

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Parkdale United Church

429 Parkdale Ave. Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 1H3

Telephone: (613) 728-8656

E-mail: pdale@trytel.com

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey: abailey@trytel.com

Co-ordinating Minister

Rev. Alcris Limongi: alcris@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

Minister for Pastoral Care

Huda Kandalaft Kanawati:

Congregational Designated Minister
for Youth and Families.

huda@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

Website: www.parkdaleunitedchurch.ca



Editor this issue
Elise Mennie

Proofreader
Isabelle Duncan

Contributors: Anthony Bailey, Faye Beaufort, Kathryn Meerberg, Debbie McGregor, Alcris Limongi, Ruth Whitney, Barbara Hennessy, Debbie McGregor, Elaine West, Elise Mennie, Kathleen Stephenson, Val Hum, Peter Meerburg, Carolynn Halkett, Don Macpherson, Allan Menzies, Camille Beaufort, Huda Kandalaft, Judy Hamley, Shirley Rey, John Harewood

Many thanks and keep those contributions coming!!

We do reserve the right to edit, condense or reject submissions, but will try to find space for all.

We are always looking for new ideas, submissions, and Messenger volunteers.

Next issue: January 2021
Editor next issue:
Kathleen Stephenson

Send submissions to:
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca
by: December 20th

Where to find it...



Minister's Message	3
Walking for Justice	6
Lectionary.....	8
Recipes.....	8
Images and Stories—Syria to Parkdale...	9
Faye, the Energizer Bunny.....	11
Poem: God's Christmas Gift.....	14
Centre 510 Rideau	15
Remembering.....	17
Write for Rights.....	18
Council News.....	20
White Fragility Explored.....	22
In From the Cold.....	24
Advent for Families.....	26
Virtual Bazaar.....	32
Namby and Pamby	47
Birthdays in December.....	49
Poem: Children of Parkdale.....	51



Advent and Christmas
A Season of Hope, Peace,
Joy, Love

Advent speaks of hope. In his autobiography Mandela tells of his joy when, during those years of oppressive imprisonment on Robben Island, he was introduced to his new baby granddaughter in a rare prison visit. In her face he saw the future of his people. It was customary for the grandfather to name the babies in the family, so he chose her name. She would be called **Zaziwe, which means Hope**. She would be named not only for his own sense of hope, but for a hopeful future for both the oppressing and the oppressed people of his nation.

When some of us from Parkdale United Church visited South Africa 6 years ago, we were seized by both the progress and restorative initiatives taking place in the country, as well as the ongoing challenges bequeathed by the legacy of Apartheid and economic oppression. We did find our hearts and imagination captured by the joy of the children. Their singing, dancing and reciting of school lessons for these visitors from Canada was most inspiring and joyful. That joy and innovative determination was found in others that we met—in Soweto,



Cape Town, Kruger Game Reserve and those working with children in the Khayelitsha township—as a defiant testimony in the face of the hardships with which so many in the country must contend.

But Advent also speaks of repentance. True repentance has to do with changing one's ways, not only one's mind; that is, the ongoing changing of one's ways to match the ways of God. In one of the Advent gospel lessons, John the Baptizer calls on the people to repent (Mark 1:4; Matt. 3:8).

Nelson Mandela modeled repentance in his own life. He changed his ways. At one point in the struggle against apartheid, he set up the African National Congress' armed wing, **Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation)**, in 1961, when he lost hope that passive and non-violent resistance to the violence of the apartheid government would bear fruit.

He wrote:

"A freedom fighter learns the hard way that it is the oppressor who defines the nature of the struggle, and the oppressed is often left no recourse but to use methods that mirror those of the oppressor. At a certain point, one can only fight fire with fire."

However, during his time of imprisonment he changed his mind and his ways. He acknowledged this: *"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way"*. Further, he pleaded: *"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."* Some say it was for pragmatic reasons that he changed; perhaps that was part of it. However, there was more to it.

When he emerged from prison and shocked the nation of South Africa and the world by calling for forgiveness and reconciliation and peace, this was more than tactics. A CNN reporter asked Mandela what led him to make such a radical call after how he had been treated for twenty-seven years in prison. He told the reporter that when he was young, he went to a Methodist mission school where he attended chapel services. He remembered the words of Jesus who said to love and forgive your enemies. This is

what he said inspired him. Later on, he would say of his release from prison and ascendancy to the presidency: *"Without the church, without religious institutions, I would never have been here today."*

Along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mandela was at the forefront of trying to build peace and reconciliation in South Africa in the midst of violence, oppression, racism, despair and poverty.



Advent speaks of Peace and points to the Prince of Peace as the source, inspiration and ultimate bringer of Peace. Mandela knew efforts in peace building needed to be ongoing, practical and bold and not merely lip service. He lived by the words,

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."

The Scriptures imagine a comprehensive 'Peace' – shalom, one that is pregnant with justice and joy and right relationships – such

as what our Indigenous brothers and sisters here in Canada are calling for. And so, for South Africa, Canada and the world... we pray, long for, and act to engender this peace. This requires a certain personal and communal vulnerability: the making of space for others in our economy, our politics and our laws, policies and processes. Most significantly, it means opening up ourselves to God and others in love.

Christian contemplative Richard Rohr writes: *Jesus is a teacher of vulnerability, more than anything else*". Pope Benedict said: *"Jesus is inviting us to come out of ourselves, to forsake our human certainties [and] make ourselves a gift of unbounded love."*

Advent speaks of love and points us toward the source of love, the greatest of all gifts. As the poem written by Christina Rossetti and set to music declares:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign
Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
Love shall be yours and love be
mine,
Love to God and to all men
{people}

Mandela said so eloquently, *"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."* (N.B. December 5th will be the 7th anniversary of the death of Nelson Mandela.)

May the Love, Hope, Joy and Peace of Christ indeed come to this season of Covid-19, as well as come to every heart, every community, every country, every war, every conflict, every wound. And may we discover the sheer joy of living as Advent and Christmas people all year round. For the angels have proclaimed:

***"Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people."* Luke 2:10**

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you all

Anthony



Walking for Justice

In these troubled times, Rev. Anthony Bailey has been speaking and acting in solidarity with those who suffer systemic oppression. Here is an overview of several public demonstrations of solidarity in which Anthony and members of Parkdale United have participated.



On June 5, 2020, after the death of George Floyd, Black Lives Matter organized a very large protest at Parliament Hill, in which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau participated. Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey was invited to address the crowd of thousands of supporters of anti-racism. The crowd "took a

knee" for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, in memory of George Floyd.



Rev. Anthony has accompanied the family of Abdirahman Abdi since his death on July 24th, 2016, during a violent police encounter. (He is seen with Abdirahman's mother in the photo above.) The violent death of Mr. Abdi, a Somali refugee who suffered from mental illness, occurred in our own church neighborhood of Hintonburg, and contributed

to an increasing awareness at Parkdale of the reality of systemic injustice. On the anniversary of Mr. Abdi's death each year, on July 24th, Rev. Anthony has joined a vigil organized by the Justice for Abdirahman Coalition, and spoken words of encouragement, love and the need for systemic change.



More than 4 years after Mr. Abdi's death, in October 2020, the court acquitted both police officers who were at the scene with any wrongdoing. After the verdict, supporters of the Abdi family met at Confederation Park, vowing to continue working for changes to the policing and justice systems to eradicate systemic injustice. Rev. Bailey addressed the crowd as it moved to the Human Rights monument at the intersection of Elgin and Laurier.

Members of Parkdale United and of its Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee were in attendance. In the photo below, from left to right, are Cathy Sandiford, Sasha Gilchrist, Anne Emond and Rev. Dr.

Anthony Bailey. Absent from the picture are Elaine West, Isabelle Weir and Renford Thomas.



May God's power move us all towards love, justice, unity, respect and peace in this city.

Submitted by Elaine West and Elise Mennie

Lectionary for December



Second Sunday of Advent December 6

Isaiah 40:1–11
Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 2
Peter 3:8–15 a
Mark 1:1–8

Third Sunday of Advent December 13

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46 b–55 1
Thessalonians 5:16–24
John 1:6–8, 19–28

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16
Luke 1:46 b–55 or
Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26
Romans 16:25–27
Luke 1:26–38

Christmas Eve/Day December 24/25

Isaiah 9:2–7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11–14
Luke 2:1–14, (15–20)

First Sunday after Christmas December 27

Isaiah 61:10–62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4–7
Luke 2:22–40

Debbie's Christmas Recipes

Roasted Brussel Sprouts

Add brussel sprouts to a sheet pan.
Drizzle with olive oil.
Add thin-sliced garlic to the pan with the sprouts.
Grate Parmesan cheese and sprinkle evenly over the sprouts.
Season with salt and pepper – freshly ground is best.
Toss to evenly coat.
Roast until crisp and golden.

Sticky maple roots

Ingredients

4 large carrots, cut into thick batons
3 parsnips, cut into thick batons
40g butter
1 star anise
few thyme sprigs
3 tbsp maple syrup

STEP 1

Tip the carrots and parsnips into a large pan with the butter, star anise, thyme, maple syrup and 250ml water. Season with salt, then cover and boil for 10-15 mins until the water has evaporated and the vegetables are tender. Turn down the heat and cook until the carrots and parsnips are starting to caramelise and turn a light golden brown.

STEP 2

Shake the pan gently to cover the veg in the sticky syrup, then season with cracked black pepper and serve.

Images and Stories

**From Syria to Parkdale...
a Journey in Faith**



On the evening of Friday, October 30, 2020, approximately 50 Parkdalers participated virtually in an online (Zoom) Images & Stories presentation led by our recently appointed Congregational Designated Minister for Youth and Families, Huda Kandalaft Kanawati.

From the very first time that I heard her speak virtually to Parkdale's children and youth a few months ago, I knew that we would all be well blessed by this enthusiastic and engaging Minister. Indeed, Huda radiates the warmth of her deep Christian faith from the moment that she approaches any microphone. And so, when I was asked to report on this presentation for *the Messenger*, I accepted immediately and could not wait to listen to Huda's exciting story of her life's journey from Syria to her new home in the Ottawa suburb of Stittsville.

Huda opened her presentation in prayer and gave thanks for the wonderful technology that continues to bring us together in spirit

during these difficult times of pandemic.

The theme of the presentation was based on Colossians 2:7, "Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him..." Huda spoke of her deep roots in Syria and Lebanon, as well as the new roots that she, her husband Saad and four children are planting here in Canada.

She told us that, because of the recent war during the past 10 years in Syria, she has unfortunately lost many of her childhood photos. That made the remaining photos, which she graciously shared with us, even more special.

She explained that her name "Huda" is an Arabic name that means "God's guidance." How lovely and absolutely appropriate given her chosen ministry!" Huda told us that she is from Homs, Syria, a busy, centrally located city of one million people, which is surrounded by beautiful mountains. Currently, approximately five percent of the population in Syria is Christian. She specified that she personally is a third-generation Presbyterian (many people mistakenly assume that she is or was Muslim, which is not the case).

Huda shared that she cannot really separate her life and her faith; they are interlinked – one and the same. She noted that her

life of faith has been significantly shaped by the many religious retreats that she attended while growing up. In fact, she was only 15 or 16 years old when she started thinking about ministry. She continued reflecting on that throughout her high school years and referenced the importance of an inspiring movie about Jesus of Nazareth.

Huda sought her parents' blessing regarding her nascent calling to ministry. First, however, Huda obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature. During her studies, the links between theology and literature continued to root themselves deep in her soul and she later earned a Master's degree at the Near East School of Theology in Lebanon. This was an enormous accomplishment for a young woman from Syria and we are honoured that Huda has chosen to share her ministry with everyone at Parkdale.

Huda loves working with both children and youth, and it shows in everything that she does. As she is respected wherever she goes, one of her professors tried to persuade her at one point to stay in the United States. But Huda remembered her roots and returned to Syria, where she ministered regularly to a village church, which brought her much joy. She loves both teaching and pastoring. In-



spired by Huda, a couple of her former students in Syria are already pursuing studies in ministry.

Towards the end of her presentation, Huda talked about the historical importance of Syria, including that the first alphabet and the first musical notations come from that country. We were collectively heartbroken for Huda when she showed us "before and after" photos of her bombed out home, as well as damaged churches and mosques in her homeland. We also watched a short video regarding the current economic situation in the areas of Lebanon and Syria. It is all so very sad, and Huda has asked all of us to keep those countries in our prayers.

Huda came to Parkdale with vast ministerial experience and we are privileged to count her among our church family. Referencing her own family, Huda shared a beautiful photo of her wedding to her wonderful husband Saad, as well as another delightful photo with her four amazing children named Grace, Sophia and twins Maria and Gabriel.

In closing, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Huda for her engaging and excellent presentation!

*Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Hennessy*

Parkdale's "Energizer Bunny"



Many of us are familiar with a TV commercial that features a pink mechanical toy rabbit, wearing sunglasses and flip-flops, and beating a drum. The ad is intended to sell batteries. The subliminal message is limitless energy and endurance.

That bunny image, of energy and endurance, comes to mind when thinking of Parkdale's Faye Beaufort – although she definitely is not one to beat her own drum.

Faye is the type of person who is usually among the first to volunteer for something, and usually the last to leave when a task or event concludes.

Among several other leadership roles and responsibilities, she chairs the 22-member Mission, Outreach & Justice Committee, which is our governing Council's largest umbrella group, overseeing various significant pastoral activities.

Jamaican roots

Faye was born in Wakefield, Trelawny, Jamaica, a bustling small town – now a quiet little village – about 16 miles inland from Montego Bay, the country's second-largest city.

Her mother gave up a teaching career to become a full-time Mom, and her father was a pharmacist, who transitioned into politics because he found that running a pharmacy was too boring. He became chairman of the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers' Association, which represented poor underpaid sugar cane workers who lacked a voice against the powerful sugar manufacturers.

To fill the void at the pharmacy, Faye's Mom, "a no-nonsense lady," took over, although on weekends her husband came home from his job in Kingston, and helped by filling prescriptions and attending to minor ailments of the villagers.

The social justice focus of Faye's parents created a family environment of advocating for less advantaged people. "We grew up pretty level-headed, caring for people less privileged than we were. My father said he had no money to leave for us when he died, so we had better work hard to get good jobs. That was all true."

Both parents were devout Christians, who instilled in their five

children (three girls and two boys) the importance of church, and also the benefits of a good education.

An interest in Geography

Faye had an early life interest in geography, and dreamed of travelling. A geography teacher at her boarding school – who had not travelled herself – was fascinated by how the trees in Canada changed colours with the seasons. Faye absorbed that interest.

Fast forward to August 29, 1962, when Faye arrived in Canada, “so you can just imagine my joy and amazement, when in September the leaves started to change. And even more amazing was the length of the freight trains, which I thought were longer than Jamaica itself!”

Faye spent four years in Montreal, pursuing Geography and English at Concordia University, and then moved to Toronto, where she married her husband Horace. They moved to Ottawa in 1969, where Faye managed the pay and benefits section of the former federal Department of Supply & Services, retiring in 1999.

Faye and Horace had one daughter, Camille, “who I am so pleased to see using the talents that God gave her to serve Him. I am even more blessed to see her, and husband Mark Bradley, bringing up their children, Maxim, 9, and Tianna, 7, in the way of the Lord,

just as my parents brought us up.”

Attracted to Parkdale

After moving to Ottawa, the Beauforts established their household near Dominion Chalmers United, so Faye began attending there. She subsequently switched to Emmanuel United when the family relocated near that church.

During those years, the Beauforts developed a friendship with John Harewood, who was attending Dominion Chalmers. Horace and John joined a community drama group called “Third World Players,” and they produced and acted in plays. Many of the practices were held in the Beaufort home. After John transferred from Dominion Chalmers to Parkdale, he played the role of Pied Piper, introducing the Beauforts to Anthony Bailey, and sparking their move to Parkdale. The Beauforts formally became members of Parkdale in 2003, two years before Horace died of cancer.

Faye was drawn to Parkdale “because of the warmth of the members, and Anthony’s sermons, which had a special didactic aspect, reaching people of all levels.” She feels blessed that her life journey has taken her to our church, where her indomitable “energizer bunny” dedication and commitment continues to be such a bonus for many programs and initiatives.

She especially enjoys her work with the Mission, Outreach & Jus-

tice Committee, and says with typical modesty: "at times I feel I have not done enough."

She is humbled to now have the responsibility of coordinating the *In From the Cold* program, following in Hazel Bowen's faithful footsteps. "We are blessed that it was set up on such a sound foundation."

She has also enjoyed participating with Elise Mennie in the *Living into Right Relations Group* dealing with Aboriginal issues, particularly during the public Reconciliation hearings, when they travelled to Montreal to be part of that process. She participates in Amnesty International's *Write for Rights* annual letter writing initiative, and is gratified to know that she played even a little part in any release of advocates who were imprisoned.

Faye played a leading role in bringing and settling the last three Parkdale-sponsored refugee families from Iraq, Syria, and Ethiopia, and helps with organizing the annual *Celebrating our Diverse Cultures* events.

Since the death of founding member Janet Taylor two years ago, Faye has facilitated the monthly *Images & Stories* program, which offers Parkdalers an opportunity to present interesting stories of their travels or their lives.

Faye is also a Mean Momma with a hammer; she has participated in some Habitat for Humanity home building projects.

Focus on youth

Faye is concerned about the number of churches that are closing in many parts of the country because of diminishing attendance/participation. "Younger people seem either not to believe that it is important to attend church, or perhaps feel they are too busy coping with life's activities, children, and problems.

"However, I believe it is important to instill in children a strong religious base, because when they grow up, even if they moved away from attending church, I feel they will someday pull on what they were taught in their early days – to believe in God's grace."

She foresees a strong future for Parkdale, continuing to be a light in the neighborhood. "I am pleased that in our deliberations about the future of our church and its building, we do consider it a focal point of the community."

Faye draws her personal strength from a deep belief and faith. "God has my entire life already planned. So, there is not much that I worry about in life."

Submitted by Peter Meerburg

God's Christmas Gift

By Ruth Whitney

He arrived on Earth on Christmas day;
The babe who in a manger lay.
This precious gift from Heaven above
Came to show us how to love.

This beautiful son of God our Father
Became a human with dad and mother.
He laughed and cried as you and me;
Learned to walk and skinned his knee.

Experienced all life's joy and sorrow;
Like all we humans, hoped for tomorrow.
He grew up, became a man;
Always familiar with God's plan.

To save the world we all live in,
Upon himself he took our sin.
He died upon the cross, so cruel,
Allowing us to get renewal.

He's waiting now, with arms held wide,
"Welcome folks, with me abide".
So hang in humans, don't despair;
Before you know it, you'll be there.

*Christmas greetings to all and may the New Year bring us
all back together again. In Christ's love,
Ruth*



Compassion Lives at 510 Rideau St

By Kelly Butler, reprinted with permission from the
"Lower Town Echo", 2020-11-22

The 510 Rideau Drop-In Centre (between Augusta and Cobourg streets) is also known as *Shawnejeagamik*, which means 'House of Compassion' in the Algonquin language. It provides support services to our community's Indigenous homeless, or those at imminent risk of homelessness. The 510 Rideau Drop-In Centre is a program under the not-for-profit charity Odawa Native Friendship Centre, funded through the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres and individual donations.

Indigenous homeless clients from across the city are referred to 510 Rideau for culturally appropriate support based on trust, friendship and mutual respect. The Centre has partnerships with frontline workers, outreach workers, housing placement, visiting nurses, Elders, trainers and the Bannock Bus.

In an article in the Canadian Medical Association journal (CMAJ) "*PekiweWIN* ('coming home'): Advancing good relations with Indigenous people experiencing homelessness", Jesse Thistle and Janet Smylie stated;

Offering a welcoming reprieve, 510 Rideau helps with basic needs such as food, clothing, a

shower, laundry, computer access, shelter from the cold for a few hours, and peer-to-peer support. During the pandemic, services have been reduced to allow one person inside at a time. With the cold weather upon us, measures are being put in place so that the Centre can hopefully move to allowing a few people inside to warm up and eat together while safely maintaining COVID protocols. Approximately 16,000 meals, including food boxes or food cards, are served to about 1,400 clients a year.

"In Canada, Indigenous people are 8 times more likely to be homeless than non-Indigenous people and represent 10%–80% of the total homeless population in large urban centres."

In addition to basic necessities, the Centre offers women's support, men's traditional healing and support, Wellbriety meetings to support healing from alcohol, substance abuse and intergenerational trauma due to the transmission of historical oppression and its negative consequences across generations. Traditional teachings and healing circles, conversations with Elders and peer support groups are available, as well as connections to income supports, computer

training and employment assistance.

Referrals for mental health support, crisis assistance, addictions treatment and residential-school counselling are also offered. (...) The services that can be accessed through the Centre demonstrate how wellness is interconnected and provide an essential lifeline, especially in these uncertain times.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Centre would be preparing for an annual Indigenous art auction, a veterans' feast, and a fall feast. However, restrictions have resulted in cancellations for most of their events. The Odawa Native Friendship Centre offers virtual youth programming, recently hosting a Halloween event online, and will be doing a soft opening of their Early Years program for children online in the coming weeks. (Readers) can check out @OdawaNFC on Facebook and Twitter for more information.

(Readers) can best help the 510 Rideau Drop-in Centre in the important work that they do through online donations @ <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-odawa-native-friendship-centre/> (select 510 Centre from the menu), and/or by bringing clean clothing, towels, backpacks, lunchboxes and any other items that could be used to support our homeless community members.

Solutions for homelessness remain one of our greatest societal challenges, but each of us can make a difference in the lives of many by supporting our neighbourhood "House of Compassion".



Update on Centre 510

*By Faye Beaufort,
Parkdale MOJ Ctee*

In addition to this year's annual financial giving to Odawa's Centre 510, we thank the many members of Parkdale and of the MOJ committee who donated goods. Elaine West delivered large amounts of donated masks, socks and underwear in August and September. And in November, she delivered more underwear, socks, gloves, toques, scarves, tooth brushes, tooth paste, hand sanitizers and soaps. All this to say, Parkdale's generosity continues and they are very grateful. We are also very grateful to Elaine who does a lot of running around to get these items to 510 Rideau St. Thank you, Elaine.

REMEMBERING

Deepest sympathy is extended to the following families. Please keep them in your prayers:



Norman Reid and his family, on the death of Norman's brother, Conroy Flowers, in Toronto last October.

Richard and Susan Yearwood and their family on the death of Susan's Dad, Ronald Bedford. Dr. Bedford died on November 3rd.

The family of Eleanor and Peter Creasey in Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary, on the death of Eleanor's aunt, Dr. Marion Hill. Dr. Hill died on November 2nd.

Anthony and Wendy Bailey on the death of Anthony's cousin, David Bailey, in Montreal on November 16th.

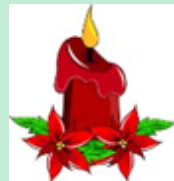
Christmas Greetings!

I would like to wish my Parkdale families and friends a safe and Blessed Holiday Season.

Shirley Rey



Debbie and Andrew McGregor send Christmas wishes to our friends at Parkdale. We wish you a safe, warm and loving Christmas.





Write a letter Change a life

Words are powerful. Your words have the power to bring hope, healing, and even unlock prison doors. It can be powerful when we put our words to paper and use them to hold people accountable. That's why every year around December 10th, Human Rights' Day, millions of people around the world join Amnesty International's *Write for Rights* campaign. They use the power of the written word by sending millions of letters, writing for those who are imprisoned unjustly, those who are tortured for speaking out, those whose lands are occupied or under attack, those facing discrimination for who they are, who they love or what they believe. The letters tell them that they are not alone. Millions of letters to government leaders and authorities put pressure on them to take action in respect of human rights. Torturers are brought to justice, unjust

laws are changed and human rights defenders are freed.

Last December, Parkdale participated in this world-wide effort by holding its 2nd annual *Write for Rights* event. About 30 people gathered to write letters after Sunday service. In all we wrote 116 letters to various governments and also to families and communities of people who had suffered human rights abuses. This year, Parkdale will not hold an in-person letter-writing event, but we encourage you to write letters on your own or to join a virtual event by registering at <https://writeathon.ca>. Once registered, you will receive an email with a list of cases to choose from and instructions to help you write letters. More information is available on the website, including, under 'Materials', a letter-writing guide including sample letters, as well as youth resources.

Your letter can change a life, such as that of 18-year-old Magai Matiop Ngong, who, in July 2020, was freed from death row in South Sudan, where he had been imprisoned since the age of 15 :



"Thank you so much. I have no words. You have no idea how my heart is filled with happiness." – Magai, 2019 Write for Rights case

Another 2019 case was the First Nations community of Grassy Narrows in Ontario, which had suffered the effects of mercury poisoning for 50 years. Over 15,000 messages from *Write for Rights* participants in Canada contributed to the 400,000 letters Prime Minister Trudeau received from around the world. After years of delay, a \$19.5 million agreement to build a care facility was finally signed on April 2, 2020 — an important step towards justice for the people of Grassy Narrows.



**Write a letter. Change a life.
writeathon.ca**

*Elise Mennie,
for Mission, Outreach and Justice Committee*

Honeython

A big THANK YOU for your support of the Honeython for Camp Kalalla. It was a great success and the online ordering and contactless pickup worked really well.

Many thanks Parkdale!

Judy Hamley, on behalf of Camp Kalalla.



Council News

The Parkdale Church Council has continued to meet during COVID using a ZOOM connection for on-line meetings. There are 18 elected members of Church Council (the leadership arm of the church) and the Ministers are ex-officio members of Council.

At the November meeting, Council continued to reflect on livestreaming and reopening options. Once we have livestreaming in place, the services could be held on a Sunday, and viewed then and recorded for later viewing. This would make Sunday services possible and members of the congregation could register to attend and/or continue to watch online.

Livestreaming options are currently being costed with a view to possibly being in place for Christmas.

The ad-hoc music committee presented their report on their feedback from the congregation. This will be brought again to Council for discussion with regard to the planning for the music program, and the Finance committee is asked to include music leadership in their budget considerations.

Voted to print the Messenger newsletter in colour for those who do not have an internet connection to read it online

Considered a letter from a “Group of Six” congregation members (Paul

Crabtree, Ed Ellis, Rob Hilkes, Barry Hobin, Jamie Matthews, Hugh Nelson) requesting that Parkdale begin a process of discernment with the goal of including our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers as fully equal participants in our Christian life together. Recognizing that this cannot be a hasty process, the group was tasked with envisioning how such a journey could be respectfully conducted with the utmost grace and integrity, firmly grounded in biblical exegesis.

We received reports from the various church committees and the Ministerial staff. Highlights included:

In From the Cold has resumed serving meals on Saturdays. At the moment, they are take-out meals. All went well for the first evening on November 14, thanks to our two dedicated Chefs and 20 volunteers who worked buying groceries, picking up groceries from donors, sandwich makers, the cooks, packers, runners, those distributing the meal and, finally, those who cleaned up. Thanks also to Rev. Anthony who warmed up our guests with prayers and a hearty welcome.

From Ministry and Personnel: We continue to be truly thankful for our wonderful ministerial and lay staff. This is not an easy time. Our ministerial staff continues to improvise and maintain contact and provide pastoral care and outreach without being able to see and visit in person. Our recorded Sunday services continue to bless our congregation

and the greater community within Ottawa and further afield. Having to conduct online services is a challenge when your normal mode is to preach to the congregation you can see! All of our ministers are doing a great job and we are truly blessed and thankful. Please continue to hold all our staff in your prayers as they continue to navigate within the current restrictions.

From Pastoral Care: Our focus has been on staying connected with our seniors at home and in residences. This is requiring some ingenuity on our part as opportunities for visiting in person are extremely limited. We are relying on phone communications and notes as well as cards when appropriate. A number of prayer shawls have been distributed as well as freezer meals. Please keep our elder saints in your prayers, as well as their caregivers.

From Huda: The senior and junior youth groups continue to gather online. Our theme of study is: "Tough Faith Questions". Our next questions will be around: "Did God create the Devil?" and "Does Revelations really describe how the world will end?" and "Why are there so many different religions?"

We also enjoyed two social gatherings lately, one around Halloween with online carving pumpkins and another for cooking online which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the youth leaders Paul, Rob, Roxanne, and Zaya who will be giving leadership to the monthly social gatherings. We continue to gather every Sunday online for Sunday School. Liz continues to do her creative talks

with the kids every week. A children's bulletin is sent every Sunday to assist families in exploring the learned lesson together.

From Alcris: The Pastoral Care Team is continually in touch with the elder saints and support them with prayer requests. We are trying a new modality for this season of Caring Kitchens: soups, bread/biscuit, and a square or cookies in individual packages. This seeks to address the dropping temperatures and the needs of those who come from the community, who are a high priority especially at this moment. We also have delivered fresh cooked meals to people recovering from surgery and other life transitions. Alcris described some of the small groups that are occurring. They are not only a way to support one another and nurture faith, but also to provide the gifts of mutual "virtual hospitality", presence and dialogue. White Fragility, Caring for Caregivers, Writers Group are some examples.

From Anthony: We continue to receive words of appreciation for our online worship services from people across Canada, in the USA, three Caribbean countries, Italy and a couple of African countries. As the pandemic persists, we have experienced more requests for pastoral care from congregants as well as non-Parkdale residents in the community. They have been reaching out for spiritual and grief counselling; this has increased. The pain, anxiety and stressors are real and in need of compassionate and wise response. Don Mockett and I continue to administer support and material help to those phoning and coming to our

doors for help every week. We use a combination of frozen nutritious meals from the caring kitchen freezer, grocery gift cards and cash from our Benevolent Fund. I continue to shop for groceries for some home-bound, physically-challenged, shut-

in neighbours in need. Don Mockett and I continue to be grateful that our food voucher program is being managed by our local partner Giant Tiger. This is working very well and will continue.

Submitted by Debbie McGregor

“White Fragility” Explored

By Peter Meerburg

This has been a year when the issue of racism has pervaded public consciousness in many ways, spurred particularly through the reality of racially-triggered violent deaths and open conflict - and not just in our own neighborhoods and throughout North America - but also in many other countries.

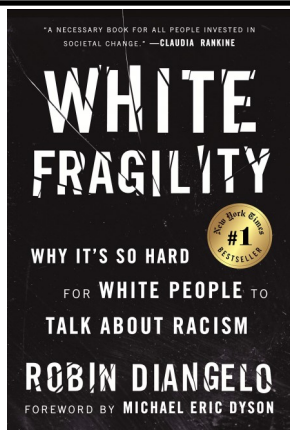
It has provoked a need for honest and courageous conversation about this scourge, and especially a need to “do something.”

(The United Church of Canada in October initiated an administrative process that will lead to formally declaring our denomination an anti-racist church, which will be done by eliminating racism from our practices and policies.)

For a six-week period earlier this fall, some 50 or so members of our own Parkdale congregation—and a few from some other areas—participated in a Zoom reflection group to explore the subject of “*white fragility*,” by studying a much-heralded new book by award-winning American author and anti-racist academic, Robin DiAngelo.

The book argues that racism is not a simple matter of racial intolerance, but is a social system embedded in our culture and its institutions. It addresses what are described as defensive moves and behaviours that white people make when challenged racially, how white fragility develops, and how it protects racial inequality.

Most members of the study group were deeply affected by the learning experience. As a follow-up, a few have agreed to share their initial impressions, as outlined here in the following section.



Initial Impressions

A. *This was a challenging book to read, and then to discuss. Kudos to our leadership (Anthony, Alcris and Judy) for helping us stick-handle the extremely difficult subject of racism, as the oppressor and oppressed. Being able to relate the issues raised in the book with present day realities in Canada made it very meaningful. But it was not for the faint of heart to be vulnerable in the Zoom setting.*

I came across a quote the other day that I believe puts things in perspective: "racial reconciliation is not a line that we will cross, but a road that we will travel." So our conversations with fellow Parkdalers is a wonderful start to the journey we are on together. I think Judy's suggestion to re-read Robyn DiAngelo's book is a good one.

There is really so much to digest and process, but we owe it to ourselves and our community to try to make our world a better place. As the saying goes, "you don't know until you try."

B. *I didn't realize how easy it can be to misunderstand, or to be misunderstood. If I sensed that I was being criticized for having racist views or tendencies, I suspect that my usual default was probably to be defensive. After participating in this study group, it has broadened my understandings.*

C. *I initially thought the course was directed at non-racialized people. However, as a visible minority, I found it to be very enlightening. While not condoning racist behavior, I can see how being born into white privilege affects people's world view. We're very blessed at Parkdale to have this kind of teaching.*

D. *The book was an eye opener for me as a Black person. When I first picked up the book it was with the expectation that it was all about 'the other', however I have come to the conclusion that it is about power and privilege, and how it blinds us to 'the others' outside of our power/privilege bubble. We all have identities (race, education, income, class etc.) that bring with them power and privilege, and others that make us vulnerable to discrimination, depending on the context (although race is probably one of the most visible).*

It was a very useful exercise for me to reflect on my various identities and how I use and have used them, in Canada and in the country of my birth. We all humbly walk the fine line between oppressor and anti-oppressor on a daily basis, it is the journey of a lifetime, but it is a privilege to do it in a caring, compassionate community.



PARKDALE
UNITED CHURCH

COME • GROW • SERVE

429 PARKDALE AVE

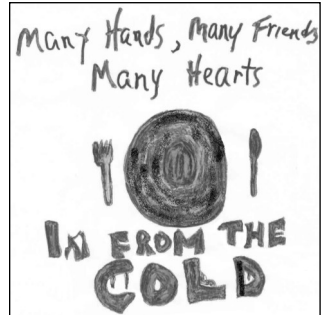
IN FROM THE COLD TAKE-OUT MEALS

November 14, 2020 – Dec 19, 2020
Saturday Afternoons
3:30-5:00 pm

**PLEASE USE DOOR ON
GLADSTONE AVE.**

**IN FROM THE COLD -
Saturday, November 14, 2020**

Saturday, November 14th was the first meal for the 2020/2021 season which is scheduled to run to March 27, 2021. We have used December 19th as the end date in our current advertisement because guests usually ask when it ends in December. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic we are offering a take-out meal instead of our usual sit-down meal with musical entertainment and literacy and craft tables. We had 23 guests come by and we handed out an additional 18 meals for the guests to take home to their families and friends. This small turn-out was expected for the first week, and we expect more people to show up next week. (Editor's Note: turn-out increased to 51 guests the second week.)



All went well, thanks to our two dedicated chefs and the 20 volunteers: grocery buyers, those picking up groceries from donors, sandwich makers, cooks, packers, runners, those distributing the meal and, finally, those cleaning up. Thanks also to Rev. Anthony who warmed up our guests with prayers and a hearty welcome. All in all, a good start which gave us ideas on how to fine-tune the operations for the following weeks.

IMAGES & STORIES started off the season on September 25th with over 30 guests listening to CEO Peter Tilley tell us about one of Ottawa's oldest and most enduring landmarks: The Ottawa Mission (founded on September 20, 1906). Then on October 30th, over 40 guests were delighted to hear our newly designated Congregational Minister for Youth—Huda Kandalaf Kanawat—tell us the story of her life, from Syria to Parkdale. Our last presentation in 2020, on November 27, was a "Toasty Roast" congratulating Rev. Anthony Bailey and Ottawa's renowned architect, Barry Hobin, two stalwarts of our church and the City of Ottawa, who are recipients of The Order of Ottawa.

Images and Stories will take a break in December and return on January 29, 2021 with another exciting 3-month series. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

by Faye Beaufort, MOJ Ctee



Advent for Families

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."

The deep darkness of the natural world around us is an echo of the nurturing darkness of the dawning of Creation. It is in this holy space we begin re-telling our Sacred Stories. This perhaps is deeply felt this year more than any other year. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." Advent prepares us for, and leads us to, Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Churches are often decorated in blue or purple during Advent, a color that is a sign of our hope and expectation as we await the coming of the Christ.

Though Advent appears at the end of the secular calendar year, it is the beginning of the Christian year. You could actually greet the season by this greeting: "Happy New Year!" but I prefer the biblical greeting "Maranatha!" which means: "come Lord Jesus Come". This is certainly a season for waiting for the coming of the Lord, not just the coming of the baby in the manger but the second coming in glory.

Advent is a season of waiting, wondering, and faithfully living in the in-between time: the time between remembering that God has already walked as one of us and God's full in-breaking once again.

Waiting is very difficult. It is difficult for children and for adults alike. This year we experience waiting in a new level as the world waits for a vaccine. Perhaps it is a good chance to teach our children this virtue of waiting. Advent makes an excellent opportunity for that.

This year we may not be able to celebrate Christmas together as we used to before, but perhaps there is an opportunity for us to do faith formation at home. Many resources were emailed to families to use this Advent season to nurture faith. Please let us know if you would like us to email these resources to you.

Make a wreath with your family and light a candle every Sunday:

The tradition of what we know as our modern Advent Wreath began in 18th century Germany in the Lutheran church. It became a sign for

Christians to use as they waited for the celebration of Christ's birth. The ever-green wreath is a sign of God's faithfulness to God's people. Each candle is a reminder of the light of Christ. The first candle symbolizes the Hope we have in Christ. The second candle reminds us that Christ came to bring Peace. The third candle reveals the Joy of Christ's coming. The fourth candle represents the Love of God through Jesus Christ. The center candle is known as the Christ candle and it is lit to proclaim the birth of Jesus.



We invite you to create your own Illustrated Advent Wreath to aid you as you move through the season of Advent on your own, with your family, or your worshiping community. Each week of Advent, you will have the opportunity to color an Advent candle and say a prayer as you add a candle to your wreath. We encourage you to cut out the candles and display them in a creative way (make a poster, hang them on your refrigerator, post them near your doorway) to help you remember and reflect on Advent throughout the week. Or you can use our paper "wreath" and place each of the candles on the appropriate circle. It is our hope that our Advent resources will deepen your faith and connection with God and your family as you journey together through Advent.

Some wreaths, like the one pictured here, are made of playdough, birthday candles and a tea light candle. It costs as little as 99 cents. It is a great Advent craft idea which the children can make on their own; just be sure to supervise them as they light the candles.



Make your Advent Ornaments:

Kids love to do crafts and whether they color a stone as a baby Jesus (pictured here) or make a Christmas painting, they are learning. The Illustrated Ornament set which was emailed to families provides an opportunity to read a brief reflection, color different pieces of the ornaments, put the pieces together to make the ornament, and have some conversations about each of the Advent week themes. Take time this Advent season to slow down and talk about HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE and how GOD IS WITH US by creating these ornaments with your family and friends. We will be creating

these ornaments also each week after Sunday School time on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am. So do join us as we craft and paint, but you may choose



to do them at home as your family's advent project. Create your ornaments and display them on your Christmas tree and around your home but don't forget to send us pictures. May they be a reminder of Jesus and the promises of God throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Advent Family Devotional:

The angels' message in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke was: "Do not be afraid!" This phrase is an instruction God gave to God's people throughout their history, and it's a message God continues to give us today. This Advent, we invite you as a family to explore what it looks like to hold hope when life feels really uncertain, to bring peace in the face of fear, to practice joy when everything seems burdensome, and to choose love, when sometimes, it's just really hard. You'll be invited to wonder more deeply about this biblical story, to imagine some of the details that aren't filled in for us, and to make connections to your own context this season.

We hope that this Advent devotional will help you share in conversation about fear and how God invites us to not be afraid. The devotions are written for children and adults of all ages. At the same time, feel free to tweak the content and questions to work for your family. Don't feel like you need to complete all the activities to have a meaningful experience for you and your family. We invite you to look for what you think will work best for your family, and find time each week to gather for the devotion. Copies of all these activities were emailed to families. Please let us know if you didn't receive them and would like a copy.

No matter what kind of ornaments you decorate or wreath you make with your children, I hope you and your family will enjoy taking part in the season-long tradition of waiting and preparing for the coming of the

king and lighting the candles as you wait and pray.

Make this blessed season of Advent truly meaningful and memorable by engaging in these faith formation moments together. May they be filled with the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that can be found in the waiting.

Huda Kandalaft

IGNITE group on Mondays

Our meetings in December will be every Monday starting with Nov. 30, and then Dec. 7, 14, 21 @ 7 pm. Time for fellowship and discussion for young adults. We will embark on a new study for Advent “**The Journey**”. All young adults are welcome to join our online meetings. Please send an email to huda@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca to join.



The Asokan children, who are Joan Scott's grandchildren, sang for the Sunday service on November 15th. From left to right, Solan, Sivani, Surian and Sahana.

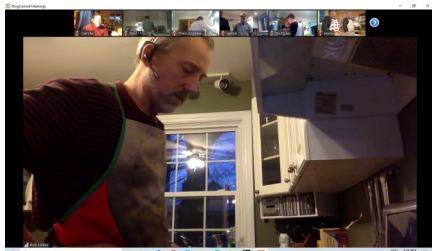
ADVENT AT PARKDALE DO NOT BE AFRAID!!

Advent programs for children and youth will be around the theme “Do not be afraid”. There are lots of opportunities for you and your family to be part of this journey of waiting and preparing with the Parkdale family of faith.

CAROLING: for all young families and those who wish to join on **Dec. 12 at 6:30 PM.**

CHRISTMAS MOVIE AFTERNOON: young families are invited to a short Christmas movie afternoon together on **Dec. 19 at 4:00 PM.** Bring your popcorn and enjoy!

PAINTING AND CRAFTING: for Sunday School children. We will be painting the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, inspired by our theme of this year: “Do not be afraid”. We will also be making paper ornaments to hang on our trees. Every Sunday after Sunday School during Advent (**Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20**) around **11:00 AM.** Bring your painting tools and join us on RingCentral. Once finished, please send Huda a picture of your paintings. We would like to make a collage at the end of the four weeks with all the paintings.



COOKING: Attention, youth ages 13 through high school: Our virtual cannelloni and Caesar salad night was such a fun success we're going to do it again. This time, we'll be virtually baking cookies beginning at **4:30 on December 13.** Our plan will be

to each make something different (we can have a “recipe exchange” beforehand), and then arrive at the church parking lot at 7pm for a socially distanced cookie exchange. We will take half of our handiwork and give it to the In From The Cold team for a tasty addition to the take-out meals they are distributing. Looking forward to another fun evening! Extra points for anyone who finds a refer-

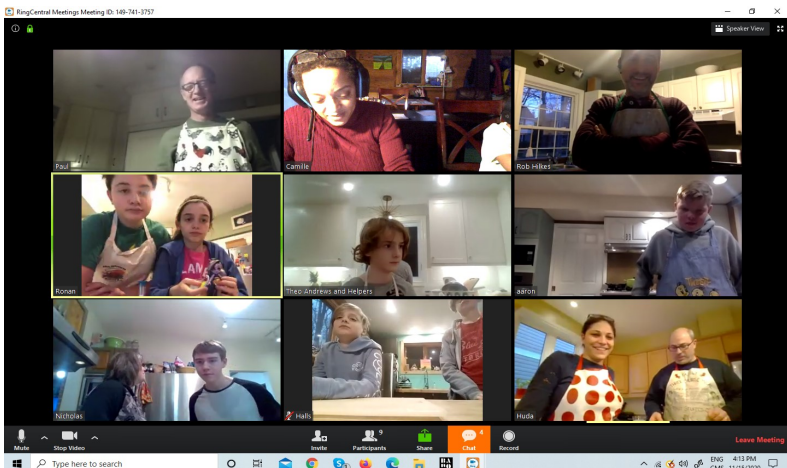
ence to cookies in the bible! :-)

CHRISTMAS MINECRAFT: December 6 @ 4pm; We'll gather on RingCentral and then share the Christmas theme's challenge. Then children and youth will have 30 minutes to complete their building challenge. We'll take some time to share our creations. (Parents, we will need your help to take a screen shot and send it to Camille to share on the screen.)

CHRISTMAS LEGO: December 20 @ 4pm; youth and children are welcome to gather on RingCentral for a time of Christmas LEGO. We will share the Christmas theme's challenge. Then children and youth will have 30 minutes to complete their creation. We'll have time to share our creations at the end. (Parents, we will need your help to take a screen shot and send it to Camille to share on the screen.)

PAGEANT: "Do Not be Afraid": our pageant will take place this year on **Sunday Dec. 20th** Please email Huda to let her know if you and your children would like to be part of this virtual production! There are roles for the young and young at heart.

We hope to see many of you attending many of these gatherings. Our prayer is that this season will fill your life with the hope, the peace, the joy and the love of Christ.



Cooking with Rob, Paul and Zaya on Zoom!

Virtual Yuletide Bazaar

There's still time to shop from Parkdale's Virtual Bazaar! Avoid the stores and support Parkdale. Contactless pickup will be arranged. Place your order so you don't miss out. Here's a summary of what we're offering. Details and pictures are on the following pages.

-Hand painted Christmas Gift Tags: 6 tags for \$3. Adds a very special touch to any gift. (stephensonkathleen067@gmail.com)

-Photograph Greeting Cards: \$3 each or 4 cards for \$10. Includes envelope & are blank inside. Great for any occasion. (parkdalecards@gmail.com)

- Green Tomato Chutney: \$6 for a 250ml jar. (pamelagemmellbazaar@gmail.com)

-Canned Spicy Pickled Beets: \$5/pt (Valerie.hum@rogers.com)

-Baking from Val's Kitchen: Rhubarb/Strawberry pie, Pork/Beef Tourtiere, Chicken Pot Pie, Blueberry Loaf & Raspberry Cornmeal Loaf (Valerie.hum@rogers.com)

-Crafts by Val: Microwave cozies, Chef's apron for children, yarn necklaces, scarves, and much more. (Valerie.hum@rogers.com)

-Knitting from Pamela: wide selection, including knitted dolls, baby clothes, afghans, hats for kids & adults (pamelagemmellbazaar@gmail.com)

-Plants by Hannie: Mini-Streptocarpus, Escheveria Succulent & Ruellia. (hannief@sympatico.ca)

We are grateful for your support, whether through purchasing items or making a financial donation. All proceeds support Parkdale. If you have any questions, you can contact me at Bazaar@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca
Judy Hamley, Virtual Bazaar Convenor



Handpainted Christmas gift tags, 6 for \$3

To order, contact Kathleen at:
stephensonkathleen067@gmail.com

Canned Delights

Pamela's Green Tomato Chutney

\$6 for a 250ml jar.

Don't miss picking up a few jars of green tomato chutney, \$6 for 250ml. It goes well with cheese, charcuterie, tourtiere and various hot dishes. Contains green tomatoes, raisins, apples, onions (all local), sugar, cider vinegar and spices.



To order and arrange for delivery or pickup, contact Pamela at
pamelagemmellbazaar@gmail.com

Vals' Spicy Pickled Beets

\$5/pt

Contact Val at Valerie.hum@rogers.com



Photograph Greeting Cards

These beautiful photograph greeting cards may be used for any occasion to send to someone special or to give away as a gift. Save yourself a trip to the store and stock up on these lovely cards. They come with envelopes and are ready for you to write your greeting inside whether it's for a birthday, a get well greeting, sympathy card, or just to cheer someone up and tell them you're thinking of them.

1 for \$3.00
pack of 4 assorted for \$10.00

Order by sending an email to
parkdalecards@gmail.com.

Baking from Val's kitchen

Contact valerie.hum@rogers.com to place your order.
All proceeds to the Bazaar.

All pie crusts are made with lard/butter mixture, loaves are made with butter. Baking can be picked up from my garage shortly after I have baked them due to lack of storage space and can be easily frozen in your freezer.

I reserve the right to limit my baking due to time restraints. If I am unable to fill your order please support your local small businesses in these times of financial crisis.

Item and size	Whole pie	1 / 2 pie	1 / 4 pie	Mini loaf, 5.5"x 3"
Rhubarb/strawberry pie, 9"	\$14	\$7	\$3.50	
Pork/beef tortiere, 9"	\$20	\$10	\$5.00	
Chicken pot pie, 9"	\$20	\$10	\$5.00	
Blueberry loaf, 9" x 5"	\$8			3.00
Raspberry cornmeal loaf, 9 "x 5"	\$8			3.00



Crafts by Valerie Hum

You can still purchase a number of hand-made items for the bazaar, that I can safely sell from my garage. See the items below and photos on the next pages. All proceeds to go to the Parkdale Bazaar.

Please email me for an appointment at valerie.hum@rogers.com or call me at 613-728-8830.

- **New this month:** Barbie doll soft furniture set. Includes sofa bed, 2 tub chairs, reversible quilt, faux fur rug - \$50
- Microwave cozies - \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Ideal for heating up hot cereal, soups, stews in the microwave and keeping your fingers safe. These make great hostess gifts or stocking stuffers. Completely reversible, made out of many fun 100% cottons.
- Hand knit cowl scarves, \$25, synthetic yarn. Beautiful to drape around a top or an overcoat in a very flattering curved design.
- Chef's apron set for 3 to 4 year-olds, includes an apron, chef's hat and pair of mitts, \$25. Some fabrics have matching adult aprons - \$17. Made of 100% cottons from Ikea. Girl, boy or gender neutral fabric.
- Crocheted ladder yarn necklaces, \$10 each. A multitude of colours to suit any colour palette, great to insert into an envelope as a birthday present, for Christmas or Mother's day.
- Tooth fairy pillows for your 5 or 6 year-old losing their first set of teeth, \$10 each: boy or girl pillows crafted out of felt.
- Teething bibs for drooling infants, \$5 each or 3 for \$12. Little girl, boy or gender neutral patterns in flannel, reversible.
- Canned spicy pickled beets, \$5/ pt.
- Fancy silk infinity scarves, \$15, silk from China, Japan. Polyester infinity scarves \$3-5.







Knitting from Pamela

Don't miss picking up some knitted items for yourself or as Xmas gifts. See pictures and prices below and on the next pages. For more information, or to purchase:

contact pamelagemmellbazaar@gmail.com.





Delicate neckerchief. \$12



Kids hats \$8



Afghan

38" x 54" \$20





Hannie's Plants for the Bazaar

Pick up a lovely houseplant to brighten up your home! Assorted varieties available. Contact Hannie to order and she can provide you with answers to your questions on plants, as she's our Parkdale plant expert!

Contact Hannie at hannief@sympatico.ca
Contactless pickup will be arranged.

Two mini-streptocarpus plants \$5.00 each. The flowering picture below shows how these will look when they flower (not for sale!)



Escheveria succulent....\$10.00
only one plant



Ruellia...11 plants, \$5.00 – \$8.00
each, depending on size.



Coffee Klatch with the MacPhersons:

As in every family, children are born, they grow up and leave the nest. However, they continue in the family... the faith, memories, worship, service, and friendship shared remain in the time and distance... They will continue to be in our hearts after 14ish years among us in Parkdale. On November 24th, we had "virtual coffee" with Don and Margaret MacPherson to wish them well and pray together for their new adventure in Oakville close to their family.

Don and Margaret,

May the blessing of the God of life be with you.

May the blessing of the One who is love, surround you.

May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you today and for evermore, Amen!

Macphersons' Farewell

I have thought for a long time that much of the wisdom of the world could be found in the Bible, the works of Shakespeare and the poetry of Robert Burns. Indeed, Burn's work includes a poem entitled "Macpherson's Farewell". It is quite a dark piece but the title is fitting for this occasion, which is not the brightest in our lives.

Margaret and I have been humbled and so grateful for the many calls, cards and other expressions of good wishes and farewell from the wonderful people of Parkdale! We were particularly touched by prayers offered for us during a recent service and the 'send-off' in the announcements!

We know that many Parkdalers visit the GTA from time to time and we would be delighted to see you in Oakville.

We will continue to attend the "Virtual Service" every week and, hopefully, other programs, the only good things from Covid!

Parkdale and its people will always be in our thoughts and prayers!

With Best Wishes for Christmas! It will be different!

May God continue to bless you all!

Peace,
Don & Margaret

Thoughts from Afar

From Shady Lane to Parkdale is not so far away,
But it seems across the country with this virus holding sway.
So we sit each Sunday morning in the comfort of our home,
And listen most intently to our pastors who intone
The most important messages of faith and hope and praise,
That make us think and ponder as our spirits they do raise.
Imagine giving thanks for the technologies of today,
For tablets, phones, TV and such, that connect us from away.
We tap, we tweet, we phone and Zoom just to stay in touch,
But most importantly we show that we really care so much.
So thanks to all at Parkdale who work so hard each day,
We give thanks for everyone and for all of them we pray
To stay safe and well and healthy, to know we all feel the same,
That we can hardly wait until we can meet again.

Many blessings, from
Emily and Allan Menzies

Christmas Connections

Namby and Pamby

Dear Namby,

Surprise! Surprise!

Don't collapse or do anything dramatic when you receive this note. Just remember that Christmas is a time of surprises, the first one having sprung upon the "Three Kings of Orient" "in the story (never old in the telling), who saw an unusually bright star, thought that it signaled a royal birth and set out for the destination where it would lead them to the royal discovery.

All this to say I'm so glad that I don't have to be nice to you just because it's Christmas. I'm saying this because I think that a friend, whom I had lost (so I thought) long ago, suddenly decided to be nice to me because of the season.

Do you have friends like that? I mean people who suddenly call you to say 'Hello' or let you know that they are in town (which would really tickle you to death because, thanks to the Pandemic, nobody has been venturing too far from home) and would like to social-distance with you. And you immediately get the impression that they are being extra-nice to you because of the season and they expect you to be nice in return. Maybe with a gift or so!

I didn't know that I had friends like that until I got this call last week from someone whom I have known since high school days. We were inseparable during that time and maintained our friendship all through our adult years and the changes in our lives (careers, addresses, marriage, bachelorhood, births, christenings, divorce, deaths) until he suddenly dropped me one Christmas like a hot cross bun (sorry! that's at Easter); I mean a ginger cookie, one with colouring. Just like that. No Christmas card, no exchange of greetings, no get together. Absolutely nothing!

I called his house several times, had no answer and began to think that he had eloped. He had what he called a strange combination in his personality, an urge for adventure coupled with a weird sense of humour, so on occasion, he had spoken about the possibility of pulling off an eloping stunt if only he could find a woman who would go along for the ride. Well, more than the ride!

Then, as I said, the call.

But Christmas does that, doesn't it? The call reminded me of this carol which I haven't heard since high school:

*O Christmas, merry Christmas
Is it really come again?
With its memories and greetings
With its joy and with its pain*

*And the hush is never broken
By laughter, light and Lo!
As we listen in the starlight
To the bells across the snow.*

And I thought, What a happy coincidence that a simple call should connect me once more and at the same time with an old friend and a carol! Both had been out of sight and mind for decades. Now, they had returned as if we had never lost intimacy.

O Christmas, merry Christmas!

Pamby.



Dear Pamby,

Well, well, surprise to you too! And I'm not necessarily being "nice". People should give that word a break. It's too much overused, like "sorry" and "you know". But I'm going to be dramatic.

Are you okay, Pamby? What's all this about "Kings of Orient", eloping, obscure carols, "hush", starlight and intimacy? Pamby, you sound like a roaming romantic! Sounds like Christmas is really doing a job on you. Or is it the Pandemic?

But I know that my fit of drama isn't going to impress you and that, anyway, you are too polite to call me "a drama queen". So, let me make my confession and say that an old friend called me too and we began reminiscing about Christmas with lots of "O my Gods!" just as we used to do in Grade 10. My teenage daughter even got on my case and warned me not to say "O my God" in front of her friends and embarrass her.

Anyway, I didn't pay her any attention. I was too busy listening to my friend recall how the local radio station to which we listened would awaken us on Christmas morning, after we had caught a mere two or three hours sleep, with a blast of

*Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the World was born.*

Crawling from bed, bleary-eyed and stumbling as if not yet recovered from a hangover, we would make our way to the Christmas tree to check whether or not Santa had arrived and remembered how to spell our names. Satisfied or disappointed, we would return to bed.

The real "wake up call" came from our Mums who would remind us that, breakfast or no breakfast, we had to leave early for the Christmas morning service to be sure of a seat. We would be competing with "the one-time per

year” fans. We both remembered the first carol which was always about the angel Gabriel. Even then we were both budding feminists wondering why the angel wasn’t a woman. But we loved the chorus

*Then sing we all both great and small
Noel, Noel, Noel!
We may rejoice
To hear the voice
Of Angel Gabriel.*

Funny how we both have a story about a phone call from an old friend, an unusual carol and how it connected us again! Of course, I didn’t have to be “highbrow” like you and mention “Kings of Orient” and the like. In any case, you couldn’t get more “highbrow” than Gabriel.

Namby.

Copyright @ John Harewood

Birthdays in December **Our warmest greetings to:**

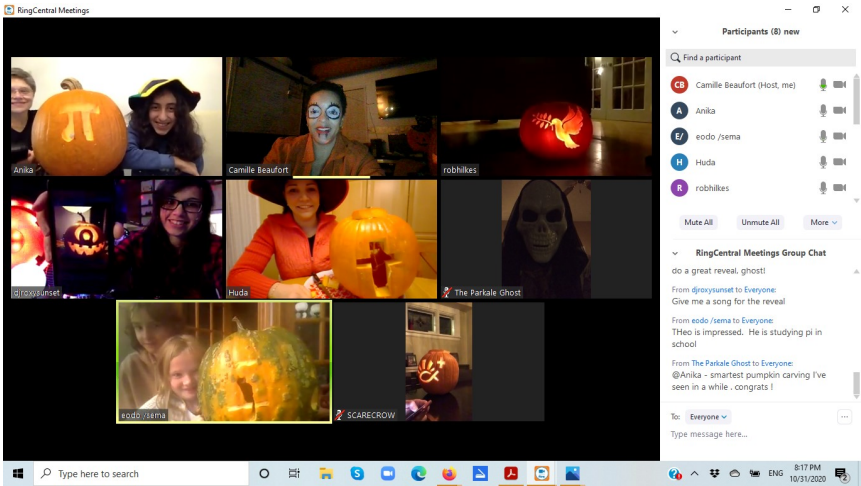
1st Josee Mela
3rd Ryan Goetz
6th Donovan Sealy
7th Noralyn Smith-Wong
7th Ronan Bosch
9th David Smith
9th Andrea Harris
10th Joanna Hamley
11th Cara Lu
13th Nicole Greaves
14th Emily Bailey
14th Rosemary Andrews
15th Don MacPherson
16th Vivian Drew
19th Alex Ngwafusi
20th John Bailey
20th Noah Woeller

20th Ainsley Parent
23rd Marq Nelson
25th Larissa Sealey
27th Derek Fortune
31st Trinity McQuinn
31st Jeremy McLay



If you would like your birthday to be a secret and your name taken off the list, or if your name was not included and you would like it to be added, please let the office know.

the Messenger



Halloween
pumpkin carvings



The Children of Parkdale

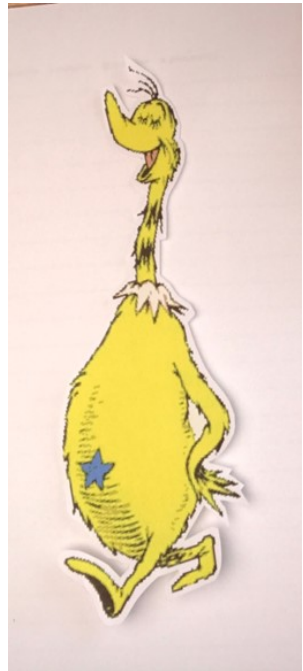
with apologies to Dr. Seuss

The children of Parkdale are lovely – they are
Whether in person, or seen from afar.
The Sneetches have stars on their tummies, they do –
But our kids don't wear those,
They love you...for YOU!

God's children at Parkdale follow His word
They lead by example – haven't you heard?
They're kind, and thankful and value their friends,
They care about others – their joy knows no end!
They use their gifts – the ones that God gave,
They dream of a future, like He came to save.

We're not all the same –
But we are to our God.
Our kids are part of God's most awesome
squad.
They treat each other the same as they are,
We're so very proud of our God-squad
ALL-STARS!!

Huda Kandalaft



Welcome to Parkdale United Church

We enjoy meeting you and being together in ministry. Parkdale's congregation responds to God's call and Jesus' teachings by:



uniting in joyful worship as an act of praise and gratitude, for inspiration and guidance

Providing learning opportunities for the Christian way of life and to enhance Biblical literacy



Supporting each other through pastoral care and concern

PROMOTING JUSTICE



Reaching out to people in need



Praying for guidance, wisdom, and support.