

# Jubilation!

**Jubilation!** is the newsletter of Jubilee United Church  
40 Underhill Drive \* 416-447-6846 \* [www.jubileeunited.ca](http://www.jubileeunited.ca)

## *Notes from Norm*



I've been thinking about change lately.

We just had a federal election. Was there much change? I'm not sure. We will soon begin gathering carefully for Sunday Worship. Is that a change or a return?

Recently, I was in downtown Toronto walking along Adelaide Street on the way to an in-person meeting. I was wearing my mask and focusing on getting to my destination when a man stopped me and asked if I was Norm Seli from Jubilee. I was wearing a mask. I had never seen this man before... and yet, I felt brave and acknowledged that I was, indeed, Norm Seli as I prepared for whatever he had to say or do (harsh words, a subpoena, I didn't know). He smiled and said, "I've been watching your Sunday Services on YouTube since the spring. I really like them; keep up the great work!" I was able to have a short conversation with him and discovered that our services had been recommended by a friend. Being recognized on the street by someone I don't know is a change for me.

In the past few weeks, I received an email from a church member who almost never misses the daily Bible meditation; this person is not someone who has been part of other Bible Studies or study groups at Jubilee before. I spoke with a young man who listens to our podcast daily and noted that he's not known as a religious person and never imagined that he'd know so much about the Bible, but the podcasts work for him. He lives in another province and contributes to Jubilee financially. Another young man spoke to me about the virtual service and how he likes to watch it at least twice and listen to it a third time because it connects him and really makes him think about his spiritual life. We're making a date to talk further in person. These are all changes that have come about during this time of Covid – connections being made along virtual avenues. The United Church of Canada recommended the "We Are Stardust" contemplative service, put it on the website and invited people to experience worship with Bri-anne and Jubilee. That's a change.

The United Church of Canada has asked me to produce a full "Acknowledgement" (like we have in our virtual services) that they can use with our global partners. Suddenly, I'm producing video for our national church. That's a change I didn't see coming.

There have been so many changes since March of 2020 that I have wrestled with, fought against, bemoaned, and even got darn cranky about, but there have also been some changes that have excited and inspired me. Sometimes the changes that we don't like or the changes that we fear can distract from the opportunities and positive changes that are right before us.

It's getting cooler... but I love wearing sweaters. It's getting dark sooner, but I love to walk along and see the changing leaves, the splashes of glorious colour that celebrate creation, diversity and change.

Some changes aren't so easy to manage. I know. We get older, and that's no picnic. People that we love have died; it's hard to just smile and carry on. Some of us have lost jobs or had relationships end. Some of us have felt our vitality ebb, and our health diminish. Simply put, there are the changes that we don't like... the ones that we do not want to embrace... the ones that we resist at all costs. It is hard for us to recognize God's presence in the changes that bring tears to our eyes.

The promise of God is that there is no change that can ever take us out of God's love. The death of a loved one is heartbreaking but does not mean that we are out of God's love. The pandemic and associated lockdowns and isolation do not take us out of God's love or bar God's presence. The loss of a job or the end of a relationship hurts and angers us... "It's not fair,"... but it does not take us out of God's love. Ageing and a change in health may slow us down, but it does not take us from God's love: in fact, it is my experience that in these times of change, the changes that we resist, we can most keenly feel God's presence and love. In a call from someone who understands; in the words of another who hurts or is angered on your behalf; in the quiet stillness that can come in the midst of your struggle, as you let go and embrace the reality that change is part of life. It doesn't cheer you up... but it brings peace and assures you that you are not alone.

I suspect that in the days ahead, there will be many more changes for us all, some good and some not as good. But if we can keep our hearts open to the presence of God, to the opportunities and wonders that arise, we may be able to flourish in times of change, even when we are (a little bit) afraid.

So, however you are experiencing change right now, please know that you are not alone. If you are experiencing the kind of joy that makes you smile, maybe you've got a moment to call a friend who is having a hard time with change; maybe you've got a couple of hours to go for a walk with someone feeling devastated by change, together you can marvel at the changing leaves. However you are experiencing change at this moment, take some time to share it and know that you are not alone... and will never be... God is in the change.

*Norm*

## **The Benevolent Fund**

The Benevolent Fund is a modest and discreet fund that I use to help folks in greatest need. There are no reports made or records kept; it is entirely at my discretion. In this time of the pandemic, you can imagine that it's needed and well used. It has helped people stay housed, relieved great anxiety, helped in educational needs, as well as providing support for those who have found themselves under incredible pressure in these times. Lots of grocery cards have been shared, a couple of bills paid, and some supports put in place since the last time I reported. It is our policy to shy away from repeat requests and to try and keep the amounts given modest so that we can reach as many as possible and not turn people away when the funds are depleted. If you want to support the Benevolent Fund, donations can be made directly to me or in any of the usual ways you donate to Jubilee. Just mark "Benevolent Fund" on the envelope, cheque, e-transfer, or Canada Helps donation. Your donation will be added to your givings, and you will get a tax receipt at year's end.

You will not hear about these efforts during the year as privacy is essential – but please know that your contributions are valued and make a difference in people's lives. Thank you for your past and present support.

*Norm*

# **Jubilee is preparing to re-introduce In-Person Worship on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1030am.**

**Reservations will be required and can be made beginning Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> online from the Jubilee Website or by phone (416)447-6846**



**Proof of Vaccination or negative Covid Test will be required. There will be no group singing, music will be provided by soloists.**

**Hand Hygiene, Social Distancing and the wearing of Masks will be required.**

**Virtual Services will continue, so you can come back when you are ready, there is no rush.**

Conditions are not yet what we would like them to be, but we feel that with great care, caution and love, we will be able to worship in person on **Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will be limited to 70 people, and you will be required to make a reservation in advance through the church office (by phone or email) or online through the church website.

When you do come to church, you will be asked to enter through the front doors, and proof of vaccination will be required (or a medical exemption or a negative Covid test taken within 48 hours). You will be asked to sanitize your hands, wear your mask, and maintain the 6' social distancing. Fortunately, we have arranged the sanctuary seating so it won't be difficult.

For now, there will be no group singing, but music will be led by Daniel and Soloists. We will not have coffee after the service; in fact, we will encourage you to leave the building and not linger after the service, but it is a start, and we are very excited.

**Virtual services will continue, so you need not join us until you feel ready.**

**We will begin children's programs in November.**

This is early, and it will be bumpy as we figure it out together - thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

**In-person or virtual - we are a community, God's children.  
Loving our neighbours as we love ourselves.**

## *A message from the Covid-19 Coordinator*

As COVID-19 Coordinator for Jubilee, I have spent the last 18 months reviewing and advising Jubilee Trustees and Council about pandemic-related matters. The United Church of Canada left it to individual congregations to determine for themselves what made sense in terms of a vaccination policy.

Our legal obligation is to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect the health and safety of Jubilee personnel, professional staff and independent contractors. We have reasonably decided to apply the same standards to:

- Members of our congregation who decide to join us for in-person services and other activities;
- Renters; and,
- Independent, third-party contractors who access Jubilee premises.

### **All persons entering Jubilee shall:**

- Be free of symptoms associated with the pandemic;
- not have had contact, within 14 days of the date of entry to Jubilee premises, with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who is in quarantine;
- not be subject to quarantine themselves;
- be fully vaccinated unless medically exempt, and have provided proof;
- if unable to be fully vaccinated or do not provide proof of vaccination, then they have tested negative for COVID-19 within 48 hours of each entry to Jubilee and have provided proof; and,
- have not travelled outside of Ontario in the previous 14 days.

**Please read the full policy “Protecting the Jubilee Community during the pandemic” on pages 5-6 or visit [www.jubileeunited.ca](http://www.jubileeunited.ca) - “Church Life-Health and Safety Policies.”**

Jeanne Elgie-Watson

### **MISSION AND SERVICE**

Promoting **Gifts with Vision**

Members and supporters of Jubilee UC have continued to give their faithful financial support to the national M&S fund to enable the United Church of Canada to send resources, during these days of the pandemic, to local, national, and international programmes.

With the approach of Thanksgiving, and sooner than we like, Advent and Christmas, many of us will be thinking about ways to give thanks for our own good fortune and to show our love for our immediate relatives and our global family. The annual **Gifts with Vision** catalogue and website will be available after October 1<sup>st</sup> to give us ways to help people who are living through the “new normal” of job loss, loss of family or home, food insecurity, or economic and political unrest made worse by COVID-19. Check the UCC website: [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca). If you have questions about M&S, please contact Pam Lock, the designated Mission & Service enthusiast at Jubilee.

### *Life Events*

#### **Deaths**

Feb 17 Barbara Gregg  
Mar 4 Aileen Sutherland  
Mar 24 Joan Kennedy  
May 22 Nick Stan  
Sep 2 John Coull  
Sep 8 Bill Seymour

#### **Baptisms**

Apr 24 Zoey Pittman, child of Josef and Monique Pittman

#### **Marriages**

Sep 18 James Bradley Sharp and Lauren Colleen Hesch

## PROTECTING THE JUBILEE COMMUNITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

At Jubilee United Church, we endeavour to take reasonable precautions to safeguard those who decide to join us at our in-person services and other activities.

Acknowledging our responsibility as a Christian community to “Love our neighbours as we love ourselves” (Matthew 23:29) while affirming our belief that we are never away from God's presence (Psalm 139:7-8), it is our priority to be a safe place for those who are most vulnerable, especially in this time of pandemic and public health emergency.

At this particular time of pandemic and public health emergency, we recognize the objective of protecting those who may be particularly health vulnerable. As a consequence, we request that you NOT attend in-person services or programmes at Jubilee United Church until you have been fully vaccinated. Until that time, we encourage you to participate in the many virtual programs and services provided by Jubilee United Church, including Sunday Virtual worship.

If you would like to join us for Jubilee United Church in-person worship services and other activities, in order to dramatically reduce the COVID-19 and variant risk of spread to both yourself and those around you and with whom you may come into contact on our premises, no person shall enter JUC premises unless:

- they are free from symptoms associated with the pandemic;
- they have not been in contact, within 14 days of the date of entry to JUC premises, with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who is in quarantine;
- they are not subject to quarantine;
- they are fully vaccinated as defined by local health authorities, unless either medically unable to be vaccinated or otherwise exempt from vaccination and have provided proof thereof;
- if they are not fully vaccinated or do not provide proof of vaccination:
  - they have tested negative for COVID-19 within 48 hours of each entry to JUC premises and have provided proof thereof; and,
  - they have not travelled outside of Ontario in the previous 14 days.

At this time, this approach does not pertain to children 12 years of age and under.

Please note that for our in-person services and other activities, and until further notice to the contrary, we will adhere to all federal, provincial, and municipal COVID-19 statutory and regulatory requirements as well as local health requirements regarding:

- capacity limits;
- masking;
- physical distancing; and,
- hygiene practices.

For the current definitions of the above requirements, contact Barb Secord (Tel: 416-447-6846 ext 2;

E: [bsecord@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:bsecord@jubileeunited.ca)) or Jeanne Elgie-Watson (Text: 647-446-7107; E: [william066@sympatico.ca](mailto:william066@sympatico.ca))

We will follow contact tracing protocols and ask you for contact information and proof of vaccination status. The activity leader retains contact tracing records for at least one month.

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All users of Jubilee will:

- book their use of Jubilee space through the property manager (Barb Secord) or administrator (Dianne Clare);
- be restricted to specific areas of the church as assigned by the property manager;
- co-operate with the property manager or administrator and the Trustee responsible for health and safety (Jeanne Elgie-Watson) (includes periodic audits to assess compliance);
- comply with posted health and safety signage at all times;
- develop a process for cleaning and sanitizing shared equipment and high touch surfaces (including but not limited to door handles, faucets, light switches) after their group has concluded their activity; (Jubilee has hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and cleaning products available);
- not access the kitchen facilities until further notice.
- avoid higher risk activities such as singing, cheering, dancing, and playing wind instruments (as recommended by Toronto Public Health).



## **Free Rimbala Classes Continue At Jubilee In 2021**

Do you worry about falling – especially as winter approaches?  
Have you noticed that your movements are becoming more jerky or awkward as you age?  
Are you concerned that memory loss may spoil your golden years?

If yes, then Rimbala classes might be for you, and our church is offering them for free!

Rimbala combines live, improvised music with simple and fun movement activities to help seniors improve balance, mobility, and memory. Similar programs in Europe have been scientifically proven to reduce the risk of falls by 54%! Scientists are also researching how these programs are effective in the prevention and control of Alzheimer's disease.

Rimbala was developed by Dr. Daniel Rubinoff, PhD, Music Director at Jubilee United Church and a professional performer, composer, and teacher.

Visit Daniel's new website for more info: [www.rimbala.com](http://www.rimbala.com)

Classes begin on Thursday, October 14 and run weekly all fall, winter and spring. You can sign up for the 10:00 a.m. class or the 4:00 p.m. class. Try out a class, come for some of the weekly classes, or come for all of them! The classes take virtually on ZOOM and are 55 minutes in duration.

Below are the ZOOM invitations. Just click on the link, enter the passcode and you're in!

If you have questions about Rimbala, then please contact Daniel directly: 416-709 8381, or by email: [rubinoffdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:rubinoffdaniel@gmail.com)

### **THURSDAY MORNING CLASS ZOOM INVITATION:**

Dr. Daniel Rubinoff is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Rimbala Thursday Morning, 10 a.m.

Time: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/650197383?pwd=UTRObGpsZ09pazVESWZETm02NkQ0UT0>

Meeting ID: 650 197 38

Passcode: 070510

### **THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLASS ZOOM INVITATION:**

Dr. Daniel Rubinoff is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Rimbala Thursday Afternoon, 4 p.m.

Time: Thursdays, 4 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/390145955?pwd=V1pSSHh0MnBhWk16M200cDZVQWVVRQT09>

Meeting ID: 390 145 955

Passcode: 039663

# Jubilee Needs Assessment Survey Update

Rev. Anne Dionisio tendered her resignation effective June 30, 2021. The Council of Jubilee United Church requested that Jeanette May, Chair of Ministry & Personnel, strike a working group to investigate the process for hiring a new minister. Jeanette, along with Charlie Scott and Valerie Winters, formed the Community of Faith Profile Working Group to facilitate the process for determining Jubilee's leadership needs. They solicited the assistance of Dianne Clare and Norm Seli and consulted with Jordana Wright.

To determine Jubilee's future ministerial needs, a Needs Assessment Survey was conducted to find out how Jubilee is doing currently, what is important to individuals in their relationship with Jubilee, and what they would like to see at Jubilee in the future. The survey was accessed online, and a hard copy was mailed out to those who preferred to fill it in on paper. The survey was open from July 12th to 25th, and in total, 175 responses were received - 151 online and 24 mail-in submissions.

The Working Group would like to thank all of those individuals who participated in this survey, as it was very helpful in understanding what Jubilee needs to move forward. The winners of the three Skip the Dishes gift cards for completing the survey were Denise McIntosh, Barbara Grisdale, and Rosemarie Goodchild. Congratulations!

The Working Group also coordinated the development of a video that articulates why Jubilee exists as a community of faith and helps people get to know Jubilee and what makes it special. Approximately 25 individuals from our church community participated in this initiative and shared their thoughts on what is important to them about Jubilee.

## Recommendation to Council

The results gathered by the Working Group were summarized and presented at the September Council meeting. Based on the responses to the Needs Assessment Survey and the Getting to Know Jubilee video, it appears that supporters of Jubilee are happy with the direction the church is moving. They want to support Rev. Norm Seli with additional paid leadership, support virtual connections to the community into the future, would like to see Jubilee grow and try new programs, and get involved in social justice issues. Due to the high importance placed on people connections as one of the many benefits of church membership at Jubilee, steps to build on that benefit would be viewed as a positive future undertaking.

As a result, the Community of Faith Profile Working Group recommended that Jubilee hire a full-time ordained or diaconal minister, which was approved by Council. This minister will engage with children, youth, adults, and seniors to encourage their involvement in the life of Jubilee and will foster programming around current social justice issues. They will provide pastoral care, leadership in the virtual and in-person services, facilitate small group formation (which could be lay led), and empower and support lay leaders. This person should be technically savvy to support Jubilee's online presence and ideally be musically inclined.

## Next Steps

Council struck a Search Committee with the mandate of hiring a new full-time minister to fill this position. The job has been posted on ChurchHub, which is the United Church online recruitment platform. The new job description, a profile of Jubilee, financial information, and the Getting to Know Jubilee video are also available on ChurchHub for potential candidates to review and help them determine whether they are a fit with our church community.

Once the committee has conducted interviews and identified a recommended candidate, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on their approval. Stay tuned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jeanette May



# Property Committee Update

While the church continues with limited use, the Property team continues to stay aligned to our mission statement "to Conserve and Enhance the Built Fabric and supporting Services of Jubilee United Church for service to the Congregation and Community." As expected, there are some tenants returning in the near future, and our facility will be getting busier as the year progresses (assuming COVID does not necessitate more restrictive use).

A number of general maintenance projects were completed to date this year:

- Rebuilt the trolleys used to hold and move the stacks of auditorium chairs, making this far easier to use and much safer;
- New fire panel installed and tested. The new panel was then framed, and the drywall repaired. Painting will be needed;
- HVAC maintenance (fixed reverberation);

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- Repairs to electrical and door handles;
- Gardening and property maintenance with a special thank you to Gary Norris, Pat Lansche, Jeanne Elgie-Watson, Judy Olson, and others – Thank you!
- Contract done with 3<sup>rd</sup> party company for lawn maintenance (grass and shrub trimming) and winter snow plowing;
- A tripping hazard existed on the north parking lot concrete ramp. The root cause was identified, and in late September, the ramp was removed and replaced. The work included regrading and repaving parking spots to the east side of the ramp. At the same time, we also regraded and repaved around the drain grate to eliminate the ponding and ice forming.

Over the remainder of the year, we expect to complete the following work:

- Replace the exterior doors onto the labyrinth and the north entrance. The existing doors' veneer has been failing over the last few years. The new doors will match the front SW entry doors with a wood look on the inside and a colour matching panel on the outside;
- We are looking at some painting work to keep the building looking fresh and welcoming;
- Replace all lights to be LED, reducing our power use and gaining longer bulb lifetime. We are working to gather and compare quotes and expect the last quote in the weeks ahead, and;
- Plumbing repairs to the men's front washroom, the nursery, and the kitchen.

## Just in case you didn't know

You can listen to a 35 minute edited version of Sunday's service on the phone! Call (416)219-8749 anytime and listen to our most recent service. Typically you will get to hear scripture, prayers, the sermon, and even some music.

OR

You can listen to it as a podcast available from Podbean at [jubileeunited.podbean.com](http://jubileeunited.podbean.com) or find the link on the Jubilee website or Facebook page.



You can also find a Monday-Friday daily video Bible meditation or podcast featuring Rev. Norm Seli. Links can be found on the Jubilee website or Facebook page, on the "Norm Seli" Youtube Channel or at [jubileeunited.podbean.com](http://jubileeunited.podbean.com)



Services by phone

Call (416)219-8749

Holy Week Meditation (5 mins)

Monday - Friday

Audio Worship (40 mins)

on Sunday



And there is an APP with content and growth just starting to happen!



# Comings and Goings

by Rev. Norm Seli



Some folks are wondering if we need a new minister. I have spoken with a number of people in recent weeks about the new position being offered, and I have heard a great deal of support as well as some concern about costs and some general wondering about why. I have some thoughts that I'd like to share with you.

**Do we really need another minister?** In short: Yes. If only because I am tired, and I really want to have a partner with whom I can truly support and lead the Jubilee community in their engagements with God and the broader community. But more than that, the interests and aspirations that were revealed in the Needs Assessment Survey showed us that Jubilee is a diverse and interesting group of people who anticipate

being more actively involved in their church in the future and want to discover more ways to deepen their faith and be of service to the community. You seem to want more church and not less. Soon we will be returning to in-person worship while continuing to offer our virtual programs. One day (and I don't know when, but I know it will come), we will have our groups gathering again. There will be projects and concerts, opportunities for learning and studying, creating and experiencing, and two ministers will help facilitate these groups. I don't know how many people may find their way to our in-person community from our virtual programs, but the ones that do will bring with them new ideas, new gifts, new concerns and needs, and a second minister means that we will be able to provide real support to those folks without having to take away from those who have been part of the community for so long. For me, personally, the challenge and support that comes from a ministry colleague inspires creativity in me and makes me more aware of the many ways that God is in our lives, the many expressions of the holy that are available to us.

**But can we afford it?** It is a fair question, particularly when we don't know exactly what's ahead. This pandemic has created great uncertainty, and although we are in a pretty healthy position, we don't want to be foolish and put our survival in a precarious position. I would suggest that we could limit our future by making bad decisions (financial or otherwise), but we are not in any danger of having to close our doors in the next decade. My question is, "Can we afford NOT to hire a new minister?" In this time of uncertainty when churches will be closing, where are those suddenly without a church going to go? To another struggling church or to one that is vital and willing to risk wisely? Does the world need more of what the Jubilee community shares? Do we want to be agile and ready to meet new challenges with gifted leadership, or do we want to wait to see what happens and then see if we can find someone who will be able to help us? Personally, I would choose to have a dynamic team ready to imagine new ways of being church in a new post-pandemic reality. Ready to welcome back the things that we have always loved about Jubilee, but also offer things that we have never had or done before. I would like to be daring and follow God's invitation into ministry in new ways and places rather than play it safe. Having said that, there is always a good argument for choosing your moments and saving for the right time. Is this the right time? I suppose it depends on who is available and what we can imagine happening with them. I think it would be wrong to just say, "Well, we'll spend our money and hope for the best," but I think that it is also a mistake to let opportunities go and not risk at least a little. The Jubilee Council decided that it was time for a measured risk and set a Search Committee to discover who was available. We will have to see how that plays out. What I do know is that right now, we have Barb, Dianne, Daniel, me, and a lot of great support from our community and financial stability beyond most churches. I can't imagine a better time to build on that base than today.

Jordana Wright will be leaving Jubilee at the end of October. She has been with us for the past eight months helping us realize our ambitions in the virtual world. Together we have been exploring uncharted waters and trying to figure out how to create an authentic connection with God's community in a virtual world. Jordana has created "Bible Story Time with Haley" on Facebook; she has also created the Jubilee app that many of us have on our phones and are



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starting to use. Jordana has helped us reach deeper into Facebook and other social media to target our message to those who may want to hear and respond to our ambitious, inclusive church community in North York. Jordana has planted many seeds that we will see grow over the next few years. If in 2022 and beyond you find yourself using the Jubilee app, finding us on TikTok and other platforms, as folks become engaged with us because of something that they discovered online, you will know that we are harvesting the crop that was planted by Jordana. In the month of October, Jordana will be hosting some virtual events to help you better understand how to navigate these new waters, and we will be learning how to take the reins from the one who set it all up. Someone asked me the other day what I thought Jordana's biggest gift to Jubilee has been, and I remarked that I think Jordana has helped us discover the breadth and reach that we never knew we could have... I am hoping that we will see more of Jordana in the future, but for now, it's time for us to create depth to go with all that breadth so that people can truly become part of the Jubilee community even if they are not able to join us in person (and even if they are...). Thank you, Jordana, for all that you have shared and explored with us in this wonderful ministry that is Jubilee.

## Greetings to the Jubilee United community.

I'm Jim Harbell, and I have the privilege, as part of my studies, to be part of the Jubilee community through March 2022 for few hours each week. I am in the last year of my Masters of Divinity at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. I previously graduated with a Masters in Pastoral Studies and work part-time as a spiritual care provider at Scarborough Health Network. Recently, I have been involved in trauma and grief counselling with staff at the hospital and at long-term care homes managed by SHN. Previous work at SHN has included mental and palliative care support.

This is a new career for me. I am in my early 60's and spent more than three decades at a national Bay Street law firm working in real estate development, energy, and environmental law, including affordable housing projects such as the one I spoke about at the National Truth and Reconciliation Day Service. I am now applying my development knowledge as a Board member of United Properties Resource Corporation; the national affordable housing corporation set up by the United Church to make the best use of surplus properties. It is a bold move by the UCC to implement a part of their social justice agenda and leave a legacy in communities where congregations may be closing.

My experience in my home church, Rosedale United, has been as head of outreach, worship, Clerk of Session, and a member of Ministry and Personnel committees. I met Rev. Norm there more than 25 years ago when he was a minister at the start of his career. While from a lay leader perspective, I am comfortable with aspects of the United Church. I know that I have much to learn regarding my future role in ministry, and I am very glad to be mentored and supervised by Norm, with his wealth of experience, and learn alongside all of you in the Jubilee community.

I grew up in Hamilton, and my folks still live there in a retirement home, reasonably healthy for all – Dad is 96, and Mom is 89. My wife, Pat McQuaid, and I have four adult children. Pat and I met in law school and delight in spending time at our cottage in her home province of Prince Edward Island. We are a family of travellers and found joy when we were able to explore interesting parts of the world. I love to garden – I think it is in my genes as my parents were the first in each of their families to leave the farm, my dad from the Shuswap area of British Columbia and my mom from the Niagara peninsula. When I write or present reflections, I find I frequently start somewhere in nature. There is something about experiencing a ravine in the city, a beach, a garden, or somewhere else outdoors that feeds my soul and connects me to the divine.

One of my goals while at Jubilee is to journey with some of you as you seek to strengthen your spiritual connections. May we learn well together.

Peace,  
Jim



# Report from Outreach

During the summer months, the Outreach Committee stayed in touch with apartment-dwellers by delivering teatime kits of home-baked cookies and beverages.

In this season of Thanksgiving, Jubilee is sending \$1,000 to the Scott Mission and \$1,000 to the Community Share Food Bank, to support their work in feeding the hungry. Thanks to generous folks at Jubilee for your continued support of our food ministry.

The annual St. John's Community Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Spencer Clinton. This award is given to a student who has been an active volunteer in local congregational and community activities, and is pursuing post-secondary education.

***Hello, I'm Spencer** and my family and I have been members at Jubilee United for 13+ years. As I finished high school last spring, I chose to enroll in post secondary. After careful deliberation, I enrolled in Geographic Analysis at Ryerson University. In my thirteen years at Jubilee, I was a part of the youth group, I've been a part of nearly every Christmas pageant, I regularly volunteer in serving Communion, and plenty more. This school year I am attending semi-virtually. This school year snuck up on me as I'm sure it did for many youth - since the previous summer was twice as long. Now I'm happy to be back at school and moving forward with my education in a study program I enjoy.*



# The Faces of Friends and Cheery Thoughts, who could ask for more?

Jubilee United Church

**Jubilee Limericks**

When this pandemic is finally through,  
There'll be so many fun things to do  
With my friends: just hang out  
Sing a song, give a shout!  
But mostly, I want to hug you!

*P. Lansche*



Jubilee United Church

**Jubilee Limericks**

Long ago in the time BC,  
Before COVID at Jubilee,  
We shared smiles, grins, and hugs.  
Now masks cover our mugs,  
But smiling eyes we can still see.

*Pam Lock*



Jubilee United Church

**Jubilee Limericks**

It's great Thanksgiving Day is now here  
With its fellowship, love, and good cheer;  
But from January to December,  
Let us also remember,  
To give thanks every day of the year.

*E. Rutherford*



Jubilee United Church

**Jubilee Limericks**

Saying "sin" always causes a fuss  
Said the vernable St. Augustus  
But it's just the divide  
betwist the Divine and our pride  
And God's willing to cross it for us

*N. Seli*



Jubilee United Church

**Jubilee Limericks**

Thanksgiving's soon over and past,  
This time with no family repast.  
But be of good cheer;  
Wear your masks for this year  
And hope germs will be vanquished at last!

*B. Greenwood*



Jubilee United Church

**Jubilee Limericks**

When we read the epistles of Paul,  
There is one verse we all can recall;  
Though in FAITH we all trust,  
And while HOPE is a must,  
It is LOVE that's the greatest of all.

*E. Rutherford*

