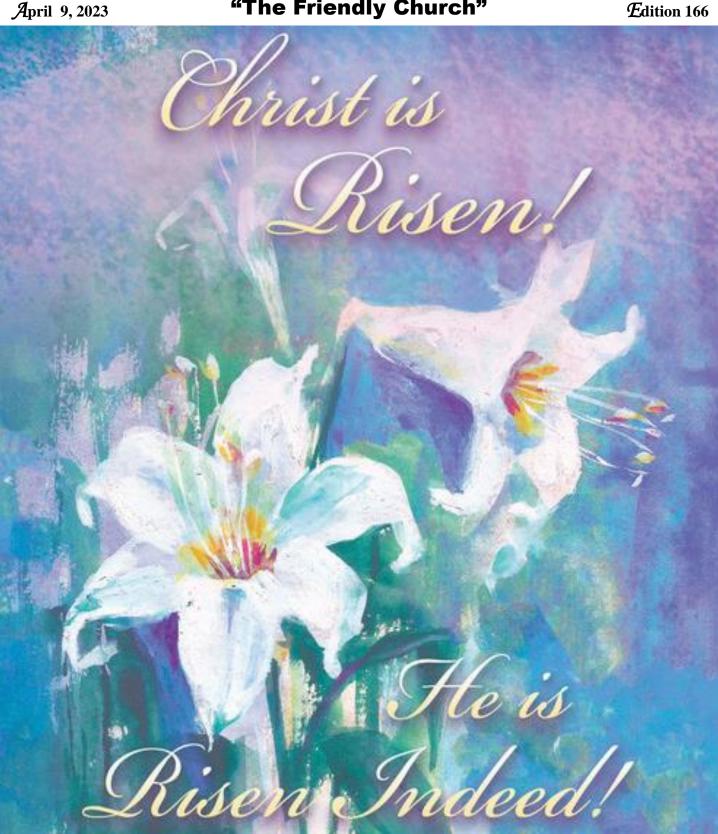
FLOCK TALK

Asbury and West United Church

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

"The Friendly Church"



LOOKING BACK

Christmas Sunday, December 18





Pastor Steven and **Rev Carol** during a joint service at Asbury during Advent









Celebrating Chloe's 5th Birthday at church on March 3. We thank Chloe's family Sonia, James and her brother Sean for sharing this day with Asbury.



On Sunday, February 19, the Stewardship Ministry Group held a small **Bake & Book Sale** after the service. Thanks to Amrita and Cheryl for helping out. It was our first fundraiser of 2023, bringing in \$177.75. We all had a fun time and look forward to more fundraisers throughout the year.

Celebrating Black History Month on February 26



























James & Chloe





Rev Carol telling a story at Children's Time



The Pastor's Pen

HAPPY EASTER!!

He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed

At last, we have completed our 40 days of Lent. For myself, I am happy to finally drink more than one cup of tea a day. Lent has also been a time to recognize that the struggles of life remind us that we're still on the other side of Paradise with the complexities of relationships, worries of health and employment, pains of medical procedures and loss of loved ones, challenges of extreme climate, and the craziness of politics and the world.

And so Easter is a glorious day to celebrate our triumph with Christ. We humbly know we cannot achieve excellence and escape darkness, but with Christ, we know we are winners of the race of life.

Our Lord endured the chaos of his passion and death, but God once again brings order out of chaos by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter is a time when God brings order out of the chaos of our lives.

In a sense, Easter is like being on the Mount of Transfiguration, recognizing Jesus as truly exalted Lord and not just a suffering servant. Like Peter, we too want to stay here, build some tents, and rejoice. After all, who wants to descend the mountain of Easter to face the stresses of life.

Descend we must because Monday comes. And even though the Church keeps the season of Easter going for 50 days. Society thrusts us back into the trials of this life. But the beauty of our 40 days of Lent leading to Easter is we once again are reminded we are an Easter people, not for one day, but for eternity. So, make sure to buy a 50-day supply of ½ priced chocolate bunnies and jellybeans on Monday to keep the celebration going. Splurge on a potted flowering plant to be reminded of new life and our beauty in the eyes of God.

Happy Easter,

Rev Carol







The Asbury and West United Church choir continues to thrive. We enjoy the contribution we make to our congregation and to the Glory of God.

Our number has swelled to seven dedicated members. We lead the congregation in hymns and singing the Psalm responses.

Anthony Panacci continues to share his immense musical talent in both Sunday morning services (9:30am Zoom and 10:30am in-person).

In this both beautiful and intropective time of year, we would like to wish each and every member, adherant, spouse, child, and friend a very joyous, safe, and Happy Easter!







There are seven powerful words in the Lord's Prayer "Give us this day our daily bread." For some, it means that the Lord does not give us anything that we can not handle. For many others, it literally translates to "please feed me".

Asbury and West has been generous over the years feeding the hungry in our neighbourhood. At one time we had a food bank right here in the church in a small room close to where the choir sang each Sunday. (This was actually the "Registry Room" where the bride and groom went to sign the paperwork during their wedding.) Many members of the congregation volunteered to organize donations received, stock the shelves, make up packages of food, and meet with individuals and family members who relied on our help and visited regularly.

In more recent times, the process has been simplified significantly. A North York Harvest Food Bank donation box has been stationed in the narthex (lobby) where you drop off your donations. Now, how easy is that! What can we give? Read on for full details and information about the North York Harvest Food Bank. And not to be forgotten is Matthew 25 verse 35. Please give whatever, whenever you are able.

Submitted by Jocelyn Shewalter

Food Donation Items Most Needed

Canned fish and meats, canned beans, canned tomatoes, canned soups (low sodium preferable), canned vegetables, rice and quinoa, cooking oil, peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce, flour, small boxes cereal (low sugar preferable), juice boxes, instant potatoes, nut-free snacks for kids' lunches, pudding cups, fruit cups, crackers.

<u>Important note</u> - No open packages, smaller quantities are easier to handle, contents in smaller jars spoil less quickly than in larger jars, items will not be given out with expired dates or if more than 3 months past its best before date.



Melvyne Beckles is the chair of Council for Asbury and West. Council meets the fourth Sunday of each month following the in-person worship service. Council members are open to meeting via zoom if it is needed.

Council members are very active in keeping Asbury and West running smoothly. Council has made decisions about updating the kitchen and sound system. Council is acting as Ministry and Personnel (M&P) in the absence of a M&P Committee. Members reviewed the budget submitted by Stewardship and Finance and made changes. These are only a few examples of the work of Council.

Council would like to encourage people to serve on any Ministry, in particular, Stewardship & Finance and Property. Also needed are people willing to supervise rentals at the church.

The Council of Asbury and West continues in faithful service of the church.

Submitted by Rev. Carol for Melvyne Beckles, Chair





PRAYER FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA

God,

In the face of destruction that tears down homes and threatens life, we pray that your deep abiding love be felt by: those who are grieving, those who fear for themselves and their communities, those who are struggling; and those who are offering aid.

May they continue to be strengthened by your Spirit. May we extend our hearts in prayer.

Amen







PROPERTY MINISTRY

We have received estimates for re-covering of the counter tops in the Upper/Fellowship Room, however, this project is on a "hold" as a result of the church's financial situation.

Since the re-opening of the building, requests have been coming in for short-term rental space. We have decided to cautiously start doing some rental even though the pandemic is not finally over. We will again welcome back Rooks To Cooks in the building this summer whom have shown their interest in our building.

Regrettably, the Korean Church will be vacating from our building at the end of April, 2023. We wish them all the blessings where ever they go. It was a blessing having them in our building over the years. Talks are ongoing for another potential congregation to rent the vacant space.

As a result of the church's financial state, a mini yard sale is planned for June 3rd. We will be having household items, clothes (boutique type), baking goods, books jewelry and more. So, as you do your spring cleaning, please set aside items that can be another person's treasure rather than it going to landfill. Stay tune for further information. All funds derived from this sale will be going to the church's revenue.

Clayton Johnson & Yvonne Wright, Co-chairs



Editors' Note

Although a limited number of copies are printed for those without computers and for our Home Members, it is important to always be looking for ways to reduce Flock Talk expenses. We are grateful to our new Church Secretary, Amrita, for joining us in this effort by conducting printing tests and analysing various printing costs. The result?

This edition of Flock Talk was printed in the church office. We welcome feedback on the new format for those receiving paper copies. *THANK You* Amrita!

Assistant and West Entire Church

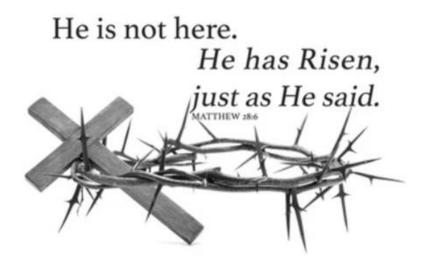
Assistant and West Entire Church

The Friendly Church

Raise of Church

Ra

Jocelyn & Sylvia





Asbury and West's Website continues to be updated. For the most current information about events, go to our web page at **asburyandwest.org** and click on the blog link (just below the scrolling pictures).

NEXT DEADLINE – Sunday, September 24, 2023 Next Edition – Sunday, October 8, 2023

Material accepted ANYTIME (the earlier the better). Please email the editors at: jocelynandharvey@gmail.com or rsm56@sympatico.ca (Articles are subject to editing for length & clarity.)



Worship And Christian Education Ministry

Our purpose is to enhance the spiritual growth of every person in the congregation.

Worship and Christian Education Ministry continues to meet monthly to organize and develop weekly Sunday services that enrich our lives and understanding through Christian Education.

Our group supports not just the congregation, but also the Sunday School, the Youth Class and the weekly Conversations group.

We support the education of our congregation, both youth and adults, through participation of readings and music in our services and through Confirmation classes.

We are blessed, not only by the willing participation of our youth in the services, but by the fact that we have such a large, active, and wonderful group of children in our Church.

Our choir continues to thrive and learn new hymns. We continue to be blessed by Anthony Panacci and his wonderful music talents. Anthony pre-records and sends us our music for the Sunday morning Zoom worship as well.

Our team has been busy with Lent and Easter preparations; it is an incredibly special time of year.

Christian Education

The Sunday School members continue to learn Bible Stories, both from the Old and New Testaments. At Halloween they dressed up and had fun with Trick or Treating around the sanctuary. The children love to take part in the service; reading Scripture or by sharing their singing talents.

The Youth Class has been learning about Paul through video presentations.

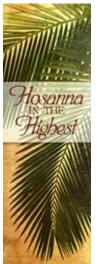
Confirmation classes will once again be offered. Rev Carol will lead these classes in May for ½ hour after the service. Confirmation is planned for June 4.

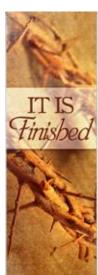
Through biblical studies, the Conversations group continues to address issues pertaining to our Christian life (see page 12).

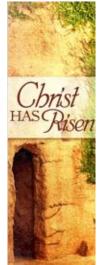
In this most joyful and *joy filled* time of year. The members of the Worship and Christian Education Ministry extend a warm and happy Easter Blessing to you and all of your loved ones.

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." ~ Martin Luther

Lisa Crawford, Cheryl Holliday and Rev. Carol McKinley, Rotating Chairs







HE HAS risen INDEED



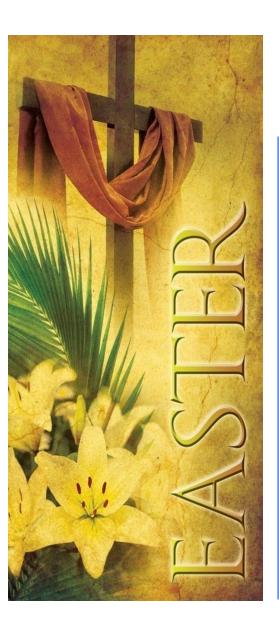
Women's Ministry

The donations to the Mittens and More Tree were given to two organizations. The adult items were taken to the Inn From the Cold Shelter in Newmarket. The infant and child items were sent to the Massey Centre in Toronto.

The UCW was on a winter break from January to March. UCW will resume on Tuesday, April 18th with an Easter Potluck Lunch at 12 p.m.

> Easter Blessings to all! Kim Davidson, Chair





COVID PROTOCALS AT ASBURY

Update: March 2023



All decisions made at Council regarding Covid are in keeping with the Government of Ontario's guidelines for social gatherings. Following are the protocols being followed at this time:

- While wearing a mask is not mandatory, it is recommended for your own safety and the safety of others attending church and when in an enclosed space
- If you forgot your mask, one will be provided.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the church building.
- Bible and hymn books are available and offering plates are
- When Communion is served, individual pre-packed elements are used.

The comfort level of individuals may vary and we respect the choice each individual makes regarding all aspects of being in a social gathering.

Prayer For Ukraine

War is terrible but you give us hope, Loving God.
Hope that leaders will patiently give peace a chance.
Hope that despite the heartache, the terror, and the loss,
places of sanctuary will be found and acts of kindness will take root and grow.
Hope that feelings of revenge for broken livelihoods and broken bodies
will be replaced by a willingness to restore community and to forgive.
We pray in the name of Jesus, crucified one. Amen

David Sparks



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The United Church of Canada is committed to responding to the crisis in Ukraine and is working with Mission & Service partners ACT Alliance and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Donations can be made in the following three (3) ways:

Online <u>secure donation page</u> at <u>https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/ukraine-</u>crisis

Phone 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

Send a cheque or money order (marked "Emergency Response—Ukraine") to:

The United Church of Canada

Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response

3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Note: As part of the United Church's Emergency Response Fund, 100% of your donation goes directly to emergency relief, with 85% of your donation responding to this designated emergency and 15% responding to future emergencies that do not receive intense media coverage. Donations to Mission & Service enable the United Church to cover all of the costs of emergency response work without deducting any fees from your donation.



MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Vacancy

HOSPITALITY

Chair: Vacancy

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Ianthe Spencer

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL (M&P)

Chair: Vacancy

PROPERTY

Co-Chairs: Clayton Johnson & Yvonne Wright

STEWARDSHIP

Chair: Vacant Secretary: Cheryl Holliday

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rotating Chair: Lisa Crawford, Cheryl Holliday, Rev Carol

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Chair: Kim Davidson

MEMORIAL Committee

Cheryl Holliday, David Tuck

SHINING WATER REGION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Vacancy

CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

You are welcome to attend any meeting.

COUNCIL

Chair: Melvyne Beckles



Membership And Pastoral Care Ministry

We are a small group and members work together for the good of our Church. We greet all who come into this Church to make them feel welcome. We continue to make phone calls to our congregational members who are not back to church as yet and we send cards as needed. Every member of the congregation received a Christmas card.

We did not have a meeting for a long time so there is nothing much to report.

We want to thank Phoebe Cleverly for support of this ministry and we also thank Nancy Sisson for her service. While we will miss you both, you will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

The Members of our group are: Rev. Carol, Janiss Johnson, (Secretary), Melvyne and Shirley Beckles, Lucille Hunte, Lisa Crawford, and Ianthe Spencer (Chair).

Thanks to all who help to make this Ministry a success.

Ianthe Spencer, Chair





-coffee hour-

Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Grab your coffee or tea and join us via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82872466186

Meeting ID: 828 7246 6186

OR

Join us via phone: 647 558 0588 Canada Meeting ID: 828 7246 6186





Join us Wednesdays at 11:00am

Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81176580663?pwd =Y2ZTSkRNMWlNbDAwOTRNQVBZUytkZz09

Meeting ID: 811 7658 0663

Passcode: 995219

OR

Join us via phone: 647 558 0588 Canada Meeting ID: 811 7658 0663

Passcode: 995219



Rev. Carol will be starting Confirmation Classes in May 2023, with a Confirmation date of Sunday, June 4th, 2023. The classes will take place after Sunday services and will last approximately one-half hour. If anyone is interested, please contact Rev. Carol.

Please sign the roster posted on the lobby bulletin board if you can help with refreshments after the service.

The Annual General Meeting is on May 7

Please remember to bring nonperishable food donations on any Sunday for the North York Harvest Food Bank. The donation box is in the Narthex. Are you wanting to help raise money for our church. If you, your Ministry or a group of people would like to organize and host a fundraiser, please speak to Cheryl Holliday or Rev Carol. Thank you!

We Will Remember - Vimy Ridge Day

Sunday April 9, 2023

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.





Stewardship \mathcal{M} inistry

The Stewardship Ministry Group would like to thank everyone for keeping up their commitments during the pandemic years. Now that we are back to in-person worship we look forward to fundraising events and casual rentals that will boost our revenue going forward.

At present, the group is operating without a Chair and lacking in members. We hope this will be rectified soon. But in the meantime, we continue to carry on the work of Stewardship. We are grateful that some of our tasks hinge on regular routines so that it becomes easy to accomplish what needs to be done, such as budgeting, counting offering, encouraging fundraising, offering opportunities for special donations and looking at efficient ways to maintain the financial health of the congregation. If you would like to join us, please speak up.

We are ever so grateful to Clyde Harris, our bookkeeper who does the accounting, and to Yvonne Wright and Clay Johnson who continue to count the offerings and deposit the money.

Walk Up Sundays, which take place the last Sunday of the month, and the Copper Kettle are back. Both are happy to receive your spare change.

We have just completed the 2023 budget and it will be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 7.

Last month, we held a *Book and Bake Sale* after the service and thank those who donated and participated. We encourage all ministry groups and anyone else who would like to organize a fundraising event to please step up. You can contact Cheryl Holliday for details.

Thank you for your support.

Wishing you and yours a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Cheryl Holliday Acting Chair and Secretary

JUST A LITTLE HUMOUR...

A man climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get closer to talk to God.

"God, what does a million years mean to you? The Lord replies, "A minute."

"God, what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

"God, can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."



COPPER KETTLE

Please drop your change in the big Copper Kettle. Folding money gratefully accepted.

Thank you for your support!



ARE YOU ON P.A.R.?

Have you thought about making your church donation by P.A.R. (Pre-Authorized Remittance)? Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals are made from your bank account. PAR is easy to set up and can be adjusted at any time should your circumstances change. If you are already on PAR, don't forget that you can increase your donation anytime. Simply speak to Cheryl Holliday, in confidence, about the process.

Thank you for your support!





In honour of Mother's Day in May, here is a poem by Chief R. Stacey Laforme from his book LIVING IN THE TALL GRASS Poems of Reconciliation. Chief Laforme honours all women that are in our circle. Indigenous people often share their love and respect of Mother Earth and this poem is no exception. Be sure to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on Wednesday, June 21.

Who Is She

She is our mother, the one who dries our eyes and loves us unconditionally,

She is our grandmother who is wise kind and gentle

She is our auntie, as close to being our mother without being our mother as one can be She is our sister, who shared our hurt, our pain who we tease and who we love

She is our partner, mother of our child, she is

comfort, she is joy

She is our child, a sacred gift, with a smile to brighten the heart, and a promise to live forever She is a friend, to share an adventure

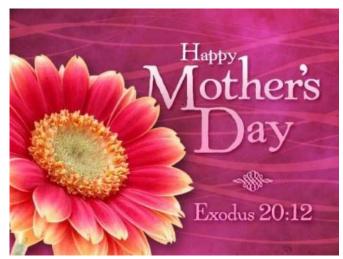
a tear, our deepest secret

She is every smile, she is every tear, she is the reason we are, and the reason we do what we do She is our world, she is the world

She is our mother, our grandmother, our sister our auntie, our partner, our child, our friend She is the light in a world shadowed by the grey of indifference

She is everything...

Submitted by Jocelyn Shewalter-Patterson



Don't forget Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14.



Don't forget Father's Day on Sunday, June 18.

Prayer For Canada Oay - July 1st

Creating God,

As we mark the anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, we remember and give thanks for the people who have been the stewards of this land since time immemorial, and commit ourselves to the work of justice, healing, and reconciliation. Together we dream about the country that we hope to become, a country where all are free to be their best selves.

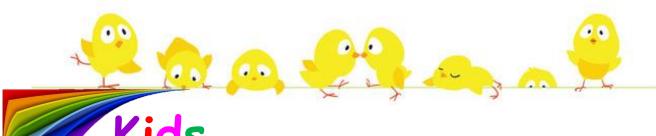


Amen

$\mathcal{H}_{OV} \mathcal{D}_{ID} \mathcal{Y}_{OU} \mathcal{D}_{O?}$

Here are the answers to the Merry Christmas game printed in the last edition of Flock Talk. How many did you get right?

Merry Christmas	Letter	Language
1. Joyeux Noel	K	A. Danish
2. Feliz Navidad	I	B. Croatian
3. Buon Natale	J	C. Finnish
4. Frohliche Weihnact	ten L	D. Tagalog
5. God Jul	Н	E. Greek
6. Boze Narodznie	N	F. Mandarin
7. Sretan Bozic	В	G. Indonesian
8. Shèngdàn Jié Kuàil	è F	H. Swedish
9. Kala Christou'yenn	a E	I. Spanish
10. Houska Joulua	С	J. Italian
11. Glaedelig Jul	A	K. French
12. Meri Kurisumasu	M	L. German
13. Maligayang Pasko	D	M. Japanese
14. Hari Natal	G	N. Polish
15. Hindi	0	O. Krisamas Kee badhaee





Korner

- 1. What kind of tree fits in your hand?
- 2. What did the little corn say to the mama corn?
- 3. What animal is always at a baseball game?
- 4. How do we know that the ocean is friendly?
- 5. What do ghosts like to eat in the summer?
- 6. What part of the fish weighs the most?
- 7. Where do ghosts like to boat on vacation?

I. A palm tree!; 2. Where is pop corn?; 3. A bat; 4. It waves!; 5. I Scream; 6. The scales; 7. Lake Eerie



April 9, 2023 "FLOCK TALK"

GAMES PLUS MORE





Word Search - HE Has Risen!

I S S U N S T J A Ε A R E R S A Y S A C S \mathbf{Z} N E G L В F R E L H U F L H R H

Words

Angels Cross Easter Faith Judas Mary Passover Pilate Risen Savior Sunday Tomb

















Spot the 7 differences







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.



From The Editors' \mathcal{D}_{ESK}

Be sure to visit our beautiful stained glass windows – they tell the Easter story. Take time to pray in the Garden of Gethesemane, walk the road to Calvary, and rejoice at the Empty Tomb. Happy Easter to you and your family.

Jocelyn & Sylvia

ING EVENTS...

Apríl

Remembering Vimy Ridge Day Sunday, April 9

Tuesday, April 18 UCW will resume with an Easter Potluck Lunch at 12 pm

Sunday, April 23 Trustee's meeting after morning worship service

Sunday, April 30 Walk-up Sunday

May

The Coronation of King Charles III (to learn more visit: https://coronation.gov.uk/) Saturday, May 6

Sunday, May 7 Annual General Meeting after the morning worship service

Tuesday, May 9 Asian Heritage Month Celebration

Sunday, May 14 Mother's Day

Thursday, May 18 Ascension of Jesus

Thursday, May 18 Worship zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Sunday May 21 **Ascension Sunday** Monday, May 22 Victoria Day

Pentecost Sunday, May 28

Sunday, May 28 Walk-up Sunday

lune

Saturday, June 3 Yard Sale

Sunday, June 4 **Trinity Sunday** Sunday, June 4 **Confirmation Sunday**

Sunday, June 18 - Father's Day

Wednesday, June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day

Walk-up Sunday Sunday, June 25

July

Saturday, July 1 Canada Day Sunday, July 9 Nunavut Day Sunday, July 30 Walk-up Sunday

August

Civic Holiday Monday, August 7

The Assumption of Mary Tuesday, August 15

Walk-up Sunday Sunday, August 27

September

Sunday, September 10 Welcome Back Sunday

Monday, September 4 Labour Day

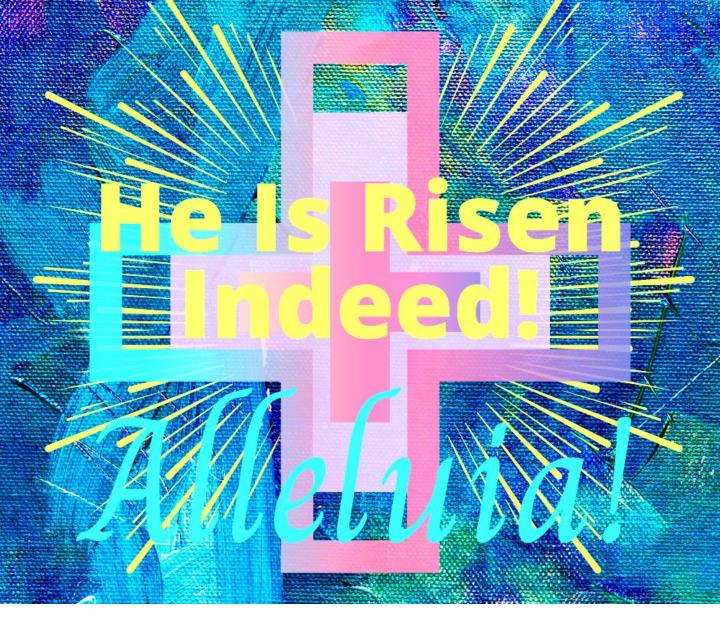
Sunday, September 24 Deadline for Thanksgiving issue of Flock Talk

Sunday, September 24 Walk-up Sunday

October

Sunday, October 9 Thanksgiving Sunday





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.



ASBURY AND WEST UNITED CHURCH

3180 Bathurst Street Toronto, ON M6A 2A9 Office: 416-783-6503 Rev. Carol 905-717-6594









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Office Administrator:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Asbury and West, acknowledges the sacred land on which our church stands. It 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. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations. The original nations continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work toward justice and reconciliation.

