



Thornhill United Church

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*Our faith in God's love moves us to celebrate spirituality,
to care with compassion, and to welcome all warmly*

Update from Council

January 2026

Council met on Tuesday, January 13th; here are some items discussed at that meeting:

1. We are pleased to announce that thanks to a large December donation from a member of the congregation and everybody's generosity throughout the year, we will see a surplus of \$12,000 in the general fund. This means we will not have to draw funds from the Visionary Fund this year, which is great news.
2. With respect to what's next for Christian development and youth leadership now that Mini has moved on, we will be using some temporary solutions for the next few months, such as leveraging lay persons for preaching assistance, a student from either Tyndale or Emmanuel College or volunteer to help with the youth in the fall, and later in the year we will have a gauge on our short-to mid-term options, as well as Leigh's workload, and would likely consider a formal search committee and/ job description change. We are in good shape for the time with preaching covered through April (can I mention retired Rev. Warren Ball?)
3. As has been a tradition, a Service of Ashes is planned for Tuesday Feb. 17, at 6:30. This acts as the prelude to Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent. In the service, ashes made from palm fronds from the previous Palm Sunday are applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross. Ashes symbolize our own mortality and repentance. But wait, you say. You just said Tuesday. Yes, well, we also like to couple that with Shrove Tuesday, the traditional feast day before the start of Lent, where we typically have a pancake supper.

We would like to do this fun event again, however, we are looking for one or more coordinators, as our past leaders are unavailable. They are willing to offer coaching and advice in advance, and they've provided a step-by-step guide to success. The scope of your duties would be at a high level:

- a. Gathering some help. This is a list of people who have helped in the past and you really won't need to do any cold calling.
- b. Coordinating the shopping (you will have a budget, so it need not be out of pocket)
- c. Assigning the volunteers to set up, to cook, and to serve. I believe you won't have an issue finding folks to help.

This event is a freewill offering, so you pay what you can.

4. Finally, for those of you who can't make the dine-about events, and perhaps are busy on a Tuesday night, we plan to offer a potluck dinner on Saturday, March 7

Please reach out to anyone on Council if you have questions about any of the above items, or anything else related to the day-to-day running of our church.

Duane Nelson
Chair of Council