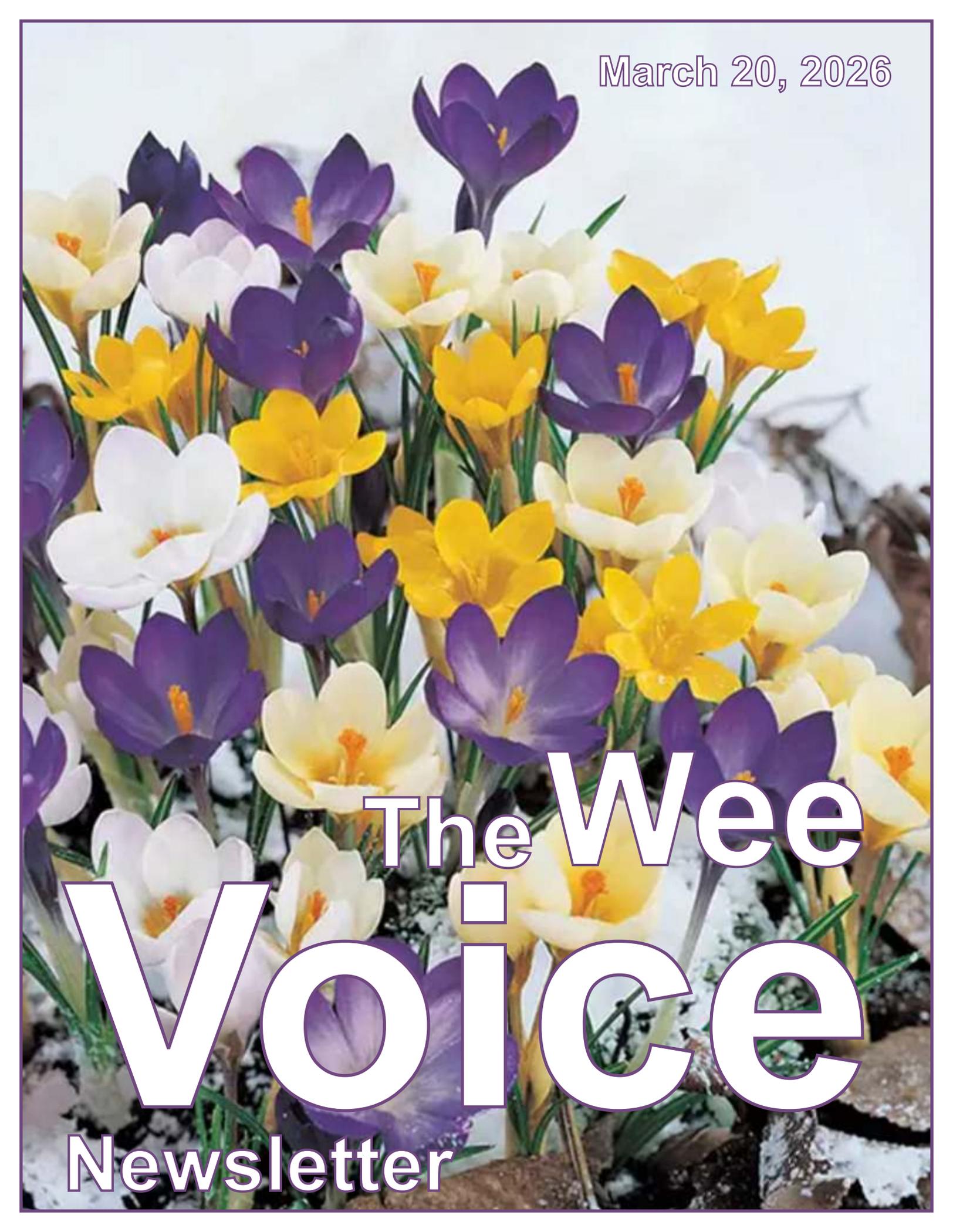


March 20, 2026



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**



Photo of
Van Bourgondien Multi-Colored
Flowering Snow Crocus



The Crocuses

by **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper**

They heard the South wind sighing
A murmur of the rain;
And they knew that Earth was longing
To see them all again.

While the snow-drops still were
sleeping
Beneath the silent sod;
They felt their new life pulsing
Within the dark, cold clod.

Not a daffodil nor daisy
Had dared to raise its head;
Not a fairhaired dandelion
Peeped timid from its bed;

Though a tremor of the winter
Did shivering through them run;
Yet they lifted up their foreheads
To greet the vernal sun.

And the sunbeams gave them
welcome,
As did the morning air -
And scattered o'er their simple robes
Rich tints of beauty rare.

Soon a host of lovely flowers
From vales and woodland burst;
But in all that fair procession
The crocuses were first.

First to weave for Earth a chaplet
To crown her dear old head;
And to beauty the pathway
Where winter still did tread.

And their loved and white haired
mother
Smiled sweetly 'neath the touch,
When she knew her faithful children
Were loving her so much.



Dear Spring

*Our relationship's both love and hate.
You showed your face and made me wait.
I heard your robin's cheerful song
but you coyly strung me along.*

*Your warm breezes touched my face
while melting snow splashed my legs.
When it seemed that you were heading
my way,
puddles turned to ice the very next day.*

*I did not want to wait any longer!
But my faith needed to grow stronger.
March turned to April and April turned
to May.*

*Only then was I sure you were here
to stay.*

*Now I see you in the yellow-green leaves
on the branches of awakened trees,
in the tulips throughout the flower bed,
glowing colours of yellow, orange,
and red.*

*Your dainty snowdrops, tiny and white,
are proof you finally got it right.
Forsythia blooms with their bright
yellow glow
are the highlight of your magnificent
show.*

*You have arrived, true to your word,
with a musical song in each morning bird.
Why did I doubt that you would be here?
You have always come through...
every year.*

*Yours truly,
Marcia McKenna*

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

Ezekiel chapter 37: verses 1~ 14

John chapter 11: verses 1 ~ 45

"To Wait and Trust"

Two weeks from now, we will enter Holy Week, walking with Jesus through suffering, loss, and the shadow of death, toward the hope of resurrection. Before we get there, it's worth pausing to notice our own lives - the sudden changes, the small struggles, and the moments that leave us unsettled.

This week's scripture, the story of Lazarus, invites us into that tension between loss and hope. Lazarus has died, and the grief of his family is real. The waiting, the doubt, the sorrow - these are experiences we all know. And yet, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, offering life in the midst of grief and hope in the middle of despair.



Whether facing major loss or the quieter struggles of everyday life, this story reminds us we are not alone. God is at work, and we are supported by those who walk alongside us. In the midst of waiting, renewal, hope, and love are quietly at work - nudging us forward and carrying us gently toward life in abundance.

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price





Holding One Another in Lent

As we journey through this season of Lent, we lift up our hearts and one another in prayer, especially those carrying heavy burdens this week.

God of love, surround our community in times of struggle, hold us close, and lead us together toward hope and healing..

Amen

Rev Lorrie Daly-Price

SERVICES for LENT

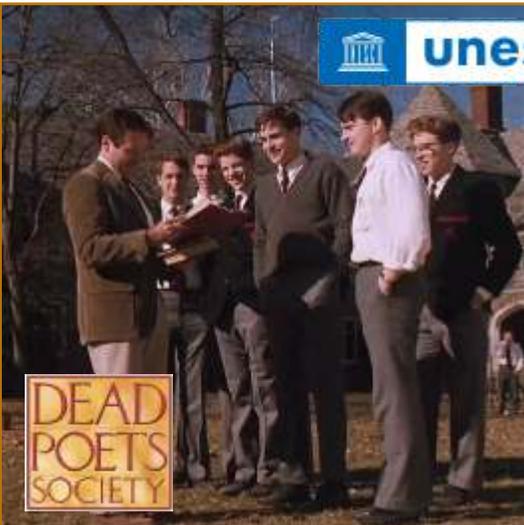
Mar 22 10:30 am 5th Sunday of Lent
"To Wait and Trust"

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



World Poetry Day

March 21

Dead Poets Society is a wonderful film, obviously filled with a lot of references to English and American poetry. In this scene, John Keating (Robin Williams) teaches his pupils the reason for reading and writing poetry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS1esgRV4Rc>

"Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words." – Robert Frost



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

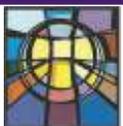
(regular hours)

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



Minutes for Mission

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION



Credit: Asian Rural Institute

At the **Asian Rural Institute** in Japan, leadership begins with a simple truth: you are already an expert in your own life.

In 2024, 20 participants from 13 countries arrived as pastors, farmers, teachers, and organizers, carrying questions about food security, climate change, and community resilience.

They planted crops. Reduced plastic use in the fields. Practiced nonviolent communication. Travelled across Japan to meet farmers and activists. Reflected deeply on what their communities need most.

And they left equipped - not just with ideas, but with practical skills they will multiply at home.

Their impact will ripple outward: stronger local food systems, healthier land, more confident leadership.

Through **Mission and Service**, we're helping make that training possible. We're helping to sustain the farm, the classrooms, and the shared learning that transforms participants into catalysts for change.

When we give, we're investing in leaders who will nourish communities long after their year in Japan ends.

Let's continue cultivating that future.

From the United Church of Canada website

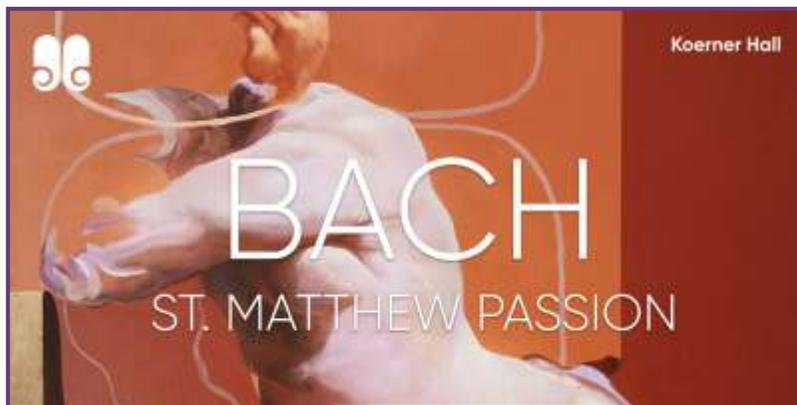
<https://united-church.ca/stories/local-knowledge-global-transformation>

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/>

Trusting the Journey

(in the spirit of Ann Weems)



Lent is a season that invites us to slow down long enough to notice what we usually try to outrun. It is a time when we stop pretending that everything is fine and admit that life is fragile, that hearts break, that dreams change, that we do not control as much as we would like. In this season, we encounter both our emptiness and our longing - longing for healing, for meaning, for hope.

And yet, Lent is not a journey into darkness alone. It is a journey taken in the company of God and of one another. We discover that even when the road feels long and the waiting feels endless, we are not abandoned. God walks

beside us in quiet ways - in a kind word, in a shared silence, in the presence of those who refuse to let us walk alone.

What hidden places in your heart might be slowly softening, strengthening, or healing this season?

Where are you being invited to trust the slow work of grace rather than rush toward quick answers?

What small signs of hope or kindness have you noticed along the way?

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 debuted 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>

For week 5, we're joined by Isla Sheridan-Jonah, a Youth Climate Motivator with the **United Church**, for a classic after-church snack of cupcakes and lemonade at **Speedside United Church**, a historic community of faith in rural Ontario with roots dating back to the 1840s. Isla reflects with the Moderator on how what we choose to eat connects us with the wider world, whether through its impact on climate, or on the lives of those who harvest it.

"We should be looking more into the brands that we are supporting, even though it might be more expensive and it might be harder to come by... I think it's overall worth it if we're helping someone. And that's what God calls us to do - we are supposed to help people that are not just in front of us."

-Isla Sheridan-Jonah

Episode 5 **CLICK HERE** to watch
Cupcakes and Lemonade with Isla

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGzKCH49EhQ>



What if Lent began with a question?

by Sheryl Spencer
March 11, 2026



A mother-daughter road trip sparked a sacred writing practice rooted in memory, wisdom and God's presence

In Spring 2023, my 20-something daughter, Olivia Mater, and I took a road trip from Tobermory to Thunder Bay, Ont. We were both at crossroads: I was about to turn 60, and Olivia was starting a job as a canoe technician in a provincial park.

Somewhere around the town of Marathon, we remembered an idea we'd had. Olivia would write a list of questions for me that probed my experience of wisdom and aging. As rocks, trees and rain slid past the car windows, she dove into her phone.

After about 15 minutes of intense tap-tapping, she came up with a list - one generation reaching toward another. Her questions were deep and thoughtful, challenging and inspiring. She asked me about my elders and teachers; whose presence I feel when I look at the stars; about where wisdom lives in my body.

How to ...

- Ask a family member or other loved one to come up with a list of questions.
- Brainstorm moments or memories from your life in response to each question. Six or 12 memories would fit nicely into the timeframe of Lent.
- Reflect on how these prompts are working for you and add more as you feel comfortable.

Rather than answering directly, I brainstormed stories from my life inspired by each question and set about to writing them down. It became a practice. Because I am in ministry and time is hard to come by, I carved out two early mornings a week to write. I would light a candle and pray before I started, then look down at the list of stories and wait for the Holy Spirit to guide me toward the one I needed to tackle that day. During each session, I wrote only one story, sometimes revisiting events that hadn't crossed my mind in decades. When I was finished, I often had to take a nap to recharge. It felt like holy and sacred work. After many months, the result was a manuscript that became my final project for a doctor of ministry degree in creative writing and public theology.

Rev. Sheryl Spencer is a writer, mother and grandmother who serves in ministry at Tobermory United Church.

- Dedicate regular blocks of writing time throughout Lent. When you sit down to write, declare that time as sacred.
- By Easter, you should have a meaningful body of writing from your life: a sacred offering for your loved ones or even just for you and God.

This story first appeared in Broadview's March/April 2026 issue with the title "Writing as a sacred act."



Spring on the River

The pictures in **Spring on the River** were taken by Marilyn Ma in April along River Philip in Rockley, Nova Scotia. The short waterfall video and poem were by Joyce Creighton. The music is written and performed by Marcia McKenna.

CLICK HERE to listen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p5gm_i1x6w



Jubilee United Church Spring Lecture Series

*Be Informed, Be Entertained,
Be Inspired*

Monday, April 13

Ms. Whitney Hilts from Delmanor returns to talk about “gut health”. Learn how your eating habits enhance or destroy your precious gut flora. What are probiotics and prebiotics?

Monday, April 20

Constable Joel Roberts from 33 Division of Toronto Police Services will give a refresher course on safety and security, with a focus on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and distraction thefts.

Monday, April 27

Ms. Arlene Chan, author of several books on the history of the Chinese in Canada, will share her knowledge, with pictures, of the history of the people and places of Toronto’s Chinese community.

Join us for one, two, or three presentations. There is no registration or fee. Come to the Garden Room at 1:00 pm to pick up tea/coffee and cookies, and enjoy them in the sanctuary. Presentations will be given from 1:15 to 2:30 pm.

**Jubilee United Church,
40 Underhill Drive, North York, ON M3A 2J5
416 - 447 - 6846**

It's That Time of Year

Seed catalogues are arriving in the mail, or via e-mail. I received the latest Veseys Bulbs catalogue by mail yesterday, and Lee Valley’s Gardening catalogue by email last week!



The garden centres have already started stocking up.

Growing tomatoes this year? You should be starting the seeds indoors **now** - they need six to eight weeks to get ready for the garden.

Willing to pay a little more and get “ready” plants? Start planning now so you are ready in early May.

I can hardly wait!

Tom Joyce

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

Celebrate Spring
with
**Brookbanks for African Grannies
Songs and Sweets**



Featuring

Emerging Voices of Amadeus Choir
Performing with other Choir Members

*Enjoy the concert
and a cup of tea
with sweet treats*



Saturday April 25 at 2 pm

Jubilee United Church,
40 Underhill Drive

**Tickets: \$35 before April 1,
\$40 after April 1**

Purchase tickets from
Celia Ball at (416) 605 - 2881

Visit our Marketplace for gifts and trinkets



Grandmothers to
Grandmothers



Special Thanks

To Jubilee United for being very generous to us by giving us space to do the concert.

We donate all of our proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation by having a couple of fund raisers a year and send our money directly to the Stephen Lewis Foundation under the heading for African Grannies.

Times are tough for Africa Grannies right now as financial support has been cut and suspended.

The money is to support the Grandmothers whose children have died from Aids and therefore support those children left without a mother.

Brookbanks for African Grannies



amadeus
choir

*The Emerging
Canadian Voices*

(ECV) is a high level ensemble-based professional choral singing incubator for emerging singers and conductors. The program is aimed at developing the skills to build a vibrant career that includes collaboration, innovation, solo and ensemble performance, community engagement and leadership. 8 singers work together as a stand-alone ensemble while also forming an integral part of the full 80-voice Amadeus Choir.

Stephen Lewis Foundation

The **Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign** was launched in 2006, as an initiative of the **Stephen Lewis Foundation**, in response to the emerging crisis faced by grandmothers in Africa. Since 2006, more than \$40 million has been raised in support of grandmothers and the community-led organizations that support them across 14 countries in Africa. In the face of discrimination based on gender, age, and HIV status, they are courageous advocates for their families and communities.

Starting with just a few groups in Canada, the **Grandmothers Campaign** now includes 10,000 grandmothers and grandmothers in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Grandmothers groups organize fundraising events and activities and act in solidarity with the grandmothers and the **SLF's**

community-led partners in 14 countries across Africa.

This international grandmothers movement amplifies the voices and expertise of grandmother in Africa and shows the world that grandmothers have a critical role to play in reclaiming hope and rebuilding resilience.

CLICK HERE to read more about the work of the **Stephen Lewis Foundation**

<https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/>

and

<https://grandmotherscampaign.org/>



Grandmothers to
Grandmothers



Stephen Lewis
Foundation

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. Lisa will also discuss care at home and ways to help you remain in your home longer.



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

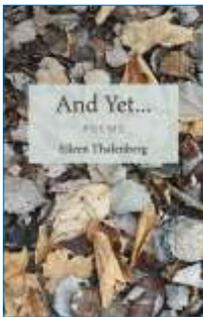
DELMANOR
Wynford
Inspired Retirement Living™

Programs you might find of interest!



**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!

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



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

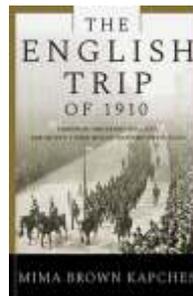
Wednesday April 1st
from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

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



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



**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

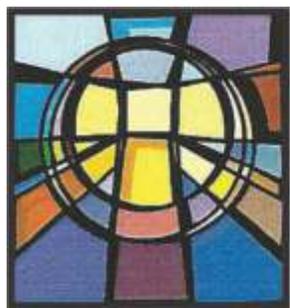
Dr. Mima Brown Kapches presents and discusses her Canadian historical non-fiction book, "The English Trip of 1910". Sir Henry Pellatt (of Casa Loma fame) was the Commanding Officer of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto in 1910, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. Pellatt organized for over 600 young men from Toronto in the QOR to travel to England on a fully paid trip. This is the story of that adventure.



Tea & Movies:
"To Kill A Mockingbird" 1962

Monday April 13th
from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Based on Harper Lee's semi-autobiographical novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the story of six-year old Jean Louise Finch, growing up in the Depression era of the early 1930s in a small southern town and how her father, Atticus Finch decided to defend a poor black man falsely accused of rape.



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



230 The Donway West, Toronto, ON M3B 2V8
' phone (416) 444 - 8444 e-mail: donwaycovenant@msn.com
website: www.donwaycovenant.com