

# Bells Corners United Church SPRING REPORT 2023

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Enhances Visitor Experience

Attracts Attention

Increased Participation

Saves Time

Modernizes

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### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### April 02 – Palm Sunday

Onsite at 10:00 am with live streaming (links will be sent prior to each service)

#### April 07 – Good Friday Service

Onsite at 10:00 am with live streaming.

#### April 09 – Easter Sunday with Communion

Onsite at 10:00 am with live streaming

Please support the work and ministry of BCUC with additional donations where possible. Look for donation envelopes, at Church, or send to [Treasurer@bcuc.org](mailto:Treasurer@bcuc.org)



### PHOTO DIRECTORY

If you did not receive a 2023 photo directory the Office is printing colour copies available for purchase at \$5.



### POSITION AVAILABLE

Bells Corners United Church is seeking an enthusiastic individual to rebuild its historically active and vibrant Youth Group in the wake of the pandemic.

This could be the role you've been seeking!

See page 6 - 7 for details!

# The Good News of Hope



 **REV. KIM**

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Dear friends,

As I write this message, we are still in the season of Lent and the ground is still covered with snow. Our BCUC Lenten journey began with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper hosted by Two Men and a Stove and many volunteers serving more than 80 people. This was followed the next day by an Ash Wednesday Service that gathered 14 people in the Shalom Room. We are moving towards a few more Sundays in Lent, followed by Palm Sunday, the Holy Week and then Easter Sunday.

But amidst the anticipation of a joyful Easter celebration, we cannot ignore the fact that the world continues to experience Good Friday. Economic recession is still severe with food insecurity topping the list, and add to that, the year-long war in Ukraine, the devastating human loss in Syria and Turkey due to earthquakes, the human rights violations in many parts of the world and the personal challenges that beset every individual, particularly youth and children. How could we possibly celebrate the joyful alleluias at Easter when the world is in the midst of grief? In this time of uncertainties, two forces may be at play: fear and hope. We may feel unstable, upset and anxious when terrible things confront us. Fear sets in that might potentially tip us over and leave us forever grieving. It is important that we keep our Easter faith alive and acknowledge that moments of fear will not last forever. It is equally important that we embrace hope, and that, through our actions, we respond with hope rather than with fear.

A few Sundays from now, we will celebrate our hope as Easter people. We acknowledge that the spirit of Jesus and his teachings about God's reign forever lives in our hearts. We become his resurrected body for others and the world. Matthew, as our storyteller of the resurrection story, invites us to imagine ourselves as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who visited the tomb at dawn. The earth shook under their feet and an angel of God descending from the sky came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. The angel announced to the women not to be afraid. Angels always do that in the gospel of Matthew. They assure people not to fear but to hope! It took an earthquake, an angel sitting atop a stone and a missing body to send the two Mary's fleeing, not with fear, but with a mission - to tell others the good news of hope. They found a way to move forward into the rest of their lives and into the world.

The celebration of Easter is glorious and especially powerful. It will be a faith-filled worship service with joyful hymns and music, prayers from the heart, and words of reflection from the Gospel writer Matthew that offer comfort and strength and an invitation to partake in God's table of grace. It is wonderful to experience the gift of Easter with family and friends, young and old, bursting with high spirits. Of course, we need to acknowledge the dressing up of the sanctuary and the chancel with

banners and the beautiful white lilies! Personally, I will always cherish the moments of resurrection joy and am so grateful to be part of this vibrant congregation.

By the end of May, I will be going on my second sabbatical leave. This is my tenth year as your minister and I'm truly grateful for another opportunity to use my leave for much-needed reflection, recreation and revitalization. Some of my plans include, attending the Festival of Homiletics online, some traveling, a week of clergy and spouse retreat, meeting family and friends, church-hopping, attending learning events and lots of reading!

In my absence, Rev. Lorrie will be your worship leader, pastoral caregiver, learning facilitator and spiritual mentor, in addition to her regular duties. These next few months, I'm sure, could be both surprising and exciting times for all of us. Continue sharing your gifts of compassion and creativity. Continue to be the good news of God's love for the world. And for all you know, three and a half months will have gone by swiftly.

And finally, I turn to the wisdom of our post-resurrection BCUC community as we offer our gifts of gratitude and a profound sense of the power of love to carry the torch of hope in this time of pandemic and uncertainties. The good news of Easter continues to invade my spirit. I hope it invades yours too! Hallelujah!

Easter blessings and joy,

Rev. Kim



## PASTORAL & SPIRITUAL CARE

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"The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares."

- Henri Nouwen



As always, the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team is here for you. Please contact the BCUC office or one of the ministers whenever there is a need for compassionate listening, prayer or support in times of transition, illness, isolation, grief or crisis.

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team is hosting a Death Café\* on Tuesday, May 9 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Shalom Room. Join us in a relaxed social setting for refreshments and a conversation about death. Participants are welcome to discuss any aspect of death they wish. Let's see where the conversation goes! RSVP to Susan Young at [skyoung.susan@gmail.com](mailto:skyoung.susan@gmail.com)

Note: This is an informal discussion group. If you are seeking grief counselling or a support group, please contact Rev. Lorrie or Rev. Kim.

\*For more information about the Death Café movement, visit <https://deathcafe.com>

## Spring is coming!



### REV. LORRIE

Sometimes it seems hard to believe, and sometimes it seems like winter lasts *forever*, but we know that the promise of warm days and new growth is a promise that Mother Nature will keep.

Like the life that continues under the cover of snowy fields and shortened hours of daylight, life at BCUC has been very busy over the past months too. Sunday morning worship services have been well attended by people of all ages and generations (including four generations of the Howes/Crow family!), Sunday School classes have continued to grow, and fellowship time has returned to pre-COVID conditions of conversations and laughter over coffee. Sunday mornings are not the only times this congregation is bustling! Committees are meeting and planning, and working, choirs are rehearsing, the band is back together, folks are getting together to learn in the Lectionary Study and the Seekers book discussions, women meet for Coffee and Friends, the Men's Club gathers, we've held social and fundraising events like a Trivia afternoon, a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and even a cribbage tournament...winter hasn't slowed us down!

And get ready; there is lots more coming! A spring concert, our big Garage Sale, an outdoor Pentecost service and picnic, Camp Awesome, and, hopefully, a summer Partnership Visit to our friends in Chipembi, Zambia, to name a few. It is exciting and a true blessing to be part of such a vibrant and active community of faith.

With the privilege of having the people and the space to offer these wonderful opportunities for worship, learning, and fun, comes the responsibility to ensure that everyone is cared for in the safest ways possible. One part of this is, of course, keeping our building and property in good condition but it also includes ensuring that everyone who comes here to participate, to work, or to volunteer, is safe from any kind of abuse. Over the past year, I have been working hard to become qualified to both understand and implement the administrative aspects of having a good abuse prevention policy and to train our staff and volunteers here at BCUC who work and interact with the most vulnerable folks in our congregation. We can confidently say that BCUC has a "Plan to Protect®". We have begun with training the members of the Board, the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team, and members of our staff. Plans are in place to also offer this training to members of our Property Committee, and those who teach our children and youth. The training is mandatory for some but certainly open to all. The more people are aware and involved in ensuring the safety of everyone in our community, the more comfortable and confident we all are that this is not only a welcoming place but one that cares for every person who comes through our doors - and the more confident the surrounding community can be that BCUC takes being a safe and caring place very seriously. Sounds a lot like being a good neighbour to me! The training is free and open to anyone in our congregation who would like to take part. The knowledge and skills presented are useful in all areas of life and can be of benefit to everyone. Please contact me if you'd like to join one of our sessions!

As my thoughts turn to Easter this week, it strikes me that one of the key messages in this foundational story of resurrection and new life is that, even when it seems that life has ended, that energy is still there, waiting to be ignited – like flowers pushing through the snow in the spring, like venturing out to share a coffee and conversation with a friend, like reading a new book or learning a new skill, like sharing memories of a loved one ... like sharing the good news of Jesus alive in the world through the likes of you and me.

May your spirit be enlivened in this holy season!

Blessings,

Rev. Lorrie

## BCUC ON YOUTUBE



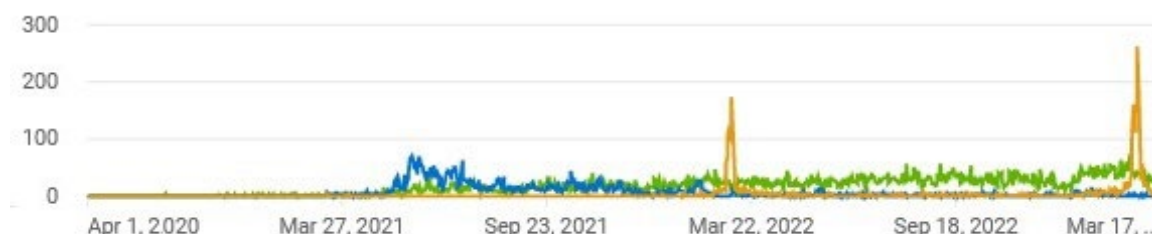
Our YouTube Channel was started 3 years ago on April 1, 2020

The channel has become very active daily as our hymn videos are discovered and shared around the world!

- “It Only Takes a Spark” is far and away the leader with over 16,500 views, which is 20% of the entire channel’s 76,000 total views!

- “Jesus Tempted in the Desert” remarkably, gets a lot of attention during Lent, both last year and this, and has doubled its view count to take over 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the one month since the 2023 annual report! \* Note that a view/click is counted by YouTube regardless of if the video was watched in whole or in part which will explain why “watch time” above isn’t a direct multiplication of views by length of video.

## YOUTUBE CHANNEL DAILY TOTALS APRIL 1, 2020 – MARCH 17, 2023



Content	Views ↓	Watch time (hours)	Subscribers
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Total</b>	<b>76,167</b>	<b>6,170.4</b>	<b>284</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2:23 BCUC: It Only Takes a S...	16,597 21.8%	350.7 5.7%	58 20.4%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3:44 BCUC: I the Lord of Sea ...	6,263 8.2%	128.5 2.1%	30 10.6%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3:23 BCUC: Jesus Tempted i...	3,291 4.3%	91.4 1.5%	6 2.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:41 BCUC: Make Me a Chan...	3,200 4.2%	69.4 1.1%	12 4.2%
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:05 BCUC: In the Bulb There...	1,858 2.4%	35.6 0.6%	0 0.0%



# Worship and Christian Education



## SEEKING A YOUTH PROGRAM DIRECTOR



### Summary

Bells Corners United Church (BCUC) seeks an enthusiastic individual to rebuild its historically active and vibrant Youth Group in the wake of the pandemic.

To help achieve this goal, we are looking for a person to develop and deliver a Youth program for ages 13-18 that includes up to 5 hours a week of programming for youth, within and outside of the Sunday Worship Services.

Familiarity with, and experience in the United Church of Canada, is an asset.

### Position Description

- **Hours of Work** – up to 5 hours/ week
- **Remuneration** - \$20.00/hour

### Main Responsibilities

The success of this role will be measured in both program delivery and community outreach, interactions, and partnerships.

Reporting to the Christian Education Minister, the Youth Program Director will have responsibilities as described in the following:

### Programming

- Develop an overall strategy to increase youth membership and participation in the life of the BCUC congregation.
- Consult regularly with the church leadership team to ensure program activities complement and support wider church initiatives.
- Participate in the delivery of the Youth component of the Sunday School program. This includes providing input to the Worship and Education Committee and the minister to plan the lessons for the weekly Sunday School program for youth ages 13-18. (i.e., Sundays 10:00 – 11:00).
- Communicate regularly with staff, parents, and members of the congregation on Youth Group plans and activities.

### Outreach & Partnerships

- Reach out into the community to build on our existing relationships with the faith communities in our immediate neighbourhood (e.g.: Christ Church Bells Corners, St. Martin de Porres Roman Catholic Church, Jami Omar Mosque) and help create opportunities for joint youth events and initiatives
- Seek opportunities for youth to support local organizations that serve the community (e.g., FAMSAC, Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy)
- Seek opportunities to involve our Youth in the local and global outreach of the congregation, such as our Zambia Partnership Project.

### Worship

- Coordinate with the Minister, Music Director, and Worship & Education Committee to actively involve youth in the worship life of the church
- Involve youth in worship services (e.g., reading Scripture, lighting the Christ Candle, assisting the AV

Team).

- Help coordinate youth-led worship services

Attend the monthly meetings of the Worship/Christian Education Committee

### Education /Training and Skill

- A self-starter who wants to help build on BCUC's history of strong and vibrant Youth involvement
- Experience working with children and youth (e.g., after-school programs, or camps as a project leader or program coordinator);
- Demonstrates a vibrant, passionate knowledge of and commitment to the Christian faith, and has a basic understanding of the theology and the authority of scripture within the United Church of Canada
- Willingness to be flexible and emote contagious enthusiasm for finding creative, relevant and faithful ways to inspire our young people
- Enthusiastic about working with teens and comfortable in reaching out into the community to continue our relationships with other organizations (e.g. local faith communities and non-profits, our global partnership with Chipembi, Zambia) and to help form new partnerships.
- Skilled in digital technology and social media.

### About Us

Bells Corners United Church is a thriving faith community in the west end of Ottawa. We take our mission statement, to Rejoice, Renew, Respond, and Reach Out, to heart in everything we do. Our children and youth are an important and vibrant part of our worship and our work. Read more about us at [www.bcuc.org](http://www.bcuc.org)

We look forward to welcoming a leader who will help us rebuild our Youth Program in the wake of the pandemic.

Please send enquiries and expressions of interest to: Rev. Lorrie Lowes [lorrielowes12@gmail.com](mailto:lorrielowes12@gmail.com)

## Camp Awesome at BCUC



**JULY 10-14, 2023**

Come experience fun games, crafts, science and Bible stories in a friendly, open Christian community. Prepare for Fun, Faith and Friendship! All are welcome!

There is something for every age group:

**CA Camper – Ages 4 \* – 12**

**CA Crew – Ages 12 – 13**

**LIT – Ages 14 – 15**

\* Campers must be at least 4 years of age at time of camp and should have completed at least one year (JK or equivalent) of school.

The cost is **\$150 per camper for the week**. Program runs from 9:30-3:30. Registration includes snacks, materials and before & after care 8:30-9:30am and 3:30-4:30pm.

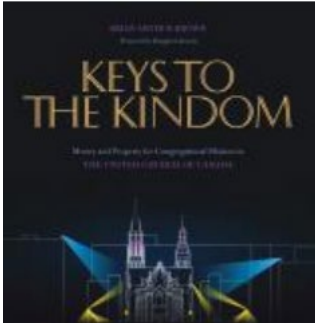
Here is the link to the registration form <https://eoorc.ca/2023-campawesome-registration-form/>

Contact me if you have any questions - Tamara Glanville

# Keys to the Kindom

WRITTEN BY: BRIAN ARTHUR BROWN, PREFACE BY: MARGARET ATWOOD

Money and Property for the Congregational Mission in the United Church of Canada.



In 2025 we celebrate the centenary of the United Church of Canada, and several books will be available to recount our history, and to look to our shared future. The first to be published is "Keys to the Kindom" by Brian Arthur Brown, 173 pages, soft cover, 10-by-10 inches, published by Wood Lake Publishing. The book features a Preface by Margaret Atwood. The book is focused on Money and Property used for Congregational Mission. Brown gives a history of this focus from the 1920s to the 1960s, and then from the 1960s to the present. And a peek at the future. He also gives a practical view on planning for the future, with several success stories.

The United Church has already established two supports for this future, which Brown elaborates. The United Church Foundation provides an opportunity for the professional and active investment of Church funds similar to those foundations used with great success by churches in the United States. BCUC already uses this for managing our Memorial Benevolent Fund. Arthur Brown also gives stories of the EDGE Network for Ministry Development which, among other activities, supports use of Church properties for revenue and outreach. BCUC members will be interested in the story of our former minister Rev Dr. Martha ter Kuile, more recently at Bloor St. United, Toronto, on page 123.

The book includes some amazing photographs of the activities of the United Church of Canada. I found that the book paints a fascinating and relatively little known story and recommend it to those interested in the future of BCUC. A copy of the book may be borrowed from the church office.

## BCUC Spring Garage Sale 2023

**SATURDAY MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>, FROM  
9AM – 1PM**

We open our doors to the community and celebrate spring with our annual garage sale. All the usual sales areas will be available. These will include Plants, Baking, Books/CD's/DVD's/Movies/LP's/Puzzles, Linens, Women's & Children's Clothing, White Elephant, seasonal sporting goods, Children's Books & Toys plus household & garden furniture.



There will be spring rolls, thanks to Rev. Kim

If you would be willing to coordinate

or help with a sales area, please contact Bob & Ellen Boynton, 613-828-3820 or [eboynton@rogers.com](mailto:eboynton@rogers.com)

It is a fun day to open our doors to welcome our neighbours here in the community and to raise funds to help with the operating fund of BCUC.

Watch for details in coming weeks.





## BROADVIEW MAGAZINE RENEWAL– DON'T MISS OUT!



**Broadview renewal deadline is April 5.** Please continue your support of this award-winning magazine whose mandate is Spirituality, Justice and Ethical Living. Gold Winner of the 2022 National Magazine Awards for Best Magazine Special Interest, *Broadview* struggles, as do all magazines, to maintain its level of quality journalism. Generic in most of the pages, the back section is 'The United Church in Focus' ensuring that our denomination continues to have presence. **Group subscription rate is still a bargain at \$25** and can be **paid to BCUC now**, preferably by cheque made out to BCUC or cash. Please consider **starting a new**

**subscription!** This fine magazine needs all the support it can get to enable quality journalism to continue.

## Volunteers Needed



## PROJECTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND WE NEED YOU

The AGM is over, nominations for committees and projects have been approved but there are still positions that remain unfilled. Please consider how you could help in one of the following areas. It would help us as we return to our former very busy active congregation's life and work.

Sadly, with the passing of Bridget McNeill we will need a volunteer from SOSA committee or the congregation to take on the role for Refuge NOW to continue this very important work.

Stewardship Committee has an opening for the role of committee chair.

Sunday School really needs teachers as the children are returning and we need to nurture the next generation in a caring friendly setting.



## HELP STAMP OUT POVERTY FOR \$0.00 – DESNA SULWAY

Oxfam raises approximately \$30,000 a year from its volunteer Stamp Program. (Used stamps and interesting envelopes) are collected, sorted and then sold to collectors. More details and which entire envelopes are collectable can be found on the SOSA bulletin board.

**SIMPLY** cut the stamps off the envelope leaving about a ¼" border around the stamp and put them in the top left drawer of the Communications Centre at the church and I will do the final sorting.

Previously it has funded projects ranging from famine and typhoon relief to women's empowerment and reducing HIV vulnerabilities, but since 2020 its priority has been to support the fight against COVID-19. The focus has been on poor countries with fragile public health systems which have been at the greatest risk of infection and death. Oxfam's work in more than 68 countries has been threefold:

- Projects involving better water supply, sanitation and hygiene, especially in crowded refugee camps and inner city areas
- Advocacy with governments to ensure the most vulnerable in society are not left behind
- Sharing reliable information with those who do not normally have easy access due to their circumstances



## A CALL TO ACTION FOR GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME

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The United Church is collaborating with Coalition Canada for Basic Income on a campaign to persuade municipalities to pass resolutions to be sent to federal and provincial governments encouraging them to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable income.

The Moderator of the UCC has launched this call to action with a video at <https://youtu.be/3KYhAsZT-e0>. In Ottawa, United Churches are working with Basic Income Ottawa Group to encourage City Council to pass such a resolution. Ellie and Clarke Topp have met with College Ward Councillor, Laine Johnson, who is already very supportive of this initiative. As BI Ottawa rolls out the campaign here there will be suggestions and guidance for ways that you can message your support for GLI to the politicians at all three levels of government. If you would like to be involved or have any questions at all, please contact Ellie or Clarke at 613-828-0863 or [clarketopp@gmail.com](mailto:clarketopp@gmail.com).

## Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC)



## A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

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If you want to learn more about the work of the Chaplaincy please set aside the afternoon of April 23rd. Our AGM will be held at Bells Corners United Church at 2.00 p.m. The Co-Chaplains, Rev. Lorrie Lowes and Rev. Deacon Tamara Connors will give us an update on their ministry and news about the upcoming camping weekend in June at Camp Otterdale. This will be followed by our annual business meeting and then an opportunity to socialize over tea and goodies.

Many things have changed since OWECC's inception in 1984 but the heart of our mission remains the same.

“We seek to live an inclusive expression of community throughout the multicultural, multifaith neighbourhoods of West Ottawa. We serve by providing a ‘ministry of presence’ that accompanies people who live daily with the challenges of poverty, isolation, mental and physical health barriers, addictions and underemployment. We provide a compassionate outreach attentive to the needs and hopes of individuals and neighbourhood communities. Working together with people we desire to explore possibilities for empowering hope and more abundant living.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank BCUC for their very generous support over the years in terms of finance and volunteer help. Volunteers are always welcome. If anyone would like more information, please contact me at 613-270-4078

Peggy Aitchison

## Property Management



## ROSS BROWN, CHAIR

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The Property Management Committee has been quite busy with various projects described below in addition to the normal activities needed to run the church.

Our need to provide security and safety for those on our site led to an upgrade of our video surveillance system. It has been enhanced by adding additional coverage both inside and outside the building.

Lighting near the main entrance was poor due to the addition of the portico and the condition of the lights beside the labyrinth. The standards and lamps were repaired and thanks to the donation of lighting equipment and volunteer labour of Ian Pakeman and his grandfather Ian Howes, additional lighting has been added to brighten the portico at night.

Due to the age and condition of the asphalt in our parking lot, patches were applied to the worst areas. This is not an ideal or permanent solution as other areas keep breaking down but the cost of repaving puts this option out of the question.

About 50% of the lights in the Main Hall and Kitchen have been converted to LED bulbs and the Sanctuary has already been done. However, light levels in certain parts of the Sanctuary are not ideal so Property Management is looking into improving the lighting and simplifying the task of replacing burned out lights.

Changing the message in the Moodie Drive sign with individual letters is difficult, particularly in the winter. At the AGM, a directed fund was set up to raise money for an electronic sign that will allow the message to be changed remotely without concern about the number of each letter in the message. Property Management is getting quotes and fund-raising activities are being planned. Stay tuned!

## Did you say Timbits?

### THE BCUC MEN'S CLUB

The BCUC Men's Club has been functioning for well over ten years, providing a ministry to the Men of the Church. Re-energized by the Rev. Don Maclean during his ministry at Bells Corners, we have held dinners, hosted presentations of interest, visited various local attractions and generally had a good time. We are mainly retired and seem to be content with general conversation and a few jokes that get us laughing. Thanks to Ross Snider, a number are read each week (he says he gets them from the grandkids, so they are mild but funny!). We also have a number of people trained in taking the measure of Canada, geographically speaking. So, if you're finding the week a bit draggy towards Friday, give us a try! In the main hall from 9:30 to whenever you feel like moving on. Coffee and Tim Bits ... Tell your neighbors and friends - All men welcome! – David Stafford

## Hollyer House

### NEW NEIGHBOUR



We have a new 'neighbour' scheduled to open this June. A structure has been taking shape next door to Christ Church Anglican, 3861 Old Richmond Rd. for some time now. Hollyer House is a new four-story, 35-unit mixed use apartment building. Its excellent location is close to schools, community services and retail amenities, all within a walking distance. It features a mix of units and rental affordability options with a focus on supportive housing for women and

families. The first floor houses a community health and resource centre for the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre (WOCRC) and FAMSAC food cupboard. It has been developed as a partnership between the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and Christ Church Bells Corners, with funding contributions from the City of Ottawa's Action Ottawa program and CMHC.

# The Ottawa River Watershed

## LENTEN PROJECT



The Ottawa River watershed is home to over two million people and has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples for countless generations. This area is important in part because of its natural beauty, history and recreational activities. If you have drunk from an Ottawa tap, paddled the Bonnechere, picnicked by the Rideau, or hiked in Westport or Gatineau Park then you have enjoyed some of the blessings of the over 140,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the Ottawa

watershed. Our Lenten Project is to educate ourselves about this area with the help of resources from the Ottawa Riverkeepers <https://ottawariverkeeper.ca/>.

Spring is an important time to take action for our watershed. Snow run off can wash pollutants onto the land and into our water system. Consider sweeping driveways to remove the winter's buildup of salt rather than hosing them down. Plan to use organic methods in your gardens, native species that won't invade our wetlands, and rain barrels to help curtail excessive rain runoff. As the melting snow reveals all the garbage that has collected over the winter, join our **iCleanup challenge**. Beautify your neighbourhood while protecting the wildlife in the watershed from eating or becoming entangled in disintegrating plastics and Styrofoam. Please send the BCUC Office a picture of your bag of garbage!

## I Saw the Sign

### THE MOVE TO DIGITAL SIGNAGE



The benefits of moving to Digital Signage are many, such as Enhancing Visitor Experience, Attracting Attention, Increasing Participation, Saving Time, and Modernizing. Bill McGee takes us on a nostalgic look back at the history of the BCUC Sign and the impetus for updating to an electronic sign!

The original idea for a sign came from the Worship committee many years back when the co-chairs at the time, Sue Morrison and Cynthia Watson, the Rev. Martha Ter Kuile, Gail Harmer Mutton and I formed a team with Property Management and folks like Bob Southern and Alan Bentley. The team researched and studied signs, how big the letters should be, how far

from the road, and so on. The ladies chose the colour; at that time, it was determined that blue was a United Church colour.

The project was given to Eula Smith's youth group who looked after it for a few years. I looked after it in the summers. Eula and the youth preferred humorous messages and we had and used a book of them. Alan Bentley this year told me that a recent CBC program noted that humorous messages resulted in about two new families a month checking out a church although, some folks preferred sermon titles.

A persistent problem has been the number of available letters. The letter A was often in short supply, particularly when 'Christmas Bazaar' (4 A's each side) was adopted as a name, and when Rev Angela Bailey (3 A's each side) preached.

The fund raising was wonderful. Gail Harmer Mutton said she would look after it and at the Committee meeting a month later, said "Mission Accomplished"; she had invited a few friends out for lunch and the money was all pledged. Gail and Ross Mutton gave my wife Nora and I a Tim Horton's for our efforts looking after the sign.

Nora and I proposed that an electronic sign would inform members of the local community about events and the mission of this church and at the AGM, **a directed fund was approved and has been set up!** The **electronic sign** will allow the message to be changed remotely without concern about the number of each letter in the message. Property Management is getting quotes and fund-raising activities are being planned. Already the church has received donations of \$12,000 which could be ½ of the total needed. What can you add to help make the project happen?



## THE BOARD

<b>2023 BCUC Board</b> <b>Minister:</b> Rev. Kim Vidal <b>Minister:</b> Rev. Lorrie Lowes <b>Chair:</b> Mark McDonald <b>Past Chair:</b> Jordan Berard	<b>Chair Elect:</b> Vacant <b>Secretary:</b> Will Wightman <b>Treasurer:</b> Ross Mutton <b>Regional Representatives:</b> Desna Sulway, Nicole Beaudry	<b>Ministry &amp; Personnel:</b> David Stafford <b>Members at Large:</b> Norm Pound, Susan Young, Ellen Boynton <b>Youth Consultation:</b> Vacant <b>Young Adult Consultation:</b> Rev. Lorrie Lowes
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## EVENTS



CHECK OUT THESE GREAT UPCOMING EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

# 2023 Spring Concert!

*Bells Corners United Church*



**Featuring BCUC's**  
**Choirs and Musicians**  
 Sunday May 7, 7:00 pm





## 2 Upcoming Zambia Partnership Fundraising Initiatives Both on April 2<sup>nd</sup>



**Sunday, April 2**  
**right after the service**  
Looking for **Creative Cooks**  
to donate their delicious delicacies  
and for those with a **Sweet Tooth**  
to bid them up.  
Come and join in the **FUN!!**  
Contact Wendy Morrell or  
Rev. Lorrie for more information.  
**Proceeds: Zambia  
Partnership**

# ART JOURNALING WORKSHOP

WITH MEERA MUKERJEE

**APRIL 2** | **ALL SUPPLIES INCLUDED**  
1-3PM AT BCUC  
3955 OLD RICHMOND RD

**GO HOME WITH A JOURNAL, PEN, PAINTBRUSH AND NEW SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

**\$35 PER PERSON**



**TEA AND SNACKS INCLUDED**

**CONTACT WENDY TO REGISTER**  
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**FUNDRAISER FOR THE BLUE ZAMBIA PARTNERSHIP**



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