



# The Voice

Newsletter



Spring 2019



**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.

# Almighty God is Arriving Again!

*My driveway is crumbling,  
God is arriving again,  
First, as a small wild windblown seed.  
Then, as a break in the tarmac.  
Before I know it, a crevasse opens.  
A bright yellow flower grows like nobody's  
business.  
  
Thriving like nobody's business.  
  
God is arriving again.  
Some yeast fell into the dough.  
No-one noticed, until it rose and rose and  
rose.  
  
Bubbling bread, laced with spirit.  
Hungry people could see, smell, taste, take,  
and eat.  
  
So much, so much, so much.  
  
A small, wild, windblown seed arrived today.  
From whence, no-one knows;  
in the dark, no-one noticed.  
  
Homed in a poor girl's womb, any girl,  
anywhere.  
  
Almighty Godde is arriving again, again,  
again.*

*Rev. Jennifer Palin*

# Message from The Chair of Council

Writing well past the middle of April, it finally appears that Spring might just be arriving, but our winter coats and gloves are still on standby!

As always, Spring is a very busy time in our church life as well as the building itself. It is rare to drop in during the week without seeing various church and community groups making use of our space. This is exactly how it should be, as envisioned for a neighbourhood hub such as ours.

We reached a major milestone in the life of our church on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> when our trustees, in the presence of our lawyer, and members of the redevelopment committee signed a document to sell our property for redevelopment. Celebrations to follow!

The nomination committee will soon be convening to set in place our church organizational structure for the coming church year. We welcome all volunteers and invite you to have a look at the committees to see what might interest you. Once we have our slate in place, we will have a congregational meeting to vote on the new council and committee members.

Most of you by now will have made acquaintance with and welcomed our new Administrator/Property Manager, Jillian Warner. Jillian comes to us with a wealth of church/administrative/property experience and we are very happy to have her on board.

As always, I am profoundly grateful to be part of a church with a Minister and congregation that is so welcoming. Giving support to each other when support is required, celebrating our milestones with laughter and best of all, finding joy and humour in our interactions with each other.

*Andrea Sloan, Chair of Council*

# CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

On Christian Family Sunday, The DCUC congregation helped 35 new mothers at **The Massey Centre** celebrate

Mother's Day, by gifting them with \$10 Tim Hortons coffee cards plus a donation to the centre of \$413 from the congregation. Mother's Day cards were designed by our very own Minister, Jennifer Palin.

*Thank you for your generosity,*



## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Massey Centre is a client-centered infant and early childhood mental health organization which supports pregnant and parenting adolescents, aged 13-25 and their babies who reside at the Centre or in the community .



# Message from The Chair of the Redevelopment Committee

It was an exciting time for the congregation this spring as we celebrated signing the legal agreement to sell and redevelop our church property! On April 28, 2019. Heather Tremain, the CEO of Options For Homes, and Andrea Sloan, our chair of Council commemorated the event in a ceremonial signing of a certificate of partnership that is now hanging in the church Sanctuary. We were pleased Heather brought 2 of her team members to celebrate with us: Christine Swiderski, a member of the board, and Liana Carnovale from the Options For Homes offices.



*Christine Swiderski, and Heather Tremain with Andrea Sloan.*

We had an excellent turnout for the ceremony and for the celebration lunch afterwards, and there was a hum of excitement in the air as we enjoyed good fellowship together.



*Chair of Council Andrea Sloan with Heather Tremain, CEO Options for Homes.*

As the certificate says..." the people of The Donway Covenant United Church Congregation, and the people of Options for Homes, rejoice as we partner to work together over the coming years to build a community of affordable housing and a re-newed church community at 230 The Donway West in Don Mills".



*DCUC Congregation in Hospitality and Fellowship.*

We are thankful for those who helped our congregation get to this significant milestone:

Our Trustees, our negotiating trio from the Redevelopment team, and our lawyer, who were diligent, detailed and committed



# 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.

January 4, 18, February 1, 15, March 1, 15,  
April 5, 26\*, May 3, 17, June 7, 21, 2019.  
\* fourth Friday.

230 The Donway West,  
Just north of Lawrence Ave East & west of Don Mills Rd.  
Phone: 416-444-8444, [www.donwaycovenant.com](http://www.donwaycovenant.com)



to serving the vision of the congregation, and

The Shining Waters Regional Council, which is our new governing body of the United Church of Canada, who gave their support to proceed.

### *What's next in our redevelopment journey?*

Over the next number of months there will be lots of technical studies done by experts prior to refining the design of the housing project and our new church. On May 26 after our Worship Service, the team from Options For Homes and the Redevelopment Committee will hold an information session for the congregation. At that time, as well as sharing current information with the whole congregation, there will also be plenty of time to answer any questions you may have.

The spirit is moving our congregation in an exciting new direction, and we hope to see everyone on May 26!

*Maureen Hall,  
Chair, Redevelopment Committee*

## Getting to Know You: Kathy Bell



I was born in Quebec, but grew up in Mississauga, Ontario. I lived in an area called Lorne Park which is located between Port Credit and Oakville. It was not, thankfully, as developed as it is today, and I remember having great adventures in the many parks and woodlands in the area. During my high school years I found particular enjoyment in sports such as track and field, rowing, and field hockey.

During my 20s, I attended the University of Waterloo where I pursued an Honours degree in Liberal Studies. I had a wonderful time at U of W both on and off campus. It was at this time that I met my amazing partner, Denise – a fellow student. This was the start of our thirty-year-plus adventure together, which we are still on today.

After Waterloo, I attended Queen's University in Kingston, where I completed my Bachelor of Education. Part of my program requirement included volunteering in the community. I did my volunteer work at Kingston's now defunct Prison for Women. This was an interesting experience, to say the least. Also, while in Kingston, I worked on a horse farm, which further enhanced my love of animals and of nature. I have long since forgiven the nervous horse who threw me off his back and caused me to spend four weeks in a very uncomfortable full leg cast.

After Kingston, I moved back to Toronto and began my high school teaching career. I taught in over seven schools in five years. New teachers were continually being bumped to temporary positions, as they still are today. Mostly, I taught in Scarborough, East York, and North York. I continued to move from school to school after having been hired full-time, as "last in, first out" was the motto. My last few years as a high school teacher were spent teaching in a Young Offender Facility in East York—a one room school house that was located in a detention home. I always tell people that this was the best and worst job I ever had. It was anything but boring.



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
amnesty.ca

# ANNUAL AMNESTY FUNDRAISING LUNCH

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**

**12:00 PM**

**DONWAY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH  
LIVING ROOM**

**COST \$20.00 +++ DONATIONS**

## Guest Speaker:

JIM HODGSON - UNITED CHURCH OF  
CANADA PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
CARIBBEAN



**DONWAY  
COVENANT  
UNITED  
CHURCH**

**230  
The Donway  
West  
RSVP  
416-444-8444**

**SUPPORTING "SHELTERS FOR  
LGBTQ HOMELESS YOUTH"**



**Affirm/S'affirmer**  
UNITED ENSEMBLE

**KNOW  
THEIR  
STORIES**



During this time, I began studying at night at the University of Toronto (OISE). Shortly after starting my studies, an opportunity came to teach part-time at Seneca College. Although it was scary to give up my secure position with the school board, I decided to try something new. I started teaching Communications at Seneca's York Campus in 2001. I also taught at Seneca's Don Mills Campus, Markham Campus, and Newnham Campus. After completing my degree, I began working at Seneca full-time, teaching English and Psychology.

We have had the good fortune of being able to travel quite a bit over the years. We never get tired of seeing new places, wildlife, and beautiful scenery. Some of our favourite destinations for hiking and photography include California's Big Sur area, Iceland, Wales, and Ireland. Of late, we have become enamoured with Victoria, British Columbia. Sometimes it takes a while to discover that the most delightful places can be right in your own backyard.

And speaking of finding special places in your own backyard, it was nearly a year ago that we visited the Donway Covenant United Church. We dropped by one hot, summer Sunday and found ourselves in the presence of some wonderfully welcoming people. We made an immediate connection with the minister and the individuals who introduced themselves to us that day. It just felt right. Although neither of us had any intention of visiting church regularly, or of ever joining a church, something kept pulling us back – and no, it wasn't just the monthly cake event, although that was certainly not a deterrent. We are now enjoying attending the thoughtful and inspiring weekly service, and partaking in some of the many events that are offered at The Donway. But, most of all, we are enjoying meeting so many welcoming and caring individuals.

*Kathy Bell*

## Message from The Chair of the Outreach Committee

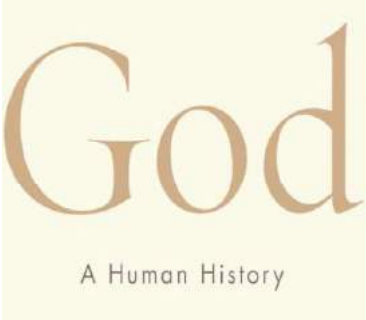
We are reaching out to new moms at Massey Centre who are celebrating Mother's Day for the first time! Most of these new moms have no family support so we would like them to know that we at DCUC are thinking of them and honouring them on their special day. This is also an excellent way to honour our mothers and grandmothers. We are asking for \$10 to cover the cost of a Tim Horton's gift card which we will insert into a beautiful card made by Rev. Jennifer to be delivered before May 14<sup>th</sup>. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, after church, there will be an opportunity to write a supportive message in the card for a new mom. Thank you for your generosity. It will be very appreciated.

On Sunday, June 2nd of this year, we will celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of becoming An Affirming Church! We have taken significant steps but there is more to do. The Outreach Committee, supported by Council, is discussing ways of making our commitment more visible to the community. Also we hope you will come to our Amnesty International Luncheon on Sat. June 1<sup>st</sup> at noon to hear Jim Hodgson, the UCCan Program Co-ordinator for Latin America. Through M&S, the UCC supports LGBTQ shelters there.

Thank you for your generous response to our appeal for donations for the Zimbabwe flood relief efforts.

Together we are making a difference in people's lives, both in this community (through Foodshare, Tots and Caregivers, ESL, Coffee and Conversation, Footprints Camp, Community dinners, and movies, and memoir writing) and beyond (Mission and Service, special appeals, Massey Centre).

*Vivian Yarwood,  
Chair of the Outreach Committee*



## Message from the Leader of the Tuesday Study Group

We have just started reading “God, a Human History” by Reza Aslan who is also the author of “Zealot” a book about Jesus.

In “God” Aslan makes the attempt to understand the divine by humanizing God with traits and emotions, both good and bad, just like us. It challenges the way we think about spirituality and its role in our lives.

We have found lots of room for lively discussion on this topic.

New members to our group are always welcome! We meet Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

*Eileen Russell*

*Leader, Tuesday Study Group*





# Welcome

## Jillian Warner

If you haven't already done so, please stop by the church office to say hello to our new Administrator / Property Manager, Jillian Warner.

Jillian has a genuine interest in people and brings over a decade of work experience in community engagement and development. Jillian's work experience also includes Real Estate, Marketing and Project Management.

She is a native of Toronto and was born in East York. She has one daughter, two great parents of Caribbean extraction, an amazing grandmother, and a solid group of friends.

Jillian resides in Toronto and her bucket list includes visiting a Kenyan gaming site to experience elephants authentically as she has a great love and passion for them.



## Faith in Action

Knox United Church is located at 2569 Midland Avenue, which is at the northeast corner of Midland Avenue and Sheppard Avenue East in Scarborough. It is a congregation of 270 members and has been at that location for 170 years, first as a Presbyterian church and as a United Church congregation since 1925.

The first Sunday of each month of worship is conducted in English with Mandarin translation. On the third Sunday of the month there is a Mandarin Christian Fellowship meeting at 12:30 p.m. after the English service, followed by a meal. Richard Wang is the Community Ministry Coordinator. Knox United has a long history of outreach to the community.

Mission and Service is a priority and members donate amounts to the Mission and Service Fund which has surpassed much larger United Church congregations. In cooperation with other churches in the area, they give to the Food Bank through Social Services.

Every Friday night from November to April the area churches provide dinner and a place to stay overnight for those in need. Knox members usually take their turn the first week in November. Approximately 40 come for dinner and 25 stay overnight. The congregation also financially supports about 12 other agencies such as shelters.

An application was made to Doors Open Toronto to be involved in the program to be held on the weekend of May 25 and 26. A representative of Doors Open Toronto (City of Toronto) visited the site, learned of the history of the church and approval was given for the church to be part of the program. Twenty-four volunteers are planning for this exciting event. Half of the volunteers will

*Ladies' Fellowship*



# Spring Pot Luck Luncheon

**Thursday, June 6, 2019**

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 for



The  
Community Share Food Bank

Contact  
Marian Childerhose  
at (416) 449-6993  
for details





I am grateful to Jim McAllister, Chair of the Doors Open Project at Knox and member of their Outreach Committee for the telephone interview as well as to the church administrator and a church member.

# The Benefits of Donating Securities

Many donations made to charities are in the form of cash. However, savvy donors see the benefits of donating publicly traded securities (stocks, bonds or mutual funds) as a more tax effective way to donate versus giving a cash gift.

You should donate securities that are held in a non-registered investment account. Investments held in a registered account, such as a RIF or RRSP do not qualify for these tax savings. Capital gains on investments held in a TFSA are already



Consult with your tax advisor or financial advisor on which stocks, bonds or mutual funds present the best gifting opportunity. Donate the securities that have the largest capital gain to maximize the tax savings for zero capital gains inclusion for the donated securities.

Please contact the office for further information on how to take advantage of this donation method. If you have any questions you may contact David Hall on a confidential basis. I am a retired Financial Advisor and have helped many prior clients to increase the value of their donations using this method.

*Dave Hall*

# Farewell to Jaren March 24, 2019



It was a bittersweet gathering in the auditorium after service on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sad – as we were saying goodbye to Jaren McLeod, our talented and hardworking church administrator for the past fifteen years.

Joyous – as we celebrated with Jaren and Eero the start of their retirement years.



Tributes from Ted Reeve, Rev John White, Rev Jennifer Palin, and Jeff Hall reminded us of the tremendous contribution made by Jaren to the life and work of The Donway Covenant United Church, and to our many tenants who share our building.



And what better way to celebrate than our favourite form – a lunch followed by cake! We all wish Jaren the very best of “journeys” in her retirement and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for being an important part of our lives.



*Tom Joyce*





# Message from the Worship Committee

How nice it is to welcome Jillian Warner, our new Church Administrator and Property Manager, to our church family! We look forward to getting to know Jillian and working with her.

We have appreciated Jaren McLeod's creative and artistic design contributions to *The Voice*, over many years. We hope Jaren will continue to enjoy and share her many talents during her retirement years.

This Spring the congregation has been inspired by the Sunday sermons which focused on "Trees - Connecting Heaven and Earth". Services were aligned with the symbolic artistry of the trees and related to scripture. Bulletin covers emphasized nature's beauty through exquisite visual designs of trees. We were very excited to hear such positive comments from the congregation on the variety of tree decor during Lent. The church was generously filled with a flowing Tree Banner, large black and white photo images of trees, along with oil paintings, water colours, and photographs. A BIG thank you to all who graciously displayed their personal pieces of art for our benefit.

Jennifer also led two popular Lenten discussion/meditation groups which revolved around the theological symbolism of trees... drawing a large number of participants.

To all of you "maybe volunteers"... now is the time to spring-forward and try something new on Sunday mornings, such as Scripture Reading, Ushering, Driving, Decorating, Communion Servers, etc. Or, join the choir! You'll have lots of support in all areas! Please contact Jillian, Church Office, P: 416 444-8444.

**Gold Stars for all volunteers and a coffee after church!**

*Linda Reid, Worship Committee*



# Looking Ahead

- May 9**      **Ladies' Fellowship Meeting,**  
10:00 a.m. in the Living Room Ladies Fellowship meet every 2nd and 4th Thurs.  
of the month, For more info contact Marian Childerhose at 416-449-6993
- May 12**      **Worship Service, Christian Family Sunday**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**
- May 14**      **Tuesday Book Study Group** 9:30 a.m. in the Library.  
New members welcome
- May 14**      **Committee and Council meetings,** 7 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- May 17**      **Coffee & Conversation Drop in**  
Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the Living Room
- May 19**      **Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- Memorial Flower Sunday,** every third Sunday of the month.
- May 21**      **VICTORIA DAY**
- May 21**      **Tuesday Book Study Group** 9:30 a.m. in the Library. New members welcome
- May 23**      **Ladies' Fellowship Meeting,**  
10:00 a.m. in the Living Room Ladies Fellowship meet every 2nd and 4th Thurs.  
of the month, For more info contact Marian Childerhose at 416-449-6993
- May 26**      **Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- Redevelopment Information Session  
After the church service. In the Sanctuary.
- May 28**      **Tuesday Book Study Group** 9:30 a.m. in the Library.  
New members welcome
- June 1**      **Amnesty International Fundraising Luncheon**  
Guest Speaker 12:00pm in the Living Room.



- June 2**      **Worship Service, Affirming 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 4**      **Tuesday Book Study Group** 9:30 a.m. in the Library.  
New members welcome
- June 6**      **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 7**      **Coffee & Conversation Drop in**  
Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the Living Room
- June 9**      **Sunday Worship Service**,  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- June 11**      **Tuesday Book Study Group** 9:30 a.m. in the Library.  
New members welcome.
- June 11**      **Committee and Council meetings**, 7 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- June 16**      **Sunday Worship Service**, Father's Day  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- Memorial Flower Sunday**, every third Sunday of the month.
- June 21**      **Coffee & Conversation Drop in** 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the Living Room  
Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month
- June 23**      **Worship Service**,  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- June 30**      **Sunday Worship Service**, Canada Day  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- July 1**      **HAPPY CANADA DAY**
- July 2**      **Start of Footprints Summer Day Camp**
- July 7**      **Sunday Worship Service**,  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Vivian Yarwood
- Food Bank Sunday**, please give generously. Thank you.
- July 14**      **Sunday Worship Service**,  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Vivian Yarwood

- July 21**      **Sunday Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Vivian Yarwood
- July 28**      **Sunday Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Vivian Yarwood
- Aug 4**        **Sunday Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. John White
- Food Bank Sunday,** please give generously. Thank you.
- Aug 5**        **SIMCOE DAY**
- Aug. 11**      **Sunday Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. John White
- Aug 18**      **Sunday Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. John White
- Aug 25**      **Sunday Worship Service,**  
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. John White

Farewell Jaren



**Top left to bottom:**  
Margaret Taylor, Don & Barb Messaros, Udo Ernst, Tricia Wallis, Mark Rawley, Rob Heaton, Marten de Groot, Helen Campbell and Jaren McLeod (centre).



# Spring /Summer Worship Services:

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

During the summer months Rev. John White or Rev. Vivian Yarwood will officiate the Sunday service.

## Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

## Associates at the D.C.U.C.

**Minister:** Rev. Jennifer Palin

**Music Facilitator:** Tina Faye

**Church Administrator/Property Manager:** Jillian Warner

**Church Custodian:** Kim Morgan

**“The Voice” Proofreader:** Marla Miller

**“The Voice” Layout Artist:** Jillian Warner

**Parents & Tots Director:** Abeda Parekh

**Parents & Tots Assistant Coordinator:** Patty Snowdon



**Affirm/S'affirmer**  
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

**The Donway Covenant United Church**

**230 The Donway West, Toronto, ON M3B 2V8**

**416-444-8444**

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