

March 13, 2026



National Affirming Day

ARE

OPEN

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



Photo of the sanctuary of Billings First Church, decorated and illuminated with rainbows. United Church of Christ

A Pride Affirmation



I believe that we are more than children of the Holy.
 I believe that we are more than clay.
 I believe that we are more than flesh:
 Flesh that is warm and sweaty, soft and hard.
 In us is embodied the soul of the Divine,
 Calling us to love, embrace, and share the kiss of peace:
 Statements of love.
 Jesus was flesh but more than flesh:
 He was the universal word incarnate,
 Animated by the Holy and responding to the needs around him.

We are animated by the Holy,
 We are animated by desire and attraction,
 We are animated by Holy love.
 When we touch it is more than desire:
 It is the longing for affirming the other,
 Affirming one another, Affirming ourselves.
 We are more than Pride:
 We are called to be our authentic selves,
 Flesh that is warm and sweaty, soft and hard,
 For we are animated by Holy desire.

by **Rev. Don Uhryniw, Emmanuel United Church,** Peterborough, Ont.



Beannacht that is, “*blessing*”:
from Irish poet John O’Donohue
in honor of St. Patrick’s Day.

*On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.*

*And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green
and azure blue,
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.*

*When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.*

*May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.*

*And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.*

If you are like me, and you are enchanted by
the lilt of the Irish voice, **CLICK HERE** and
listen to John recite his poem - **Beannacht**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfvS2LYbZLQ>



JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

1 Samuel chapter 16: verses 1~ 13
John chapter 9: verses 1 ~ 41

“See Again for the First Time”

This week we hear the story of the man born blind in the Gospel of John - a man who once lived in darkness and then could see. Could it really be that simple? Jesus gives sight to a man blind from birth with a little spit, some ordinary dirt, and a few quiet words. It almost seems too simple, too unlikely.



In the story, many people struggle with what has happened. The religious leaders question it. The disciples don’t understand it. Even the man’s parents seem uncertain. Yet the man himself, who now sees clearly, accepts what has happened with openness and wonder.

What the story reveals is how often people look for explanations or someone to blame when faced with suffering or difference. But Jesus moves the conversation in another direction entirely. Instead of assigning fault, he responds with compassion and action.

The heart of the story is not about blame but about God’s love at work in the world. It is about the possibility of new sight - the kind that helps us see one another with deeper compassion and understanding. Moments of grace like this still happen every day, when fear gives way to courage, when hearts open, and when we begin to see more clearly the good we can do with the gifts we have been given.

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

Guiding Our Steps

God of every path,
as the days grow warmer and we step
outside, remind us to notice the world
around us.

May our feet move gently
through streets and neighbourhoods,
and may our hearts be open to the people
we meet along the way.

Help us pay attention -
to the cracks in the sidewalk,
the blossoms that surprise us,
the kindnesses both given and received.

And in the spaces we navigate online,
guide us to show the same care
and presence.

Bless our steps, God.

May they carry hope where there is despair,
light where there is shadow,
and your love wherever we go.

Even in ordinary steps, may we reflect
your extraordinary grace.

Amen. Rev Lorrie Daly-Price



Mar. 15 4th Sunday of Lent
10:30 am "Seeing Again for
the First Time"

Mar 22 5th Sunday of Lent
10:30 am "To Wait and Trust"

Mar 29 Palm Sunday
10:30 am "It Started With A Parade"
Communion will be served



Join us for Worship in our Sanctuary

The Worship Committee



I Am Patrick

peels back centuries of legend
and myth to tell the true story of
Saint Patrick. A 1½ hour movie
starring John Rhys-Davies.

If you would like to borrow my
DVD for your own **St. Patrick's
Day** viewing just let me know.

Tom tsjoyce@yahoo.ca



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

The Church Office

(regular hours)

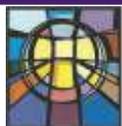
is open four days a week

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



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

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

WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE?

Follow us and Like us on

Facebook

Donway Covenant United Church



Where Our Feet Lead

As the days get warmer and the sun stays out a little longer, I love being able to step outside and really notice my neighbourhood - watching the way the light hits the trees, hearing the birds, seeing people out on walks or riding bikes. Our shoes carry us everywhere, don't they? Through the routines of our days, and even into unexpected encounters. They show us where we've been, and in a way, hint at where we might go next.

This week, I invite you to pay attention to your steps. Notice the little things - the cracks in the sidewalk, the first buds of spring, the people you pass by. Think about

where your feet are taking you, and also who you might meet along the way. And if your "steps" include online spaces, pay attention there too - how you show up in emails, messages, or social media can matter just as much as your presence on the street.

Lent invites us to walk with intention, to slow down a bit, to notice, and to carry a sense of hope and care in the way we move through the world. Even in ordinary steps, whether on the pavement or on a screen, there's an opportunity to reflect God's light through simple acts of kindness and presence.

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price



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 continue sharing 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're getting in the kitchen with guests from across the church, including book contributors, United Church youth, and the Moderator's own family.

The series debued on Shrove Tuesday and continues on Sundays throughout Lent, concluding with a special Easter message.

Watch on Sundays 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>

Did you know? You can go to the website and download recipe cards for:

-  *Everyday Pancakes, Your Way*
-  *Catherine Faith MacLean's Frittata*
-  *Alydia's Curried Broad Beans*
-  *Dad's Bread*
-  *Misha's Tutu*
-  *Aaron Gallegos' Coptic Chickpeas*
-  *Rev. Sharon Ballantyne's Grandmother's Pie Pastry*



Missed Episode 4? **CLICK HERE** to watch *Apple Pie with Sharon*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO_BmMQkWik

A great episode to watch if you are making pie for "P.I.E." Day!





UPDATE

Outreach Committee

A Green Iglu for Weagamow First Nation

We have heard that Weagamow has been successful in obtaining the necessary grant from the federal government which will allow them to start their Green Iglu this spring. They are excited to begin the project and will send further updates to us as it commences.



Greetings from Rev. John and Frances White

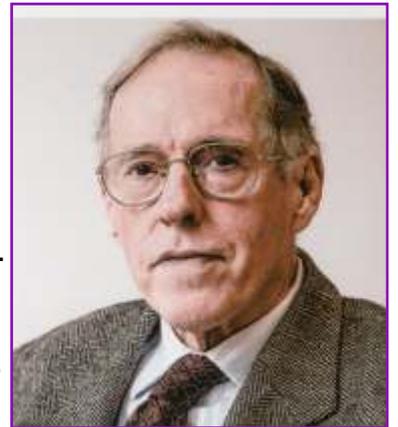
John was our much loved occasional Minister for many years. He was a special member of our **Ladies' Fellowship Group** on Zoom

John and Frances have moved from their family home to **Kingsway Retirement Residence**. We spent a few delightful hours with them and their son Barry this past Sunday afternoon and enjoyed a lovely High Tea.

John has many happy memories of his years with us.

On behalf of our Church family we wished them well in their new home.

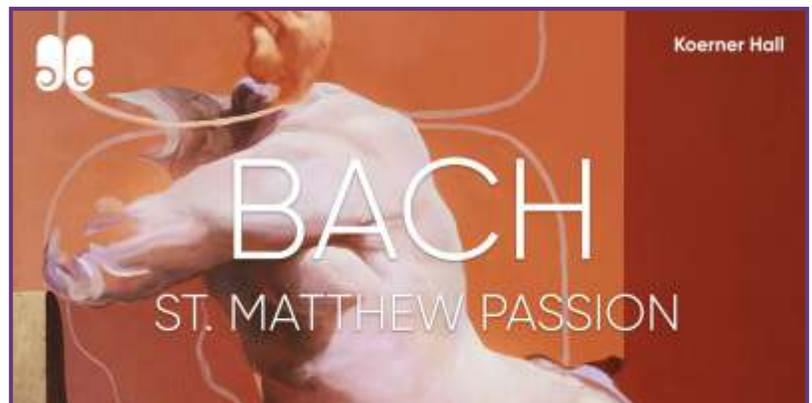
Norm and Marian Childerhose



LENTEN MUSIC St. Matthew Passion

**Hope you can
join us!
Annie Griffin**

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**



**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

To buy tickets **CLICK HERE**

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



Crafting Community: Celebrating Affirming PIE Day 2026



Every year, on March 14th The United Church of Canada celebrates **National Affirming PIE Day**. Last year, we celebrated the music that moves us. This year for **PIE Day 2026**, we are broadening our horizons to celebrate every kind of creator - woodcutters, crocheters, gardeners, and bakers - who help weave connections in our communities.

Why **PIE Day** matters right now: With 2SLGBTQIA+ rights under threat, living into our faith means more than just words. It means:

-  **Deep Spirituality:** Recognizing Christ as the bread of life who feeds us.
-  **Daring Justice:** Showing up at Pride rallies and standing against hate.
-  **Bold Discipleship:** Creating spaces where everyone truly belongs.



CLICK THE ARROW for a message from Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Moderator

Get Involved!

Unity For a better together



All people in Canada should feel free and safe to be who they are.

The **Unity** campaign sets out to create a more inclusive future for everyone, including Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and other sexually and gender diverse (2SLGBTQI+) people.

Help advance equality by recognizing stigma, debunking misinformation, and supporting 2SLGBTQI+ communities. Here are three key concepts to get you started.



Reflect - Spot a stigma

Stigma refers to negative attitudes and false beliefs that a group of people or society holds towards something. Try spotting different examples of stigma and reflecting on how you currently view 2SLGBTQI+ communities.



Learn - Debunk the bias

Bias refers to believing that some people or things are better than others. Learn some facts that will help you challenge common misconceptions.



Take Action - Speak up

Ensuring those around you feel welcome creates a stronger environment for all. Learn how you can make spaces more inclusive for 2SLGBTQI+ people.

LEARN MORE - CLICK HERE

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/campaigns/unity.html>

for guides, videos, and so much more!



Minutes for Mission

A STEADY FLOW OF CARE



Credit: Silver Spire United Church

For most of us, a shower is routine.

For someone without stable housing, it can be transformative.

In St. Catharines, Ontario, **Silver Spire United Church** offers more than access to water. Their shower program offers dignity, relief, and a fresh start to the day—sometimes all in the same hour.

While guests take a private shower, their laundry is washed and dried in the next room. Clean clothes are ready when they step out.

Toiletries like soap, shampoo, deodorant are generously donated by the community and is available to all guests. Devices can be charged in the room, and guests are welcome to keep their belongings in the room with them to keep them secure.

It may sound simple, but being able to wash your body and your clothing at the same time changes a day. In the extreme heat of summertime, a cool shower can prevent illness and save lives. In the winter, warm water restores circulation and comfort. Beyond physical relief, something deeper happens: people are reminded they matter.

But programs like this require steady support. Costs for utilities, supplies, coordination, volunteers, and care can mount quickly.

Through **Mission and Service**, we're helping **Silver Spire United Church** keep the water running and the program staffed. We're helping ensure that dignity is not an afterthought, but a priority.

A shower should not be a luxury, and clean clothes should not be out of reach.

From the United Church of Canada website

<https://united-church.ca/stories/steady-flow-care>

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, March 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, March 26th, 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



t h e m e :
'Unlocking opportunities
together for a prosperous
commonwealth'
March 9th, 2026



Let us now stand together to renew our pledge to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of our unique global family.

The Affirmation

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity.

We affirm our desire for peace among all peoples and nations, and our belief in justice for everyone, everywhere.

We affirm our respect for the natural world, and our shared responsibility to be stewards of the earth - working together to protect and sustain it for generations to come.

We affirm our commitment to empowering young people in every part of our **Commonwealth**, and our belief that by investing in their ingenuity and imagination we enhance the wellbeing of our people and strengthen our shared future. United in kinship

and common purpose, we cherish the rich diversity of thought, culture, tradition and experience that shapes our **Commonwealth**. Through friendship and partnership, we build on our shared inheritance and unlock opportunity for the benefit of all.

We reiterate our commitment to the values of the **Commonwealth Charter** - as an enduring expression of our ideals, and as a guide to co-operation and common action in pursuit of peace and prosperity.

Through our **Commonwealth** connection, we see each other, hear each other, learn from one another, and work side by side in mutual respect and goodwill to build a more resilient, inclusive and prosperous common future.

Response

We affirm our belief in the **Commonwealth** as a powerful force for good in the world and pledge ourselves to its service - now and for the future.

us that no nation can live unto itself. Only by working together can we become better equipped to respond to challenges, more proactive in shaping outcomes, and ultimately more secure and prosperous.

As Canada charts its path forward in this new world, we look to our fellow **Commonwealth** members as partners. Later this year, **Commonwealth** governments will gather in Antigua and Barbuda for the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**. Together, we will continue strengthening the foundations that unite us - democracy, human rights, sustainable development, and economic growth."

The Right Honourable
Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada

Office of the
Prime Minister



Cabinet du
Premier ministre

March 9, 2026
Ottawa, Ontario

"Today, Canada joins our fellow Commonwealth partners in marking **Commonwealth Day**. In a more uncertain and divided world, the **Commonwealth** remains a constant - bringing together 56 member countries from North America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific. Across continents and under different skies, we are united by a shared commitment to work together and pursue the common good.

This unity reflects a shared understanding that we are stronger together. During his visit to Canada last year to deliver the **Speech from the Throne**, His Majesty King Charles III, the **Head of the Commonwealth**, reminded

Join Us for

Thursday, March 26th

from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Lunch with Lorrie **YOU'RE INVITED!**

Join us for *Lunch with Lorrie* on Thursday, March 26th, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for conversation, learning and community.

This month we are pleased to welcome Lisa Haddrell, an emergency care nurse at North York General Hospital. Lisa is also connected to our church family as the wife of Russell, Angela Jutlah's son. Drawing on her years of frontline experience, Lisa will share helpful insights on how to best navigate care in a hospital setting - what to expect, how to advocate for yourself or a loved one, and ways to make the experience less overwhelming.



Please bring your own lunch. Dessert and refreshments will be provided.

Kindly let Emily in the church office know by Monday, March 23 if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly.

(416) 444 - 8444

All are welcome!

Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price,
The Donway Covenant United Church

YOU'RE *join us!*
WELCOME TO

**Presentation: Julius Caesar:
Ides of March – Paul Dias**

Monday March 23rd at 2:15 pm
(In-person event)

Join presenter Paul Dias as he discusses the dramatic life of Julius Caesar as soldier, statesman, pirate-fighter, and one-time lover of Cleopatra. From battlefield triumphs to political intrigue, including the fateful Ides of March - March 15th, the day of his assassination - this engaging presentation uncovers the legend, the legacy, and the lasting impact of one of history's most compelling figures. Discover how he helped transform Rome into history's greatest empire, and why the name "Caesar" still echoes through the centuries.

**Please let us know
if you are coming.**

**The ROM Presents: Queens,
Goddesses & Women of Importance**

Monday March 30th at 2:30 pm
(In-person event)

Join volunteers from the ROM as they bring to light Queens, Goddesses & Women of Influence. The team will explore the allure of mysterious and powerful women through art, sculpture, and special treasures at the Royal Ontario Museum. From renowned figures like Marie de' Medici and Cleopatra to captivating goddesses and lesser-known - but no less fascinating - women, discover the stories of influence, intrigue, and power that echo across cultures and centuries.

These events are FREE.
Space is limited!

RSVP REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

187 WYNFORD DRIVE
TORONTO
416-331-9797
DELMANOR.COM

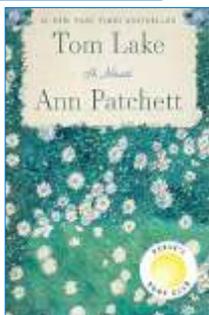
RSVP at (416) 331 - 9797

DELMANOR
Wynford
Inspired Retirement Living™

Programs you might find of interest!



**March's Book
"Tom Lake"**
by Ann Patchett



**Tuesday, March 17th
from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**

or

**Thursday, March 19th
from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**



Digital Life Skills for Seniors:

Online Shopping

**Monday March 23rd
from 2:00 to 3:30 pm**

For people who have basic internet skills, and want to learn how to shop online with confidence. Whether you need groceries or home appliances, almost anything can be purchased and delivered to your home. We teach you how to find goods and services online, look for customer reviews or consumer testing results and provide tips and guidelines on how to shop safely, securely and with confidence. Resource handout provided.



Eileen Thalenberg: And Yet...

**Wednesday March 25th
from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**

Writer and documentary filmmaker, Eileen Thalenberg, presents and reads from "And Yet...", a poignant collection of poems that explores the complex relationship to family, history and place.



Sound Advice for a Happy Retirement

**Monday March 30th
from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**

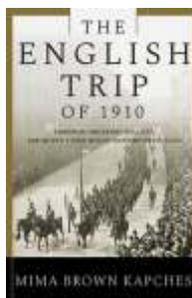
Retired lawyer, Sheldon Parker, offers sound advice on how to truly enjoy your retirement, without falling into the emotional and social pitfalls that lurk all around us. He offers practical and effective advice and solutions to enjoy your retirement...because life is too short to drink bad wine!



Wednesday Night Movie "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy" 2025

**Wednesday April 1st
from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

After jumping back into the dating pool, single mother Bridget Jones finds herself caught between a younger man and her son's science teacher.



Dr. Mima Brown Kapch: Sir Henry Pellatt and the English Trip of 1910 *(New Date)*

**Wednesday April 8th
from 7:00 to 8:00 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.

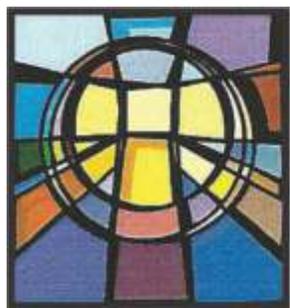


Tech Help

**Thursday April 2nd
from 2:00 to 3:30 pm**

Drop in. Do you have questions about your tablet, phone, laptop or email? Need help with e-books or other online library services? We help with your technical questions! No technology repairs

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



The Donway Covenant United Church



Need pastoral care?

Call the church office and
Emily will direct your call.

Minister: Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price

Music Director: Scott Pietrangelo

Church Administrator: Emily McLean

Custodian: Kim Morgan

Celebrating 11 years of being an Affirming Congregation



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' phone (416) 444 - 8444 e-mail: donwaycovenant@msn.com
website: www.donwaycovenant.com