



The Voice

Spring 2018



**The
Donway
Covenant**
United Church



We are an Affirming Congregation

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 people of diverse faiths, ethnicities, ages and stages of life, physical and mental abilities, economic situations, sexual orientations and gender identities.
- By caring for all members with compassion, empathy and joy.
- By acts of service we will reach out to engage and support our community, the country and the world.
- By building bridges within our community, as a congregation in the most diverse city in the world.
- By using our facilities for religious, social, cultural, educational or other programs that reflect our values.

Message from the Minister

A new program at DCUC this spring, “Memoir” or “Life-Story” writing, has been a very rewarding experience. I hope those of you who have thought it might be a good thing to leave a written heritage for your children and grandchildren, or who would like a way to think about the “whole” of your life, and the “meaning” of all those decades you have lived, will consider participating in this program when it’s offered again next fall.

On Saturday, June 2, for our annual Amnesty Fundraising Lunch, speakers from Fairlawn United Church will join us to talk about their experience sponsoring four refugee families. DCUC members contributed generously to the Fairlawn UC refugees program and it will be exciting to learn how it all turned out. On Sunday, June 3, we’ll celebrate being an Affirming congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, races, etc.. June 10 will be the 93rd anniversary of the UCCan, and I’m really looking forward to hearing from Tom Joyce, Maureen Hall, and Carol and Rohan Gaghader, as they talk about “growing up UCCan”. What was it like for different generations in the UCCan, and how has that changed? To celebrate First Nations Sunday on June 17, special guest Rev. Therese Samuel, will speak about our “treaty” relationships with First Nations peoples as “covenants” we have made. We are ALL “treaty people”, because all of us are a party to these covenants made in our name as Canadians.

You may have heard that there are enormous changes coming to the United Church of Canada this Summer, with major restructuring, a new pastoral relations system, and general downsizing. After December 31, 2018, there will be no more presbyteries or Conferences, instead there will be large regional bodies, and a smaller national church. If you would like to learn more about these changes, you can go online to learn more on the United Church website, and you could attend the national General Council this summer in Oshawa.

Rev. Jennifer Palin

Message from the Chair of Council

Just when we were wondering if spring was ever going to arrive, here it is in all its glory! It’s as though the daffodils and tulips went from poking their heads through the ground to fully formed within a few days. Somehow the long wait makes spring’s arrival that much more of a blessing!

As always, this is a busy time of year in our church. As well as regular features such as our celebration cakes and Food Bank Sundays, we had an excellent and thought provoking Earth Day speaker, Rev. Harold Wells; the Memoirs course that Jennifer is leading, with so many engaged and inspiring participants; a very well attended Music on the Donway and a most successful Mother’s Day project and lunch, just to name a few!

Coming up: our Amnesty Fundraiser Lunch is on June 2nd, on June 3rd we will be having a congregational meeting to vote on our slate of nominations for the coming year and the Ladies’ Fellowship lunch is on June 7, 2018.

Our Redevelopment Committee continues to work on our behalf to assist us in developing a viable plan for the future of our church and we anticipate hearing more details on this in the fall. Also, later on in the fall, we will have another music night, so mark your calendars now for November 3rd!

Andrea Sloan, Chair of Council

Getting to Know You:



Photo by Roberta Walker

Ron & Vivian Yarwood

It was 1968 and Ron was sitting in the cafeteria at the University of Western Ontario when he saw two very attractive women walk in. As they neared a table one of them stumbled and dropped her coffee all over the floor. Ron helped them mop up the mess, sat them down and got another coffee for the spilt one and before long had both of their phone numbers. The women were Vivian and Becky. Vivian and Ron have been inseparable since that time and Becky has been a very good long- time friend to both Ron and Vivian.

Ron pursued a career in Human Resources and Labour Relations and after thirty four years of conflict management, problem solving, issue resolution mediation and negotiations gained his reward and gratefully came to his retirement. Ron is passionate about travelling, jazz and coffee!

Vivian is a retired minister having served over 30 years in the United Church. During her ministry, she was involved with the building of two affordable housing projects (Parkwoods and Newtonbrook UC's) and the establishment of a Drop-Inn program to feed the hungry and homeless (Newtonbrook U.C.), and the amalgamation of two churches. She plays flute in the East York Concert band, enjoys travelling, reading, gardening and hanging out with friends! Ron and Vivian have one son, Jonathan.

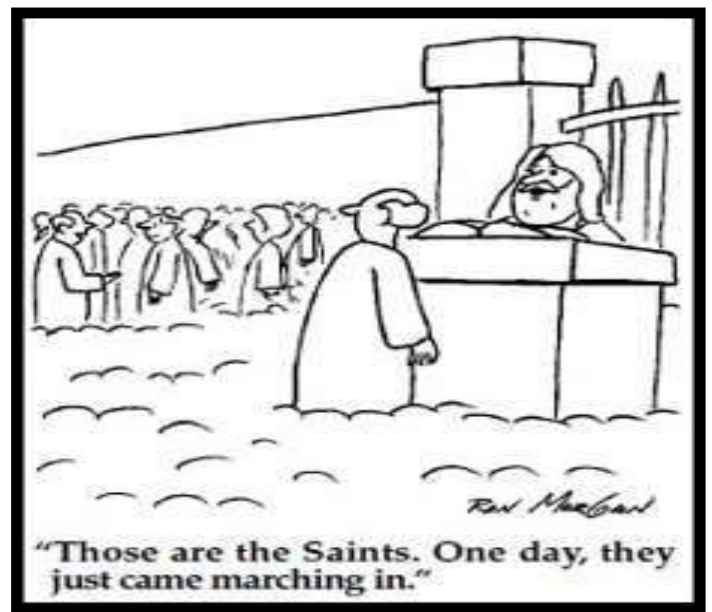
The Yarwoods are delighted to have been welcomed into the Donway Covenant congregation!

Faith in Action

An article of interest in the May issue of The United Church Observer, written by Wesley Brown, a long-time member of Stouffville United Church, and entitled "Stouffville Shines a Spotlight on Mental Health", describes how their church decided to host an evening considering teens and mental health. This interactive evening was presented by the church and with the local branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association. Wesley describes the meeting room as "packed with parents, mostly from the community." Many remained long after the meeting adjourned exchanging ideas in small groups. He continues by mentioning other programs which focus on resilience, seniors' mental health, the needs of caregivers and "making wellness a priority". He goes on to explain how this all came about: "a task force [was] charged with leading us into a period of renewal...[and] the congregation formally declared... [a] mission of creating community for all."

You can read the complete article yourself, and many more essays by gifted writers on current topics, by subscribing to The United Church Observer or borrowing a copy from the church.

Marie Harvey



Tuesday Study Group Book Review

“What is the Bible?”

How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything.”

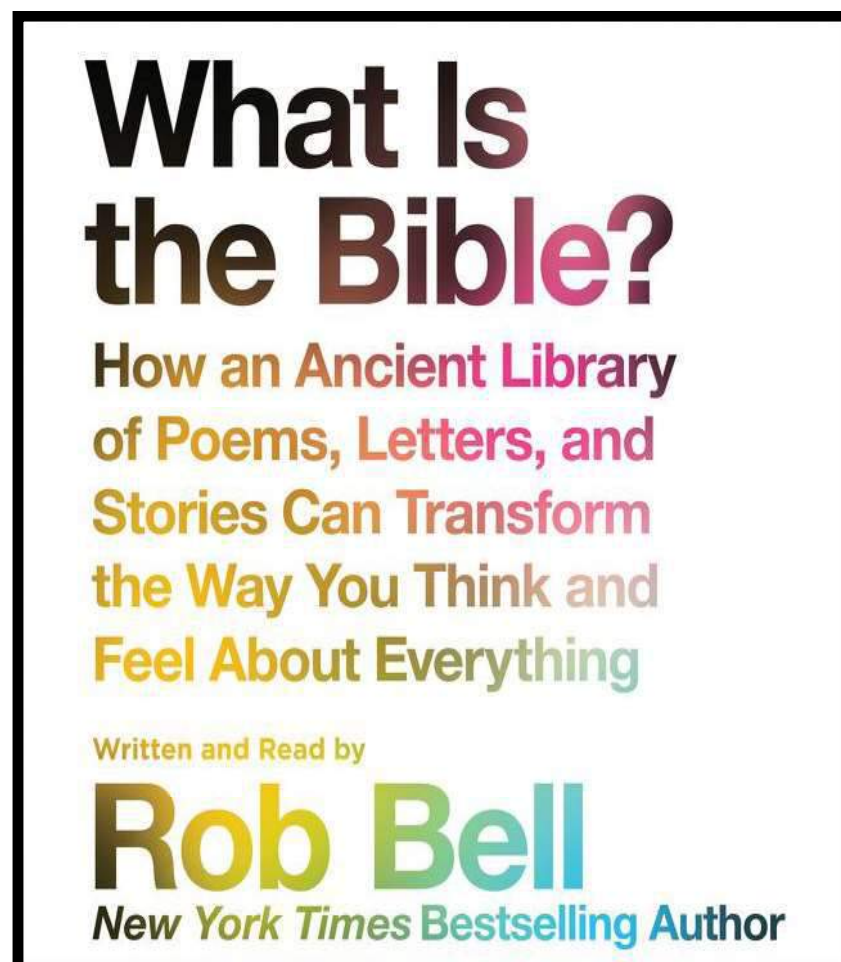
By Rob Bell

The Tuesday Morning Study Group finished reading this book at the end of April, and it was one of our favourites! With his down-to-earth language and humorous style, Rob Bell captured our interest and caused us to think in new ways about what's in the Bible and how we can read it better to inspire us and gain meaning for our own lives and times. Although the book is not written in an academic style, the author writes with intelligence about the texts, their origins and what was happening in the world at the time. His love & joy for the Bible, which he says “is about what it means to be a human”, are clear from beginning to end of the book. After 25 years of studying it, he finds the Bible “more compelling and mysterious and interesting and dangerous and convicting and helpful and strange and personal and inspiring and divine and enjoyable than ever”. He writes with a refreshing style and uses questions, bold print and italics very effectively to keep you thinking and energized as you read. It's a book we'll reference again – the chapters are short & focused and stand on their own.

As someone commented online about this book “Who would have ever thought a book about the Bible could be this incredible? There isn't a soul alive that wouldn't be able to resonate with something in this book.”

Rob Bell is a minister and New York Times bestselling author, and this book is now available in paperback. There is also a copy in the church library.

- Review by the Tuesday Study Group



Amnesty Fundraising Lunch

Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 12 noon

Featuring a speaker from The Fairlawn United Church Refugee Sponsorship Committee talking about their experience sponsoring two refugee families.

Tickets: \$5 plus a donation to Amnesty International. RSVP: 416-444-8444.

In the Living Room at The Donway Covenant U. C.

230 The Donway West, Toronto, www.donwaycovenant.com



Ladies' Fellowship
**Spring Pot Luck
Luncheon**

Thursday, June 7, 2018

We gather at 12 noon in the Living Room
for punch and the luncheon begins at 12:30.

**Please bring your favourite dish:
main dish, salad or dessert.**

We are also requesting that you bring
a donation to

The Community Share Food Bank

Contact Marian Childerhose at 416-449-6993 for details.



The Lighter Side



The Passage of Life

Births

Marla & Norm Miller are the proud grandparents of their first granddaughter, Nora Evan Placzek-Miller who was born May 12, 2018 weighing 7 lbs 11 oz.

Deaths

Merritt Davis died July 22, 2017.

Ann McLeod died July 27, 2017.

Jill Reeve died July 31, 2017.

Betty Fitzpatrick died August 5, 2017.

Mary Beaton died August 5, 2017.

Jack Dowkes died August 11, 2017.

Don Henderson died September 23, 2017.

Philip Haley died October, 2017.

Janet Hossack March 2, 2018.

Joan Dewar died March 12, 2018.

Helen Guillet died March 20, 2018.

Jean Dale died April 11, 2018.

Looking Ahead

May 27

Worship Service, Footprints Camp visits us
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin

June 2

Amnesty Fundraising Lunch in the Living Room
featuring a speaker from The Fairlawn United Church Refugee
Sponsorship Committee talking about their experience
sponsoring two refugee families.

Tickets: \$5 plus a donation to Amnesty International.
RSVP: 416-444-8444

June 3

Worship Service, Affirm Sunday
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin

Food Bank Sunday, please give generously. Thank you.

Cake at Coffee Hour, after the worship service.
Come celebrate all the special occasions that will
take place this month.

June 7

Ladies Spring Pot Luck Luncheon,
12 noon. All women are invited to bring their
favourite main dish or dessert and join us in the living room.
Contact Marian Childerhose (416-449-6993).

June 8

Coffee & Conversation Drop-in
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the Living Room.
Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.

June 10

Worship Service, 94 UCCan Anniversary - Growing Up UCCan
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin

June 12

Committee and Council meetings, 7 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

June 17

Worship Service, First Nations' Sunday – Invited Guest Speaker:
Rev. Therese Samuel, A United Church Minister
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin

Memorial Flower Sunday, every third Sunday of the month.

June 22

Coffee & Conversation Drop-in
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the Living Room
Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month

- June 24** **Worship Service, One Country, Three Founding Cultures**
Communion
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- July 1** **Sunday Worship Service, Canada Day**
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by Rev. John White
Food Bank Sunday, please give generously. Thank you.
- July 2** **Start of Footprints Summer Day Camp**
- July 8 - 29, Aug. 12** **Sunday Worship Service,**
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by **Rev. John White**
- Aug 5** **Sunday Worship Service,**
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by **Rev. Vivian Yarwood**
Food Bank Sunday, please give generously. Thank you.
- Aug 19** **Sunday Worship Service,**
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Service led by **Rev. Jennifer Palin**

Looking Further Ahead

Coffee & Conversation Drop-in starts up again on Friday September 7th from 2 - 4 p.m. in the living room and then every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.

Ladies' Fellowship meetings start up again on Thursday September 14th, 10 a.m. in the Living Room and then every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

Wednesday Soup Suppers start Wednesday September 19th and continue every Wednesday at 6 p.m. until October 31st. Please RSVP: 416-444-8444.

Fall Sale takes place on Saturday, October 20th, Please drop off your gently used items to the church between Monday Oct. 15th - Thursday Oct. 18th, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Music on the Donway presents: "SideCar 78: A Lively Evening of Sax and Song" with special guests, "Choral Expressions", Saturday Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at Coffee Hour, the Church Office and at the door.

Film Night starts Wednesday November 7th and continues every Wednesday at 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. until November 21st. Cost: \$5 at the door. Please RSVP: 416-444-8444.

Music on the Donway

PRESENTS

Ladies & Gentlemen

A Lively Evening of Sax and Song



sidecar78

Saxophone Quartet

with Special Guests

**Choral
Expressions**

Carol Dunn, Director

A community chorus of ladies who
love to sing

This is the best group
I've heard in a long
time. They're 4
saxophone players
that have great
harmony and a lot of
fun playing and you
can tell they enjoy the
music. They make
everybody else
happy. I'd go back to
hear them again.
Great show!

Doug, Toronto

sidecar78.com

Our Next Production
Saturday, November 3, 2018

The Donway Covenant United Church
230 The Donway West, Don Mills

Spring/Summer Worship Services:

Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

Pulpit Supply during Rev. Jennifer Palin's Vacation:

Rev. John White: Sundays in July 1 - 29, August 12, 2018

Rev. Vivian Yarwood: Sunday August 5, 2018

Rev. Jennifer Palin returns August 19, 2018.

Office Hours:

June & July: Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

August 7 - 24: Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Patty Snowden - Temp. Admin.)

August 27 onward: Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Associates at the D.C.U.C.

Minister: Rev. Jennifer Palin

Music Facilitator: Tina Faye

Church Administrator/Property Manager & Voice Layout Artist: Jaren McLeod

Parents & Tots Coordinators: Jennifer Blazek & Patty Snowden

Church Custodian: Kim Morgan



Come for

Coffee & Conversation

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month

in the Living Room at
The Donway Covenant United Church
Come, Relax & Enjoy.



“Diversity is when you get invited to the party. Equity is when everyone gets the same invitation. Accessibility is when everyone can understand the invitation and when they get there everything is accessible. Inclusion is when everyone at the party is asked to dance!”

Lisa Yun Lee

Notes



Affirm/S'affirmer
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

The Donway Covenant United Church

230 The Donway West, Toronto, ON M3B 2V8

416-444-8444

donwaycovenant@msn.com

www.donwaycovenant.com