



FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH



June 24, 2018

What's Happening

2 Wembley Road Toronto ON M6C 2E9 ♦ 416 783-0879
www.foresthilluc.org



Summer Schedule: starting July 8

We move to our summer schedule in two weeks. Please join us for worship in our air conditioned parlours at 10:30 am

Our summer worship schedule begins on July 8.

Please plan to join us for worship at 10:30 am, in our air conditioned parlours, during July and August.

Our congregations are always a bit smaller in the summer. We move the worship service up half an hour so that you'll have time during the rest of the day to visit with friends, or enjoy some of them many outdoor activities that are available in Toronto.

Our services are also a bit more informal. We meet in the parlours for a relaxed time of worship, singing and prayer.

Church School closes for the summer, and will resume on the Sunday after Labour Day.

Throughout the summer months, however, we'll continue to provide care for toddlers, and any children who wish to join them.

Choir also takes a break during the sum-



mer. They'll begin their rehearsals again in September.

Please note the change

of time on July 8, so you don't arrive late for the service ... and enjoy the summer weather!

General Council Meets July 20-27

The 43rd General Council of The United Church of Canada meets this summer in Oshawa, and you're invited to connect.

The General Council is like our national Parliament for the church; it consists of over 350 representatives elected from each of the regions across the country. It meets every three years to set policy and give direction to the staff and volunteers who work on the projects and ministries that we all share.

This summer's meeting will consider a wide variety of proposals: some internal ones that

are designed to streamline our governance and financial structures; some that invite us to respond to the Calls to Action from the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and some that will impact on our relationships with other denominations and mission partners in North America and around the world.

Ten people have been nominated for Moderator, and the election and installation will be one of the highlights of the conference.

But the meeting begins on July 21 and 22 with a

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Worship with Us

July 1, 2018
Baptism of Baby Elijah
Sermon Title:
"Remember Whose You Are"

1 Kings 17: 8-16
1 Kings 18: 17-19

July 8, 2018
Sermon Title:
"Beware Familiarity"
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 15, 2018
Sermon Title:
"Casual Brutality"
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

Summer Worship Leaders Needed



Rev. Steve will be on vacation in the second half of the summer. We're looking for some volunteers to lead worship in his absence.

If you're interested in helping with this, please contact
the Church Office

416 783-0879

General Council meets in Oshawa this July

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Festival of Faith, including music, interactive art, 25 workshops with leaders from across Canada, a Coffee House, and Artisan market, and more.

The Festival is open to all, and the organizers are hoping that this will be an exciting opportunity for all of us who live within hailing distance of Oshawa to feel the energy, and get excited about the remarkable variety of things that our denominations does and stands for.

There are lots of ways that you can connect with the conference:

- Join us in Oshawa for the Festival of Faith, and interact with church folk from across the country;
- Follow the events on the

Thank you to our “Clean up” Volunteers

We are so grateful to all those who joined us for the June Work Day.

A mighty crew brought pruners, trimmers and even a chain saw to the brush on the hill around the sign at Bathurst and Wembley, and planted flowers in the South Parlour garden.

Another crew cleared out the storage room where we keep all the tables and chairs, and filled the dumpster to overflowing with detritus and broken tables we no longer need.

A third crew repaired the fence at the back of the parking lot which was damaged by fire last year, so the place is looking more “loved” again.

And a fourth crew managed a variety of small interior repairs, and removed all the cobwebs from the Sanctuary ceiling.

We’re so glad we could offer you pizza, but that seems small recompense for the time and energy you offered us. Thank you!

meeting’s website:
www.generalcouncil43.ca. Already there is lots of pre-meeting material posted, and once the

meeting begins there will be daily news updates

- Watch the program livestreamed to YouTube. All the public parts of the meetings will be



available this way, and our own Rev. Steve is managing the stream.

General Council is held in a different location every three years; it could be many many years before another meeting will be this close to us. Don’t miss the opportunity to see the wider church in action.

The United Church’s “Year in Review”

Recent media headlines paint a picture of a world of immense pain, suffering, and injustice. On a note of optimism, the newly released United Church [2017 Year in Review](#) is an inspiring reminder of the all the life-changing work that church congregations, volunteers, advocates, and donors have achieved. Here are four of the many inspiring short stories inside the 2017 Year in Review:

Rohingya relief: The Rohingya people are the world’s most persecuted minority. Almost a million individuals have fled violence and now live in refugee camps. The United Church began accepting donations for the Rohingya crisis in 2017. This is helping Mission & Service partner, ACT Alliance, provide much-needed food, clean water, sanitation, health services, and shelter.

On the frontlines of reconciliation: In Montreal, Trinity United Church members teamed up with The Right Relations Committee of the Quebec Presbytery and GO Project youth to stand in solidarity with the Mohawk people of Kanehsatake, who are deeply concerned about development on their ancestral lands. Trinity United Rev. Read Sherman, told CTV National News, “It’s important for us to show up at pro-

tests like this, to try and build a new relationship that is more based on justice and equality.”

Rendez-vous 2017: Eager to change the world, youth from across Canada gathered in Montreal for Rendez-vous 2017 last August. Over four days young people worshiped, prayed, sang, and immersed themselves in social justice issues. Participants said they were deeply inspired by the event and returned home motivated to lead in their churches and communities.

On the cutting edge: EDGE is transforming the way we think about, and “do,” church. Here’s a snapshot of a few things this innovation hub (funded by Mission & Service) achieved in 2017:

- 450: people involved in the social mentor network.
- 300: non-church partners.
- 300: congregations participating in Embracing the Spirit (EDGE’s learning network).
- 300: congregations in the Buying United cost-saving program.
- 200: communities of faith engaging in workshops.
- One in six: faith communities in the church connecting with EDGE.

Asmat arrives June 28; Million on July 17

The Refugee Support Committee is planning to welcome Asmat with a dinner gathering on the 28th

Asmat's arrival time has been confirmed by the Canadian government. His plane is scheduled to touch down at 4:25pm on June 28.

After all the planning and prayers, it's really happening, and we're both excited and a little nervous.

Million will join him a couple of weeks later; there's been unfortunate mix up with his medical exam which is in the process of being straightened out, but which has delayed his departure by a couple of weeks.

We're inviting members of the Refugee Support Committee to come to the airport, if they're free. And then to come back to the church for an informal bbq and

small gathering to welcome Asmat to Toronto. We don't want to overwhelm him, so for this occasion we're asking only the Committee members to be present.

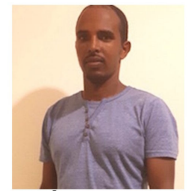
There will be lots of opportunities, however, for members of our congregation to get to know both of these men.

We're going to need people to accompany them as they learn their way around Toronto, get health cards, find a doctor, and start to get organized with life in general.

We're going to need people who are willing to do some "fun" things with them too — take them to the Zoo or Toronto Islands or Kensington Market or China Town. It'll be a chance to show off the city we live in, but also to give them a chance to practice their English. We're anticipating lots of laughter and hand gestures as

The Refugees We are Sponsoring

Million



Asmat

they get accustomed to our language and ways. But since so many of the folk in our congregation have first-hand experience in coming to Canada, we know that they'll get a very sympathetic reception.

We'll be looking for housing for them in the Fall; until then they will be house guests in Menbere's brother's home. So if you have household furniture or goods to donate, please plan on offering them to the Committee after Labour Day. In the meantime, let's all work hard to provide a warm and hearty welcome.

Consider Leading one of our Summer Worship Services

As we move into the beginning of June, it's time once again to start thinking about summer services at Forest Hill. Once again we're making an invitation to members of the congregation to consider leading, or helping to lead, one of our summer worship services.

As with other years, Rev. Steve is happy to provide support, encouragement and guidance until he disappears ... but he'll be harder to reach once things really get going! If you'd like some help getting organized or thinking about a theme or something like that, please let him know and he'll be

happy to get together for coffee and talk about these things.

One of the best things about our summer services is that they give our members and friends an opportunity to talk about how their faith and their life intersect. Faith is useless if it's abstract; the people who come really appreciate the opportunity to hear about the difference that faith makes in the lives of the person up front.

In previous years people have taken the opportunity to talk about an issue that excites them, or explore a problem that troubles them. People have talked about how they put their faith into practice in their work, or in their hobbies, or in their family. People have talked about being caught by wonder, surprised by joy, grounded at a time when things went wrong. Or they've talked about their spiritual doubts, and where they've found some direc-

tion in the midst of those. Lots of these have been more "testimony" than "sermon" ... and that's excellent.

It shows how faith matters. When people hear someone talking like that, it makes them think about their own faith differently too. We get lots of appreciation for the services that our volunteers lead!

We need help for a couple of extra weeks this year because in addition to his vacation time Rev. Steve will be at the meeting of General Council from July 21-28 ... so July 15 will be his last service in Forest Hill. Here are the dates we need help with: July 22, July 29, August 5, August 12, August 19, August 26, September 2.

**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 July 8



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

Courage and Faith

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11 19-23), 32-49

To help explore how God gives us skills to face the fears and challenges of life.

Upcoming Meetings

Official Board Meeting
June 27, 7:00-9:00 pm



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

to live by

See you in September

An Investment in the Future

Our gifts for Mission & Service, together with emergency funds and Gifts with Vision, enabled us to build a church-run high school in Haiti.

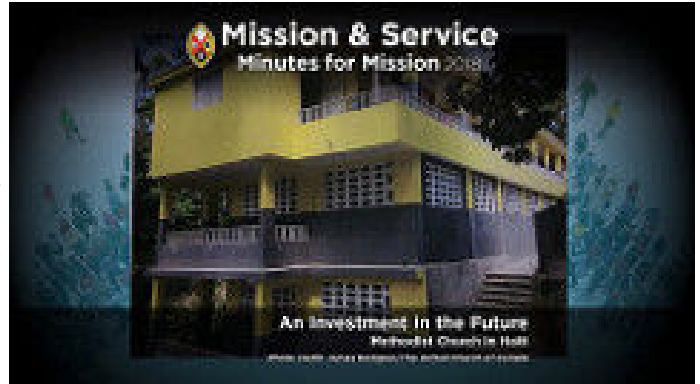
The opening of a new sec-

ondary school in Duplan, in the hills above Port-au-Prince, was the high point of celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the Église Méthodiste en Haïti (Methodist Church in Haiti) in February 2017.

The United Church of Canada financed 80 percent of the cost of building the seven-room structure following the massive earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, destroying or damaging many schools and churches and killing between 225,000 and 300,000 people.

The shiny yellow building housing the new secondary school is bursting with 215 students and 19 staff. Already, Edzair Paul, who heads up the Methodist school system, is dreaming of adding computer and science labs, as well as a playing field so students don't have to compete with motorbikes as they play soccer on the dusty road near the school.

Education was the church's calling card to Haiti. In 1817, the first president of the Republic of Haiti authorized the first Protestant



missionaries to come to the island nation on the understanding that their work would include providing schooling in the newly formed country.

Today, the Methodist Church runs a system of 105 primary schools, 15 high schools, and a teachers' college, as well as three vocational schools.

With children in some areas travelling two hours by foot over rocks and boulders to get to school—sometimes without having had breakfast—the need for a major investment in education is clear. Mission & Service makes these schools accessible to families with limited incomes, an important investment in the future of Haiti.

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

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Thanks to Pam Winn
TROUBLE IN CAT CHURCH

05-09-2011