



FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH



August 31, 2020

What's Happening

2 Wembley Road Toronto ON M6C 2E9 ♦ 416 783-0879
Minister: Rev. Stephen Fetter www.foresthilluc.org



Limited Sanctuary Worship Begins September 13

Our main worship experience will continue to be through Zoom and YouTube as long as the pandemic restrictions continue. We expect that Sanctuary worship will be most attractive to those who have had difficulty with these electronic options, and who prefer to watch our Zoom broadcast on the church's large screen. Please weigh the risks carefully before attending in-person.

Masks, hand-washing and capacity restrictions have become common place in stores

and restaurants this summer, but they may still come as a shock when we encounter them at church! Here's what to expect when our Sanctuary opens for worship on September 13:

Reserve your seat ahead of time – social distancing dramatically reduces the capacity of our Sanctuary. To claim one of our 20 reserved seats, please use our new online reservation sys-

tem or call the Church Office during Office hours (416-783-0879). We're keeping a couple of extra seats in the Transept for last-minute walk-ins, but please don't count on that! Once the Sanctuary has reached capacity, it will be illegal for us to admit any more people!

High Risk People, consider connecting by Zoom or YouTube – Toronto Public Health recommends that those who are over 70 years old and those with underlying health conditions are at much higher risk of getting really sick from this virus. Please consider alternative ways to worship with us if you fall into this category.

Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Screening – a Worship Committee volunteer will greet you at the door and ask you to confirm your answers to all the typical screening

Welcome

Worship with Us

September 6, 2020
Labour Day Weekend
Guest Speaker:
Linda Kowlessar

September 13, 2020
Sermon title:
Freedom
Exodus 14:19-27
Exodus 15: 1b-6

September 20, 2020
Sermon title:
Kingdom Economics
Matthew 20: 1-7
Matthew 20: 8-15

September 27, 2020
Sermon Title:
Feeling Cheated?
Exodus 17:1-3
Exodus 17: 4-7

October 4, 2020
World Communion Sunday
Sermon Title:
Advice for Tenants
Matthew 21:33-39
Matthew 21: 40-46

How to Connect to Us Remotely

To Connect by Computer via Zoom or YouTube

- Navigate to www.foresthilluc.org and look for the instructions in the big green box

To Connect by telephone

- dial 647 558 0588
- enter Meeting ID: 825 165 070
- when prompted for a "Password" enter 123456
- when prompted for a "Participant ID" tap the pound key (#)

questions required by Toronto Public Health. Hand sanitizer will be available, and we'll provide spare masks for those who left theirs at home. The Toronto Mask Bylaw requires that everyone wear a mask inside the building all the time, unless they're behind a plastic screen.

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What to Expect at our Sanctuary Worship Services

(Continued from page 1)

Contact Tracing – Just like in restaurants these days, we'll be collecting contact information from everyone who arrives, so that Toronto Public Health can contact you if someone at church tests positive. Your personal information is safe; we will keep these records for 30 days, and use them for no other purpose than to provide the necessary information to an authorized Public Health official. Your participation is voluntary, but strongly recommended.

Please socialize outside – We're not allowed to serve coffee or treats before or after the service, and our aisle is narrow which makes social distancing inside a real challenge. When you enter the building, please go di-

Building Changes During the Lockdown

Property Committee took the opportunity of a quieter building to complete some disruptive projects while we've been locked out of the Sanctuary.

The stained glass windows have been sealed against drafts with new clear plastic storms, which can be removed in the summer when we need to get in some ventilation.

The Kitchen floor in the basement was replaced with state-of-the-art vinyl plank, which looks fresh, warm and clean, and there was enough left over to install into the basement bathroom on the Bathurst Street side of the building.

There's new paint on the walls in the upstairs bathroom, and Ann has done more deep cleaning than the place has seen in 80 years!

Thank you to Sandra, George, and Ann who have made the place sparkle for us!



Watch the Zoom Worship Service on the Sanctuary's big screen

rectly to your seat and stay there until the service is over (unless you need to use a washroom). If you choose to socialize outside, please practice social distancing.

Children's Programming Continues Online – Children are welcome to sit with their parents in the Sanctuary, but Toronto Public Health has suspended all in-person children's programming and toddler care in churches. Ann



Fraser will continue to meet with our kids at 9:30am every Sunday morning on Zoom.

Sing Softly with your Mask on – early science suggests that singing is particularly dangerous with this virus, so you're invited to quietly hum along with your mask on while the music plays. Our music director Nancy Singla will continue to record all the hymns and service music from home, and we'll play these recordings, together with the words to the hymns, in exactly the same way as we've been doing since March.

Interactive Prayers and Readings through Zoom – One of the gifts of the new style of worshipping that we've been experi-

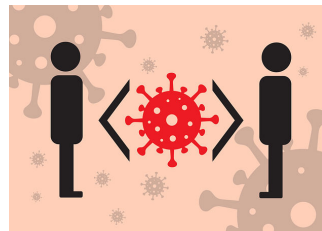
menting with has been the variety of voices we can include in the readings and prayers. It makes us feel together even when we're each sitting in our own homes. This will continue – remote viewers can add to the prayers in the "normal" way, and those in the Sanctuary who want to add something will have their words repeated into the mic by Rev. Steve so that all can hear.

Everything will be on the Screen – hymn books and pew envelopes have been removed from the pews, in order to limit the number of things we need to clean between services. All the hymns and prayers will be displayed on the screen. If seeing the screen is difficult, consider arriving early enough that you can get a seat closer to the front.

Please continue to use electronic tools and cheques for financial giving – nobody wants to touch an offering plate these days! The best ways to support our ministry financially continue to be via one of the

electronic tools at our website (www.foresthilluc.org/donate) or by putting a cheque in the mail.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Re-Connect with us this Fall

It's our 80th Anniversary this year — a time to celebrate the health and vibrancy of our congregation even in these uncertain times.

Join us as we explore new ways to be church together: to have

some fun, to gather in small groups, to deepen the connections among us, and to offer our community calm in the midst of the chaos of our lives!

Coronavirus may prevent us from singing in worship, but that's just calling extra creativity out of our Music Director Nan-



cy Singla. She has all sorts of plans to create “virtual” introits and hymns, to showcase all the singers among us.

Participants will receive a recording of her signing the piece she's creating. They're asked to record themselves singing along, and through the magic of technology we'll sync them up into a video to share during worship.

Even if you haven't been a part of our choir before, consider giving it a whirl!

The Congregational Life Committee has been hard at it exploring ways for us to have some fun together. As a caring community, we need to do more than just worship. Since bus trips and apple pies are on hold as long as pan-

demetic restrictions last, watch for brand new ways to connect. Some of the ideas they're playing with include online cooking classes with Debra Oliver — bring your laptop into your own kitchen and follow along as she helps us create culinary wonders you've never thought of before.

They're also thinking about games nights — maybe charades or Pictionary. Bring your own refreshments and let's be silly together.

We may also resurrect our movie and discussion program. Technology exists to allow us to watch a movie together, even if we're all in different places. Make a bowl of popcorn, and join us for a provocative show and lively discussion to follow.

Outside activities are much safer



than inside ones — a couple of landscaping parties are in the works.

But our Parlour is big enough to host small gatherings and still allow us to be socially distanced. As the weather gets cooler, watch for small group opportunities to combat the loneliness and isolation so many of us have been struggling with.

There's lots planned; be sure to join us as we enter a Fall unlike any other!

Weathering the Pandemic's Financial Impact

When the lockdown closed our building last Spring, it also suspended all of the monies we have been receiving from the community groups that use our building — more than half our monthly income!

Congregational givings, on the other hand, actually went up — through the generosity of some of our members whose personal finances weren't damaged by the lockdown, and who knew we were struggling. Thank you!

Those extra givings have made a difference. So have the tireless efforts of our Board and volunteers who ruthlessly cut expenses to the bone, turned down the furnace, cut out the summer air conditioning, and saved us the expense of a professional lawn service.

Treasurer Sara Joyce found ways to apply for most of the Federal Government emergency programs, including the Wage Subsidy pro-

gram, the Rent Subsidy Program, and an emergency government loan to keep our cash flow liquid.

Between all of these measures, we've stayed afloat financially. It's anyone's guess how many of our tenants will be able to resume normal operations as the lockdown lifts, and none of us can predict whether a second wave might throw more spanners into the works. But so far our finances have been enough under control that we've been able to focus on providing excellent ministry, and not just on keeping the lights on!

Thank you to all of you who have helped with this monumental task, and for your support of the ministry we've been able to accomplish. In times of crisis our society needs strong churches to help put everything else in perspective. We're grateful for all you've done to help us exercise that mission.

**If you'd rather not have your photo appear in church publications, please let us know at the Church Office
416 783-0879**

Food Bank Sunday



September 13, 2020

We collect food and money donations for the North York Harvest Food Bank on the second Sunday of every month.



This week in Church School

A New Beginning

Exodus 14: 19031

To explore feelings of new beginnings

ONLINE Sunday at 9:30 am

Upcoming Meetings

Official Board
September 24, 7:30 pm



to live by

Our bi-monthly group meets on Thursday evenings to discuss the issues in the following week's sermon

Next meeting:
September 10 7:00 pm

Youth and Young Adults Rendez-vous Digitally

Rendez-vous 2020, the United Church's national youth and young adult gathering, was an event like no other—just as 2020 has been a year like no other.

In late April, the Rendez-vous design team decided there couldn't be a large gathering in Calgary because of COVID-19. Plans that had been in the works for over a year were scrapped, disappointment reigned, and there was wavering about whether to postpone to 2021, cancel completely, or reimagine. After anxious conversations, disagreements, and a few tears, the decision was made to reimagine Rendez-vous 2020 as an online event.

Rendez-vous 2020 Reimagined, held August 11–14, was much like a face-to-face event. There were engaging keynote speakers, lively worship sessions, home groups, a service project, as well as workshops and spiritual practice sessions too numerous to list. Each morning started with Teachings by Elders, and each evening ended with a fun social time. Photos were shared, chats occurred, and exhibits viewed. Some people participated from home, others took part while camping, and some joined in from their church parking lots.

More than 480 young people attended the various activities over the course of the event. There were



Dr. James Makokis is a proud Cree from the Saddle Lake First Nation in northern Alberta and a physician. He was a keynote speaker at Rendez-vous 2020.

participants from every province in Canada as well as denominations, including Anglican, Lutheran, and United Church of Christ. The virtual nature of the event drew the circle wider than ever: Global partners from around the world, including the Philippines, Palestine, France, and Kenya joined in.

Your gifts through Mission & Service are hard at work in these challenging times supporting youth and young adults. Thank you! Your gifts help transform and save lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world.

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Thanks to Mikel Rice

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