, crocheting , your craft, or just You. Enjoy a relaxing few hours with friends.

If you can join us, please RSVP to the church office. It sure helps us in our planning! (416) 444 - 8444

Marian



What a Treat at Coffee Time!

**Last Sunday, February 15th, in honour of
Valentine's Day**

**Victoria Martinez and Jim Dunham served
up hot chocolate (with marshmallows!)
and heart shaped cookies.**

photo by
Elda McDowell



DCUC Knitting Group



Our meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 2:30 ~ 3:30 pm in our Living Room. This season we are knitting scarves, mitts and hats for the unhoused or, you are welcome to bring any project you are working on!

Andrea Sloan

**Our next meeting is
Monday, February 23rd**



Ladies' Fellowship

Our *Ladies' Fellowship* will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 am on ZOOM under the leadership of Maureen Smith.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:30 am.** on ZOOM.

All are welcome to attend. Please contact Emily at the church office for the Zoom link.

(416) 444 - 8444

Benvenuto in Italia



The boys and I had a wonderful time in Italy last week! My parents invited us to go with them to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary all together, as my sister and her family live in Florence. My parents got married on Friday February 13th, 1976, the day before Valentines Day, as my Dad was moving here from the States and had been offered a job already, and my Mom had to work on Valentines Day. Friday the 13th has always been a lucky day for our family.



We started our trip with my parents in Rome for the first four days. We explored the Colosseum and The Roman Forum with a wonderful guide who made it informative and fun for us all. We also saw beautiful art, and the boys and I did a Vespa tour of the city to see many other attractions including The Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, The Mouth of Truth and The

Pantheon. Many beautiful meals out full of pasta, pizza and wine, and of course, gelato!

We took the fast train to Florence where we were happy to have some Italian home cooked meals made by my brother-in-law (and do some laundry!). It was wonderful to see my sister Sarah and her husband Marco (who is from Florence), and to see my two nephews; Lapo and Paolo, and my niece Bianca, in their home environment. We celebrated my parents' anniversary with professional family photos and a beautiful steak dinner in the heart of Florence. It was incredibly special and meaningful to all be together.



We look forward to seeing our Italian side of the family this summer when they come on their annual trip to Canada.

Thank you for all of your kind wishes for the trip!

Emily McLean

“A Family vacation is a good time to bond and make memories that last a lifetime.”

Steve Harvey



Ramadan mubarak

February 17
~ March 19



Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, communal prayer, reflection, and community. It is also the month in which the Qur'an is believed to have been revealed to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. The annual observance of **Ramadan** is regarded as one of the five pillars of Islam and lasts 29 to 30 days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next.

Fasting from dawn to sunset is obligatory for all adult Muslims who are not acutely or chronically ill, travelling, elderly, breastfeeding, pregnant, or menstruating.

The predawn meal is suhur, and the nightly feast that breaks the fast is iftar. Although rulings have been issued that Muslims who live in regions with a midnight sun or polar night should follow the timetable of Mecca, it is common practice to follow the timetable of the closest country in which night can be distinguished from day.

The spiritual rewards of fasting are believed to be multiplied during Ramadan. Accordingly, during the hours of fasting, Muslims refrain not only from food and drink, but also from all behaviour deemed to be sinful in Islam, devoting themselves instead to prayer and study of the Qur'an.



Join us this Lent for *Kitchen Conversations* with the Moderator



Featuring guests from across the church, the six-part video series exploring food, faith, and community

In this spirit, coming this Lent we're excited to share with you ***Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator***, a new six-part video series exploring food, faith, and the power of invitation, hosted by the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Drawing inspiration and recipes from the United Church's Lenten devotional, ***Bless Break Share: Recipes for Faithful Living***, we'll be cooking with guests from across the church, including book contributors, **United Church** youth, and the Moderator's own family.

The series debued on Shrove Tuesday with a pancake feast in the Moderator's home kitchen (February 17), with new episodes following each Sunday throughout Lent, and concludes with a special Easter message from the Moderator.

Missed Episode 1? **CLICK HERE** to watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLfp0W00Iz4>

Episode 2 is launching this Sunday, February 22nd - ***Frittata & Faith: A Kitchen Conversation with King Julez***



CLICK on the arrow for an introduction

Watch on Sunday by going to the website

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-kimberly-heath-45th-moderator/kitchen-conversations>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



TTC celebrates Black History Month with artistic images and inspiring stories that move us

“Past, Present, Proud: Stories that move us” highlights prominent Black figures, places, and movements that helped influence and shape Toronto.

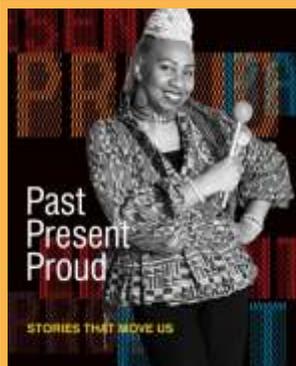
As we mark **Black History Month** in February, the **TTC** is proudly celebrating the stories of seven Black community leaders and changemakers, historic places and movements that have shaped and inspire the city of Toronto and generations of people with a special exhibit.

“Past, Present, Proud: Stories that move us” is a celebration of Black culture, creativity and legacy told through

photography, storytelling and transit spaces across the city. Seven subway stations will serve as a canvas for a gallery of compelling images connecting riders to the vibrant soul of Toronto’s Black communities.

“Past, Present, Proud: Stories that move us” was developed in partnership with **Blackhurst Cultural Centre**, a non-profit hub offering experiences that celebrate the rich culture of African and Caribbean Canadians.

The works will be on display at select Line 1 (Yonge-University) and Line 2 (Bloor-Danforth) stations throughout the month of February.



Wendy Jones Canada’s Ambassador for Steel Pan Culture

Wendy Jones is wildly recognized as one of Canada’s leading ambassadors of the steel pan. Her pan journey

started in 1977, and she has since carried the title **“Queen of the Bass.”** She has received numerous awards for her exceptional skills as a pannist, and her work with the pan has been recognized internationally.

As co-founder, and only female band leader of the award-winning steelband, **Pan Fantasy**, Jones uses the steelpan as a cultural tool to draw families into the pan fraternity: to inspire youth, to ignite leadership skills, and to influence social change.

Celebrating its 39th anniversary this year, **Pan Fantasy** has won

Finch West Station

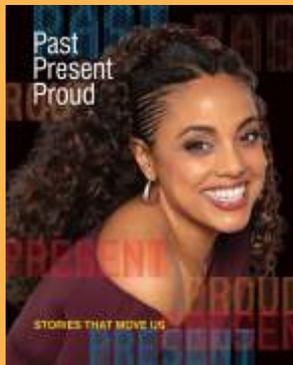
the annual **Pan Alive** competition an unprecedented eleven years in a row while Jones’ herself has received numerous awards and accolades over the past three decades including, most recently, the 2025 Jean Augustine Excellence Award at the 20th annual **CaribbeanTales International Film Festival**.

As a founding member of the **North York Inter-Community Youth Group**, Jones has organised concerts, fashion shows, and numerous recreational activities in the Jane-Finch area and other communities. These efforts proved to be an early training ground for some of Canada’s great musical artists and positioned Jones as a mentor and master pannist to over 1,000 children and more across the Greater Toronto Area.

Today, Jones continues to lead by example and remains open to new endeavours that will strengthen her leadership qualities, especially in building up the steelpan community.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Weyni Mengesha Director, Storyteller, Visionary

Passionate about curating programming that ignites cultural conversations, Weyni Mengesha is a Canadian, award-winning stage and film director, and one of the first Black artistic directors of a major theatre

company known for her groundbreaking work and community engagement.

Born in Vancouver to parents from Ethiopia, Mengesha grew up in Scarborough, Ontario, and from 2006 to 2008 was a member of **Soulpepper Theatre Company's** training program, **Soulpepper Academy**. She later served as Artistic Director of the renowned artist-driven company from 2019 to 2025. The impact of her work was so profound that upon the announcement of her departure, a decision was made by the company to rename the **Tank House Theatre** to the **Weyni Mengesha Theatre**.

In addition to **Soulpepper Academy**, Mengesha has instructed at the **National Theatre**

Kennedy Station

School of Canada and the **Canadian Film Centre**. She also served as co-artistic director and teacher with **A.M.Y Project (Artists Mentoring Youth)** for seven years.

Mengesha has directed wildly successful productions, including “*da Kink in My Hair*” and *Kim's Convenience*, that have gone on to break records and tour both nationally and internationally before later being developed into television series airing on CBC, Global, and Netflix.

Outside of Canada, Mengesha has directed plays in London, New York, and Los Angeles, garnering a **NAACP** nomination for Best Direction as well as multiple **Dora Mavor Moore Award** nominations and wins.

In 2017, Mengesha was named one of the **Women in View's** – a national not-for-profit organization's – “**Five in Focus**” identifying five rising film directors across Canada. In 2018, she was named one of **The 50 Most Influential Torontonians** by **Toronto Life** magazine.

TMU Station

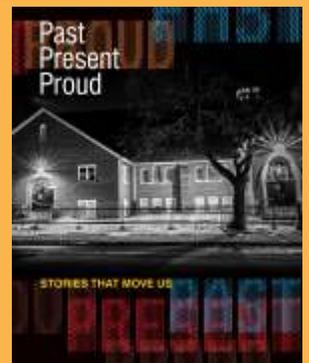
The journey of First Baptist Church Toronto has been one of resilience and perseverance. Created in 1826, it is the first - and oldest - Black church in Toronto and was home to the city's first Baptist congregation.

When church founders Elder Washington Christian and 11 runaway enslaved people fled north from the U.S. through the **Underground Railroad** in their quest for freedom, they followed the “*drinking gourd*” to Canada, which they saw as a promising, new land of opportunity. A native of Virginia, Elder had been ordained in the Abyssinia Baptist Church in New York in 1822.

Their worship meetings began on the shores of Lake Ontario or at the homes of members. In 1841, Elder Christian and the Black church members moved to Queen Street and Victoria Street (now home to St. Michael's Hospital),

where the church was known as “**First Coloured Calvinistic Baptist Church**” or “**Queen Street Coloured Baptist Church**,” The land was a gift from the family of Squires McCutcheon.

First Baptist Church 200 Years of Resilience, Perseverance, and Community



Eventually, in 1905, they moved to University Avenue and Edward Street in the neighbourhood known as The Ward, at which point the church was known as “**University Avenue Baptist Church**.” In the 1940s, they began using the name “**First Baptist Church**” and in 1955, moved to their current location at Huron and D'Arcy streets.

Determined to be a cornerstone in the community, **First Baptist Church Toronto** remains committed to building on the legacy of the courage, vision and contributions to society of its founders. Led by Rev. Dr. Wendell Gibbs, the church continues to share the story of its history and the contributions of Canada's Black community to society. This year, the church will celebrate its 200th anniversary.

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



Minutes for Mission

WHERE PLAY BUILDS COMMUNITY



"I'm going to sleep here!" Amarah, age 6, threatens from under the table. Along with her sisters, she hides from her family at the

Tomken Grove Afterschool Program's

pickup time. This is a common occurrence because every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., the children feel that two hours together is not enough.

Through the passion of **Westminster United Church** in Mississauga, the **Tomken Grove Afterschool Program**

aims to encourage community among local children. The program creates a recreational space outside of school where neighbourhood kids can spend time together in an electronics-free environment.



Credit: Westminster United Church

Some form of physical activity is always scheduled: dance battles, obstacle courses, hula-hooping, spending time outdoors, and more. Snacks such as fresh fruits and yogurt keep the kids healthy and energized, and everyone is involved in cleanup responsibilities for snack and outdoor time, which encourages independence and innovation.

Your gifts through **Mission and Service** help programs like this

as they encourage community and connection. Thank you.

From the United Church of Canada website

<https://united-church.ca/stories/where-play-builds-community>

Building community is to the collective as spiritual practice is to the individual

Grace Lee Boggs



Where the Plant People Meet

Edwards Gardens

Lawrence Ave East at Leslie St

Shake off the winter blues and start the countdown to spring at Toronto Botanical Garden's much-loved Get the Jump on Spring one-day garden extravaganza. Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a curious beginner, or simply dreaming of

warmer days, this annual event brings together plant lovers, expert growers, and local makers for a joyful, inspiration-packed kickoff to spring.

CLICK HERE to see the full listing of exhibitors

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/event/get-the-jump-on-spring-2026/>

“Happy Chinese New Year!”

KUNG HEI FAT CHOY!

祝你马年幸福安康!

GONG XI FA CAI!



SIX ELEMENTS OF THE YEAR OF THE FIRE HORSE February 17, 2026 ~ February 5, 2027

FIRE. Passion intensifies. What once flickered now blazes. Your inner spark will not be ignored.

MOVEMENT. Energy surges forward. Delays dissolve. What once circled aimlessly now finds clear direction.

COURAGE. Boldness rises naturally. You speak sooner. You act decisively. You trust yourself deeply.

FREEDOM. Restrictions loosen. Old roles fall away. You choose expansion over obligation.

SPEED. Acceleration defines the year. Decisions come swiftly. Results follow just as quickly.

REBIRTH. Reinvention becomes inevitable. A stronger version of you emerges - untamed, unapologetic, unstoppable



The Red Envelope



The Lunar New Year has plenty of traditions - such as cleaning the house, presenting ritual offerings to ancestors and enjoying symbolic foods - to encourage prosperity in the year ahead. Many Asian and Asian American children look forward to one particular practice. In China and other parts of Asia, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and sometimes close friends or neighbours give children red envelopes filled with money - “hóngbāo” in Mandarin, and “lai see” in Cantonese - to celebrate the holiday.

But this custom is about more than carefully wrapped currency. *“The act of giving and receiving red envelopes transcends a mere financial transaction,”* Sarah Coleman writes in her book *Lunar*

New Year. “It is a carefully choreographed dance of respect, affection and well-wishing.”

Giving hóngbāo is considered a gesture of goodwill that conveys care and support for younger generations. In return, children pay respects to the eldest members of the family and their ancestors.

The envelopes are red because it’s the most auspicious colour, associated with good luck and happiness. They are traditionally decorated with gold letters and Chinese symbols of luck, like the dragon, the phoenix and the Chinese zodiac animal of that year.

The red envelopes don’t contain a set amount of money, but there is symbolism in their value. For example, **continued**

"Happy Chinese New Year!"

KUNG HEI FAT CHOY!

祝你马年幸福安康!

GONG XI FA CAI

2026
YEAR OF THE HORSE



The Red Envelope *continued*

even numbers are considered lucky - with the exception of four, as its pronunciation is similar to the word "death." Amounts containing six (indicating smooth progress) and eight (a token of prosperity) are thought to bring good fortune. No matter the value, it's given in crisp, clean bills - not worn, wrinkled or dirty banknotes. Digital red envelopes have also become increasingly common.

The practice of gifting red envelopes for the Lunar New Year originated in China, but it's difficult to pinpoint exactly when and why it started. According to a 2025 article written by East Asian studies scholar Ming Gao, the idea behind *hóngbāo* has its roots in the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220) when people wore amulet-like items in the shapes of coins. Later, during the Tang dynasty (618–907), coins were scattered and collected as part of springtime celebrations.

Giving money to children for special occasions and celebrations began during the Song and Yuan dynasties (960–1279 and 1279–1368). Then, during the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368–1644 and 1644–1912), people gave children money threaded on red string.

Hóngbāo as we know it today began in the early 20th century, when Chinese elders started giving children money wrapped in

red paper for the Lunar New Year. It was thought to ward off evil spirits.

Although red envelopes are most closely associated with the Lunar New Year, they are also given on other special occasions like birthdays and weddings.

Although the Lunar New Year tradition of red envelopes is most prevalent in Chinese culture, it also takes place in Taiwan (*hóngbāo*), Vietnam (*li xi*), Cambodia (*ang pav* or *tae ea*) and the Philippines (*ang pao*). Other countries have similar practices; in Japan, *otoshidama* is gifted in colourful envelopes, whereas South Korean *sebaetdon* comes in white or decorated envelopes. The tradition has continued in many Asian American communities and families.

Although kids are the most common recipients, red envelopes aren't restricted to youth. In some cases, unmarried adults receive red envelopes during Lunar New Year known as *ya sui qian*, which translates to "suppressing age money." This practice is thought to ward off misfortune as well as slow aging. Coleman also writes that employers can gift *hóngbāo* to employees, and some people give red envelopes to service providers like security guards and maids.



A GREAT BIG thank you to all who joined us for our Family Day Dinner, and to all those who pitched in and helped with the tasks so essential to the success. We are proud to be part of this wonderful Family!

Family Day Dinner

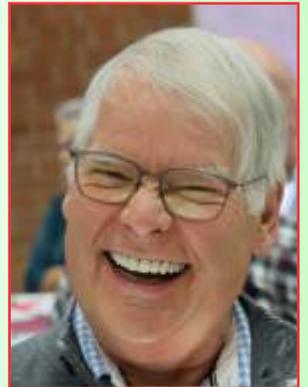
Fellowship Committee

Family Day Dinner

February 16, 2026



Family Day Dinner



February 16,
2026

photos by
Victoria Martinez



Family

Almost everyone has or had a family. Mothers, fathers. Some have siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. For some of us there is a spouse and perhaps children and their children. It is not uncommon to have a dear friend that you would consider family.

Near or far, there are those we keep in contact with and then again, there is family we have lost contact with for any number of reasons.

The family I wish to acknowledge is my church family. We may not have a lot in common when it comes to physical features. What we do have is a love of Christ and God.

When I enter God's house of worship, or a weekly meeting, a luncheon, or a get together I am filled with a sense of peace and joy. These people are my family!

We pray together. We sing God's praises together. We rejoice in God's love for us together. Best of all, we care and look out for each other. We respect and support each other. We share, we laugh, we cry and give comfort. We are there for each other, in sickness, well-being, grief, and happiness.

Sometimes we get a little (or a lot) lost. However, know this; your church family is there waiting for you. No judgement. An embrace, a handshake, a smile is waiting for you.

This is my family! My sisters and brothers in Christ.

Anneke Allan



"Your soul needs time for solitude and self-reflection. In order to love, lead, heal and create you must nourish yourself first."

Linda Joy

YOU'RE *join us!*
WELCOME TO

Presentation: Winter Olympic Games by Bill Anderson

Tuesday February 24th at 2:15 pm
(In-person event)

Join Bill Anderson as he explore the fascinating history of the Winter Olympics! Discover the stories, sports, and unforgettable moments that have shaped the Games over the years. Let's celebrate and cheer on our favourites during the 25th Winter Olympics in Italy.

These events are FREE.
Space is limited!

Please let us know if you are coming.

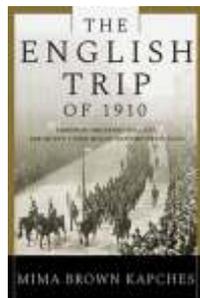
Performance: Year of the Fire Horse

Friday February 27th at 2:15 pm
(In-person event)

The Lunar New Year falls on February 17th and marks the start of the Year of the Fire Horse. The Fire Horse is considered rare, occurring once every 60 years. The Fire Horse symbolizes passion, energy, and independence. Join Santha Tsang an accomplished singer and celebrity in the Chinese community as she delights us with a dynamic and captivating performance. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a memorable afternoon of music, culture, and community!

RSVP REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

Programs you might find of interest!

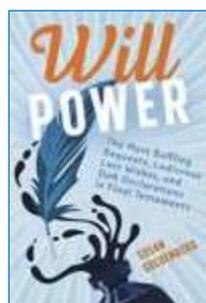


Dr. Mima Brown Kapch: Sir Henry Pellatt and the English Trip of 1910

**Wednesday February 25th
from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

Dr. Mima Brown Kapches presents and discusses her Canadian historical non-fiction book, “*The*

English Trip of 1910”. Sir Henry Pellatt (of Casa Loma fame) was the Commanding Officer of the Queen’s Own Rifles of Toronto in 1910, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. Pellatt organized for over 600 young men from Toronto in the QOR to travel to England on a fully paid trip. This is the story of that adventure.



Author Talk: Susan Goldenberg - Will Power

**Monday March 2nd
from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

From a one-page will fought over for two decades by three generations to a will that left a mansion and its grounds to a parrot (developers could do nothing until it died – and parrots have long lives) author Susan Goldenberg shares these stories and more in her book, **Will Power** (2026).

Will Power looks at some of the most astonishing and extraordinary bequests and last requests in people's wills, recent and past, highlighting unusually unique, eccentric, vindictive, family conflicts.

Wednesday Night Movie “Dream Scenario” 2023

**Wednesday March 4th
from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Aspiring actor Edward undergoes a radical medical procedure to drastically transform his appearance. But his new dream face quickly turns into a nightmare, as he loses out on the role he was born to play and becomes obsessed with reclaiming what was lost.



Tea & Movies: “Mildred Pierce” 1945

**Monday March 9th
from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**

When Mildred Pierce’s out-of-work husband leaves her for another woman, Mildred decides to raise her two daughters on her own. Despite Mildred’s financial successes in the restaurant business, her oldest daughter, Veda, resents her mother for degrading their social status. In the midst of a police investigation after the death of her second husband, Mildred must evaluate her own freedom and her complicated relationship with her daughter.

Get Noticed: How to Share Your Story with Canada’s Top Media Outlets

**Wednesday March 11th
from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

Learn how to get featured in Canada’s top media. In this practical session, PR strategist Aleksandra Phelan shares how founders and business owners can craft stories journalists notice, become a trusted media source, and pitch with confidence. Discover what makes a story newsworthy - and how to turn your business journey into media visibility that lasts.

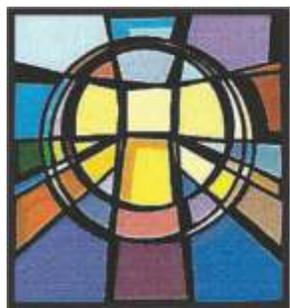


Tech Help

Every Monday from 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Need help setting up your library eBooks? Have questions about your tablet, phone, laptop, email or eBooks? A librarian will be available to help you with your technical questions.

**Please call 416-395-5710
for further details
and to reserve your spot!**



The Donway Covenant United Church



Need pastoral care?

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Emily will direct your call.

Minister: Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price

Music Director: Scott Pietrangelo

Church Administrator: Emily McLean

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