

The Harcourt Herald

The life and work of Harcourt Memorial United Church, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Summer, 2018



Carolyn Davidson - A Daughter's Touching Story

An Adventure at the Arctic Circle - Jean Hume

Harcourt's Youth Group Runs an Amazing Race!



Don't Forget Lunch and Learn - June 3rd!

Harcourt Memorial United Church

An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

Seek | Connect | Act

Our Mission:

Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate, and non-violent relationships

Our Vision Statement:

To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service

Our Core Values:

Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

Our Purpose:

To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

Harcourt Memorial United Church

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1L3

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Monday to Friday, 9am-noon; 1pm-4pm

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Worship, Communication & Technical Support: Shaina Ensing
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The Harcourt Herald

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by the

Communications Committee

Your contributions are welcome!

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Editor: Gillian Joseph
theherald@harcourtuc.ca

Printing: Anne Purkis



The Ministers' Quill

by Jim Ball

Please find below a copy of the apology to the LGBTQ2S community that I shared in church. It was our annual Affirming Service. Wonderfully, Rainbow Chorus members were with us again to enrich the music and worship experience. We had a terrific speaker from Generous Spaces. And I read the apology.

The background on the apology is briefly this: the UCC has indicated its desire to create and share one, and to this end it has created an initiative entitled the Living Apology Project, better known as Iridesce. It is still in its early stages. Its leaders are doing good work.

Still, given the absence of a national church apology, I have been feeling a need to say something on the matter to help move us forward and deeper in our Affirming journey. So, in my holy impatience, I set out last week to write my own. I grounded the text in two key Harcourt convictions - namely, the positive values of diversity and of universal belovedness.

It was my hope that Harcourt folks would hear and recognize themselves in the text and fairly so. It was also my hope that people would imagine ways of improving the text and/or of making it more personally their own. Still others might imagine ways of writing a completely different and better one - I hope these folks will feel inspired and encouraged to do so. My offering was but a first draft. An initial effort.

With all good wishes.

Jim

An Apology

We are all the living expression
of what was once but a faint possibility
in an ancestor's imagining,
a great grandparent's dreaming,
a grandparent's longing
and a parent's desiring.

In our sameness and in our distinctiveness,
In our straightness and in our queerness,
we are the incarnation of multi-generational hoping.

We are *the beloved* - just as we are.
Each and every one of us.

We have been present and together since the day
our species first walked the earth.
We have blessed each other with insight and resource
and struggled together to fashion healthy, respectful community.

The wisdom to do so has always been with us –
including the truth that diversity is nature's way,
God's way,
gifting variation upon variation - no two of us alike –
providing options and pathways toward
a more wondrous, resilient existence.

Difference makes us stronger.
It is ancient wisdom.
And unassailable truth.

And yet,
there is much evidence in the records of human history
that what we consider different we seldom understand,
that what we do not understand, we often fear,
and that what we fear, we frequently persecute.

This has been particularly true of how the human majority has treated their relatives who were lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer or two spirited.

So we acknowledge today the many ways we and our ancestors have been gathered into this pattern.

We acknowledge the times we have forgotten our own religious story, the moments when we failed to remember that each one of us is beloved, made in the image and likeness of God, and blessed with dignity and gifts that enrich and strengthen the human family.

We acknowledge the times we have misrepresented, or permitted to be misrepresented, the heart of our message, allowing a gospel of love and welcome to be used as a weapon of exclusion and hate.

For the ignorance we have displayed, for the false witness we have given, for the intolerance we have practised, for the dignity we have denied, for the gifts we have rejected, and for the lives we have hurt we humbly apologize and repent.

We know words are not enough.
We understand that we must live into apology and right relation.
We appreciate that the journey requires sincere turning and reparation.

With openness and humility we would take another step today.
We need help finding the language and the practices.
We hope that people of every gender identity and way of being will come to feel safe among us, and will continue to accompany us and teach us on the way.

For reconciliation is our goal,
learning our path,
and respect and celebration for all our work.

This is our confession and our commitment.

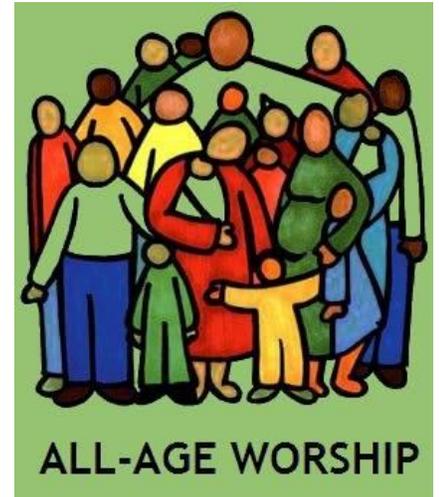
WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Harcourt offers three distinct regular Sunday morning services: At 9 a.m. in the Chapel, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and MANNA service at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Nursery services are available from 10:00 to 12 noon.

However, Please Note SUMMER HOURS below.

Visit our website at: www.harcourtuc.ca for more information.



June 3	Pentecost 2	Miriam Stewardship Trustees Workshop
June 10	Pentecost 3	Jim Communion Renewal of Spiritual Companions
June 17	Pentecost 4	Miriam Baptism
June 24 (SUMMER SERVICE HOURS BEGIN Today. One service only – 10AM)	Pentecost 5	Jim & Miriam Picnic
July 1 (Canada Day)	Pentecost 6	Lay Worship Team Guest – Sonya Wu Winter

by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

The long-awaited colours and warmth of spring that arrived in late May have been glorious. Do we notice more energy in our steps and new ideas in our minds?

At our May 16th Council meeting, we stretched our minds to think beyond today while still attending to current questions and decisions on behalf of Harcourt.

Several opportunities are providing food for more thought about the future for Harcourt and the United Churches in Guelph. Ongoing discussions will continue! In the meantime, here are updates from our Council meeting:

- Bill Lord guided our first discussion on the book *Joining God, Remaking the Church, Changing the World*. We brainstormed key ideas that seem valuable to Harcourt and/or our work as Councilors. We will explore these more deeply during two study sessions in June. How might we try mini-experiments to explore ‘being with’ rather than ‘doing for’ as part of our connection with our neighbourhood? What is our neighbourhood? What are our practices? What is God calling us to do?
- We received notes from a May 6th debriefing conversation by some of the thirty Harcourt people who attended the GUM-hosted John Pentland event on April 28. Some threads reinforce what Harcourt has been doing and learning along our Harcourt 20/20 journey. Some threads might not be effective at Harcourt. Some threads might connect with our book study outcomes.
- On June 1, Harcourt will host a joint group of a few Trustee and Council representatives and Ministers from each GUM church, to continue conversation that started in January. The discussions have focused on getting better acquainted and thinking towards an imagined future. How do we collectively picture the United Churches of Guelph in five years (in 2023)? In April, Harcourt participants were Murray Woods (for Marilyn Murray), Lynn Crow, Lorraine Holding, Mark Sears, Jim Ball and Miriam Flynn.

Peter Gill requested that Council consider providing some financial assistance for an Iraqi family who are pursuing refugee status in Canada. With thoughtful consideration through our hearts and our heads, we authorized the Trustees to release \$2000 from the Outreach Pillar as a gift of support to the family. Peter will provide an update on the family’s legal situation at our June meeting.



Lorraine Holding

With the pending dissolution of Waterloo Presbytery, the Two Countries One World (TCOW) program committee needs a new sponsor for financial administrative purposes. After consideration of accountability requirements, and recruitment of Kent Hoeg and Merrill Pierce as volunteer financial administrators of the TCOW bank account, Council agreed to be the sponsor. Program participants will travel to Columbia in March 2019.

Council decided that September will be a good time to celebrate the many Harcourt volunteers who contribute to committees, teams, and other tasks. However, we offer sincere thanks to Edna Miller and Arlene Davies-Fuhr who have stepped down as Justice & Outreach co-chairs. We applaud your coordination of special initiatives since 2016: opportunities for Harcourt to learn about and better understand the stories of Indigenous people, those who live in poverty, and others who appreciate our outreach support. Blessings as you both take time to focus on family and other personal interests.

As we prepare for summer and changes in pace, remember to keep in touch with Harcourt. May your vacations and other activities provide relaxation and rejuvenation, preparing us for a busy fall within our community of faith.

With faith and hope.



Photo by G. Joseph



What Do You Seek?

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Seek – Connect - Act

The Latest Buzz...



- **Harcourt Couple Travel with “Flat Jesus”.**

Flat Jesus builds on the character Flat Stanley, star of a book by Jeff Brown in which a boy has remarkable adventures after waking up one day to discover he is flattened to half-an-inch thick. This was the beginning of the Flat Stanley project in schools to help children with literacy and geography and from this grew the Flat Jesus Project. As

Jerry Daminato and Elizabeth Bone from Harcourt Church travel toward the Arctic Ocean this spring, they are travelling with their “Flat Jesus” and reporting on their adventures in a Blog.

<https://www.cecsa.org/the-adventures-of-flat-jesus/>



- **Facebook Page for United Church of Canada Youth and Young Adults.**

Check out this webpage for news and information about upcoming job opportunities, cool pilgrimages, spiritual interests/discussions and...well, just anything.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2248115450/>

- **The United Church of Canada Condemns the Use of Excessive Force in Gaza.**

On May 14th, in contravention of international law, the Israeli military used live ammunition on protestors in Gaza, killing at least 55 people and injuring more than 2,400.

The United Church of Canada urges Canadians to contact members of parliament to protest this horrible act. <https://www.united-church.ca/news/gaza-no-one-should-be-killed-peacefully-protesting>

Committee & Group News

In-cognito In-the garden!

by Ben Fear, Property Committee

The gardens of Harcourt had their first grooming of 2018 on May 5. You may be tired of reading about the garden by now because the project was delayed twice by poor weather and once by a date that conflicted with another church event. However, the weather finally co-



operated to the extent that the big wind ensured that there was plenty of material to gather. The sun was shining brightly and sunglasses and disguises were necessary. In order to protect the innocent names are omitted from the picture, however they can be provided on request. Make out your cheques to Harcourt Memorial United Church and include a little extra for the Garden party and delivery. Allow 2 weeks for autographing. Watch for the announcement and invitation to the year's first *Whine and*

Weed event coming to the garden on some beautiful evening after the hockey season ends in June. Especially appreciated was the work of the Mowats, Dave and Helen, who had a conflict of social engagements so turned out a day early to do their part. Too bad they missed the photo op and the cookies.

What would the world be, once bereft,
of wet and wildness, Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet.
Long live the **Weeds**
and the wilderness yet!



"I still say we could use
more gardeners and less poetry!"

Cartoon by Roz Stephenson

Pastoral Care Committee Opportunities

by Esther Devolin, Chair, Pastoral Care

1. Sending cards of celebration for special birthdays, anniversaries & births, as well as cards of care & concern is one of the functions of the Pastoral Care Committee. This is not an onerous task and we really need someone to volunteer to continue this important piece of what we do and how we stay connected to the people of Harcourt. Cards and postage costs are covered by the committee.

2. It is important welcoming gesture to have volunteer hosts/hostesses at funerals at Harcourt to assist people who are not familiar with our church. Some people may need guidance locating the washrooms and some need to use the elevator when changing floors.

If you can provide help to fulfil either of these opportunities, please contact Esther Devolin at 519-836-7675 or ekdevolin@sympatico.ca.

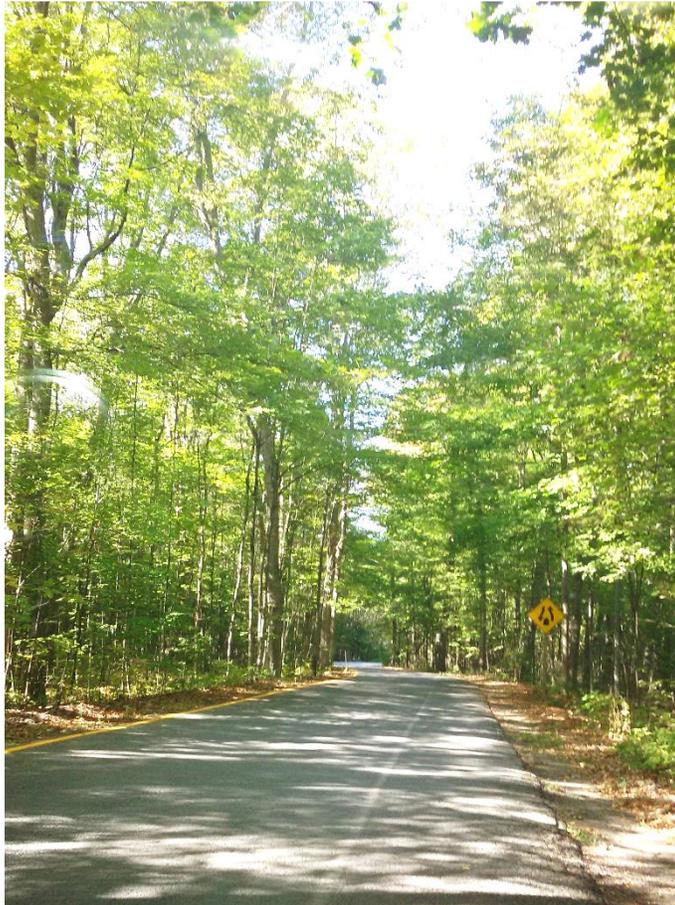


Photo by G. Joseph – Sandbanks Provincial Park, Ontario

LUNCH & LEARN AT HARCOURT

Join us for Lunch on
June 3rd

Following the 10:30 AM Service

*Learn of the importance of Wills and Legacy Gifting in
fulfilling Harcourt's vision for the future*

***Speaker: Rev. Dave Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts
Officer for Hamilton and London Conferences***

Lunch will be provided

*Please help us to plan for the numbers by indicating
your intention to attend. Just speak to one of our
Trustees or inform*

Anne Purkis at 519.824.4177 or office@harcourtuc.ca.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*This event is sponsored by the Board of Trustees: Murray Woods [chair]
Judy Cimino, Lynn Crow, Carol Jones, Jim McQueen, Marilyn Murray,
John Phelps and Clergy.*

Looking for Direction in Your Life? Check Out the Library

by Mary-Lou Funston

Hello, fellow Harcourt readers of The Herald. Since this is the time of year when many people - from high school students to retirees - are making very important decisions about the direction their lives may take, I thought I would tell you about some of the books to be found in our Library.

- * Soul on Fire - Discover Your Life's Passion and Purpose
by Stephen Arterburn 248 ART

"It's time to discover a new way to live, to awaken your dormant talents, and to inspire others by your shining example!"

- * Prime of Your Life - A Guide for Fifty and Beyond
by Woodrow Kroll & Don Hawkins 649 KRO

"A careful preview of the 'coming attractions' of midlife and old age – thorough and down-to-earth"

- * Reclaiming Higher Ground - Creating Organizations that Inspire the Soul
by Lance Secretan 658 SEC

If you are interested in knowing more about this volume, speak to Ann Middleton, who donated the book to the library.

- * Managing Transitions - Making the Most of Change
by William Bridges 658 BRI

Deals "with the human side of organizational change."

And for the young people in our life:

- * The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place
by E.L. Konigsburg YP Fic

The story of a teen going to bat for individuality and art.

- * A Taste-Berry Teen's Guide to Managing the Stress and Pressures of Life
by Bettie B. Youngs YP 155

With contributions from teens for teens.

Happy reading!



Rebuilding the Property Pillar

by Dave Hume, Chair of the Harcourt Washroom Building Committee

On Sunday, May 20th, the Washroom Building Committee launched an appeal within Harcourt to raise funds to put money back into the Property Pillar. After a number of unexpected difficulties in building the washrooms, the cost of the washrooms ballooned to \$300,000, about \$130,000 more than the anticipated cost. The main reasons for the cost overruns were asbestos that was exposed and needed to be removed and a break that was discovered in the main sanitary sewer under the Greeting Place.

The extra funds to meet the construction invoices came from the Property Pillar, which is a church reserve fund intended to be available when there are unexpected capital expenses. The amount drawn from the Property Pillar will approach \$130,000.

In order to have a reserve fund if and when another major capital expense occurs, The Building Committee is trying to raise money to replenish the Property Pillar.

On the back of this Herald, there is a brochure describing the appeal.

On May 20th, Dave Hume addressed the congregation, asked for support in this fund-raising effort and described how contributions can be made. Your support is earnestly requested.

A 'Jewel' of a Meeting Coming Up for Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship

by Jean Hume

The June Caroline Harcourt Meeting will be an annual dessert party on Monday, June 11th at 12 noon. Please bring your bag lunch and dessert will be served. After watching and listening to all the commentaries about the recent wedding and attire we would like to celebrate our own "Crown Jewels". Would members and guests please bring your favourite piece of jewelry and share its story. Have you ever worn a Crown or Tiera? Let us hear that story too!



Bluebells in the Harcourt Parking Lot – Photo by G. Joseph

Community News

Oh Ring That Dinner Bell!

by Jill Gill

Harcourt's next opportunity to host Saturday Night Supper is **June 2** at Royal City Church 50 Quebec Street. To donate food please see sign-up sheet on the desk in the Greeting Place or sign up online at Sign Up Genius by going to the Harcourt website, click on "Connect with Community", then "Saturday Night Supper", scroll down and click on "Sign up Online" to pick a slot. Volunteers and food should be at Royal City Church (enter via back door) by 5 p.m. Volunteer servers will be needed until 8 p.m. Thank you, in advance, for your continuing generous support of this outreach project. We will be hosting SNS again on **September 15 and December 22, 2018**. contact: Jill Gill at peter.gill@sympatico.ca

The Gifts of Diminishment – Surrendering to Love

by Andre Auger

Last month, I wrote a first article on Maxine Lipinski's spiritual practices as she deals with constant setbacks in her recovery from a double lung transplant. I suggested to her that we continue talking over the next few months whenever she was healthy enough to pursue such a conversation.

Sitting in the beautiful spring sunshine, Maxine and I, along with Marion, recently picked up where we had left off. She wanted to return not so much to the seven practices she had identified last month, but to the very basic notion of "diminishment" we had touched on then. You will remember that this term captures the experience of a gradual loss of ability. We live in a culture that values only growth. In such a culture, any form of diminishment is often the source of discouragement, desolation, and even depression.

Diminishment is usually a gradual process – loss of mobility, loss of memory, loss of acuteness of hearing, etc. It would seem that we are quite capable of ignoring such gradual loss, until it seems to hit us all at once. And then we panic: oh! I can't do this anymore! It can feel like great loss; almost like being in free-fall.

Richard Rohr (2011), the great Franciscan spiritual teacher wrote a book, Falling Upward, the premise of which is that we grow in the second half of life primarily when we fall.

Maxine has found many ways to grow through the processes of diminishment. In the first instance, she has noticed that she is more readily aware of her foibles, and this, in turn, has allowed her a greater ability to accept the foibles of others. She has experienced a softening around the edges, a mellowing, a greater ability to smile, to have patience, to hold others more graciously.

Maxine talked about a second dimension of the gift of diminishment. Henri Nouwen (1994), in his little masterpiece entitled Our Greatest Gift, talks about the diminishment process allowing us to return to the graces of childhood. For Maxine, always a fiercely independent person, this has meant the rediscovery of the value of being cared for. Overcoming her pride, she has come to see herself as being an opportunity to allow others to be kind to her. This humility of allowing others to care for her has helped her move from the independence so valued in our culture to the far healthier interdependence the Kingdom of God keeps talking about. A return to the graces of childhood has also meant the rediscovery of the wonder of the child at small everyday miracles – sunshine dancing on new spring leaves; a particular unexpected smile from a friend; an hour without pain. This has led to the cultivation of a more pervasive attitude of gratitude.

Diminishment has also taught Maxine to listen more and judge less. Always a good listener, listening has become for her a gift she can offer others. But beyond listening is the question of conversations. Diminishment has given her the courage to talk about what really matters and to dispense with the rest, to have the conversations that matter; to nurture the importance of deep sharing. We long for such deep and intimate conversations, but we are often too afraid to start them. So we are left with talking about the weather at coffee hour, or the latest sports scores, or anything else that avoid the deep vulnerability of meaningful conversations.

As Rohr points out in Falling Upward, our greatest challenge in the second half of life is to finally free ourselves from the frame of mind of our ego. Not that ego is not important. After all, it is what helps us navigate through life, succeeding at what we undertake, staying safe, planning and carrying out our dreams, etc. But we are more than our egos and our diminishment helps us with the journey from ego to the deep, loving Self at the heart of our being, which is essentially God within.

Diminishment is also what allows us, finally, to overcome the myth of perpetual growth. We live in a culture that believes the bigger and more is always better. Smaller and less are to be avoided at all costs. One of the gifts of diminishment is learning the skill of reframing our losses and discovering the beauty and gift of letting go, accepting, surrendering – surrendering above all to what really matters: love.

We could have continued for another hour, but it was clear that Maxine was cherishing and husbanding the energy and well-being she was experiencing this day. I learned so much. There was so much hope and peace in Maxine's words. I can only hope that, when I catch myself falling, I am able to open my arms and embrace the painful graces of diminishment, and realize that, in fact, I am falling upwards, to become the persons we really want to be!

What experiences of diminishment have you had which, in hindsight had been true gift to you? What experiences of falling have you had that were truly movements upwards?

References:

Rohr, Richard (2011). Falling Upward, Jossey Bass

Nouwen, Henri (1994). Our Greatest Gift, San Francisco: Harper

Ice-Cream, You Scream – We all 'Scream for Chalmers

by Jill Gill

Manna and the Harcourt Communal Garden Crew are planning a Strawberry/Rhubarb and Ice Cream Social to welcome summer, **following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 17th**. Freewill offering for Chalmers Community Services Centre. We will be asking folks to sign up in the next few weeks, in order to estimate quantities of food we'll need. Check out further announcements in Sunday bulletin announcements

How Exactly Is It Done?

by Ann Estill, Mission and Service

Do you ever wonder how our Mission and Service dollars are distributed? I have! This description from a recent Mandate magazine sets it out clearly.

Global Mission and Service

Community and Justice Work

Developing Leadership

Faith Formation:

Funding Pastoral and programme work

Conference Leadership

Somewhat like our pillars at Harcourt, right?

It's good to feel connected to all the good works that take place under these headings: making lives better, offering hope and healing, locally and globally,, building community, plus helping to grow the faith that undergirds all our giving. Keep up the good work.

Have Fun When You Get With the Program! Plan Ahead

by Janet Webster

A you prepare for those lazy, hazy days of summer??? Please think ahead to November and the amazing **All Things Christmas Sale**.

The Committee suggests you think about how you can help share the load. For example:

- ♥ Can you look after publicity? Have ideas for the facility? Make signs? Gather jewelry and special items for the Treasure Table?
- ♥ Could you process some of that wonderful Ontario produce into jams, jellies, preserves, pickles??
- ♥ Could you gather some ornaments or other decorations to add to the arrangements?
- ♥ Would you have a chance to create picks (e.g. cones or other items on sticks)?
- ♥ Can you build some miniature reindeer.? We have an idea for smaller ones more suitable for indoors. Could you gather some birch twigs and branches for those?

But most important of all, please save the dates! On **Thursday November 22 and Friday November 23** we will be creating and preparing- a true Holiday Workshop in the Gym. The eagerly anticipated sale is on **November 24**. There are many tasks that need willing hands so do not worry if you don't think you can design the perfect arrangement. What you will accomplish is fun, fellowship and funds.



Living in the Light

*Harcourt Congregational Retreat 2018
at Loyola House
September Fri. 28 to Sun. Sep 30*

REGISTER NOW

*You can find registration forms
in the church office and
on the table in the greeting area*

Sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee

harcourt
seek connect act

Time for a Picnic! Ants Beware...

by Merrill Pierce

There will be a picnic **after the 10:00 service on June 24th** to have an opportunity to visit before we all scatter for the summer. Please bring lunch for you and your family, and MANNA members will supply lemonade, watermelon and treats. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets. If it is raining, we will have our picnic in the gym. Ants are not invited!

Pay for What You Want – A Personal Reflection on Church Budget

by Andre Auger

“Pay for what you want.” I heard this out of Rev John Pentland’s mouth at the recent GUM event I attended, and I bristled.

A great speaker, and author of the best-seller Fishing Tips, John described the astounding growth at Hillhurst United Church in Calgary: from an aging, dying congregation to a vibrant, active, attractive one in a brief decade and a half. With a budget of almost a million dollars, Hillhurst boasts more staff than any church I know. Pentland’s point: if you want a full- service congregation, pay for it.

A few years ago, I would have put up an argument – as we did in “A Call to Discipleship” in 2013. I would have argued that we are the Body of Christ, and, as such, we are to look after our own sustainability and growth. We have the talent, the time and the energy: it’s up to us to do it. We do not delegate this task to some paid person.

Today, I am reluctantly convinced otherwise. Harcourt is a tired congregation. We do not have the energy we did even five years ago. Key positions on Council and on committees remain unfilled because we just don’t have the stamina we used to have. The dreams remain; the deep yearnings for a vibrant, “full-service” congregation remain; the desire to see Harcourt thrive and shine remains... But the drive just isn’t there. What I used to consider “apathy” I now diagnose as “fatigue.”

In previous decades, as one generation of leaders grew tired, the next one was ready to take over. Harcourt, like most congregations, is missing not one but two generations of members. The children who were the products of our apparently wonderful full-to-capacity Sunday Schools simply outgrew the theology they were taught and left the church in droves. Many of their own children don’t even know what church is.

Yes, we do have an emerging generation: the young families who see in MANNA a form



of community they value are coming back to church, different though it may be from our traditional image. But these young men and women are busy starting careers, raising families, and making ends meet. They contribute what they can, but it is too early for them to throw themselves fully into church work.

So we have, in my opinion, a bridging problem: how do we maintain a “full-service” church for us and for this younger generation without the energy and the time we elders no longer have? I saw the glimmers of the answer in this year’s Annual Congregational Meeting. The message from Council was clear: if you want the service, pay for it. And so, we were given the option: stick with a conservative budget, and watch services erode, or pay for what you want. Those in attendance voted for the latter.

I for one want a vibrant church community. I want high quality communication; I want vibrant ministry to children, youth and young families; I want relevant theology and worship. I no longer have the energy to make the contribution I used to, to ensure this happens. I guess I’ll help pay for what I want.

Men’s Group to Learn About Georgetown Guyana

by Bill Lord

Last month the men’s group had the pleasure of hearing Mark Sears talk about his Model A



Car – and it was a treat to ‘look under the hood’ in the Harcourt parking lot. Please mark the date of June 13th for our next meeting. The speaker will be Dan Ganesh, a member at Harcourt, and he will speak about his life story “From Georgetown, Guyana to Guelph”. Coffee and tea will be ready at 7:45 am.

Harcourt Youth Group Runs an Amazing Race!

by Merrill Pierce

On the evening of May 11th, about 30 members of the junior and senior youth groups participated in an *Amazing Race*. The event was held in the area bordered by Grange, Eastview, Victoria and Watson Parkway. The area has many parks, ponds and community trails. There were 10 legs of the race and the youth experienced activities such as eating pickled beets, digging into a large pot of greasy pasta blindfolded to find a coin, taking selfies, fishing clues out of a pond, shooting basketballs, running a relay and digging clues out of sand pits. They all had treats at Lisette VanderKamp's house after the race. Thanks to Lisette and Suzanne Webster who run these two youth groups faithfully, and to volunteers who helped at each leg of the race. Thanks also to Cisca Vanderkamp, Jim and Anne Ball, Tammy Te Winkel, Adrian, Patricia, Stephen and Merrill Pierce. A good time was had by all!

A New Face in the Church Office – Welcome Shaina!



At the beginning of May, Shaina Ensing joined the staff at Harcourt as the Worship, Communication and Technical Support. Shaina is responsible for preparing multi-media materials pertaining to worship and special services. She also provides communication and technical support, including maintenance of Harcourt's web and social media sites.

Shaina has lived in Guelph most of her life and is excited to join Harcourt. She loves traveling, hockey, films and reading. Shaina has a mathematics degree from the University of Waterloo and has previously worked at a real estate agency, as a claims adjudicator, and most recently, at the Harry Potter Shop in London, England. Feel free to drop by the Church Office on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays to welcome Shaina to Harcourt family.

Existing For Others

by Andrew Crooks

Submitted by Joan Barham

Used with permission

Music faculty member Andrew Crooks (Lawrence University, Wisconsin) posted these thoughts on the Internet group he founded called "The Daily Listen: Great Singers, Great Singing". The Einstein quotation reached him from the Internet group "Conscious Acts of Culture".

"How strange is the lot of us mortals! Each of us is here for a brief sojourn; for what purpose he knows not, though he sometimes thinks he senses it. But without deeper reflection one knows from daily life that one exists for other people — first of all for those upon whose smiles and well-being our own happiness is wholly dependent, and then for the many, unknown to us, to whose destinies we are bound by the ties of sympathy. A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving." – Albert Einstein (1954).

This post is maybe not as off-topic as it seems, but it is a sort of personal, reflective post. I often think about the fact I am now 38... and that Schubert, Bizet, Gershwin, Pergolesi, Purcell, Mozart, and Lili Boulanger (to name a few) had died by age 38, having completed their entire life legacy (including their many wonderful compositions left to posterity). As a "re-producing" artist I sometimes feel like a "parasite", in so far as I am only able to do what I do and to enjoy what I do because of the hard-working people who have gone before (who in many cases suffered much hardship in the course of their lives).

I don't view this parasite idea negatively, at least not most of the time. I am nourished in my work by getting to "live with", "live off" and "listen to" these great people who have gone before us. Not only do I get immense enjoyment from Schubert's songs (for instance), but effectively these songs form a part of the reason why it is possible for me to be employed as a vocal coach. Mozart's operas are the same... I love them AND they are a staple of the basis for my employment.

Even just thinking about this notion spurs me to get back to work! As I often tell my students: I sure wish it was as simple as picking up the phone and giving Lili or Franz or Wolfgang a call to a) thank them and b) ask them what they meant or what they wanted to hear for any given phrase of their composition... let alone just having a chat...

I feel similarly when listening to great singers of the past... they are our heritage, part of a long tradition of sharing stories via song, and they are the ones who have helped keep older

composers' flames burning, as well as helping new composers' flames to grow. Hearing these singers on old recordings both sets me alight and encourages me to kindle new flames. 😊:) Sorry for this epic and sort of sentimental post... I just find this Einstein quote so inspiring, and so applicable to everything we do, and everything we are: "one exists for other people" ...

Reference:

Einstein, A. (1954). Ideas and Opinions, based on Mein Weltbild. Carl Seelig (Ed.), New York: Bonzana Books, pp. 8-11.

Bright Ideas

by Roz Stephenson

Saturday April 28th was Guelph United Ministries (GUM) fifth anniversary celebration and we were glad to have the opportunity to hear from the Rev. John Pentland, from Hillhurst United Church in Calgary. It was also a great chance to meet with people from other United Church congregations in Guelph and beyond. A good crowd of Harcourt folks attended, and we've been discussing some of the "bright ideas" we took home from that day. (And yes, John Pentland was in the news for his "bright idea", envisioning a microbrewery at Hillhurst.) The drawing is a patchwork quilt of just some ideas we brought back for Harcourt. If they are puzzling, just find someone who was there and ask us!



Celebrating with Our Northern Neighbours: A Harcourt Member's Journey to the Arctic Winter Games

by Gill Joseph

Oh, only for a short while

You have loaned us to each other

(Native American Prayer)

This past March, the 2018 Arctic Winter Games were held in Hay River and Fort Smith in the South Slave Lake Region of the Northwest Territories. There were over 1,900 athletes, 250 officials, 100 cultural performers and 2,000 volunteers participating. Competing teams came



from regions as close as Northern Alberta (above the 55th parallel), the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavik and Nunavut, Alaska, and as far away as Greenland, Sapmi (known as Lapland in English) and Yamal (located in northwest Siberia, Russia). When Harcourt's Jean Hume got a call from her niece, Julianne, a pharmacist in Hay River and an organizer of the games, asking her to come north to volunteer, Jean knew right away that she was in for an amazing experience. "She said I need you...that was all I had to hear" said Jean. So off she went – flying first into the city of Yellowknife, a mere 457 Kilometers from the Arctic Circle, then on to Hay River where she left Ontario's promise of spring behind to feel the -30 degrees of the north.

Jean recounted that although the athletes came from select regions of the far north, volunteers at the event came from all over the world, including England and Australia. Most of them, like Jean, were hooked by family members who live in the north, with the promise of adventure ahead. The small communities of Hay River (population 3,528) and Fort Smith (population 2,496) opened their school gyms and homes throughout the region to participants and volunteers. Jean tells me that when the 1,900 athletes 'exploded' from the buses on arrival in Hay River, she was thrilled to see the spectacular colours and beautiful uniforms of each team as they spilled into the streets of the small town. It was a sight to see.

From the first games which began in 1970, the Arctic Winter Games have become an international biennial celebration of circumpolar sports and Aboriginal culture. Next time, in 2020, the games will celebrate its 50th year. The goal of the games is to provide a forum where athletes can compete in activities that highlight their rich cultural heritages that are born of the need for survival, highly honed skills, endurance and community connectedness. The 3

rings of the event logo, Jean tells me, stand for culture, sport and interaction/respect for others. In fact, contrary to that of other athletic games, the Arctic Winter Games actually awards teams for fair play – a principle that is valued there much more than winning. The Hodgson Trophy is awarded to the team that best reflects the high ideals associated with these rings. Jean goes on to emphasize that not only is fair play highly valued at these games, but members from stronger teams go out of their way to show their opponents new strategies and to exchange insights that will not only help competitors to win, but also help them to grow and thrive in the harsh northern world in which they live.

There are 3 categories within the games. First, there are arctic games (those predominantly of the Inuit people) that took place in Fort Smith this year. Then there are the Dene games (of the Dene people), and finally the more mainstream Olympic games such as hockey, speed skating, etc. which took place in Hay River's beautiful new arena. One thing that really impressed Jean about volunteering at these games was how wonderful it was to have the opportunity to get close to the athletes from all different cultures. "At other types of athletic competitions", says Jean, "you don't get to meet the athletes at all...there is very little interaction". But Jean found it amazing to watch how this community of athletes and volunteers grew around the event - communicating and sharing everything with each other. Moreover, she was struck by how the athletes showed such a deep and sincere appreciation for the hospitality that was given to them. "I served food at the biathlon", said Jean, "and nothing was taken for granted. Their thanks were very sincere."



Jean was also amazed at the generosity and kindness that was showered on athletes by volunteers. For example, the athletes from Russia who were participating in the biathlon that

took place on a golf course, which involves skiing and shooting, sent a message to event administrators saying that they were on their way to the games, but unfortunately their guns had been confiscated at the Russian border. The word spread quickly that the athletes were arriving without their equipment, so people in the host communities sought out appropriate guns from private citizens within their communities to solve the problem. Although the loaned guns were not familiar to the team members when they first arrived, a bit of practice paid off when the Russians took the gold medal in the event. This wasn't just a case of borrowing a cup of sugar; it was still about neighbours stepping up when there was a real need.

Generosity was also channeled back to volunteers. For example, Jean was given a uniform of her own which consisted of a large, hooded, down-filled jacket, an inside vest, a special blouse and a well-lined toque – all of which she estimated were worth hundreds of dollars per volunteer. These items were generously donated by companies who sponsored the events. Once she had her uniform, though, Jean was quite surprised to be taken aside by RCMP officers who organized a training session for her and others around what to do if someone should ask for asylum in Canada, which sometimes happens at international events. Fortunately, she never had to put that knowledge to the test.

Jean really feels that the strong sense of volunteer spirit contributed to the great atmosphere. But I wondered aloud, how did these people from so far away get to the event? It must have been a great expense for some communities that have few resources. Jean said that most of the participants were supported by companies and private donors and teams raised their own finances locally to get their members to the event.

Such an undertaking would have been a mammoth commitment for these small Canadian communities to organize, but everyone in the neighbourhood pitched in. “You would be an outcast in these communities if you didn't get involved” said Jean. “Participation and acceptance of everyone was always evident”. The Opening Ceremonies took place in Hay River whose venue was filled to the brim with all 1,900 athletes, as well as organizers and volunteers. “For the organizing committee, it was so much work and these dedicated people had so much faith that they could bring all of these adults, and children, together”. In her role as a volunteer at the opening ceremony, Jean was located at the centre of the room where she could see all around her. As the colourful costumes began to parade, she looked over at the organizing committee. They all had tears in their eyes; they were so proud!

I ask Jean what kind of cultural activities she witnessed that interested her. She tells me about some indoor sports such as the high kick competition where an athlete stands, jumps and kicks a seal-skin ball 7 feet off the ground and then lands in a required way. There was a competition where an athlete walks while holding 3 men weighing about 150 lbs. each attached to his arms to see how far he can go carrying all that weight. The so called “Knuckle hop” competition is like a push-up, but pushing up on knuckles instead of hands. There is also a competition for jumping all around a track mimicking the movements of a seal – which is

traditionally used for attracting seals into a trap. Jean remarked that these athletes have been tested by researchers and have been found to have stronger core development in their bodies than any other athlete from other types of sport. They are incredibly fit.

Examples of outside competitions that interested Jean include the “snow snake” which is a snow-formed run into which an athlete throws a sliding javelin/spear onto the ice. These spears can travel $\frac{1}{4}$ mile at 100 mph, hence the specially made runs for safety purposes. Dog sledding (mushing) is also an exciting competition that brings both youth and adults together. Jean herself was able to go on a sled pulled by 14 racing dogs while she was there which gave her incredible insight into some of the challenges that athletes who participate in this activity experience.

By contrast, Jean found that the Dene peoples’ competitions were different to the Inuit activities, but also challenging. These consisted of activities that families or communities would engage in to compete in a more informal way, rather than activities that required strength and survival skills. Jean said she was amazed by the energy that went into these activities, and the wisdom of the judges who watched every move to determine the winners.

Jean is emphatic about how much she learned as a volunteer, particularly about cultural differences. “Every team was required to put on a cultural performance”, she says, “you saw them in full regalia and I saw examples of cultures that I had never seen before”. Jean says that this event reinforced her strong feeling that it is so important to support the preservation and growth of all indigenous cultures, and to recognize their heritage as an important contribution to our world. She also observed that this event promoted positive interactions between indigenous communities and government. For example, the Federal Government provided funding to the Katl’odeeche First Nation Dene reserve in Hay River for the construction of facilities for the Arctic Games. While this wonderful act of support and modern facilities made a big impression on Jean, she also noted that many people on the Dene reserve community don’t have running water.

In the far north beauty and friendship can be found everywhere. Thankfully, participating in events like this can be a gift that helps us to realize the great diversity in our world, and the joy that can come from learning about different cultures. Helping others can bring great personal reward. Amazing things can happen when we “loan” ourselves to each other – even for a short while.



SKYLIGHT FESTIVAL

It's Registration Time!

It's time to register for this summer's Skylight Festival! This year the 3-day event will be held at the beautiful Five Oaks Conference Centre. It is located on the banks of the Grand River, near Paris, Ontario. The famous tent village at Skylight is shown above. Harcourt has had 35 - 40 people attend over the past two summers. We hope to keep the momentum going.

The festival runs from **Friday, July 28 to Sunday, July 30, 2018.**

Once again we can receive a significant discount by registering together.

The discounted rate for the full event, including camping privileges, is \$145 per adult. (Regular rate is \$229). Senior rate is \$129. Children under 12 are free. Day passes for Friday or Saturday only are \$100.

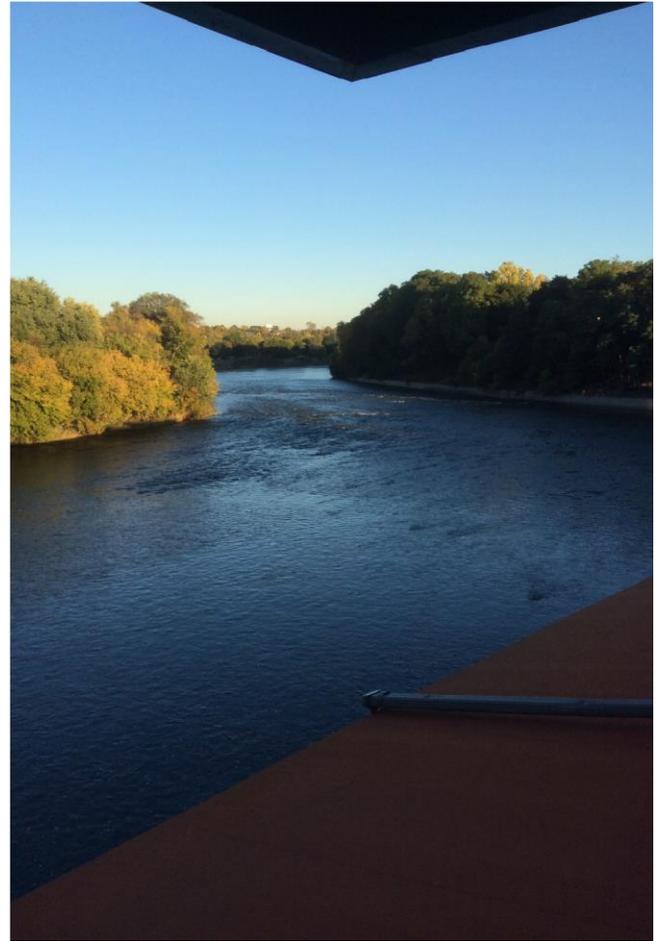
The rate is higher this year in large part because of the change in location and the loss of the seed money for the event. New initiatives like the festival benefit from certain national church funding supports. The more mature an event becomes the less support is offered. And this is true, even when some initiatives are not mature enough to survive on their own. For this reason, many projects come and go. They simply have not reached a level of sustainability. The Skylight Festival needs people like us to attend and support it more than ever this year. I hope a good number of us will find a way to participate, in whole or in part.

The list of speakers and musicians is once again excellent. Peterson Toscano is back with his brilliant sense of drama and mix of insight and humour. Matt Epp leads a star studded line up of musicians. There is programming for children and youth as well.

Other great aspects of the festival include the people we meet, the meals we share and the time we get to spend together in community.

We want to get our group registration in by **June 5**. We need an indication of interest along with pertinent information and a cheque! Please contact me at jimball7591@gmail.com or merrillapierce@gmail.com. Cheques may be made out to Harcourt Memorial United Church (Skylight) or to Merrill Pierce.

**Skylight is an amazing festival of faith, justice and the arts.
There is something for everyone. Don't miss it!**



The Grand River near the Five Oaks Conference Centre, Paris, Ontario.

Behind the Scenes

This month we hear from Carolyn Davidson, a long-time member of Harcourt, who's essay below was recently published in the Globe and Mail. It highlights a painful journey, but one that is also full of humour and love.

My mother No Longer Knows Who I Am

by Carolyn Davidson

Published by The Globe and Mail

May 4, 2018 (updated May 8, 2018)

Used with permission

Ever since her Alzheimer's diagnosis, I've tried to prepare myself for the day when my mother no longer knows who I am. I have carefully rehearsed a façade of nonchalance, equanimity and grace that I know I'll never feel. I don't want her to experience my sadness and hurt. I don't want her to see me cry.

When that day finally comes, we are driving south on Highway 11 through cottage country north of Toronto. Mom sits beside me in the passenger seat.

We are on our way home to Guelph after a visit with my mother's oldest friend, Elaine. The two met during registration at the University of Toronto, in the line reserved for students whose last name started with "K." Each had gone on to careers in social work.

Now heading home, the December sky is growing dark. Mom is giddy from her visit and perhaps a little tired after the long drive. She is cheerfully chattering away to herself until out of nowhere she asks, "Were you born before me or after me?"

Oh boy, I think, this is it.

"Well," I reply, "I was born after you." After a pause, I add: "Because you're my mother." "I am?" she exclaims, "Why am I only finding out about this now? I feel cheated! I want to get to know you better! Yes," she nods, "I like that prospect."

It's all I can do to keep my eyes on the road and the car pointed straight ahead. Are we living some imagined postadoption reunion, I wonder? Who knows. But it could be worse, I remind myself. My mother doesn't know who I am, but she wishes she did. I can live with that. I don't want to leave her feeling cheated, so I gently assure her that we have known each other my whole life. "That's possible," Mom responds agreeably, "I do have Alzheimer's."

And so it goes. I grow comfortable with my anonymity. I become adept at playing whatever role her reality requires. I can be the 8-year-old playmate, the teenage girlfriend, the mother. Every visit is a day at the improv.

On the day that she's assessed for long-term care, the caseworker performs the usual cognitive testing. Mom loves puzzles, and she treats it like a game. The caseworker gives Mom three words to remember for later recall – apple, table, penny – which Mom dutifully repeats to herself. Then the caseworker proceeds to ask her about me.

“Lillian,” she asks, pointing at me, “What is the name of this person?” There's a long pause during which I hold my breath, a smile carefully arranged on my face. I can see the wheels turning as Mom stares at me, but no answer is forthcoming. The caseworker tries again. “Lillian, what is your relationship to this person?” Silence. Suddenly, Mom asks, “Does it start with ‘C’?”



“Yes,” we confirm in unison.

“Is it Carolyn?”

“Yes!”

“Well,” says Mom, “That was almost too easy!”

Shortly after she enters long-term care, a nurse asks, “Lillian, is this your daughter?” Mom looks at me wistfully and says, “I wish!” On another occasion, as we enjoy a bowl of ice cream together, I overhear Mom say to herself, “This is the sort of thing that Carolyn would enjoy.”

One day I arrive while she's eating her lunch, and I greet her with a kiss on the cheek. She looks at me in astonishment. “That's nice,” she says, “but are you sure you're not mistaking me for someone else?” “No,” I say, “You're my mother.”

“Oh, I'm far too young to be your mother,” she replies.

“How old are you?” I ask.

“About 23,” she replies.

“That's fine,” I say, “We'll just be friends then.”

It's not all sweetness and light. There are occasional angry outbursts at staff and altercations with other residents. Her social graces, long intact, sometimes desert her. One evening I get a call from the charge nurse saying that Mom has barricaded herself in her room. Speaking through the closed door, I am able to coax her into opening the door a crack. "Oh!" she says when she sees me, still cross but softening slightly, "It's you!"

"Can I come in?"

"OK, but just you. Nobody else!"

On a visit in what would be her last spring, I notice that her hands are as cold as ice. I kneel at her feet, placing her hands against my face to warm them. For a long time she stares intently at me, her blue eyes searching my face. At length, she says, "You look like your mother." I am speechless. I have my father's profile and his colouring, including his brown eyes. Who does she think I am in this moment?

Changing the subject, I suggest we go for a drive. These days it is my mother's favourite thing in the whole world. Her excitement is palpable, and she bounces up and down on her heels. As we walk down the hallway toward the exit she asks me, "What's your name?"

"Carolyn," I reply.

There's a flicker of recognition. She peers at me. "What's your last name?"

"Davidson," I say.

"Mine, too!" she exclaims, giggling and shaking her head at this extraordinary coincidence. And walks on.

At the drive-through, I place our usual order: tea with milk and sugar for Mom, tea with milk for me. A cookie for each of us. I place the bag of cookies on the dashboard and hand Mom the cardboard tray with our drinks. It's her job to hold the tray, to keep it steady and level until we get to our destination. It's a task she takes very seriously, and she's a study in concentration as I ease the car over the speed-bump and turn out into the street in search of a quiet spot.

Once parked, the next few minutes pass in silence as we nibble our cookies and sip our tea. Mom's earlier comment about resemblances lingers in my mind, and evidently, also in hers.

"How is your mother?" she asks.

"She's just fine," I say. "She says hello."



Minute for Mission

Radical Welcome

United Church partner Affirm United offers a process, the Affirming Ministry Program, to help all ministries truly welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Our gifts for Mission & Service support the Affirming process. Our planning and conversations are made possible by your support for Mission & Service.

Any ministry in the United Church can become Affirming, but so far there are no Affirming outdoor ministries or camps. Camping experiences can offer spaces filled with friendship, faith, community, and a deep appreciation of God's diverse world. But sometimes differences can create barriers. Campers or staff with diverse ethnicities, economic statuses, sexual orientations, and gender identities or expressions can be pushed to the side, even unintentionally.

This year, to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the church's 1988 decision to welcome LGBTQ+ people into full membership and ministry, all United Church outdoor and camping ministries have been invited to consider becoming Affirming. In an exciting pilot project, three United Church camping ministries have agreed to test the Affirming Ministry Program and to work with Affirm United to develop a process that can easily be used with all outdoor ministries.

In the future, we hope to hear more words like these from a camper at the United Church's Camp Kidston in Nova Scotia: "[Here] I felt truly safe and free to be who I am. I began to understand that I am part of creation, a reflection of the Divine—all of me—acceptable and loved."

We hope that our United Church Outdoor/Camping Ministries will publicly and intentionally embrace all differences.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

**Have a Great Summer!!
The Herald is back in September.**

Harcourt Calendar – June 2018

Updated May 16, 2018–www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Friday June 1

8:30am GUM Meeting

Saturday June 2

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday June 3

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

12:00pm Trustees Legacy Giving Workshop [G/F/K]

3:00pm Exercise and Wellness Classes for Women [G]

Monday June 4

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

Wednesday June 6

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:30pm Guides [F]

Thursday June 7

7:00 Elections Ontario [G]

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday June 8

8:00am PA Day Camp [F]

Saturday June 9

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday June 10

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

3:00pm Guides and Parents [F]

3:00pm Exercise and Wellness Classes for Women [G]

Monday June 11

Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

Tuesday June 12

7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting [202]

7:00pm Property Committee Meeting [L]

7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting [C]

Wednesday June 13

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

5:30pm Rainbow Chorus AGM [F/K]

7:00pm Communications Committee Meeting [202]

7:00pm Ministry and Personal Committee Meeting [L]

Thursday June 14

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

7:00pm Creative Intentions [F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday June 15

7:00pm Junior Youth Group

Saturday June 16

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday June 17

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship Service [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

3:00pm Exercise and Wellness Classes for Women [G]

7:00pm High School Youth Group [202]

Monday June 18

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

Wednesday June 20

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:30pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]

7:00pm Council Meeting [C]

Thursday June 21

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

7:00pm Sharing Evening [F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Sunday June 24

10:00am Worship [S]

Monday June 25

Office Closed

9:30am Quilting Group [F]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

Wednesday June 27

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

Thursday June 28

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

Friday June 29

8:00am PA Day Camp [F]

Harcourt will return to three services starting September 9, 2018.

What was the driving force behind adding accessible washrooms?

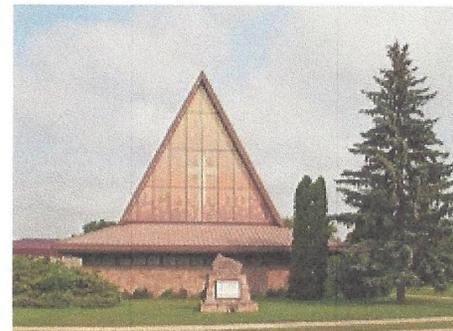
Harcourt Memorial United Church was built in the 1960's. Back then, split-level houses were common and this is a split-level church. The Sanctuary is on one level and, until now, the washrooms were either upstairs or downstairs. For some people with disabilities, that was a reason not to come to worship services. In today's world, accessibility is mandated. This church is heavily used for concerts, because of its fine acoustics, and many other gatherings. Washrooms on the sanctuary level meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Harcourt Memorial United Church, 87 Dean Avenue,
Guelph ON N1G 1L3 519-824-4177 www.harcourtuc.ca

harcourt
seek | connect | act

Rebuilding the Property Pillar

During the construction of the accessible washrooms, a number of defects in the church were uncovered and had to be fixed. Those extra costs resulted in cost overruns that have been mainly paid out of the Property Pillar, with a small amount from the Outreach Pillar, which are Church reserve funds. Now the two reserve funds are depleted and need to be rebuilt. This a fundraising appeal to rebuild the Property and Outreach Pillars.



Harcourt Memorial United Church



View of the larger of the 2 washrooms.

What are the Pillars?

There are four "Pillars" of funds that are held and invested by the Church Trustees. They are Property, Music and Arts, Outreach and Spiritual Life and Education.

Why the Need to Rebuild the Property and Outreach Pillars?

During the construction of the Accessible Washrooms, several other problems arose. The two main ones were (1) that the sanitary sewer pipe under the Greeting Place was broken and (2) that we encountered lots of asbestos while installing new sanitary sewer hook-ups from the new washrooms..

The Contractor, Even Construction, the Architect and the Building Committee wanted to make Harcourt as safe and functional as possible.

It turned out there was asbestos at all the plumbing joints in the Boiler room where the church hot water heaters are located. It also turned out that there was asbestos in most of the floors that had to be cut to get the sanitary effluent from the new washrooms to the sanitary sewer that runs out to Dean Ave. on the west side of the sanctuary.

A Financial Snapshot

The tender for building the Accessible Washrooms that was accepted was for \$135,000. The total originally approved by the congregation on June 6, 2017, including architect's fees, building permits and other charges, was for \$175,000. The change orders for the unanticipated work have added approximately \$125,000, for a total cost of close to \$300,000.

How much money was raised?

Two major donor families contributed \$150,000 to get the Accessible Washrooms started. Investment of that money and some small contributions to date have raised the total to \$160,000. So far, the remainder has come from the Property and Outreach Pillars.

What is the Property Pillar for?

Harcourt has had a Reserve Fund for years. A few years ago, the Trustees established the four Pillars and the Reserve Fund money went into the Pillars. The Property Pillar is intended to be money that is available in case an emergency church repair is necessary.

How to Contribute

Contributions to the Property Pillar can easily be made using the bottom line on regular offering envelopes or by using contribution envelopes in the pews. Contributions can be made in the Church Office or by mailing a cheque payable to Harcourt Memorial United Church at 87 Dean Avenue, Guelph N1G 1L3.

Or contact office@harcourtuc.ca