

FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

3180 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2A9 Office: 416-783-6503

April 4, 2021

"The Friendly Church"

Edition 160

Melvia

*I'm alive forever
and always. —Revelation 1:18*

Our Mission Statement: We are a diverse community of Christians, called by God, who seek to make a positive difference in the lives of those who live in the Bathurst and Lawrence Community and beyond.



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

It is our wish that this Easter will have special meaning if you are able to spend time with family and friends. We hope this edition of Flock Talk will serve as yet another way we are able to connect to one another at Asbury and West. Please feel free to 'forward' it along to anyone you think will enjoy it.

Stay safe and healthy and be sure to get vaccinated!

Blessings,
Jocelyn & Sylvia

The *angel* said to
the women,
"Do not be afraid, for I know
that you are looking for
Jesus,
who was **CRUCIFIED.**
He is not here;
He has *Risen,*
just as *He* said.

Matthew 28:5-6



Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs



THE PASTOR'S PEN



Dear Friends of Asbury and West,

As I write this piece for Flock Talk, I am struck by how normal it feels to be writing the minister's message for Flock Talk. In this time of pandemic when life has been turned upside down, it is good to do something that feels normal.

My message to all of you today is no matter what is going on:

We are still God's children; we are still the Asbury and West community of faith; We still love and care for each other; The church building is still a House of God; We are still the Body of Christ; We still gather for worship; we still sing God's praises; we still honour our children and our elders.

The Bible tells us in Romans 8: 39 Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in

all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love.

In these days of social distancing, waiting for vaccines, concerns for school children and teachers, front line workers, seniors, the cost of isolation it is good to remember Romans 8: 39. The love of God will prevail over anything that the world can throw at us.

The message for this edition of the Easter Flock talk is...God's love prevails in all situations...remember and have faith Easter is coming.

May the Blessings of the Risen Christ be with you and yours,

Rev. Carol McKinley

WE WILL REMEMBER - Vimy Ridge Day, April 9-12, 1917

Canada's most impressive tribute overseas to those Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the First World War is the majestic and inspiring Canadian National Vimy Memorial. It overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge, about ten kilometres north of Arras.

The Memorial does more than mark the site of the engagement that Canadians were to remember with more pride than any other operation of the First World War. It stands as a tribute to all who served their country in battle in that four-year struggle and particularly to those who gave their lives.

We are truly blessed to have so many freedoms because of the sacrifices made by those who served.

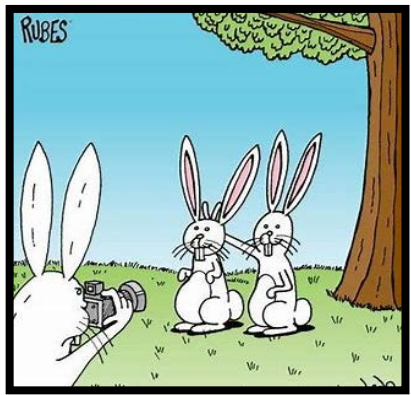


France granted Canada 107 hectares of land at Vimy, and sculptor Walter Seymour Allward was chosen to design the memorial. Work began in 1925 and was completed eleven years later.

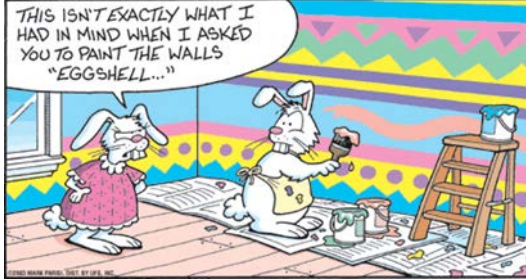
Laughter is the best medicine!



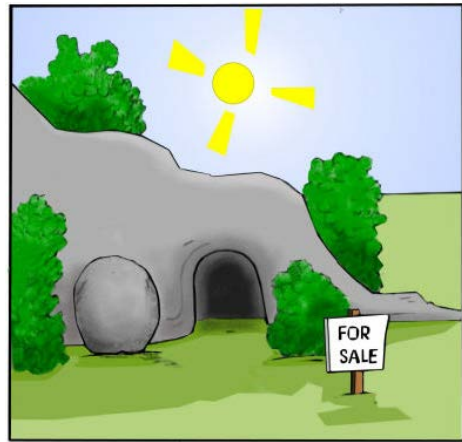
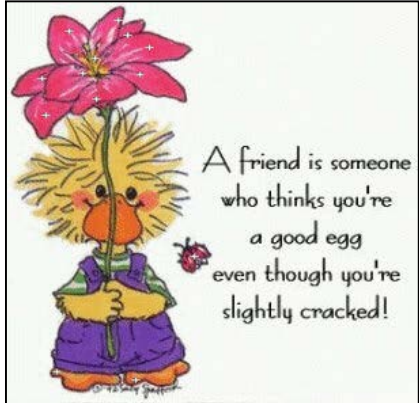
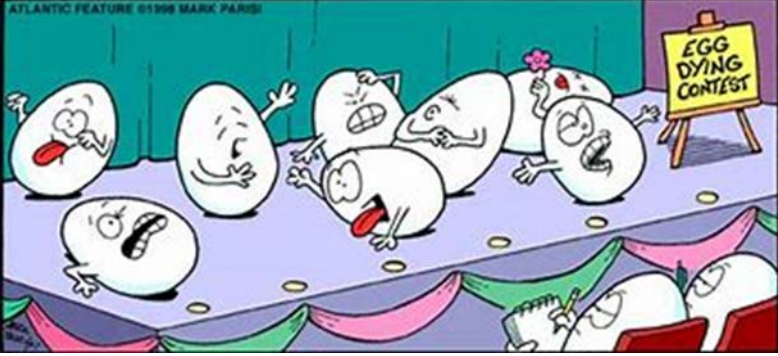
"We finished dying all the eggs, so now we're decoratin' Daddy's golf balls."



off the mark by Mark Parisi

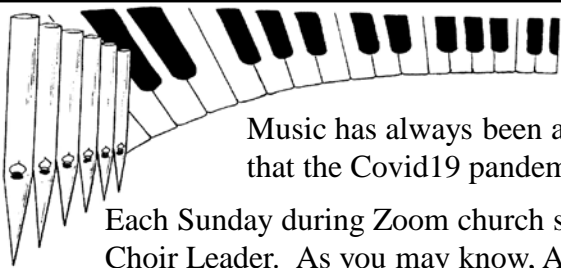


off the mark by Mark Parisi



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.





Music has always been an important part of Asbury and West. We are most fortunate that the Covid19 pandemic has not changed that.

Each Sunday during Zoom church services we enjoyed the talent of Anthony, our Organist and Choir Leader. As you may know, Anthony worked from his home studio and co-ordinated with Rev Carol to ensure the music was woven throughout the service in a meaningful way. We were treated to a creative and inspirational mix of music and from time to time we even heard flutes and harps. And, Anthony took requests!

Although the Choir was not able to meet, we enjoyed the singing from members of our church including Jannis, Lisa, Lucille, and Caroline. And, it was like music to our ears whenever Savanna assisted Rev Carol with readings. THANK YOU for sharing your talent and enriching our worship services.

Love to sing? Have a favorite hymn or piece of music? Speak to Rev. Carol about contributing to a worship service.



Coffee Hour - Different Day, Different Time

You probably have good memories of Coffee Hour after church service each Sunday. It was a time to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, or a glass of refreshing juice and a sweet treat while chatting with your Asbury friends. It was an opportunity to catch up with folks and share the news of the week.

While the day and time have changed, the catching up is still going on. The format is 'free fall', to quote Rev Carol. Topics that have been shared include your experience getting the Covid19 Vaccine, recent birthday celebrations, Zoom technology, our Sunday School children, Spring. Sometimes there is a sneak peek at a video that will be shown during an upcoming Sunday service and everyone is curious to know 'what did you have for dinner?'

The day change is Tuesday, the time change is 7:00pm.

Via Zoom - Zoom details will be email each week

OR

Simply join the group by phone: 647-374-4685 or 647-558-0588

Meeting ID: 836 2140 0564 / Passcode: 640127

And feel free to treat yourself to a beverage of your choice.





Black History Month was officially celebrated on Sunday February 21st when we heard special greetings from Asher and Vicky of our congregation and Rev Carol shared many quotes throughout the month. We can all celebrate whenever we handle a Canadian \$10.00 bill. Viola Desmond, a Black Nova Scotian businesswoman who challenged racial segregation at a film theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, in 1946.



"The time is always right to do what is right." ~ **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything."

~ **Harriet Tubman**,
on her first escape from slavery, 1845

"For I am my mother's daughter, and the drums of Africa still beat in my heart."
~ **Mary McLeod Bethune**

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

~ **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."
~ **Dr. Mae Jemison**

"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness."

~ **Ola Joseph**

"Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise. I rise. I rise."
~ **Maya Angelou**

"Won't it be wonderful when black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history."

~ **Maya Angelou**

"Where there is no vision, there is no hope."
~ **George Washington Carver**

It is the heartbeat of the moral cosmos. He who loves is a participant in the being of God."

~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

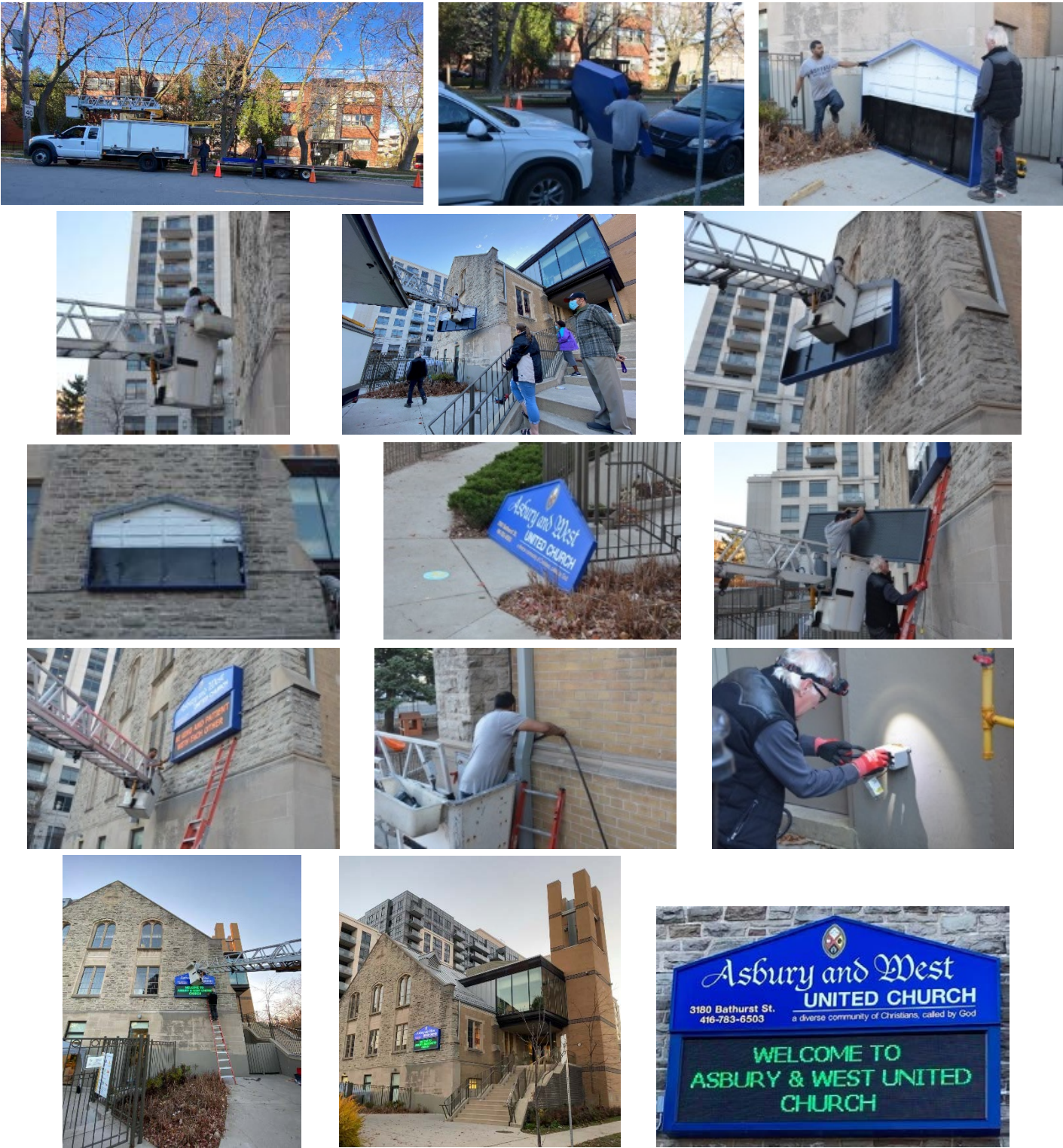
"Character is power."

~ **Booker T. Washington**

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

~ **Barack Obama**

OUR NEW CHURCH SIGN was installed on November 9, 2020. Clayton Johnson, Yvonne Wright, Melissa Nielsen and Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen attended the installation. If you have an idea for a message to appear on the sign, don't be shy to contact Rev. Carol.



Pictures by Melissa Nielsen



What's In A Name?

Historically, most churches have 'Bible Study' sessions. This always stimulates thinking and talking and the result is in-depth and meaningful conversations.

At Asbury and West, this fellowship time together is called CONVERSATIONS. And during **Conversations**, the topics have not been limited to the Bible. Follow is a list of some of the topics discussed over the last many months:

Advent
 Obscure Women of the Bible
 Deborah the Nanny
 Achsah – The woman who dared to ask Ancient Israel was a patrilineal
 The Five Daughters of Zelophehad – Women working together for change.
 Abijah– The woman with a bad husband and a good son. Despite the idolatry
 Chloe – The woman who was insightful and hospitable.
 Our Daily Bread
 Different ways to give during Lent
 The Table of Grace...Thanksgiving
 Guide Posta
 Ash Wednesday
 Lectionary Study
 Lecto Divina
 Weekly Check in
 Prayer list

Sound like something you would enjoy?
Conversations! Join us on Wednesday mornings at 11:00am.
 Simply dial 1-888 -224 -1908 the entrance code is: 65356825

All are welcome.



*"Sharing the Gifts We
 Have Been Given"*

STEWARDSHIP GIVING DURING THE PANDEMIC

The ongoing burden of operating expenses is eased with the financial donations received. Contributions can be made through the use of automatic systems such as PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance), e-transfers and Canada Helps. Giving envelopes and personal cheques can be sent through Canada Post or dropped off in the church mailbox. Special donations are always welcome. Another form of support is giving of your time and talent and continuing to keep our church community in your prayers.

Asbury and West is blessed to have faithful members of our congregation. THANK YOU for your continuing support.



Do you know someone in
 need of a call or card?
 Please contact Rev Carol
 at 905-717-6594



GAMES PLUS MORE

Word Search

- Bunny
- Ducklings
- Bonnet
- Spring
- Eggs
- Daodils
- Egg
- Jellybeans
- Rabbit
- Lambs
- Iris
- Basket
- Chicks
- Hunt

Z	S	T	V	S	C	M	Y	N	H	S	K	S	A	H	T	L
G	V	P	C	W	I	V	F	C	A	C	P	V	E	Z	D	D
P	A	C	C	O	E	W	L	N	M	A	O	Y	Z	S	L	P
P	U	H	E	G	G	L	U	T	S	A	Z	K	O	G	X	D
J	T	O	R	B	U	M	J	U	G	X	F	O	P	N	G	A
F	O	C	K	U	I	X	P	I	R	I	S	Y	L	N	Y	F
D	Q	O	Q	H	Z	C	C	A	L	M	O	G	I	C	T	F
S	E	L	Q	F	H	T	S	U	L	E	P	X	E	K	M	O
S	G	A	T	E	N	N	O	B	A	R	S	R	E	G	C	D
W	G	T	H	X	A	U	X	Z	U	A	R	T	V	S	C	I
Z	S	E	X	S	J	H	M	P	C	B	I	K	V	S	Z	L
C	O	P	O	R	S	L	R	R	H	B	U	X	J	O	S	S
C	T	Y	L	P	G	L	V	Y	I	I	A	D	X	M	J	B
W	C	N	Y	Z	B	Q	K	X	C	T	E	K	S	A	B	M
K	X	N	U	M	S	D	U	C	K	L	I	N	G	S	P	A
X	K	U	X	G	N	I	R	P	S	P	L	U	O	G	G	L
P	S	B	G	Q	D	A	S	N	A	E	B	Y	L	L	E	J



Spot the 10 Differences

Hoppy Easter

WHOSE HANDS?

A rod in my hands will keep an angry dog away.
 A rod in Moses' hands parted the mighty Red Sea.
 It all depends in whose hand it is.
 A slingshot in my hand is a toy.
 A slingshot in David's hand was a mighty weapon.
 It all depends in whose hand it is.
 Two fishes and 5 loaves of bread in my hand is just enough for breakfast in my house.
 Two fishes and 5 loaves of bread in Jesus' hands fed thousands.
 It all depends in whose hand it is.
 Nails in my hands might just cause a temporary injury.
 Nails in Jesus Christ's hands produced salvation for the entire world.
 It all depends in whose hand it is.
 As you see now, it all depends in whose hand it is.
 So put your concerns, worries, fears, hopes, dreams, families and your relationships in God's hands because
 It all depends in whose hand they are.
 Put yourself in God's hands and watch the amazing transformation that will take place in your life.
 Let's start the first transformation....
 This message is now in your hands.... What will you do with it?
 It all depends in whose hand it is.....let it do good in your hands.



"It was love, not the nails, that held Jesus to the cross."



Don't forget Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10...



...and Father's Day on Sunday, June 21.

COUNCIL

The Members of Council have been meeting regularly by Zoom. While we were initially consumed with decisions to be made regarding the Covid 19 pandemic, we have now fallen into the rhythm of looking after 'regular' church business. As you may know, the minutes of our Council meetings are always available to members of the congregation.

Since most churches are closed because of the Covid19 pandemic, the Shining Waters Regional Council suspended annual meetings in 2020. This is in place till the end of June 2021. Permission was granted for individual church councils or boards to continue making decisions on behalf of their congregations. In the event an annual meeting is required, specific guidelines must be followed including such things as advanced notification, mandatory quorum and members ability to participate and vote.

At our February Council meeting, we passed the financial motions that would normally have been presented at our annual meeting. It should be noted that the details are consistent with previous years as follows:

- 100% of the 2021 Easter offering be directed to local funds.
- 50% of the 2021 Thanksgiving offering be directed to local funds and 50% to the Benevolent Fund.
- 100% of the 2021 White Gift offering be directed equally as a grant to support the work of recipients as selected by the Stewardship Ministry in consultation with the Rev. Carol.

- 100% of the 2021 Christmas Offering be directed to local funds.
- A Stewardship Campaign to be held in the fall of 2021 to underwrite expenses and initiatives in 2022.

The Chair and Members of each Ministry continue to oversee their area of responsibility to ensure all relevant details of church life continue smoothly. Highlights include organizing worship services, providing a weekly Sunday School program, keeping in touch with Home Members through calls and cards, managing the upkeep of the building and grounds, maintaining a close contact with our tenants and ensuring sufficient cash flow to pay the bills and payroll. I extend a THANK YOU for the dedicated time and effort given with a special 'round of applause' for Rev Carol and everyone involved with the Zoom worship services.

And of course, we cannot forget to say THANK YOU to the 'behind the scenes' folks who diligently support the work of Asbury and West; Cate (Administrator), Anthony (Organist & Choir Leader), Alvaro (Custodian) and Clyde (Bookkeeper).

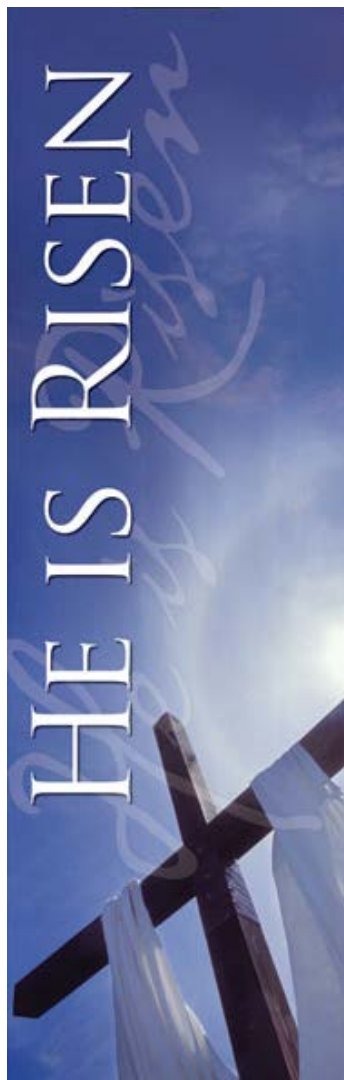
On a personal note, it was hard to say goodbye to my sister, Sylvia, who stepped down December 31 as Chair of Worship, Sacrament and Music after seven (7) years in the role. We were blessed to benefit from her years of steadfast leadership and participation.

Wishing you all the joy and peace of Easter.

Blessings,

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson, Chair





Church Sign....

*Believing Christ died is history..
Believing He died for you is
salvation.*

Meetings: Any committee that would like to meet via Zoom please contact the Church Office or Rev Carol.

MINISTRY GROUPS and COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Vacancy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: Cheryl Holliday

Council Rep: Kim Davidson

HOSPITALITY

Chair: Lou Rhoden

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Ianthe Spencer

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL (M&P)

Co-Chairs Amrita Aphan &
Yasmin Halley

PROPERTY

Co-Chairs: Yvonne Wright
& Clayton Johnson

STEWARDSHIP

Chair: Phoebe Cleverley

WORSHIP, SACRAMENT AND MUSIC

Co-Chairs Lisa Crawford, Cheryl
Holliday, Rev Carol

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Chair: Cheryl Holliday

MEMORIAL Committee

Cheryl Holliday, David Tuck

SHINING WATER REGION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Vacancy

CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

You are welcome to
attend any meeting.

Council Chair:

Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson

Getting ready for Easter - at home colouring my hair.



Church Sign....

How cool is it that the same God who created mountains, oceans and galaxies thought the world needed one of you too!

Church Sign....

*He came back from the dead!
Meet Him this Sunday at 10:30!*

Church Sign.... *The Tomb of Christ is famous because of what it DOES NOT CONTAIN.*

Church Sign....
We use duct tape to fix everything... God used nails.

Church Sign....
The quieter you become, the more you can hear.



Easter Jokes

1. What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
2. How does the Easter Bunny travel?
3. Why did the Easter egg hide?
4. What kind of dancing does the Easter Bunny like?
5. Where do Easter Bunnies go for new tails?
6. How do you make a rabbit stew?

Answers: 1. Bugs Bunny; 2. By Hare-plane; 3. He was a little chicken; 4. The Hip-Hop; 5. To the re-tail store; 6. Make it wait for 3 hours

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Carrying the Cross

On Palm Sunday, April 8, 1990 “Carrying the Cross” stained glass window was dedicated by members of the congregation in loving memory of former members of Asbury and West United Church.



The Empty Tomb

“The Empty Tomb” stained glass window was given by the Choir at the evening Christmas Candlelight service in 1994. This window was dedicated to God’s glory in music and in honour of choir members past, present and future. This window completed the last in the series of eighteen windows in our sanctuary.



The Resurrection

“The Resurrection” stained glass window is another beautiful congregational window from gifts and memorial donations to loved ones and former members of Asbury and West United Church. This window was dedicated on Sunday, October 6, 1985.



Asbury and West United Church

Contact us at ...

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 Church Custodian: Alvaro Perez custodian@asburyandwest.org
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 Editors: Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson jocelynandharvey@gmail.com
 Sylvia Shewalter-Nielsen rsm56@sympatico.ca



The sacred land on which Asbury and West stands has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.