

the Messenger

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Parkdale United Church

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Many thanks and keep your contributions coming!! We are always looking for new ideas, your submissions and Messenger volunteers... If you and a friend like to chat, face to face or by phone, perhaps you could make a few notes and let us know what you chat about during these strange and challenging times.

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

Next issue: November 2020
Send submissions to:
messenger@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca
by Sunday, October 18, 2020

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In brief:

Isolation and social distancing gets more and more “normal” but if you are feeling in need of support/help, please do not hesitate to reach out. Rev. Bailey, Rev. Limongi and members of the Pastoral Care team stand ready to come alongside you.

Rev. Bailey at the church (613-728-8656 Ext 222) or cell phone (613-292-5152) abailey@trytel.com

Rev. Limongi (613-728-8656, Ext 224)

alcris@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca,
Mary McLeod (Chairperson of the Pastoral Care Team)
mcleod.mm@gmail.com

October Cover Image

The cover image is of the new sign on our Parkdale Avenue garden. (Any day now the new message box will be added.) Many thanks are due to volunteer gardeners and staff who have worked hard all summer on the garden.

The new sign required removal of large plantings at the base of the sign to ensure that the new sign will stand firmly and will not be damaged over time by roots and branches.



Hi! How about getting together at Parkdale’s Virtual Bazaar? Pamela, Valerie and I are waiting for you on pages 19-24. You’ll find lots of lovely knitted, crocheted and sewn items. (I am one of the cool items!) There are lots of gift ideas!

IMPORTANT: When submitting photos to The Messenger, please ensure you have asked permission of the individuals if faces are clearly recognizable. They should know that an electronic PDF version of the Messenger is posted to the Parkdale website.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**“I Yield my Words to the Words God
Inspires in Scripture.”**

**Anthony Bailey
October 2020**



Could we ever have imagined this Pandemic? When in recent times have we ever seen the global lockdown of villages, cities and countries; the banning of travel; the wide-spread closing of borders; the shutdown of all our ‘precious’ large sporting events; the shuttering of all but essential services; the enormous death toll and the rapid spread not only of the Covid-19 virus, but also of fear.

We have also seen heroic and generous acts of love, sacrifice, innovation and engagement. Sure there are a few more hints now of things being somewhat like they were before. BUT – it wasn’t that long ago that we experienced the quiet, eerie silence, in our towns, villages and cities. The vast majority of us have not been in this predicament before. What are we making of this? How are we supporting each other to navigate this Pandemic reality, and what about the impending second wave we are being told is on its way? Where is God in all of this?

I have decided, in this Messenger article, to yield my words and concerns and wonderment to the words God inspires in Scripture. I am borrowing words to help carry me through, so I can be blessed to help carry some others through, by God’s grace. These days, although I have been doing a lot of speaking and praying and supporting, I am also doing a lot of listening...listening and trying to discern what God may be saying to me...to us...in these times.

I invite you to hear and pray and meditate on what these words may “do” in us. {If all of us identify with the personal pronoun “I” in this psalm, then all of us are included.}

Psalm 71 (NRSV)

1 In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

6 Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
my praise is continually of you.

7 I have been like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.

8 My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all day long.

9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
do not forsake me when my strength is spent.

10 For my enemies speak concerning me,
and those who watch for my life consult together.

11 They say, "Pursue and seize that person
whom God has forsaken, for there is no one to deliver."

12 O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!

13 Let my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
let those who seek to hurt me be covered with scorn and disgrace.

14 But I will hope continually,
and will praise you yet more and more.

15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all day long,
though their number is past my knowledge.

16 I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord God,
I will praise your righteousness,
yours alone.

17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

18 So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might
to all the generations to come.

19 Your power and your righteousness, O God,
reach the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?

20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.

21 You will increase my honor,
and comfort me once again.

22 I will also praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.

23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you;
my soul also,
which you have rescued.

24 All day long my tongue will talk of your righteous help,
for those who tried to do me harm
have been put to shame, and disgraced.

Thanks be to God. Amen
Anthony

Let's Connect!

**PARKDALE PANDEMIC
BUDDIES**

If you would like to join someone to pray with you on a regular basis, we would be delighted to find a prayer buddy for you. You two together will decide how and when to pray.

In this time of social isolation, it is also important to have someone to check with on a regular basis. If you would like a buddy for prayer or check-in, please email Alcris for more information. Her address is alcris@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca.

If needed, there is also confidential phone counselling available from Dr. Bailey. Contact him at abailey@trytel.com or (613) 728-8656 ext. 222.

**Coffee Klatch on Tuesday
October 27th and November
24th at 3:00pm; one hour to
say hi! and catch up with other
Parkdalers in informal conver-
sation. Just show up for a few
minutes or for the whole hour.
Alcris Limongi is inviting you
to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
The Link for this meeting is
[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/5637388533](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5637388533)
Passcode: Coffee
All are welcome!!!**

**LUNCHTIME BIBLICAL
REFLECTION ON THE
PANDEMIC (TUESDAYS,
FROM NOON TO ONE
O'CLOCK)**

All are invited to join Anthony for a time of reflection on how Biblical texts, wisdom, and faith can help us explore the Pandemic experience.

Both in the Bible and throughout human history, times of devastating loss, widespread grief and disasters have challenged the human family to make sense of these events.

This will be an opportunity to explore biblical texts, historical events, our present Pandemic moment and how our understanding of God and the teachings of Jesus can be essential resources of blessing, comfort and engagement.

The sessions are held on Tuesdays @ noon via Zoom.

Please register by email to pdale@trytel.com. Zoom sign-in information will be sent to you by email.



Two Poems to Reflect on this time of Global Pandemic

Browsing my old emails searching for something and now I don't remember what, I came across these poems sent to me by people from the congregation. The poems were written last March, at the beginning of the Pandemic. As I read the words again, six months later, I savour them differently. These words of comfort and prophetic imagination, born at the doors of an unknown reality, continue to be relevant today when we know what life is like in a Pandemic. I hope they speak to your heart as they do to mine. Now we know that this has been a Sabbath time for some, and for many a time of fiercely wrestling with inequalities and of survival or mourning. I decided to post them both one after the other. There is a little of me in each. *Alcris*

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

Lynn Ungar, March 11, 2020

Imagine

Imagine with me for a moment--
don't worry, I'm not saying it's real.
Imagine, if you can, that there has not been a calamity, but a great
awakening.
pretend, just for a moment, that we all so loved our threatened
Earth that we stopped going on cruises,
limited international flights,
worked on cherishing the places where we already are.
In this pretty fantasy, everyone who possibly can stops commuting.
Spends extra time with their kids their pets or their garden.
We have the revelation that everyone needs healthcare, sick leave,
steady work.
It occurs to us that healthcare workers are heroes. Also teachers.
Not to mention the artists of all kinds who teach us resilience and
joy.
Imagine, if you will,
that we turned to our neighbors in mutual aid, trading eggs for
milk,
checking in on those who are elderly or alone.
Imagine that each of us felt a suddenly called to wonder
*In this moment, what does the world need from me?
What are my gifts?*
Yes, I know it's just a fantasy.
The world could never change so radically overnight.
But imagine.

Lynn Ungar, March 20, 2020

Published with permission

www.lynnungar.com/poems

HUDA'S MESSAGES



Page 15: **Kids' Church**
Page 15: Colours and Giggles!
Page 46: **Back to School Prayers and Blessings**



**Marking the beginning ...
Remembering
God's blessings**

The Sunday after Labor Day Weekend has always been a big day of celebration for many congregations. But this year Rally Sunday, which is set aside every year as a reminder of the importance of faith formation, blessing backpacks, and commissioning those who teach and volunteer — looked and felt entirely different.

While we contemplated cancelling Rally Sunday altogether to maintain health and safety during this time of pandemic, we decided to try for a Rally Sunday at the Park. When the weather didn't cooperate, we didn't want to cancel and instead moved indoors for a virtual Rally Sunday. Yes, it didn't feel and look the same as Lambie and I entered the empty sanctuary, but what mattered was to mark the beginning of the church's new Christian education year, and remember God's blessings that are new with every new beginning.

Lambie enjoyed the story as she missed worship in church so much. I hope that the Rally Sunday worship service helped students and parents start off the new year positively and with

new hope. I know that families are overwhelmed with working from home, online school, the fear of the virus, and all the other stressful things happening around us these days.

The blessing of the backpacks was meant to be a reminder for students, but also for all of us and especially for young families, that God is with us every minute of every day.

The Messages written on the backpack/device stickers “God’s got your back” and “You are Loved”, say it all. When we get lost in all the noise swirling around us, we centre ourselves by remembering who God is. No need to be afraid, for God never leaves us or gives up on us. When life gets chaotic, God is with us. God’s grace abounds even during uncertainty and anxiety.

Worship Bulletins will be emailed every Sunday to all families. My hope is that parents can use them this year as a weekend faith chatting tool at home. After every riddle, crossword, word search or maze, families are invited to read the bible passages of the Sunday together and have a conversation. Please print out

at home and enjoy a faith formation time with your family.

Set aside as a reminder of the importance of faith formation, Rally Sunday marks a beginning of a journey of prayers of gratitude. Regardless of the different and strange circumstances this year, let us remember God’s infinite love and care, and may we be blessed to be a blessing this year and every year.



Nurturing Faith at Home This Fall

I love the ways in which virtual church gatherings have given us glimpses into the lives of our families with children. Watching families participate in worship as they sit around the kitchen table or side-by-side on comfy couches; seeing parents settle sibling disputes; and catching sight of multiple heads bowed together in prayer provides us with real time reminders of the energy it requires to raise, and of how much nurturing our kids’ faith matters to us.

As busy families, we long to see our children grow in faith despite the limitations of time and the speed at which our life runs. As we start this fall season in which we can't yet predict what will the rest of this Fall might look like, or if we'll even be able to gather again on Sunday mornings in the near future, we've been given a wonderful opportunity to nurture faith by using some faith formation practices at home.

The bible considers parents as the primary faith educators for their children: *"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise"* (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7).

Not the church, nor the Sunday school, it is the parents who have the primary call to pass on the faith to their children. So, I encourage you to see this time of the pandemic as an opportunity rather than a challenge and take the time to focus on doing three things with your children this Fall: sing, pray, and read.

My intention is not to add to the burdens which families are al-

ready experiencing, particularly as we begin what may be a stressful education year, but rather my hope is to empower parents and grandparents and provide them with simple, meaningful, and fun tools to read the bible, sing and pray with their children.

Sing together:

You think that singing to your children or grandchildren your favorite hymn may not seem something that makes a big difference in their life? Think again. I was reading an article the other day about the importance of singing as a tool for nurturing the faith in our children during the pandemic. Author Karen Deboer mentions:

*"Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear
me,*

*Bless Thy little lamb tonight;
Through the darkness be Thou
near me,*

*Keep me safe till morning light.
Through this day Thy hand has
led me,*

*And I thank Thee for Thy care;
Thou hast warmed me, clothed,
and fed me,*

*Listen to my evening prayer.
A-men."*

<https://network.crcna.org/faith-nurture/maybe-what-we-need-most-right-now-bedtime-song>.

A tune for this is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfCB6ZGvbF8>

The author concluded saying:

“Maybe what we all need most right now is the quiet comfort of a bedtime song. Not more to do, not more meetings to Zoom, not more news, not more resources, not more social media suggestions, just a song sung with a deep and gracious love; the words of which remind us that we are secure in the love of the same Jesus who holds the whole world in his hands right now. He always has, and He always will.”

Pray together:

Prayer is an anytime and anywhere conversation with God—no fancy words required! Here are five ways to pray that are easy and meaningful to do. Use them with your family to encourage ongoing conversations with God.

1. Keep a prayer journal: Write prayer concerns in a notebook, on a calendar, or on “paper leaves” that you hang from a branch in a vase. Then go back and look at the ways God answers those prayers over time.

2. Try circle prayers: Hold hands and take turns praying one sentence at a time for each “round.” You may find it helpful to focus

your prayer by using this kid-friendly version of the “ACTS” model, replacing Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication with these prompts:

“God, you are . . .”, “I’m sorry for . . .”, “Thank you for . . .” and “Please . . .”

3. Build your prayers

Have each child create a shape that represents what they’d like to pray about. LEGO™ bricks, play dough, or pipe cleaners work well! Then pray about those things.

4. Take prayer walks

Name and pray about the things and people you see while walking in your neighborhood. Broaden your child’s sense of community by also praying for the people and places you locate together on a map or globe.

5. Just breathe

Teach your kids a simple prayer verse or phrase to silently repeat while inhaling and exhaling. This is a great way to calm their spirit and/or help them focus as you enter into prayer together. For example, “When I am afraid, / I put my trust in you” (Psalm 56:3) or “Be still, and know / that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

Read the Bible together:

A great way for kids (and adults!) to remember God's story and to experience it more deeply is to retell it in ways that engage their head, heart, and hands. Get inspired with these easy ideas for retelling a Bible story at home.

1. Build: Use building blocks or play dough to recreate scenes from the story. Work together or build scenes individually and then show and tell each other about what you've made.

2. Draw: There are lots of ways to use art to tell stories: Have each person draw a picture of a different part of the story; then put the pictures together and tell the story again. Pick a word from the story and illustrate it. Make a cartoon strip. Sketch pictures of what you're imagining as the story or text is being read; then compare your thoughts.

3. Sing: Make up a tune (or use one that's familiar), and turn the story into a song. Or look for a version of the story that's already been recorded, and learn it together.

4. Act: Use puppets (socks, dolls, or utensils will do!) or yourselves to act out the story. Consider taking photos of each scene and printing them as a book or comic strip. Another fun idea is to as-

sign readers to read the dialog and/or assign sound effects to particular words, and to reread the story together.

5. Wonder: Ask open-ended questions that have no "right or wrong" answers. For example, I wonder what . . . (I wonder what Jonah thought about inside the fish . . . ? I wonder what you would have thought about . . . ?)

I wonder how . . . (I wonder how it felt to cross the Red Sea . . . ? I wonder how this story makes you feel . . . ?)

I wonder who . . . (I wonder who the shepherds told first about meeting baby Jesus . . . ? I wonder whom you would have run to tell . . . ?)

I wonder why . . . (I wonder why Jesus told stories to people . . . ? I wonder why we don't always do what God asks us to do . . . ?)

I encourage you to use the tools provided above in whatever way works for your family. No matter how many times you will have a chance to share your faith with your family this fall, please know how much you are loved, and prayed for. At Parkdale, we are there to support you every step of the way, and God, who is our Shepherd, will guide you and lead you. Have a blessed Fall!

Colours and Giggles:

It's like a talent show in an e-newspaper, to help us all feel together even while we're apart. Want to be published in the first issue of the Colours and Giggles? Send in your

- short stories,
- poems,
- jokes,
- articles,
- book/story reviews,
- fun facts from the bible
- Maps,
- advice columns,
- comics,
- word games,
- paintings,
- and drawings!
-



Colours and Giggles is open to all kids and youth. Submit your contributions to huda@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca

Kids' Church

Let's meet, friends. The last Saturday of the month. Time for story, simple craft, singing and games together – for kids ages 2-7 and their families.

Send huda@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca an email to book your seats for the adventures. See you soon!



...FROM ALCRIS AND PASTORAL CARE

News From the Prayer Shawls Group

If you happen to have extra yarn.... You can always donate it to the Prayer Shawls Group. We use machine washable and dryable acrylic yarn. (Pure wool is not good as some people are allergic or sensitive.) Bring your donations to Parkdale. (Ring the office from the door to let Norman or Don know you are leaving a donation.) Alternatively, donations can be picked up. Contacts are

Diana Mason dmason@rogers.com or **Marilyn Follett** fol1579m@hotmail.com



Greetings from Calgary, Alberta.

My mom, Dorothy Durant, moved here from Ottawa just over 7 years ago to be closer to her immediate family, but has always done her best to maintain contact with her Parkdale family. The church and her friends from Parkdale have always had a very special place in her heart. My mom's declining health has presented her with some challenges over the years and this past April she was admitted to hospital for 6 weeks. As a result of a combination of factors including a fairly aggressive progression of Parkinson's disease, my mom was discharged into long term care. (continued on p 15)



My mom had always been an avid reader of the Messenger and looked forward to its arrival so she could catch up on all the goings on at Parkdale. I reached out a number of months ago to Rev. Limongi to ask her to let members of Parkdale know what had happened to my mom - first so that those members who have remained in touch with her would know why she wasn't answering her phone anymore but also to ask if perhaps my mom could be remembered during a prayer group. My mom was very active in Parkdale for so many years and the prayer groups she attended regularly were always very important to her.

I cannot express my gratitude sufficiently to Rev. Limongi, Rev. Bailey and the prayer group at Parkdale for the instant response and outreach to my mom. Then, a few weeks ago a prayer shawl arrived in the mail along with some beautiful photos of the garden at the church my mom was in charge of creating so many years ago. The cards of support for her were filled with such warmth. I read her the cards and as soon as I showed her the pictures she immediately said "oh - my garden" and had the biggest smile on her face I had seen in a very long time.

The isolation my mom faced while in hospital (I was given 1 pass only at a critical time to see my mom for an hour over that 6 week period) plus the 2 weeks of isolation once she was moved to long term care and the ongoing restrictions on visitation have been extraordinarily difficult. I am very aware that she is not alone in this as so many people have struggled with isolation as but one factor in the change we have all lived since March. What was so extraordinary though was that within moments of reaching out to Rev. Limongi and the church, those 3,000 kms disappeared. The shawl is a perfect reminder of the warmth and support that wraps around her-and all of us. We just need to reach out for it.

Again, my profound thanks for keeping my mom in your thoughts.
Sincerely,
Joanne Durant.



Parkdale's Beautiful
Garden, one of
Dorothy Durant's
Special Projects!

A Few Words on October Small Groups

Book Reflection Nights on Wednesdays 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. An anti-racism reflection group based on this book written by Robin DiAngelo *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism. Session 3 on Wednesday October 7 until October 28.* Alcris and Anthony are pleased to have Judy Hamley join in the leadership of this series. If you haven't signed up yet, email Don in the office. The books are available for purchase online.

Writers Group every 3 weeks. This is an interest group for informal -not professional- writing aimed at those who want to explore spiritual journaling, poetry, autobiography, short stories, prayers, etc. We will be focusing on journaling in the coming weeks. Email Alcris for registration alcris@parkdaleunitedchurch.ca Next session will be on Thursday October 14th at 4:00pm.

Caring for the Caregivers. Next session Friday, October 9th at 6:30pm. (every 3 weeks). We all care for others. This is not only for people who are caring for elderly relatives or chronically ill loved ones, but also those who are caring for others directly or indirectly, with or without special needs (we welcome those in caregiver vocations and/or professions as well). This is a space for offering mutual support, nurturing faith/spirituality and connecting with people who are going through a similar journey in the context of our Christian community.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES are AVAILABLE ON THE PHONE FOR THOSE WITH NO INTERNET – SPREAD THE WORD ...

If you know of people who cannot watch the services online, please let them know that they can call 343 882 1920 and enter 343 882 4663# on Sundays at 10:30am to listen to the service. (The line is open at 10:30am and not before. If you need more information, contact Alcris.)

**Parkdale's Yuletide Bazaar Was Cancelled... BUT
Now Is Busily and Beautifully Re-imagined!**



After considering how Parkdale could safely offer a Bazaar this year, the difficult decision was made. For the safety of all involved, the 2020 Bazaar was cancelled! But no, not cancelled after all...

Keen Parkdalers are selling baking and handicrafts on their own with proceeds to Parkdale, and that is very welcome. Others are choosing to make a financial “Bazaar” donation to Parkdale... also very welcome. In this issue of The Messenger, we launch Parkdale's first Virtual Bazaar! (Is it really the first ever? Anyone know?) Items with prices and size information are shown on these pages with information about “curbside” or other COVID-appropriate pickup!

Here's to a terrific Yuletide Bazaar and many thanks to all—the enthusiasts who have knitted, sewn, baked and preserved and to loyal customers!!



Parkdale Yuletide Bazaar Going Virtual!

The officially cancelled in-person Parkdale Christmas Bazaar is transformed in The Messenger for the next couple of months with some of our usual contributors offering familiar Bazaar items for sale.

In these pages, Pamela and Val are offering a number of items for sale. They have included prices, and the contact information to reserve an item. They will provide instructions for contactless pickup.

Beth is also taking orders for United Church of Canada calendars. We will only order the number we have orders for, so check out Beth's notice in this Messenger to reserve yours.

Watch for more items for sale in the November issue of the Messenger. All proceeds go to support Parkdale.

Thanks everyone for your support,
Judy Hamley, Virtual Bazaar Convenor.*

** Please note that it is the Bazaar that is virtual, not our Bazaar Convenor.*





Character hats \$8 each



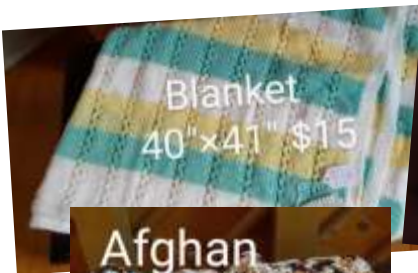
Wall hanging/ rug: \$15



Short-sleeved sweater
Med/ Irge \$10



Men's mitts \$6 pc



Blanket
40" x 41" \$15



Bean and 7/8 size \$11
each set



Afghan

60" x 45" \$25



Infinity scarf \$8



Women's vests \$10 each



Women's tunic or top \$15



Lady's tunic, lrg, \$15



Knitted afghan
70"x65" approx. \$40

DON'T WAIT 'TIL NEXT YEAR

The bazaar knitting table has too many nice items to wait until next year... Check out the pictures then email your selection or question to pamelagemmellbazaar@gmail.com. First come, first served.

There will be another selection of children's knitted items in The Messenger for November! Unfortunately no returns possible. We will arrange a date for **contactless pickup in the church car park. Cash or cheque made out to Parkdale United Church, please.**



Rhubarb and Ginger Jam \$6

Email pamelagemmellbazaar@gmail.com with the number of jars you would like. We will arrange a date for **contactless pickup** in the church car park. Cash or cheque made out to Parkdale United, please. Green tomato chutney will be ready for the November Messenger.

Virtual Bazaar items from Valerie Hum

Since Parkdale church has cancelled its Yuletide bazaar I have a number of hand crafted items that are for sale from my house. Attached is a photo of these items with prices. Please email or call me for an appointment or for more details:

Email address is valerie.hum@rogers.com and telephone, 613-728-8830.

All proceeds to go to the Parkdale Yuletide "Virtual" Bazaar. Here is a detailed list of the items:

- 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 knitted cowl scarves, \$25 for synthetic, \$30 for wool. Beautiful to drape around a top or an overcoat in a very flattering curved design.
- Chef's apron set for 3/4 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 peaches in a light syrup, \$5 / pt.
- Canned spicy pickled beets, \$5/ pt.



CANADIAN CHURCH CALENDARS 2021

Parkdale United Church is offering its members an opportunity to order the 2021 Canadian Church Calendar which we would normally have available for sale at the bazaar and after church services in the Memorial Hallway in November.

If you are interested in ordering a calendar or two, please contact Don Mockett in the Church Office (613-728-8656) no later than October 16, 2020.



Please indicate the number of calendars you would like to order and give him your contact information. We have already given other United Church congregations in the Ottawa area an opportunity to place orders, and we will be able to place a large bulk order which should bring the cost of the calendars down.

When the order is received from UCRD, those who have ordered calendars will be contacted about pickup information, cost and method of payment.

If you have further questions, please contact the Church Office or Beth Gutsell at 613-729-8228.



A walk in the park – not so easy!

Parkdale's Council was presented with a lovely idea at its last meeting: let's have an outdoor service for Rally Sunday. Seemed like a great idea until we started to look through the COVID lens. Some of the things we considered:

- How many people could be socially distancing in the park?
- What if more people arrived than could fit in the park? Should we take reservations? Would that leave some people out? Would children get priority?
- Who would be responsible for and monitor the social distance and mask wearing?
- Would we provide hand sanitizer and how would that happen?
- What about washrooms? Who would keep them clean/sanitized?
- How would we keep track of participants for contact tracing?
- What about a worship service for those who were not in the park?
- What was the weather forecast? If it rained and we called it off, would there be NO service at all that week? (and in fact, it poured all day!). We do not yet have live streaming so could not have provided a worship service on that day (we pre-record the Sunday services on Saturdays).

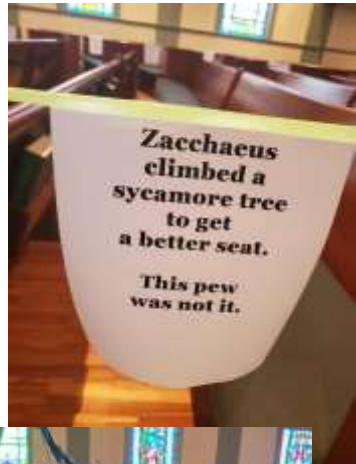
It didn't go ahead and we blessed the backpacks and devices online from the safety of our own sanctuary. It does give us pause though, as we think of the many similar questions as we contemplate the opening of church services on Sundays.

Work continues on the plan for re-opening our church...

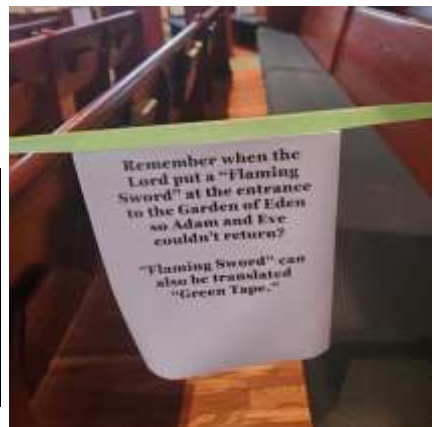
David Odumodu and Helen Hayes have led the drafting of a plan which has been submitted to the EOORC (Eastern Ontario and Outaouais Regional Council) of the United Church of Canada. We await approval of the plan and then will consider when it would be feasible and prudent to begin to worship in person.

There will be strict guidelines to follow including registering ahead of the service, no congregational or choir singing, no Sunday School... but clearly we long to be together again on Sunday mornings!

**CHOOSING A PEW...
WHERE WOULD YOU SIT?**



**CAN YOU IMAGINE A FEW
MORE BIBLICAL PEW SIGNS...
WE HOPE TO NEED THEM
SOON!**



PARKDALE'S ON-LINE SUNDAY SCHOOL ...

An important scripture lesson was about Jesus as a boy at the Temple.

Luke 2:41-52: The boy Jesus at the Temple

49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

We shared a powerpoint and asked the children: As Jesus and his parents travelled to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover, what do you think he saw?” Here are the children’s answers:



ON HIS WAY, JESUS SAW...

- leaves & rocks
- clouds
- birds
- grass
- other paths
- a donkey
- dirt & gravel
- the moon at night
- & a chance to help others.



PARKDALE'S ON-LINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Matthew 20: Parable of the Vineyard Workers

On September 20, Sunday school gathered at 10am. Guess from where Camille hosted the meeting? At Parkdale! The children and parents watched Liz's Children's time and the McHenry's family drama presentation about the Vineyard Workers.

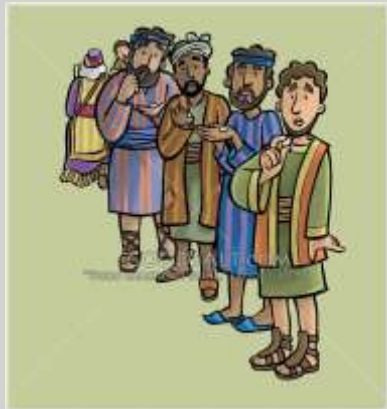
If you haven't already, check out the "Denarius Rap Song" on YouTube, a fun way to see the scripture

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLouA3KytUQ>).

We reflected on the message that God invites us to treat everyone fairly and about how gracious God is and he loves us all the same.

That's Great NEWS! It's our job to help and treat everyone fairly and with love.

When we asked the children "What does FAIRNESS look like to you?", here are some of their responses: Sharing your snack, getting the same amount of homework as younger sister, everyone having what they need, birthday parties where everyone can go, starting school on the same day, if everyone could be at Parkdale, treating others like we would like to be treated, everyone having enough to eat and a safe place to live.



Camille Beaufort

Editor's Note: Just to be sure the YouTube address was correct, I tested it and loved the very catchy rap song and every now and again it's running through my head again and again! Very powerful for rap aficionados. (And others!)

PARKDALE'S ON-LINE YOUNG PEOPLE



**MINECRAFT...
HERE'S HOW OUR YOUNG
PARKDALERS RE-IMAGINE
A SANCTUARY!**



The Property Development Working Group is paying attention, young people! Thank you very much.



Our “PBS”

“When one door closes, another opens,” is a frequently-quoted saying that is intended to indicate that when an opportunity is lost, another one often becomes available.

Although the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in the temporary closure of our church building, it has opened a door for us to continue benefitting from weekly (virtual) worship services through the technology of video broadcasting.

In Mid-March, when all normal activities in our society were shut down, our church Council’s Communications Committee, chaired by Carolyn Halkett, quickly initiated plans to video-record services, and then broadcast them via YouTube on the Internet.

Dr. Bailey and Rev. Limongi were “game” for the pastoral aspects of this initiative, but it still required expertise to operate and manage the video and audio technical aspects. Richard Hamley, who for many years has coordinated the audio equipment for regular and special Parkdale services, was easily identified as one member of the team. Danica Rogers, a member of



the Communications Committee, soon volunteered to run the video equipment, and Debbie McGregor, a Council member and former choir member, offered to play the piano (and, occasionally the organ.)

The result was the inauguration of our PBS (Parkdale Broadcasting System!)

Since July, the team has been augmented by Susan Bailey (audio), and Kyle McHenry (video.) Freda Sutton, Marianne dos Santos, and Alexandra Golod have assisted with the piano. As well, Alexan-

dra Stockwell, Chair of Council's Worship Committee, and a member of the choir, has provided some in-person leadership with singing, and with Debbie, has arranged for some musical selections recorded by choir members.

"Hidden" Talent

Danica's video recording debut grew out of a casual personal interest she had in high school 25 years ago, when they used a "clunky mixing board" for video editing, which is a far cry from today's laptop computer. An engineer by training, her present employment with a telecommunications company involves distribution and monitoring of broadcast services so she has some comfort working in this type of technology but had no professional experience with the editing and "streaming" required to get our PBS up and running. Nevertheless, she managed to make it work.

Saturdays are busy for her. The recording of the worship service takes place at the front of the sanctuary on Saturday mornings, and averages between one and one and half hours. She then takes home the video recording along with the audio track, and with her laptop does the necessary editing and producing. This includes in-

corporating other videos, such as the children's story or scripture readings or musical material, followed by "uploading" of the finished product to the Internet, all of which takes another 2-3 hours.

She says the recording sessions have usually been fairly straightforward, with remarkably few "retakes" or restarts of any segments. Currently the "PBS" team is exploring the technology & skill requirements needed to "Stream" the service live on Sunday morning.

Danica is grateful for having the opportunity to participate in the "PBS" project. "It feels so good that I have something to offer to help others stay connected during this difficult time."

She has been a member of the Parkdale congregation since 2004, and is a former co-editor (with Elise Mennie) of our newsletter, *The Messenger*.

Submitted by Peter Meerburg, The Messenger's roving-est reporter!

**We wish you a safe, warm, beautiful and blessed
Thanksgiving.**



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

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 this past month we welcomed Huda Kandalaft for her first meeting. In addition to Huda who is Parkdale's new Congregational Designated Minister for Youth and Families, we have Rev. Anthony Bailey and Rev. Alcris Limongi and all three are ex-officio members of Council.

At the September meeting, there was considerable discussion about plans for re-opening for services, but no decisions have yet been made. We received reports from the various church committees.

Highlights included:

From Mission, Outreach and Justice: Initial discussions are being held to think about how In From the Cold might operate this year; Images and Stories will begin again, online, with 6 sessions on ZOOM at 7:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday September 25, October 30, November 27, January 29, February 26, & March 26, 2021; donations of clothing, masks and toiletries were made to the Odawa friendship centre on Rideau Street; the Celebrating our Cultures dinner is cancelled for this year.

From Communications: the new website is up and running

(ParkdaleUnitedChurch.ca); live streaming of services in being investigated and costed. Right now, services are recorded on Saturdays so that people can access them on Sunday. Live streaming would enable services to be telecast as they happen. A recorded version would still be available.

From Ministry and Personnel:

Farewell to Carol Diamond who has resigned as Choir Director and will be dearly missed; Annual reviews with staff have been completed.

From Pastoral Care: Besides emails, phone calls and cards, an ever-expanding set of opportunities have been created for people to keep connected, to offer care and support to one another, to pray over the phone or zoom, and to continue weekly small groups. Some of them: Coffee Klatch, Prayer Buddies, Parkdale Buddy, phone calls through the Pastoral Care team and volunteers, worship over the phone for those who cannot connect online, Liturgy of the Ordinary, Sabbath Pause, Pastoral visits and face-to-face conversations or counselling/spiritual companionship were replaced by zoom one-one-calls. Digital and regular cards, as well as prayer shawls, have continued to flow from this corner of our church.

From Property Trustees: The sign in the garden has been removed for restoration and fabrication of a new message box; the lease with the pre-

school has been renewed; the ramp has been repaired; a considerable amount of pruning and “tending the garden” has been done by Elaine West and team and the garden looks wonderful; Norman has continued to paint, polish and wash the inside of the building until it is gleaming, ready for our eventual return.

From Finance: Our Financial situation is healthy with a considerable amount of support from our congregation, especially in givings to the Benevolent Fund. We have received a loan from the government to help cover costs. No interest will be charged for 3 years and only 75% of this loan needs to be repaid.

Also at the September meeting, Anthony, Alcris and Huda provided reports on their activities. Highlights included:

Anthony: Anthony highlighted some of the terrible suffering in the world during the pandemic. “The global magnitude of death, devastation, grief, and suffering has been staggering. This has been even worse for those experiencing poverty, war, conflict, drought, hunger, disease and oppression. Because the Pandemic forced the world to stop...to look...to notice...to feel, to take a collective breath, we have now even more starkly realized that all is definitely not well. We very quickly realized that those advocates who have been courageously sounding the alarm for decades, relative to the treatment of our senior popula-

tion – especially in long-term care homes – children and families living in poverty and danger, and racialized and indigenous people, were right all along. Then the modern-day “knee-on-neck lynching” of Mr. George Floyd exposed to the wider population, systemic anti-Black racism; something that has been known and experienced by racialized black people for a very long time; Also outlined some of the pandemic response that has been achieved through Caring Kitchens, the Benevolent Fund and the vouchers that are funded by Parkdale and distributed to needy folk by Giant Tiger.

Huda: has been meeting teachers, leaders, children and youth through ZOOM. She noted that Camille and the rest of the teachers have done a wonderful ministry over the last few months. She and Camille are planning for the next two months as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

Alcris: Gave an update on the prayer group, prayer shawls group, caring kitchens, cancer care group. Advised that she is a workshop facilitator for the *UCC Racial Justice mandatory* training for ministers and is part of the *White Privilege Working Group of the General Council Executive* as member of the *Racialized Reference Working Group*.

Report submitted by Debbie
McGregor

LECTIONARY

World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Thanksgiving, October 11, 2020

Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6; Isaiah 25: 1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14

World Food Sunday, October 18, 2020

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45: 1-7; Psalm 96: 1-9, 10-13; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22

Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17, Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46

All Saints Day, November 1, 2020

Joshua 3: 7-17; Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37; Micah 3: 5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12

All Saints Day

Revelation 7: 9-17; Psalm 34: 1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12



Challenge: The Kingdom of God in my Life

One Sunday, Alcris challenged us to consider the how the kingdom of God is manifest in our lives. She asked us to write our own personal version of a Biblical parable. We were to start with these words: “The Kingdom of God in my life is like...” She reminded us of Biblical parables illustrating the Kingdom of God in various ways: like a pearl of great price, a mustard seed, a hidden treasure or like the landowner who hired workers for his vineyard. (Our children have used that parable about the vineyard workers to think about ‘fairness’! Camille has shared some of their ideas reprinted on page 25 of this issue of The Messenger.)

Here are three personal parables from members of the Pastoral Care Team:

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN MY LIFE is like the gentle spring rain that reawakens the earth. I love spring and delight in watching the many shades of green unfolding on the trees and the plants poking through the ground. It’s a miracle every year and it’s there for everyone... a most precious gift.

Submitted by Marilyn Hahn

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN MY LIFE is like a rich farmer who had many workers on his farm. He worked out a plan to help them to be more independent. The farmer held a meeting with all his workers and told them that he would divide his resources among them. All he asked in return was that after 6 months they would give him a tenth of their earnings on a regular basis to take care of his needs. They were very happy and quickly agreed. After one year the farmer called another meeting to discuss the arrangement and to find out why there was such a disparity in how the workers were meeting their obligations.

The first group who had given nothing said that after they had paid all their expenses and put aside something for a rainy day they had nothing left. The second group who had given sparingly and irregularly, said that they knew they had made a commitment but they could only afford to give him what they had left after paying all their expenses.

The third group who regularly gave him a tenth of their earnings said they were grateful for what they had received and that they put his portion aside

before meeting their personal expenses. The farmer was very pleased with them and told them that he would pray for abundant blessings for them. He also told them that any surplus from what he received would be given back to them.

So it is with members of the body of Christ. God supplies all our needs and all He asks in return is that we give back generously to support His work.

“All things come from thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee”

Submitted by Gloria Anderson

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN MY LIFE is like a winding pathway. Sometimes I just walk along enjoying the scenery. I see God in the beauty of creation. Other times I am worried because I'm not sure where the path is taking me. Then I put my trust in God, knowing that He knows this path better than I do. Some days I stop under a canopy of trees and listen to the gentle sounds of a brook or the singing birds. Once again I marvel at the beauty of creation and I am reminded that God will lead me beside still waters. He will provide rest along this path. On other days the path is strewn with rocks and rubble that I have to move out of the way before I can continue, but I know that God will give me the strength to do what needs to be done.

I sometimes walk alone, wondering what I am doing on this path but God tells me I am not alone and He has a purpose for my life. Other times I am accompanied by a group of friends or even strangers. I sometimes meet people going in the opposite direction. “No, no,” I say. “You are going the wrong way.” Sometimes they turn around and walk with me; other times they pay no attention. I am so grateful for those who accompany me and I pray for those who go in the wrong direction.

Occasionally I come to a fork in the road. Which way to go? I take the path of least resistance — the wider one, the one with no overhanging branches or thorny plants — only to find it is a dead end and I must return to the main road. Temptation is such an easy road to follow. In spite of my all too frequent detours, God is waiting for me at the main road, with outstretched arms and forgiveness.

Sometimes I struggle to walk this path at night with its strange noises and lurking dangers but morning comes and my fears vanish. It is so easy to be consumed by fear but I am reminded that even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, God is with me. I sometimes get tired of walking. Like an impatient child I ask God, “Are we there yet?”

Submitted by Mary McLeod



BIRTHDAY NEWS

Birthdays in OCTOBER. Best greetings to:

1st: Hannie Fitzgerald

2nd: Alice Menzies

2nd: Isaiah Duah

5th: Cora McQuinn

8th: Carl-Henry Mercy

8th: Ruth Bush

11th: Delphine Ahmed-Robin

11th: Ariane Epale

16th: Doreen Bullied

17th: Maddy Crabtree

17th: Mark Bradley

19th: Alexis Bannoff

22nd: Julianna Jeglic

23rd: Jessica Ann Clark

25th: Hannah Johnston

27th: Tyrese Musenga

29th: Isabelle Duncan

31st: Camille Beaufort



If you would like your birthday to be a secret, please let the office know and we will leave you off the list.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Blessings and congratulations to Jenna Lester and Brad Byvelds on the birth of baby Harper Maria! She is adorable... Just ask Grandma Helen Hayes! So precious, very sweet!

"I like her. A lot!" Helen told the Finance Committee. And here's Helen's favourite photo of little Harper.



CONDOLENCES TO HUDA The congregation extends sincere condolences to Huda, our Congregational Designated Minister, on the death of her uncle in Syria.



Her uncle died last Friday of COVID-19. He was in his sixties; the brother of Huda's mother. The country is facing an over-whelming but under-reported COVID crisis among a population already beaten down by a decade of conflict and economic turmoil. The shattered health system is unable to cope with the pandemic.

Huda has asked that we pray for her family, as well as her parents in Ottawa, her sister and family in Ottawa, and her brother and family in Kemptville, as they struggle with this loss.

UPDATE FROM THE SKINNERS

Dale Skinner and Maryann Skinner were in our congregation from 1997-1999. Dale was a Ministry candidate from the University of Toronto, and after several other locations is now the Minister at Milton United Church. Maryann studied youth ministry and was then ordained (Ellen Andrews was her accompanying person).

Maryann is now the Chaplain at the women's prison in Kitchener-Waterloo. Their daughter Leah Skin-

More FROM THE PEWS

ner, returned to Ottawa this September to study for a Bachelor of Education degree. She hopes to be a History and English teacher. Welcome back to Ottawa, Leah. The very first issue of The Messenger included a letter from Dale Skinner. With other news, he wrote... “ in September I begin an 8-month internship at Westminster UC in Mississauga, Maryann begins another Pastoral Care training unit and Leah will be entering kindergarten...”

Val Hum needs 500 ml mason jars! If you can help, please give her a call at 613-728-8830 or drop them

Another note from the editors: It IS great fun to look back at early issues of The Messenger. As here, a letter from the Skinners and, on page 42, a recipe reprinted from the November 2003 issue! Helen Hill's Butter Tart Muffins!

off at the church. (Ring the bell to talk to Don, in the office, then you can leave them at the door. (She needs new lids, too!)

SAYING FAREWELL!

At the beginning of November, Don and Margaret MacPherson are moving to Oakville! They will be very much missed. They have both been very active at Parkdale helping with all kinds of things... counting collection, working at the Bazaar, Council membership, Ministry and Personnel Committee, faithful attendance at Sunday Worship and our special events and meetings including the AGM.

(Could always count on Don to have read the financial statements carefully and to ask the tough questions!)

We say farewell with love and best wishes, Don and Margaret!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.



MISSION, OUTREACH & JUSTICE COMMITTEE - UPDATE

IN FROM THE COLD

(IFTC): Because of the sudden spread of the Covid-19 pandemic early this year, the IFTC season ended two Saturdays before the scheduled end in March 2020. Because of this sudden closing, we were so disappointed, as were the guests, that we could only hand out sandwiches and fruit to guests as they arrived.

We are now cognizant of the fact that we cannot, in the foreseeable future, have sit down meals, entertainment and socializing. However, we are discussing if and how we can arrange to serve hand-out meals in a welcoming and compassionate manner. We will inform you as we make progress.

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS:

The Odawa Friendship Drop-In Centre reached out to us for specific sizes of clothing, for masks, hand sanitizers and toiletries. The managers at the Centre expressed their gratitude to Parkdale for all those who gave so generously; supplying and making masks to donate over 200 masks and meet their other requests. Many thanks to all who gave so generously and made those deliveries possible..

IMAGES & STORIES: Because of the Covid-19 this too ended abruptly in February and we did not have a chance to hear Peter Tilley, CEO of The Ottawa Mission For Men give his presentation entitled "Who Is My Neighbour". However, we are delighted that he had the opportunity to do just that on Friday, September 30th.

You can read all about it in the November "Messenger". **Please join us on Friday, October 30** as we welcome and listen to our newly appointed Congregational Designated Minister for Youth and Families - **Huda Kandalraft Kanawati** - tell us her exciting story of her life's journey from Syria and along the way to Parkdale.

The late Janet Taylor who initiated Images & Stories would be surprised to know we are entering our 10th year. The disappointment of our team, and no doubt that of our ardent followers, is that there are no delicious desserts & fellowship after the presentations. So just treat yourselves until we can meet again. We will be delighted to have you join us on **Friday, October 30, November 27, January 29, February 26 & the last for this season on March 26, 2021** for some very interesting presentations.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURES which is held annually in mid-October will be cancelled this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is an evening when we celebrate together the multiple cultures we are blessed to have worshipping at Parkdale. It is an evening of learning about different countries and cultures, an evening of fun activities - song, dance, poetry, and tasting foods from different countries. We hope that the pandemic will have passed by the time October 2021 comes around.

Faye Beaufort - Chair, MOJ

FOOD FOR THE SCHOOL BODY

Helen Hill's Butter Tart Muffins with Maple Syrup Topping

- 1 1/2 cups raisins
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, cut in chunks
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 1 1/2 cups of flour
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Maple syrup

Place raisins, sugar, butter, eggs, milk and vanilla in pan. Heat on medium, stirring, until beginning to get a bit bubbly. (4-5 minutes) Cool slightly, uncovered, in the fridge (about 15 minutes). Preheat oven to 375°F

Stir flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. Put hole in middle of dry ingredients and add raisin mixture. Stir. Put into small muffin tins and bake for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and pour small amount of maple syrup over each warm muffin. Cool for 10 minutes and remove from muffin tins.



PS Helen made these muffins in very small muffin tins. (Not much more than an inch in diameter.) They are delicious bite-sized treats!

CHECK OUT VIRTUAL BAZAAR ITEMS FOR SALE IN THIS ISSUE (pages 19-24!)





IMAGES & STORIES

Presents **Huda Kandalaft Kanawati**



Huda is Parkdale's newly appointed Congregational Designated Minister for Youth and Families. No doubt you have read or heard that she joined us earlier this year on July 2nd. She is Syrian, her mother tongue is Arabic, and, as she says, she "became Christian since the time of Jesus!"

**Don't miss our Images & Stories on
Friday, October 30 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM**

when you will meet Huda and hear such an exciting story of her life's journey from Syria and along the way to Parkdale.

This will be a **ZOOM presentation** from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Please register your attendance by e-mailing pdale@trytel.com or phoning Don Mockett (613-728-8656) in the office. Don will send you the ZOOM link closer to October 30th.

NAMBY AND PAMBY

ROCKING THE BOAT

Namby: Good morning, Pamby.

Pamby: Well, it's not so good, but it's you. So, Good Morning!

Namby: So, why isn't it good? Things are getting back to normal, aren't they?

Pamby: Not if you have been listening to the news.

Namby: I have been, but sometimes I tune out. I'm tired hearing about pandemic and social-distancing.

Pamby: I am and I'm not. I want to be informed as much as possible about this sneaky virus, but I don't like to hear the stories about people dying; first, it was mainly about seniors; now, it's about young people.

Namby: So, that's what is bugging you?

Pamby: Not really. I'm a realist, at times anyhow, so I have been learning to live with it.

Namby: Well, I hope you are after our conversation in the park when we were very big on Love and Hope.

Pamby: Yes, and you and I know that it's easy to talk about them; they are nice words, make us feel good.

Namby: So, what's wrong with feeling good? For goodness sake,

there is enough to feel bad about these days!

Pamby: OK, OK, don't get on your high horse with me!

Namby: Who says that I am on a high horse? I have never been on a horse, let alone a high one. I'm not getting you this morning. You talk about being a realist but something seems to be bugging you.

Pamby: You are right, you know. I'm just tired of the news. I'm drained.

Namby: Well, stop listening! Period. Problem solved.

Pamby: So, my usually thoughtful friend suddenly thinks that life is so easy? So, if I stop listening, any problem that I or my society may be facing will go away. Period.

Namby: Well, why not try our recipe of Love and Hope?

Pamby: At least you don't see the solution as simple as some of my friends who tell me earnestly "Tell it to Jesus, he understands".

Namby: But, dear Pamby, I still don't know what the problem is, what is bugging you, why you are tired and feel drained. Are you giving me all this talk because you are reluctant to be frank about it?

Pamby: Yes, I confess. I'm also bold enough to say that, perhaps, you and a lot of people shy away

from talking about it.

Namby: Is it about Sex, Porn, Booze, Poverty, Addiction, Over-eating, Homelessness, Indigenous people, Oil, the Environment, Religion or Atheism?

Pamby: Wow! You are heavy! You could have lightened the list by including “Celebrity”. But no, lots of people like to talk about that.

Namby: You still haven’t answered my question.

Pamby: Ok, here is a clue. It’s a four-letter word.

Namby: Gee whiz, Pamby! You aren’t asking me to swear, are you? Is it “Porn”?

Pamby: Get with it, Namby! “Porn” is a four-letter word but it isn’t a swear word. And you know that I don’t swear, at least not in the presence of my children, family or friends.

Namby: Now, please give me another clue before I swear.

Pamby: Well, it’s been a hot topic on Social Media, the radio, TV, Sports, you name it--even in Church, for weeks!

Namby: Let’s see. Umm, a four-letter word! Do you mean “Race?”

Pamby: You are right on this time!

Namby: I have heard people say

that the topic has no business in the Church.

Pamby: Doesn’t it? I may not be a regular church-goer, but if I remember my Sunday School Days, the teacher talked a lot about the brotherhood of humankind and the fatherhood of God. Now that I am an adult, I see the church as one of the few places on the planet which tells everybody that there is a place for them.

Namby: Right. So does the United Nations. So, why are you tired and drained?

Pamby: It’s never an easy conversation. It makes some people feel uncomfortable and guilty. And sometimes the people who bring it up are called aggressive or whiners, always asking others to give them something.

Namby: That’s true. My understanding is that all they are asking for is an equal opportunity and their fair share. Sometimes they are only heard if they demand it.

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Back to School Prayers and Blessings

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A Prayer for Back to School:

At the start of the school year, we are beginning something new. New things can be exciting. New things can be scary. New things can be wonderful. New things can be confusing. God, you are always with us. You are with us when things are exciting, or scary, or wonderful, or confusing. You are with us every day. And all the time God, please help us to feel your presence with us on the first day of school, and every day, Amen...

A Prayer for At Home (Remote) Learning:

Home is where we eat at the table and sleep in our bed. For now, home is where we do our learning, too. God, please be with me when I learn at home. Help me to understand what to do. Help me to be patient if it gets hard or feels too different. Most of all, help me to feel your love, Amen.

A Prayer for Blended Learning:

I can learn in many different ways. I can learn at home. I can learn at school. I can learn in both home and school. This year I'll be learning in many different places. Though my body will be in different places, one thing will always stay the same: no matter where I am, God is with me. No matter where I am, God loves me. No matter where I am, I am God's child. Amen.

A Prayer for Homeschooling:

As I start a year of school at home, I pray for all of the things I will learn this year. I pray for my teachers and family members. (Sometimes my teachers are my family members!) Help us all on this journey. May we be kind and do our very best, Amen

A Prayer in the Time of COVID-19:

God, we have so many things to pray for: We pray for those who are sick We pray for those who are worried about getting sick. We pray for doctors, and nurses, and medical professionals. We pray for those who are sad and grieving someone who has died. We pray for scientists. We pray for politicians. We pray for our family. We pray for our friends. We pray for all the other things in our hearts and on our minds. We end our prayer by saying “thank you”. God thank you for the small blessings of every day Thank you for hearing us when we pray. Thank you for your love, Amen.

A Prayer for Putting on a Mask:

I put on my mask to show others I care. I put on my mask to keep others safe. I put on my mask to love my neighbor. Thank you, God, for being with me, Amen.

A Prayer for Washing My Hands:

I wash my hands. I make them clean. I dry them off. While I wash I say “Thank you, God” .While I wash I say “Peace to all”, Amen.

A Prayer for Healers:

God, we pray for those who heal, in mind and body and spirit. As they care for others, may you care for them. As they bring healing to others, may you keep them safe. Thank you for those who have a special calling to heal others. May they always be well. May they always have peace, Amen.

A Prayer for Scientists and Other Leaders:

God, we thank you for those who are working hard to solve the problems we face. May you be with scientists and other leaders as they make discoveries about COVID19 and the world we live in. May they be brave. May they know that their work is important. May they never give up, Amen.

A Prayer for Living Day by Day:

When our world is changing day by day, sometimes we worry about the

future. Sometimes our plans change. Sometimes we don't know what will happen later. Sometimes we are disappointed. God, please be near to us when we are disappointed, or worried, or in a time of change. Help us to live day by day, and to be thankful for what each day brings. Help us not to worry about tomorrow. This is the day that you have made, God, let us be present and joyful today, Amen.

A Prayer for When I'm Out of My Routine:

Some days are topsy turvy. Some days are not what I was expecting. On those days I stop. I breathe in. I breathe out. I take a break and feel the Holy Spirit guide me ...

A Prayer for When I'm Tired and Overwhelmed:

When I'm tired I need rest for my body. And for my mind and spirit, too. God, please show me how to rest and space. Help me to find peace for my spirit. Peace for my mind. Peace for my body. Thank you for my breath. Thank you for my family .Thank you for your Spirit, Amen.

A Blessing for the School Space Inside the Home:

God we dedicate this space as a space for learning. May our minds be quieted in this space. May we be open to learning in this space. May we be curious in this space. Be with us each and every moment we come to our special learning place. Amen.

A Blessing to Start the Day:

May your day be filled with joy and gladness. May you be kind today. May you be at peace today. May you know you are loved today, by God and by your family. May you hold that love in your heart, today and every day ...

A Blessing to End the Day:

Goodnight, sweet dreams, the day is done. Goodnight, have peace, and know God's love, Amen.