



MOUNTAINSIDE UNITED CHURCH

September 2026 Newsletter

Season of Creation – Living Waters

Calendar

September 6. Worship Service in Birks Heritage Chapel at 10:30am.

September 13. Worship Service in Birks Heritage Chapel at 10:30am.

September 20. Worship Service ON ZOOM at 10:30am.

September 27. Worship Service at Kahnawake United Church at 10:30am.

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower - “Albert Camus

September 6 represents the major fall Holiday of Labour Day. Enjoy! Join all for coffee and conversation after the service.

September 9. Open discussion of Chapters 10, 11, and 12 of Maria Ressa's book, How to Stand Up to A Dictator- The Fight for Our Future. Join the group to discuss.

September 13. L&L will have a major meeting after the service to set the fall term.

September 16. The Session will meet at 5:15pm.

September 20. The Worship Service will be ON ZOOM at 10:30am to accommodate Montreal's Bicycle Race.

September 23. Video featuring Maria Ressa at the Chan Centre in Vancouver hosted by Adrienne Arsenault and open discussion.

September 27. Mountainside United Church will visit Kahnawake United Church at 10:30am for Worship Service and share Lunch to celebrate September Birthdays. Call the church office 514-486-1165 for more information. There is no service at Birks Heritage Chapel on this morning.

Elva Crawford, L&L

Message from the Chair of Session

Greetings. Here we are, September has arrived and so many things happened around us and around the world. I listened to the news and read the social media as to what is going on. Personally, it's quite overwhelming and at the same time we must think positively.

Natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, tornados, politics, trade wars, and high prices of food and gas are frightening.

The election is here in Quebec. Now, what will our government spend millions of dollars on for this! Our health care system, school system, homelessness, violence, wages and too many more to mention, are very real in our everyday lives.

What do we think about the name change of Lake Ontario into Lake America? Really, I laughed and shook my head when I heard this. How about you? Any comment(s)?

This is outrageous and I hope things will get better for everyone's sake. Hopefully our prayers will be answered and things will go back to normal.

It's exhausting facing such challenging issues surrounding us. I am deeply affected by all these uncertainties in life.

I hope one day things will get better and back to normal.

GOD help us and bless us.

On the other hand, let's talk about our visit and church service in Kahnawake on September 27th at 10:30am. This is something to look forward to and have fellowship with Indigenous people for the first time.

We will see you there and can share our religious faith with everyone.

Respectfully,
Ethel Ann Flores
Chair of Session

Juyoung Lee's Message

Dear friends in Christ at Mountainside,

Christopher Nolan's recent films, *Oppenheimer* (2023) and *The Odyssey* (2026), could be summarized by the Bhagavad Gita quote, "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

Both films depict men who ended great wars but unintentionally opened the gates to the era of death and devastation. *Oppenheimer* invented and used the atomic bomb to end World War II, while *Odysseus* used a trick to end the war against Troy, permanently destroying Zeus' law of trust and hospitality.

The mushroom clouds over Japan and the burning of Troy revealed the irreversible consequences of their actions. Nolan portrays the shock, remorse, and emptiness of *Oppenheimer* and *Odysseus* through his movies.

"We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried, most people were silent. I remembered the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-Gita... 'Now, I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.' I suppose we all thought that, one way or another." [Retrieved from "<https://www.atomicarchive.com/media/videos/oppenheimer.html>"]

After the Trinity Test's successful atomic bomb detonation, *Oppenheimer* and his fellow scientists immediately understood that the world would never be the same. Similarly, *Odysseus* experiences this realization while returning home, witnessing the transformed world. Even within his own home, the world has changed: the aftermath of the Trojan Horse's success, where trust and hospitality have vanished.

And today, we are witnessing what those two have witnessed. There is no more trust in international relations, and countries are gearing up their armed forces, filling up their arsenals with bullets and missiles. Since the empires and their leaders have broken the principles by invading other countries, proving the possibility of another world war, the world to come is going to be more chaotic and filled with lawlessness.

Nevertheless, we are not to lose hope. According to my New Testament professor during my study at McGill, Paul, when he was Saul, might have gone through a traumatic experience and was able to be brought back to life through the messages of Jesus or help from Jesus' followers. Saul, a person who was bringing death to religious and social minorities, became a new person through the grace of Christ. Paul became a person who proclaims "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus [who] set you free from the law of sin and death" (Rom 8:2).

"[E]ven though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost." (1 Tim 1:13-15)

Paul, unlike *Oppenheimer* or *Odysseus*, opened the door for the world to hear about Christ's life and love, demonstrating that Christ's grace is available to all humanity through his mission.

Showing and proving the possibility of life and love is all we can do now, especially when obnoxious and selfish people with power are trying to deny and destroy that possibility. Let us resist, endure, and stand with those who mourn today. By doing so, we are proclaiming the good news of Christ. And by doing so, we open the door to the life and love of Christ, the new era of hope to come.

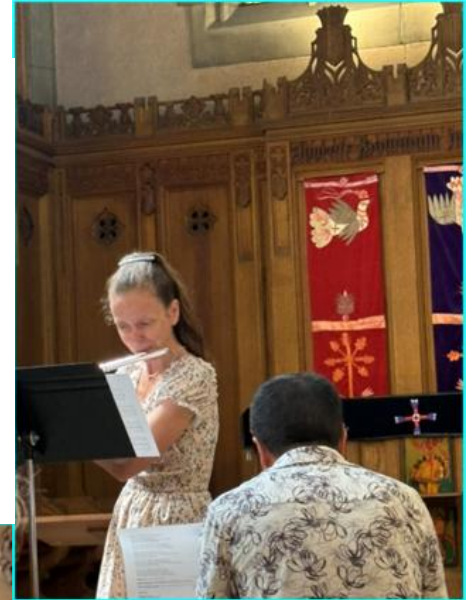
I sincerely believe that this will be of possibility to all of us, as the Spirit of God is by our side. Let us never lose hope.

With blessings, Juyoung Lee

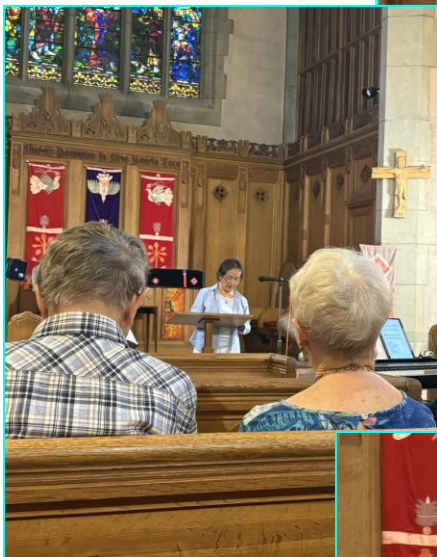
Photos from August 2026 – Lots of Guests



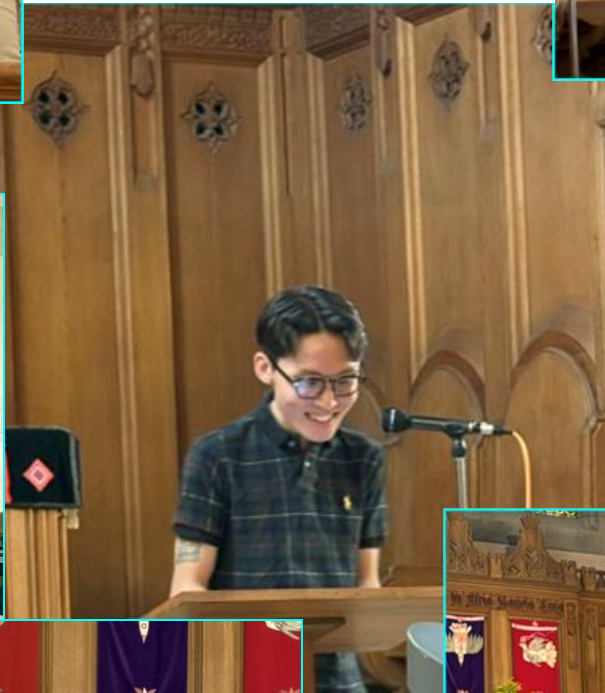
Juyoung Lee was a student with us during his studies at Diocesan Theological College. He graduated in May. Before he moves on to his one-year placement in Lennoxville, he led us in three services in August. Good luck Juyoung on your next move!



Caroline Derome is welcomed back one more time.



Namgon Lee and Leah Weitzner treated us to some 13th century music.



A tired Luckie



Happy birthday, Juyoung!



Bravo Denis!



Leah enjoys Denis' Mountainside singing debut



NEWS FLASH

Our new website is up and running as of mid-August. With the goal of better representing our multi-cultural nature and presence on campus, we now have a fresh, more modern look. You'll notice a new FAQ section, new bios and updated photos, up to date information about events, and several links to important resources. When there is something important and timely to announce, you will see it on a yellow banner at the top of the screen. Whether they went looking for us intentionally or just stumbled upon us, we have had views from 7 different countries. Check us out at **mountainsideunited.ca**. Any comments or feedback can be directed towards Jill Harrison.

Mountainside United Church

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Where we celebrate the diversity of our anglophone, filipino, and francophone members,
whose cultures and perspectives enrich our life together.

We're your spiritual home on campus.

No matter who you are or where you come from, you belong.