

# 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

### Are we coming back?

I imagine that there a number of us wondering if Jubilee will be back. Not “When will be Jubilee be back?” but “As restrictions lift, will it ever be like it was before... will we come back?” Some folks look at numbers, read tea leaves, and declare with confidence mixed with grief, “The Church will be gone by 2040!”

Well, I hope that they are right.

I mean, if their faith has led them to that conclusion, I want to respect them and celebrate with them when it all comes true. **However, my faith is the one that believes in the resurrection.** My faith, formed and shared so abundantly by Jesus, invites me to look around and see the incredible increase in people professing and living a Christian faith in other parts of the world. My faith, gifted and supported by God, reminds me that creation is ongoing and that just because I'm not sure what comes next, doesn't mean that something isn't coming... it's not all about me.

My faith reminds me that God's people were in the wilderness for 40 years, not sure where to go, but trusting in God to get them there... the wilderness is part of the journey, not the end of the journey. In Lent, we recognize 40 days that Jesus was in the wilderness, discovering who he was in that time and place, facing temptations and making the choices that would shape him and share our faith. My faith invites me to see this time of Covid as a time in the wilderness, unsure where we are going, doing the best with what we know even as we grow weary, angry and afraid... My faith invites me to see the past decade of change in church and the way that we experience and share our faith as time in the wilderness—deciding what is important and what is not, embracing that which is from God and letting go that which belongs to another time and place. My faith is not afraid of the wilderness and certainly never imagines it to be the end of the journey.

I'm not worried about God giving up on me or humanity (as appropriate as that might be some days), and I'm not worried about God leaving the scene. Some folks think me naive to trust and believe in God, but I do. In this time of Lent, let me share with you four of the reasons that I believe in God; feel free to add your own.

1. I have seen individuals touched by something beyond my comprehension, something that has inspired them to such power and extreme love that I have felt a sense of the “Holy” about them. This intuition and experience point me to something more than my usual experience, and I believe that intuition and experience point to God.
2. I see in Jesus Christ a life so full of meaning that I believe it informs me about the nature of God. The story makes sense in the light of God, but without God, I simply cannot fathom the how and why of Jesus' life.

*continued on page 2*



3. My experience is that there is rarely a simple choice between right and wrong. It is often a choice between good, pretty good, better, not so good, and not good at all. My engaging in prayer, community, and scripture always challenges me to re-examine my actions and attitudes, trying for good, better, or a new "good." My faith is self-examining and self-critical, so I often change my mind. Without God, I might be tempted to stop changing, become static and set in my opinions and ways.
4. I believe that most people want to do the right thing: they want to do "good." God helps me to find new ways of doing "good." But more than that, God encourages me to do "good" even when my rational mind tells me that there's no point. In the face of great poverty, why would I give a couple of bucks to a homeless man? In the face of rampant racism, why would I bother to treat others with respect? Why bother with a simple act of kindness when I'm never going to turn the tide of inhumanity? Because I know that all of these things matter to God. I believe that beyond my power and my ability, these things will get better because they are part of God's agenda. Even if I never see an end to racism, poverty, and cruelty, I will still fight against them because God gives me hope beyond my power and beyond my life. I like being on God's side, not because it means I'm right, but because it gives my struggle meaning beyond victory in my time. For me, believing in God assures me that right will prevail; kindness will help out.

I'm not suggesting that you have to believe in God to be interested in doing the right thing, to be motivated to improve the world, or to be challenged... all I'm saying is that believing in God helps me with all of those things and the more that I get involved in these same pursuits, the more my intuition and experience points to something (someone) beyond my experience... a something (someone) that I experience in love... a someone (something) that I call God. The same someone (something) that Abraham called God; the same someone (something) that Jesus called "Abba."

Now, as long as I'm waxing theologic, allow me to share with you why I believe in the Resurrection... I'm on a roll; Easter is coming... let's go for broke!

I believe because Peter believed.

I believe because Mary believed.

I believe because it would have been easier for both Peter and Mary NOT to believe, unless it was true.

I believe because so many people experienced the resurrected Jesus that they changed their lives forever without material profit or gain.

I believe because so many people experienced the resurrected Jesus that they spent the rest of their lives sharing their experience with others, inviting them into their own experience of Jesus and God.

I believe because so many people experienced the resurrected Jesus that they changed not only their lives, but the world.

I believe because the resurrection reveals a love that cannot be destroyed by the worst that the world can do... pandemic, divisions, humiliation, injustice, ignorance, and death, don't win when I recognize the resurrected Jesus.

I believe because the resurrection of Jesus reveals for me my ultimate fate: eternal life. Jesus does not remain dead because we do not remain dead; we live on in the presence of God, even as Jesus indicates God living on in the presence of humanity.

But that's just me... (and Paul, Ignatius, Clement, Polycarp, Marcion, Tertullian, Melito, Origen, Augustine, Aquinas, Eckhart, Teresa of Avila, Julian of Norwich, Luther, Menno Simons, Wesley, Rauschenbusch, von Balthasar, Bonhoeffer, Bultmann, Cobb, Gutierrez, Niebuhr, Tillich, Moltmann, Wright, Howard, Cone, Willimon, Cannon... alright, now I'm just name dropping.)

I am also very happy to speak of the community that, in memory, action, and love, could not let Jesus remain dead but brought him back to life in their life... revealing, too, the presence of God that cannot be stopped by injustice or death. It doesn't have to be all "my way" to be real or to be celebrated.

I am looking forward to the coming months as we experience resurrection yet again. Resurrection celebrated in Easter; resurrection experienced in our emergence from the pandemic, resurrection in the arrival of spring, resurrection in the recreating of our faith and community practices and all sorts of little resurrections to numerous to include here.

I hope that this year, maybe even more than ever before, is a time for you to experience resurrection as well. Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! We're coming back in more ways than you can imagine!!



Fulfilling Lent and Happy Easter to you.

*Norm*



# ***To dust we will return...***

Rev. Bri-anne Swan

A few years ago, I was asked to lead an evening Ash Wednesday service for a congregation that was without a minister. My husband, Jason, had his own Ash Wednesday service that night. This left us with the question, "So, who are the kids going to the service with, Mama or Daddy?" Since my service was closer to our house (meaning they could get to bed earlier), we decided they would come with me.

It was going to be a late night, and I wanted the kiddos to be able to flop into bed as soon as we got home. So, I asked both kids to put on pyjamas before we left the house.

"What's Ash Wednesday, anyway?" asked Simon. Trying to come up with a four-year-old kind of answer, I told him it's a day when people wear ashes to remember that we come from the earth, and someday we will die, and our body will go back to being part of the earth. I left the part

about sin and repentance for another day.

Simon said, "Oh, okay." Then he went to go and pick his pyjamas. He came back down — and I snapped this picture. The skeleton was a very deliberate fashion choice.

Because, you know, death.

I come from the earth. I am nurtured by the earth. One day, I will return to the earth. I am not separate from the earth. The earth is the place and the space where I live, and love, and grow. When I cry, my tears fall to the earth and mix with creation. When I am elated, I leap with joy on the soil that so many others have walked on before me. When I die, my body will become a part of nourishing that same soil. The circle moves on and continues to move on...

Lent is a time of reflection. It is a time of self-examination and repentance. However, it is also a time to remember and embrace the paradox that we are in relationship with a God who not only understands what it is to be God, but also profoundly knows what it is to be mortal — what it is to be here, on the earth in the beautiful and sometimes painful messiness that it means to be human.

In the moment that this photo was taken, I like to think that deep down in that little four-year-old's heart, he somehow understood that.

And, he was not afraid. I wish the same for all of us.

## ***Life Events***

### ***Deaths***

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Jean Phalp     | January 13, 2022  |
| Donald Smeaton | January 20, 2022  |
| Marion Manchul | February 20, 2022 |







And so, Jubilee has begun to worship in person on Sundays and have in-person gatherings during the week. Conditions may change as we go forward, so please check the Jubilee website and check with the office if you think that conditions might be changing. We will always be in keeping with the guidelines set out by the Ontario government. At the present, that means that you be required to wear masks, additionally, Jubilee will still require you to provide proof of vaccination the first time you visit Jubilee. After that first visit, we will add your name to our list of confirmed vaccinated people, and we will be able to include you in our gatherings with confidence. If you do not wish to share your vaccination status, we are willing to accept proof of a negative Covid 19 test for individual visits. You can speak with Rev. Seli or

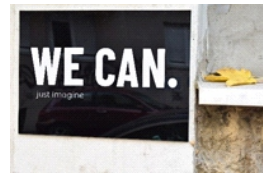
Rev. Swan for further details. We are doing our best to minimize the risk for our most vulnerable, so please, if you can, be fully vaccinated before attending Jubilee in person.

For now, we will continue to keep the rows of seats in the sanctuary two meters apart, and we encourage you to respect not only a safe social distance, but also a distance at which others feel comfortable. It has been a while since most of us have been “up close and personal,” so please approach one another with caution, respect and patience; it may take a while before we are comfortable with each other.



To help with that, Jubilee will be open on Wednesdays from 3-4:30 pm. The sanctuary will be set aside for prayer if you would like to come in and pray. The Foyer and Garden Room will have a few tables and chairs for people to sit and chat. No great agenda, just a chance to be together and get used to sharing space again. At least one of your ministers will be present on Wednesdays, and you can be sure that they would love to have a chat and catch up. We ask that you come into the church by the “Sunday door” (the one with the roundabout). You will be required to wear masks when in the building.

And as promised, our virtual/digital programs will continue, including Sunday worship, kids and parents check-in, Bible study, daily meditations and book/meditations Ggroups. If you have any particular need or inspired thoughts about how we can re-emerge together, please be in touch with Rev. Bri-anne or Rev. Norm at your convenience.



## ***The Benevolent Fund***

As you can imagine, 2021 was a year of great need, as people struggled to stay employed, take care of their kids, keep food on the table, electricity and heat in their homes, and hope in their hearts. Many found themselves without work or work that could no longer pay them enough to make ends meet; some folks found opportunities to get training to find new skills, new jobs and new direction for their lives. Many such folk, received a little bit of help from the Benevolent Fund. Your support in 2021 was more than we ever anticipated, and none of it went unshared. Thank you.

Thank you on behalf of those who have found it a little easier to sleep because there was food in the cupboard, heat in the house, care for a child, virtual connection, or masks for work. Thank you for providing signs of hope and compassion. The Benevolent Fund is a discretionary fund that I administer confidentially to those in need. Our support is not meant to be “ongoing” but occasional (when it comes to food security) or “one-time-only” when it comes to larger needs like paying a heating bill or getting books for school. We hope to help those whose needs are not recognized by the system and existing supports.

You might be amazed at who needs help and the kind of help that is needed, You might be surprised to recognize the people discreetly seeking support and might also be surprised to know that several of the folks that we have helped in the past have come to be supporters of the Benevolent Fund in the present. Donations can be made in the usual ways: E-Transfers to [admin@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:admin@jubileeunited.ca), cheques can be mailed or dropped off, even Canada Helps can be used (canadahelps.org – search “Jubilee United Church”) – just indicate on your cheque, in your email or on-line donation that you would like the money to go to the Benevolent Fund. I don't think that the need will go down very much in 2022, but I suspect that your support will not likely fade either.

I thank you for your ongoing support of the Benevolent Fund. *Norm*



# What is it all about?

Jim Harbell

We have all had plenty of time during the latest Covid lockdown to wonder – what is this life of ours all about? Why were we placed on this earth? What do we seek to accomplish? What are our priorities – our loved ones, of course, but what else? Perhaps we have had too much time to think – to wonder.

For me, relationships are at the top of the list of what it is all about. I value all my new relationships formed among you in the Jubilee community. For renewed relationships in a different context with Bri-anne and Norm. We truly are not alone. And when government requirements set us apart from one another, the value of relationships we hold so dear to us becomes abundantly clear.

For this reason, we wanted to connect with all of you. Nothing fancy – basically three simple questions. How are you? How have you been connecting with Jubilee? How would you like to connect with Jubilee? With our 20 wonderfully diligent and engaged callers, we have reached out to you over the past month. If you did not hear from us, please let us know through the church office – we would be very glad to speak with you. A huge thanks to our callers, and in particular to Pat Lansche, who has been completing all of our data inputting.



We are reviewing what we heard – all the marvellous affirmations of how well the team has been doing over the past couple of years, creative new ideas to consider and some things for us to ponder on how we might change and be even more responsive. Most importantly – we connected! Yes, we heard loud and clear how important the Jubilee relationships are – how loved and connected the members of the Jubilee community are to one another and how much we yearn to be back together again. To worship, to drink coffee, or have a meal together. In so many ways, we seek to connect.

As I wonder what it is all about, I believe at least part of that answer comes from you. It is about valuing relationships and maintaining connection – about valuing our traditions of connecting and working together to find ever new ways to connect and form community.

I am reminded of a favourite Mary Oliver poem, *The Measure*. Relationship does not have to be something big and grand – perhaps it is those small steps we take each day to connect with one another that are most important – perhaps that is what it is all about.

## The Measure

*I stopped the car and ran back and across the road  
and picked up the box turtle, who only  
hissed and withdrew herself into her pretty shell.  
Well, goodness, it was early in the morning, not too much traffic.  
Rather an adventure than a risk, and anyway  
who would give aid to such a shy citizen?  
Who wouldn't complete the journey for it, taking it of course  
in the direction of its desire: a pinewoods  
where, as I learned, the blueberries ripen early.  
Probably she had thought, in the middle of the night —  
Ah, it's time.  
Sometimes I think our own lives are watched over like that.  
Out of the mystery of the hours and the days  
Something says - Let's give this one a little trial.*

*Let's say, put a turtle in the road she's traveling on, and  
in a hurry.  
Let's see how her life is measuring up, that lucky girl.  
So much happiness, so much good fortune. Ah, it's time.*

Mary Oliver, *New and Selected Poems*, Vol 2, 23.



# **THE NEW JUBILEE MARKET**

This exciting opportunity is a wonderful chance to meet direct sellers from across the GTA, with a multitude of art forms and other ***products and services you will not find in any store!***

**FREE ADMISSION!**

The Jubilee Market runs (usually) on the second Saturday of the month:  
April 9, May 7 (NOTE DATE), June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8,  
November 12, December 10.

Shopping times: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact [jubilee.market.toronto@gmail.com](mailto:jubilee.market.toronto@gmail.com)  
for more information.



As you can imagine, we will need help getting this off the ground. There are a multitude of areas which need people: set-up, take-down, kitchen / refreshments, Jubilee tables, market-day registration, advertising, and general help. If you can share your time and talents, we would like to build a large pool of people to help with these tasks. Please know that no one is expected to be at every event, and no task is huge. With everyone's help, this can be a great fundraiser for Jubilee!

Thanks to those who have already come forth with offers of assistance. Contact Pat Lansche at [pjlansche@gmail.com](mailto:pjlansche@gmail.com) if you can give us a hand.

## **Ministry & Personnel**

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts in accordance with the guidelines laid out in The Manual of The United Church of Canada. The M&P Committee is responsible for consulting with and supporting the paid staff of Jubilee with respect to any issues affecting them, building positive and trusting relationships between employees and our community of faith, and reviewing all aspects of their working conditions and employment relationship. These responsibilities apply to both our ministry personnel and lay staff. Jubilee United Church is blessed with staff who are committed to their work, and we are thankful for all that they do.

In order to support constructive communication between the congregation and ministers and staff, each minister and staff person has an M&P liaison with whom they meet regularly. If you would like to provide positive feedback about a minister or staff member or if you have an issue that you would like to raise, please email the appropriate M&P liaison. The issue will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee.

Presently serving on the M&P committee are:

Jeanette May, Chair, representing Barb Secord

Valerie Winters, representing Rev. Norm Seli

Drew Winters, representing Dr. Daniel Rubinoff

Lynn Moe, representing Rev. Bri-anne Swan and Dianne Clare

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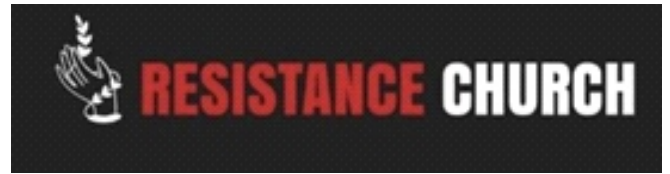
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*Jeanette May*

# Rev. Norm wonders about Resistance Church



It was almost five years ago that the Toronto United Church Council and Jubilee invested in a project called Resistance Church. The idea was to try something new in Community Ministry. Bri-anne was the perfect person to help build a community; she had already done it in East Gwillimbury, starting the Living Presence Ministry from nothing, making vital connections with people that were both spiritual and community building. It was Bri-anne who came up with the name... I didn't like it. It sounded too "separate," almost like it was some kind of radical protest movement that would invite us to march and protest. Bri-anne pointed out that, of course, I didn't like the name, Resistance Church wasn't targeted at me; Resistance Church was meant for those who were outside the church – those who were not raised in the church or had felt betrayed or forced out of the church. People who believed that church demanded that you fit in at all costs; that you smile when you really want to cry; that you look all put together when you're falling apart, that you learn to recite precious words before you could be loved. Resistance Church was about resisting those things. Resistance to the need to "fit in," resistance to the culture of rush around trying to prove yourself, resistance to the idea that you are not good enough, resistance to despair and hopelessness. "Yeah, but Jubilee's not like that, so why do we need to call it 'Resistance Church'?" I asked.

**"Because people don't know that; they assume that Jubilee is just like the church that they see on TV or the church that threw them out," Bri-anne replied. I was convinced.**

We started with door-knockers and flyers in our own neighbourhood, inviting folks to a different kind of worship, once a month, led by Bri-anne, in person at Jubilee. The first time we did it, we had about a dozen people, nearly all of them ministers from other churches looking to see what it was we were doing and looking to find a little holy time for themselves away from their own churches. Even though there were some folks who were with us online (we were live-streaming the service), it was not exactly the demographic we were aiming for. But we persevered.

The next time there were a few ministers and three or four "regular" folk who wanted to worship. They were not from around here but had been connecting with Resistance Church online. Resistance Church was offering a regular online check-in for people to pray, but mostly so that people could be seen, missed if they were away and included when they showed up – they wanted to matter to someone. Then, a miracle happened.

A miracle that started like a disaster. We had a snowstorm so big that we had to cancel the service. Well, we thought we had to cancel the service; what we actually did was cancel the in-person service, and Bri-anne did the online service from her basement. The focus was entirely on creating an online service for those who were tuned in through Instagram. Do you know what it's like when you do something by accident, but you feel that it was waiting to be discovered or created all along? Penicillin, Corn Flakes, the microwave, and the colour mauve were all created by accident, and it seemed like Resistance Church was, too. In the online-only service, there was a connection for folks who were no longer sharing a service with others in-person at the church, but had a worship service all for them - and it was holy.

We decided to let go of in-person services and focus entirely on the online community. Bri-anne began to nurture and invite people into daily evening check-ins and prayers, she began to text and chat with people who wanted to share their lives with a minister who could listen and understand, and the church started to grow. Not into the hundreds, but valued and loved handfuls of people. When the "project" was over, Jubilee committed to continuing it, not because these handfuls of people were likely to become members of Jubilee, but because these people were in our hands, and they deserved to be loved. When Covid 19 changed everything, the United Church of Canada knew about Resistance Church and were eager to promote it, to open it up and make it "big," but we knew that we would lose those handfuls of people who were in God's hands through our ministry and so we resisted.

These days, there are more people participating in Resistance Church. There are some folks who have come from Resistance Church to Jubilee, attending virtually and providing financial support. There are others who do not attend Jubilee at all but do provide financial support for a ministry that has helped them resist the urge to give up on God and on themselves.

I often think of Jesus sitting and eating with the sinners. Not because Resistance Church folk are sinners any different from the rest of us sinners, but because Jesus was sitting, eating, talking with people who simply could not appreciate the

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language of the faith that was all around them. These folk were distanced from the faith, and so Jesus went and met them where they were, talked their language and gave them a way to connect with God that was profound and vital. That, to me, is Resistance Church. Watching Resistance Church take shape has helped me understand why Jesus did what he did with “those” people. He didn’t demand that they come to him and speak his language; he met them where and how they were.

This was not the community that we had imagined, but it was the community that emerged when we dared to try something new, resist the urge to give up and follow God’s call. This was a community of folk who were disaffected, neglected, or simply puzzled by “the church” and the faith that binds us together. This became a community of folk who belong not to just one church, but to folk who carefully select two or three places of spiritual nurture, challenge and community. Nobody in the United Church of Canada is doing what we are doing with Resistance Church; nobody really has the kind of online outreach that we have right now. Online we are talked about along the likes of “Middle Church” in New York and other cutting edge, widely supported faith communities. Will we grow to that kind of size and reputation? Time will tell, certainly our reputation is going that way. Today, there are special services and a weekly Bible Study added to Resistance Church; we have handfuls of folk connecting with us from all over the world, hearing the gentle beauty of a faith that many of us take for granted and we just might be creating the very community that our children or grandchildren may hold to be as precious and important as Jubilee is to many of us today.

For now, I’m glad that Bri-anne stuck with the name, I am very glad that she stuck with the ministry, and I am thrilled that it is part of Jubilee.

## **FREE RIMBALA CLASSES CONTINUE AT JUBILEE IN 2022!**

Do you worry about falling – especially in winter and spring?  
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, Ph.D., 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 run weekly all winter and spring in 2022!**

**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 are offered 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:**

**Topic:** Rimbala Thursday Morning, 10 a.m.  
**Time:** Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. America/Toronto

#### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

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

Meeting ID: 650 197 383  
Passcode: 070510

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

**Topic:** Rimbala Thursday Afternoon, 4 p.m.  
**Time:** Thursdays, 4 p.m.

#### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/390145955?pwd=V1pSSHh0MnBhWk16M200cDZVQWVRQT09>

Meeting ID: 390 145 955  
Passcode: 039663



# **Music Program Update**

After a few great in-person worship services before Christmas, the soloists and the choir returned to Zoom rehearsals and remote recordings at the beginning of 2022. A big thanks to all the choir members who faithfully “zoom” into choir rehearsals on Thursday nights! We have explored new ways to approach vocal technique, hymn interpretation and the connection between text and music in our choral anthems. It has been meaningful to explore more gospel music during Black History Month and to lean into Lent and Easter music. We have welcomed back a few members and have sadly bid farewell to bass section member Don Smeaton, who passed away in January from Covid complications. Don's enthusiasm and wit will always be cherished.

The soloists have been busy recording themselves at home. They send their recordings back to me, and I assemble and arrange them in my music software. The completed files are sent to Reverends Norm and Bri-anne for inclusion in the virtual services. It is a completely different way of working and much more labour-intensive than rehearsing and recording in person! We are excited to return to the sanctuary for rehearsals and worship services, and our time away will no doubt cause us to examine how we create in-person experiences anew. In due course, the choir will resume in-person rehearsals with social distancing. Our choir is, however, in need of male choir members! Men, don't be bashful. In study after study, singing emerges as one of the healthiest activities for anyone because it offers a myriad of physical, psychological, social, cognitive, and spiritual benefits!

We are indeed lucky to have Marie Criscione (soprano), Cheron Christmas-Lafleur (alto), Dylan Hillyer (tenor) and Mike Thomas (bass) as our choir leads. Unfortunately, Mike Thomas submitted his resignation in February, and we will miss him greatly when he leaves at the end of March. His stellar voice and vast experience as a professional choral singer have added greatly to our music ministry. We wish him well as he moves into new career possibilities and is able to spend more time at home with his family. We expect to have a new bass lead in place by April.

The virtual services that Reverends Norm and Bri-anne create have been a tremendous blessing to the whole community. It has been a great joy to work with them to produce music each week that they weave into the service. We are developing a large library of music that can support the various themes that emerge, and we expect that this ministry will continue – even after the pandemic abates.

My Rimbala programs continue to evolve during this time. The online format has served the population well because I am able to give directions, musical examples, and movement work in a safe and easy-to-follow format. The technology allows me to hear and see participants clearly, and thus I can offer feedback and continue to evolve the curriculum. I wish to extend a big thank you to newcomers and faithful veteran students alike! More communities are interested in Rimbala as Canada's population continues to age and the need for effective senior fitness classes emerges. We have a beginner class on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and an intermediate level class on Thursday at 4 p.m. If you are looking for a way to exercise your body and brain, “zoom” into a class. The Zoom invitations are on the Jubilee website. Please feel free to pass on the information and links to friends and family members!

Here is to everyone's safety and well-being during these challenging times. It is an honour to be part of the Jubilee faith community and to play a role in supporting the important work of creating hope, joy, and inspiration through music.

Blessings,

Dr. Daniel Rubinoff  
Director of Music

## **Mission and Service**

During these pandemic months, the people of Jubilee have continued their faithful support of the national church's Mission and Service Fund. In 2021, through PAR (pre-authorized remittance) and special envelope offerings, we donated over \$24,000 to M&S. In the winter, many made a special offering specifically to provide COVID vaccines to 8,000 people in overseas countries that had shortages of vaccines. The Gifts with Vision catalogue provides year-round opportunities to celebrate special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations.

Over the years, in the season of Lent, individuals have practised different ways to prepare for Easter. We used to talk of giving up something for Lent (such as food or entertainment treats). Another option popular in Sunday Schools was to show gratitude for what we have by putting money into a jar each day in Lent to acknowledge the examples of abundance in our lives (such as three healthy daily meals or several winter coats or close friends).

For the first Sunday in Lent, let us remember that sharing ourselves and our resources is an essential part of being disciples of Jesus. Your gifts, offered through Jubilee UC to Mission and Service, really do make a difference in so many ways and places.

*Thank you.*

*Pam Lock, Jubilee's M&S Enthusiast*

## **Subscriptions to Broadview Magazine**

Do you enjoy reading magazines with interesting, sometimes provocative articles that cover many timely subjects? Join three dozen Jubilee folks who already subscribe to BROADVIEW (formerly called THE OBSERVER), the magazine that features a range of views on topics of spirituality, justice and ethical living. Each issue includes a section entitled "The United Church in Focus" and gives information about matters directly affecting the national United Church. For the congregational rate of \$25, subscribers receive eight issues a year.

Our renewal date is March 2022. Current subscribers will receive reminders about payment. If you would like to be a new subscriber, please contact Pam Lock ([p2elock@rogers.com](mailto:p2elock@rogers.com)) as soon as possible. You can also leave a message at the church office for Dianne Clare to forward to me.

*Pam Lock*



So this will be Deborah Johnston's final issue of Jubilation. I know that we all appreciate the wonderful newsletter that she has been putting in our hands for 12 years, but I don't know if we all appreciate Deb's organization as she sets out the year, figuring out when we are going to need a copy of Jubilation for Easter, Christmas, or getting back to church; how she adapts when needs and conditions change or how remarkably patient she is as ministers get around to finally submitting everything about a week late. I, for one, know all of these things and add them to my appreciation for her editing skills, artistic flair and, remarkable compassion as she has served us so well for so long.

Thank you, Deborah; we have all benefitted so much from this ministry of yours.  
Norm (on behalf of EVERYONE!!!)



## 2022 with Jubilee, so far!!

