



# Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

## Newsletter

April 2019



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### CALENDAR

#### April

- 07 Sun 10:30am 5<sup>th</sup> in Lent /  
Baptism of Nathan Avery Declare
- 10 Wed noon Faith Sharing Gathering  
(bring a bag lunch)
- 13 Sat 10:30am Artisan Fair & Book sale  
With lunch room from 11 am - 2 pm
- 14 Sun 10:30am Palm Sunday  
w/Communion / Food Sunday
- 16 Tues Noon Faith Sharing Gathering  
(bring a bag lunch)  
2 p.m. Exec. Board Mtg in chapel
- 18 Thurs 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Supper
- 19 Fri 9-10:15 Good Friday Walk
- 21 Sun 10:30 Easter Sunday /  
Easter Memorial Flowers
- 28 Sun 10:30 Sunday Worship Service  
Outreach Celebratory Tea  
with Karnazi family

#### May

- 05 Sun 10:30am Sunday Worship Service  
Colleen Lowrie's Farewell  
Outreach "100 Mile" Soup  
lunch with Gregory Lynch, Director  
Green Church Network
- 09 Thurs 9:30 Worship & Membership Mtg
- 12 Sun 10:30am Sunday Worship w/"Malice  
in the Palace" / Mother's Day
- 19 Sun 10:30am Sunday Worship Service  
Food Sunday
- 25 Sat 7:00 pm "Malice in the Palace"
- 26 Sun 10:30am Sunday Worship Service

#### June

- 01 Sat 9 - noon Plant Sale for Dominic  
Literacy project in Haiti
- 02 Sun 10:30 Sunday Worship Service  
with Communion

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



#### EDITORS:

Jane Cowell Poitras,  
Susan Hawke & Lynn Closs

As one of the few women on the planet that does not drive, most days find me trotting around Lachine on some mission or another. Two years ago, I would often see the same man in a bus shelter on my daily rounds. As time passed, we both started to recognize each other and progressed to a nodding relationship. Months passed and during an unexpected deluge, I took shelter in the bus stop and we struck up a conversation about the weather. He was articulate and well-informed. After that, the nods were replaced with "hellos" and "good mornings".

Time passed. We got to know each other a little bit. His name was Lawrence. Conversations branched out beyond the weather to politics, families, childhood experiences and life on the streets. Never during that long period was I ever asked for money. When it first dawned on me that he was homeless and actually living in the bus shelter, I started to worry that he did not have enough to eat or that he would freeze to death in the winter. I asked him several times if he needed anything. He always said, just saying "hello" and having a small chat was more than enough. He said he loved his lifestyle, being outdoors and free of responsibilities, but that at times he was lonely.

Once spying me carrying a McDonald's beverage with a sticker on the cup, Lawrence asked if I could collect them for him. At last something I could do! I diligently saved my stickers until I had two full cards. I stopped to deliver them just as another man went by. He looked in bad shape and feeling somewhat unnerved I felt myself stepping back with the cards still in my hand. Lawrence said, "Susan will you give those cards to him? Right now, he needs them more than I do". "Huh?", I could feel my jaw drop. I found myself thinking "But I don't even know him." Nonetheless, I silently handed over the cards and the stranger stumbled off.

My daughter as she read the first draft of this editorial said to me "so Mom where are you going with this story"? Well to be honest, I am not sure. I do know that I have thought about that incident many times since then. I learned that people regardless of their circumstances can look out for each other. People can be generous even when they have nothing - and frankly, I think that that makes their gifts even more precious. I also learned that when I give a gift, I relinquish control over what is done with it. All necessary lessons.

Lawrence disappeared one day, and I have not seen him since. I have heard that he now has a better life off the streets. I wish him well. My friendship with him was an eye opener! I learned a lot about what it is like to be homeless and now thanks to him am more receptive to connecting with people that are different from me. We can learn so much about our world if we do.

*Susan Hawke*

On behalf of the Newsletter Editors



### **A Word from the Minister**

The edition of "Spirited Summerlea" that comes out at this time of year is typically referred to as "the Lent/Easter edition". It comes out at a time of the year when many of us are longing for springtime and a return to warmer weather. Easter is about "resurrection" in more ways than one: it is a time of year when we experience "new life" as the earth sends forth its budding greenery and we come out of

our winter cocoons and breathe in the balmy, fresh spring air. What's not to like about that! It's what we wait all winter for, and it can also be a time to experience a renewal of our faith as well, as we are reminded of the hope and new life that are ours through our celebration of the risen Christ.

It seems to me these days, however, that people are waiting for and anticipating another kind of new life and renewal. And sadly, there seems to be some who feel that it is already too late for that renewal to happen. The advice columnist Annie Lane recently posed a question to her readership asking whether people would have children or not if they had an opportunity for a "do-over". I was alarmed by the number of respondents who said they would not have children again if they had the opportunity, simply because they saw the world as a hostile and broken place, and they would not wish to bring children into such a world as this.

It is in and through my faith that I find a reason to continue to hope for a better world, inspired by God's call to us to work together to build the kind of world we would all like to live in. But it also seems to me that the number of people who do this because of their faith in God is becoming smaller and smaller.

Many of us have seen the recent articles in *The United Church Observer* magazine about Greta Vosper, the Toronto minister who has revealed that she does not believe in God's existence. Recently, a specially-appointed panel charged with the task of investigating Greta's ministry found her to be "unsuitable for ministry within the United Church". But the most recent edition of *The Observer* indicates that this decision has been overturned, and Greta has been approved to continue her ministry in her current congregation, although the decision was that she would not be able to move to another congregation within the United Church. This has raised for many the question, "how can an atheist be a minister in a church?" For me, "atheist" and "minister" are anathema to each other, and without the benefit of a personal conversation with Greta, I would not attempt to claim any understanding of what all of this means for her. But we have seen other examples of those who seek to follow a secular path to the complete exclusion of anything faith-related, and I remain unconvinced of the validity of

this. It seems to me that there are too many ulterior motives in claiming a secular stance. For example, the CAQ, just days ago, passed its legislation banning the wearing of religious symbols by certain government employees. They have said that this was presented as a means of promoting a secular society. Some even went on to say that part of its purpose was to curb the oppression of women. This all sounds well and good, until one realizes that those who presented this bill were simply assuming that any Muslim woman who was wearing a head covering was being forced to do so, and therefore was experiencing oppression. Many Muslim women in Quebec have told us that they wear their traditional head covering by choice and have asked us to respect that choice. So, it seems to me, in reality, this legislation was not really about excluding anything “God” or “faith”-related, but was really about the discomfort some have with the Muslim religion and its adherents in particular. I believe that what was masquerading as being “pro-secular” is nothing more than Islamophobia, which in itself is a form of oppression. We saw this in its most heinous form in the recent mosque shooting in New Zealand in which a gunman killed 50 Muslims at worship, an event that was motivated by pure hatred, and NOT someone seeking to promote secularism.

And in all of this, we can see the emergence of what I might call “two paths”. There are those who seek to ban anything “faith-related”, but too often, it means banning any kind of faith that is “not like ours”. This has led to the desire to also exclude any people who are “not like us”.

The desire of many of us who call ourselves people of faith is to work toward building the kind of world that God envisioned at the time of creation. We are motivated by God’s ongoing love for this world and all the people in it, and by God’s promise that God’s creation will one day come to its fulfillment, a time at which all things will be put right.

But there are also those who seek to be a part of this who may not be motivated by faith in God, which is the other path. Greta Vosper and members of her congregation may not be motivated by belief in God, and yet they join us in helping to build a better world and in working for the principles of justice and peace, and the loving inclusion of all.

Now more than ever, it is time for us all to work together toward these goals that we share. I believe that it is also through this that we can truly celebrate the promise and the hope of Easter, that new life can and will come to this world, and all its people. The world may be seen by some people as a bad place, and even as irredeemable. Easter gives me the hope and the motivation to live out the new life that is ours through the risen Christ, and a testament to God’s ongoing faith in us, his followers, that together we can bring new life and new hope to this world.

*Rev. Scott A. Patton*

### Music Notes

It has been a difficult winter, but a bunch of hardy folks have been turning up every Saturday to rehearse another musical with me (a reprise of *Malice in the Palace*). Thank you to all my returning cast and to our newcomers, as well, for your hard work and dedication! There’s nothing like prancing around on stage singing and acting to cheer us all up in the dead of winter!



There will be two performances, **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am** and **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm**. Please tell your friends and families about the show and encourage them to come out and see our musical. It is the story of Esther in the Bible, told in a way that is both humorous and thought-provoking. I am sure you will enjoy it! A donation to help defray the costs of the musical would be greatly appreciated.

Also, Octet Plus, the chamber choir that I direct and that includes several of our own choir members, is performing a spring concert at Summerlea on **Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm**, in aid of the West Island Women’s Shelter. This is a very worthy cause and I hope you will come out to listen to an eclectic mix of folksongs, classical works and popular songs. See the bulletins closer to time for details.

*Connie Osborne, Music Director*

## Outreach News Spring 2019

### Lenten Loonies for Haiti

Are being collected on each of the Sundays during lent. Proceeds are sent via the Canadian Association of Midwives to support the university midwifery education program in Port au Prince, Haiti. It is hoped that the education of skilled birth attendants will help to reduce the high infant and maternal mortality rates in Haiti.



### Artisan Fair and Book Sale: April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, the Outreach committee will join with Girl Guides to organise this popular event. Please come and support the Fair and enjoy a delicious lunch. Proceeds go to local community projects.



**Outreach Sunday** originally scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>, has been postponed until May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our invited speaker will be Gregory Lynch from the "Green Church" network. Gregory will tell us how the church can be involved in reducing climate change. He will bring some colleagues who will be available during lunch to share some of their ideas. Lunch will be a "100 mile" lunch featuring carrot soup, home-made bread and local ice-cream with maple syrup.

A **celebratory tea** April 28<sup>th</sup> will be held to celebrate the successful completion of our year of sponsoring the Karnazi family. Bilal, the father of the family, is currently working mostly full time at "Garage Dorval". The family have settled in well with support from the Summerlea Refugee Coalition as well as from their own extended family. Mark the date and come and meet Bilal, Farah, their children and their extended family.

### Plant Sale June 1<sup>st</sup> 9.00 –

12.00. Come and buy some new plants for your gardens. Proceeds will go to the Dominic literacy project in Haiti.



### Maundy Thursday Potluck – April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm

On Maundy Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, we will gather at 6pm in St. Andrew's hall for a potluck supper, followed by a short service in the Sanctuary.

### Good Friday Walk & Service –

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 9am

The annual Good Friday Walk where Eastern Lachine and Western Lachine meet at Resurrection of our Lord Church will commence at 9am from Summerlea United Church. This is a time of silent worship. All are welcome. Following a brief service at 10:15am, there will be a reception of Hot Cross Buns and water in the Resurrection church hall.



**Palm Sunday**, April 14<sup>th</sup> with communion will take place at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

**Easter Sunday Service**, April 21<sup>st</sup> will take place at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

## Scouting News - PAST EVENTS

14 Beavers, 14 Cubs, 9 Scouts 5 Venturers and 10 leaders attended our annual winter linking camp at Centre Plein Air l'Étincelle (north of Rawdon) Feb. 15-17. A great time was had by all. They snowshoed, cross country skied, went sliding, played broom-ball, made a craft, went on a torch-lit hike and a scavenger hunt, and sang around a campfire.



Three courageous scouts braved the elements and camped out overnight in a Quinzhee they built - and survived!



Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers, along with Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders, celebrated their founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, at the March 3rd Sunday service. Everyone appreciated the warm welcome from the congregation and the pancake lunch afterwards.



Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers will be participating in the Lachine spring cleanup April 27. The annual closing BBQ will be held May 9. Beavers will swim up to Cubs, Cubs will jump up to Scouts, and Scouts will move up to Venturers. There will also be awards and of course food. Cubs will be participating in a bi-district camp at Tamaracouta June 7-9. Scouts are planning their spring (May) and summer (July) adventures.

## RECIPE CORNER

I know it is Spring but there are still days when a bowl of soup is what is needed. This is now one of our favourites.



### Slow-Cooker Roasted Tomato Basil Soup

*Ingredients - for 8 servings*

- 2 lb tomato (910 g)

- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 medium yellow onion
- 6 cloves garlic
- ½ cup olive oil (120 mL)
- kosher salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon tomato paste
- 2 cups vegetable stock (480 mL)
- ½ cup fresh basil leaves (20 g)

#### *Preparation*

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C).
2. Trim the stems and cores from the tomatoes, then roughly chop. Remove the seeds and ribs from the bell pepper and slice. Peel and quarter the onion. Smash and peel the garlic cloves. Add everything to a baking sheet and drizzle with the olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Roast for 30 minutes, until the vegetables are browned on the edges and fragrant.
4. Transfer the roasted vegetables to a slow cooker. Add the oregano, thyme, tomato paste, and vegetable stock.
5. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours.
6. Using an immersion blender or a standing blender, puree the soup until creamy.
7. Stack and roll the basil leaves, then thinly slice. Add some to the soup and stir to incorporate.
8. Ladle the warm soup into bowls and garnish with more basil.
9. Enjoy!

## The Book Nook



**A Terrible Country** / Keith Gessen. Fitzcarraldo Editions, 2018.

**Beartown**/ Fredrik Backman. Simon & Schuster, 2017.

I am not a sporty person in any sense of the word. Other than during the Olympics, I cannot even claim to be a game spectator. That being said, I read two books recently that had hockey as themes. I thought there might be some in the congregation that would enjoy reading them. I am donating both to our Spring book sale so those interested can be on the alert!

A **Terrible Country** reads like an autobiography, but it is fiction. It is the story of a young, Russian-born, American academic who returns to Russia to care for his aging grandmother. Unable to find work related to his studies in America, he struggles both to readapt to life in Moscow and to reconnect with his grandmother who is suffering from memory loss. Pick-up hockey provides a way for him to make friends and find a place for himself. At times heartbreaking and at others funny, we get an interesting glimpse of contemporary Russian life under Putin. Gessen presents a portrait of a country that at times is terrible and at others wonderful. We also learn that it is hard to fight for one's ideals and even harder to live them.

I went to high school in a very small town in Northern Ontario. Picture no street lights, movie theatre or buses. Situated on the TransCanada highway in the middle of nowhere, all it had as its claim to fame was an unheated arena. Junior hockey was unbelievably big. For six months of the year we lived and breathed hockey; the remaining six we held our breath until the season started again. Though situated in Sweden, **Beartown** could have been my town. It is the story of a town in decline that pins its hopes for the future on the success of its junior hockey team. What lengths will it go to win a championship game? It wrestles weighty issues such as friendship and loyalty and good versus bad while telling a darned good story centered around the joy and challenges of playing hockey.

*Susan Hawke*

### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels takes place in the kitchen at Summerlea United Church, 225 50th Avenue on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are presently in need of volunteer drivers and deliverers to help deliver hot meals to seniors in the Western Lachine area **once or twice a month**, from about 11am – 1pm. This is a very rewarding experience as our clients are often shut ins and look forward to their lunch delivered by a friendly face. Deliveries only require about 2 hours of your time. We are also in need of clean-up volunteers. Clean up duties begin at 12:30pm and take approximately 1 hour. Please contact Susan at



[sueipp17@outlook.com](mailto:sueipp17@outlook.com) for more detailed information.

### Personal Delivery

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived 200 miles away. As he got out of his car, he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb, sobbing. He asked her what was wrong, and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have 75 cents, and a rose costs two dollars."

The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I'll buy you a rose." He bought the little girl a rose and ordered his own mother's flowers. As they were leaving, he offered the girl a ride home. She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother."

She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave.

The man returned to the flower shop, cancelled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house.



### Green Tip

With Earth Day just around the corner (April 22), here are four tips for going green and how making small changes can have a big impact from Kathleen Rogers, president of the Earth Day Network. <https://www.textbooks.com/blog/going-green-6-best-earth-day-tips>



### REDUCE YOUR SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CONSUMPTION

A salad fork here, an iced coffee there, a plastic plate for your sandwich at lunch. "Single-use plastics are one of the biggest things hurting the environment," says Rogers. And the struggle is real for her too, she admits forgetting the reusable grocery bags. "It happens to me all the time and I get really mad at myself when I inevitably forget my 20 reusable bags

at home.” Do what you can, when you can. “Find a [plastics calculator](#) and you can see how many plastic straws, plastic bags, etc. you use in a year.” Then make simple, affordable swaps like buying a refillable water bottle, turning your tattered totes into reusable grocery bags, and asking the waitress for [no straw in your drink](#).

### RECYCLE WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE TO RECYCLE

“I became slavishly devoted to recycling and it’s because towns and cities made it easier for us,” Rogers says. Your workplace, your city’s curbside pickup program, cafeteria bins – this made it easier for us as consumers to reduce what hits the landfill. Yet, only an estimated 34% of recyclable items get recycled. Rogers suggests a covered trash can and good signage. “If the can is open, it’s too easy for people to toss something in there,” she says. “And make very clear signs that say, ‘Yes this. No that.’ Put a list of what goes in the garbage can and what goes in recycling.”

### GO LONGER BETWEEN TECH UPGRADES. AND RECYCLE THAT ANDROID PHONE PROPERLY.

Technology moves fast – and our desire for the latest and greatest more so. The phones, the redesigned cords and chargers, new Bluetooth-enabled this that – “it’s all e-waste, and it’s a major global problem,” says Rogers. Waiting six months to a year can slow the tide of what gets thrown out. “There are a lot of chemicals in these things: mercury, arsenic, spirillum. The list is long, and it is bad. Find out where your college campus e-waste recycling program is. And if they don’t have one, lobby them.”

### GIVE YOUR HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ROUTINE A DETOX

DIY your Saturday chore list. “In the average household, you do not need to spray Clorox on your counters or cutting boards. A hospital, yes. Your house, no,” says Rogers. Living in a bleached world is bad for your health, she says. “Use regular soap and water. And there are so many home remedies that don’t have

implications for the greater water system or your health.” Rogers recommends swapping in baking soda, hydrogen peroxide, lemons, borax, white vinegar, and salt.

Colleen Kilkenny

### News and Notes

*“Let the little children come unto Me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Luke 18:16*

The Congregation joined in celebrating the baptisms of Mariella Treasure Barnard-MacGregor on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and of Benjamin Michel Asselin on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Welcome to Summerlea the Barnard-MacGregor and Asselin-St-Onge families.

“One tiny hand to guide and hold,  
One tiny life to shape and mold;  
each child, a gift from God above,  
a symbol of His strength and love.”

- Author Unknown

We will be celebrating the baptism of Nathan Avery Declare this morning, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Welcome to Summerlea the Declare-Cesaire families.

Congratulations to Iwan and Undeg on becoming “**Great-Grandparents**” to Carson who was born in December and Congratulations to their Granddaughter Cristyn and new husband Jonathan who celebrated their marriage on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Edna Lee, a long-time member of Summerlea. Edna passed away peacefully on December 9 in Dartmouth, N.S. at the age of 98. There will be a celebration of her life this spring in Alexandria.

Edna was a very active member of the church and she was missed after her move to N.S. May she rest in Peace.

“**Faith Sharing**” **Lenten Study Group** This Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at noon, and the following Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at noon. You are invited to bring your lunch.

### A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,  
 During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.  
 Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.  
 Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.  
 Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.  
 May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.  
 Amen.



If you would like more information on Summerlea's monthly activities or would like to view Sunday's service along with current events at the church, please visit us at [www.summerlea.ca](http://www.summerlea.ca). Many thanks to John Osborne for keeping our website updated weekly.

*Have a Blessed Lent,  
 Colleen Kilkenny*

### A Parable of Persistence

Two frogs lived on the edge of a remote pond. One particularly dry summer, the pond dried up completely and the frogs had to search elsewhere for water and food.

So, one morning, they set out before the sun was above the horizon. They travelled all day across a hot, dusty field, through the shadow of a grove of trees, and over the



rocky bed of a dried-up stream. They travelled throughout the night and finally late the next day as they crested the top of a hill, they sighted a farm in the valley below.

The farmer was just finishing his chores. He had fed the chickens and the pigs and milked the cows. However, as he left the barn, he forgot to take with him the last pail of fresh, warm milk. When the farmer was gone, the two tired frogs made their way down the hill, sensing their journey was coming to a successful end. They saw the bucket of warm milk as they hopped through the door of the barn. They found a low ledge and were able to hop over the side of the bucket into the creamy, nourishing dinner.

The two frogs drank until their stomachs were full and their thirst was quenched. Only then did they discover that the milk was too deep for them to touch bottom, and the sides of the bucket were too high for them to climb out. Their survival depended on swimming continuously.

Before long, the stress of the journey and the weight of their full stomachs began to tell on the frogs. Swimming became more difficult, and their bodies were craving sleep.

The desperateness of their situation and the weight of their exhaustion eventually led one of the frogs to admit to his friend that he was ready to stop swimming and allow himself to drown. But his friend wouldn't hear of it. He urged his companion to keep trying; after all, they had come too far to quit now.

Before long, the situation was reversed. The second frog was ready to quit, but with the encouragement and urging of his friend, he kept swimming. And so, they passed the night.

In the morning, when the farmer entered the barn, he found the forgotten bucket of milk and, to his surprise, he saw the two frogs sound asleep, floating on a pat of butter.

This parable contains many messages useful to our lives.

- When things aren't going the way we want, we need to take the initiative and go search for the answers we need.
- Our search can be an adventurous journey, not just a trip.
- What appears to be the solution we seek can later become a problem.
- The problem we encounter may eventually offer a solution.
- Stay close to your friends. The encouragement they offer may give you the strength to prevail.
- Don't give up. Your struggle may be creating a helpful and unexpected answer to your circumstances