



Jubilation! is the newsletter of Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive * 416-447-6846 * www.jubileeunited.ca
Editor: Elda Scott

Notes from Norm

These past two years have been unlike any other two years in my life. The pandemic has been costly, people have died, we have been frightened and afraid, relationships have been changed, and isolation has been at least a challenge for some and a horrible blight on most. We keep hearing that things will never be the same, that the world into which we are emerging as the pandemic fades is a world very different from the one of 2019. There are those who would suggest that this might be a good thing, that the trajectory that we were on in 2019 was not a good one, that isolation was already a problem, our disregard or inability to care for the environment or each other was taking a toll from which we would never recover – in short, things were bad, but we just couldn't admit it.

I don't know about any of that for sure, but it does resonate when I think about it.

And now, I just want things to be back to a time when I was less fragile. I want to feel strong again; I think that I would love to feel mighty... but truthfully, what I think that I long for is the feeling of curling up in my mother's lap and feeling safe. It is most peculiar; I'm sixty years old, but I just want to feel the warm comfort of sitting with my mom. I want an antidote to feeling fragile, and it comes in a memory of when I was very fragile indeed – just a child.



**I wonder if others feel the same way.
I think that our church, Jubilee, feels the same way.**

We want to be brave and bold in our ministry, providing strength and hope to each other and the community as we emerge from pandemic together, but we also feel very fragile, worried about tomorrow. What we'd really like is to feel like we did when we opened up the Jubilee doors to worship and community 18 years ago: safe. Regardless of our collective wisdom and shared experiences of risking and following God's call and discovering it was the right thing to do (*bold amalgamation, radical re-imagining of church space, team ministry, first affirming community in North York, welcoming ministry students and interns. sponsoring refugees to name a few examples*) – we still long to curl up in the lap of the good old days and feel safe.

Jubilee has always been a place of connection. Connecting to each other. Connecting to the community. Connecting to God. And we can't connect if we just close up and take care of ourselves.

When the pandemic started, I began to do a daily reading and reflection from the Bible. Originally seven days a week, and when the pandemic wasn't over after two months, it became a video and a podcast presented Mondays through Fridays. It continues to this day, relatively unchanged. Every day for 25 minutes, I read from the Bible and think out loud about what it is that I have just read. Since we began, we have read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Book of Acts, as well as the Book of Genesis, and we are currently reading the Book of Exodus.

What has struck me quite profoundly of late is the story of the Israelites in Egypt. The Israelites settled into Egypt with power, influence, joy and great hope for the future. For many years, centuries in fact, they were happy. And then things changed. Like facing a pandemic, they found themselves having to work harder than ever before. They felt hope drain away, they were trapped into their community and couldn't venture outside into the wilderness. They found their faith losing meaning, and suddenly they realized that they were slaves. They felt vulnerable and beaten.

God heard their cries and sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt; out of slavery into a brave new world of hope and possibility. But all through the story in Exodus, the people keep looking back, afraid of this new freedom, afraid of God speaking to them (They tell Moses, "You speak to God, don't let God speak to us; it's scary and we might die"). I get it. Do you?

Emerging from a terrible time, they don't know if they have the energy and the courage to be brave and bold in a new world. They would rather remember God as the one who loves them, than listen to God as the one who leads them. They seem to forget that they are not alone. They don't want to follow God's call because they are afraid that they won't be able to handle what comes next, forgetting entirely that whatever happens next, God will be with them to help.

We are making masks optional soon (depending on when you read this). We hope to bring coffee time back over the summer. Is it too soon? What if we're wrong? What if we change our minds? Our governments can't figure this out; how are we supposed to? Maybe we can't figure it out alone, but we don't have to. God is with us.

Daniel is leaving us. How will we ever find another Music Director? Is this the end of the choir? Will all music at Jubilee simply cease? We can't do this. Maybe we can't do this alone, but we aren't alone. God is with us.

The Israelites were across the Red Sea, out of Egypt but in a wilderness that baffled them – it was entirely unfamiliar, but God showed them how to live in it, how to feed and sustain themselves. Then, they came to Elim, where there were 12 springs of water and 70 palm trees (Exodus 15:27). They liked it there so much so that they didn't want to leave. They were cranky when God led them away from Elim and towards their destiny. That story resonates as well. As we emerge from pandemic, the road is tricky, arduous and not always clear, so it's tempting to stop at a point where it feels comfortable; at a place that we think we can sustain ourselves.

But God is not going to let us stay there... God will lead us onward. And we will be cranky.

**But we won't be alone. God will be with us.
You are not alone. God is with you.**

In the coming months, Jubilee hopes to be following God's call into vitality and meaningful community. A few years ago, someone suggested the following comparison:

Dying communities...	Vibrant communities...
...hold emergency meetings to discuss their problems. They see themselves as victims of life's roadblocks.	...make action plans for projects that excite them. They picture themselves primarily as solution finders.
...ask, "How can we do what we do better?" And consequently they end up refurbishing the present and trying to pass it off as the future.	...ask, "How can we do something excellent?" And consequently they end up inventing the future.
...make plans to fit their budget, making cuts to hobble dreams.	...present exciting visions to engage the imagination of the members. And from commitment, they find funding.
...ask members to join groups, so the work of the community can continue.	...ask members to be creative in ways they can see fit into the dream the group shares.

As we emerge together from this time of pandemic, Jubilee will strive to be vibrant. We will invite you to be part of discovering "Who We Are" in 2022 and beyond; how we will both challenge and comfort each other and how we will follow God's call into valuable and rewarding ministry.

It's going to be an exciting time and I know that you, like me, will have moments when you just want to stop... rest in the lap of a loved one... stay by the springs of Elim... and you can. For a while. And then, God will call you to get up and keep creating Jubilee in God's image, free from the fears of the past and looking forward to the challenges of the future. We can do this.

**We are not alone.
I am very glad that we are in this together.**

Norm



Who You Gonna Call?

By Rev. Bri-anne Swan

First...and this is very important...
Rev. Norm and I are really glad to be your ministers.

Like, really, really glad.

Since I was called to Jubilee in October 2021, your ministry team has been working through how best to divide up the tasks of serving the congregation. Not that we work in silos. We both do many of the same tasks, but with varying percentages of our time. For example, both Rev. Norm and I preach and write liturgy. However, Rev. Norm is the primary point person for anything to do with Sunday morning worship. Both Rev. Norm and I create online content, but I am the primary contact for anything to do with digital community. Make sense?

To reflect this, Rev. Norm and I have new job titles, which you can find below, along with a list of who you first call might be when you have a question.

Rev. Norm
Minister of Worship, Care, and Faith Formation

nseli@jubileeunited.ca

(416)447-6846 x 103

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Worship — *includes in-person and online virtual*
Jubilee Cares / Pastoral Care
Children & Youth
Faith Formation — *Bible Study, book studies, etc.*
Coffee & Check-In
Elder Care
Benevolent Fund
Communities
Baptisms
Weddings
Funerals

Rev. Bri-anne
Minister of Digital Community, Growth, and Public Witness

bswan@jubileeunited.ca

416) 447-6846 x 104

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Resistance Church
Jubilee Cares / Pastoral Care
Families
Refugees
Social Justice and Outreach
Affirm/2SLGBTQI+ Inclusion
Right Relations with Indigenous
Active Adults
Digital Community

This list is meant only as a starting point — feel free to reach out to whichever minister you want! We will both be glad to hear from you, and we look forward to hearing about the different ways that *you* envision being church as we feel more and more comfortable sharing in-person spaces and exploring the possibilities of reaching out beyond the walls of Jubilee to serve our neighbours.

Bri-anne

Jubilee Farewell
by Daniel Rubinoff



Dear Jubilee,

It is bittersweet to write these words as I prepare to leave you and enter into a pastoral musical relationship with Lawrence Park Community Church. These eight years have been inspiring, holy, epic, heart-warming and filled with the Spirit. Our music has been made together and taken us to places untold: from our weekly choir rehearsals, concerts, art and music, poetry and music, jazz, contemporary, muffin, and so much more! You have been a wonderful and faithful Muse and a source of prayer, concern, joy, community and understanding. For all of this, I thank God and the universe that I landed on your doorstep those eight years ago.

There are so many people to thank and I really shouldn't try. All of you have been so welcoming and encouraging, even when I tried to go outside of my comfort zone, with my improvisations, reharmonizations, jazzy renditions and suddenly different tempos and dynamics (you can look up all these terms if you really want to!). Suffice it to say, I am a musician who likes to be in the moment, even though I am usually quite well organized with themes of the week and long-range planning. I love responding to the text of a hymn with a different musical approach so that the life of faith is never dull. I doubt it was for Jesus and his disciples and it shouldn't be for us (not that I place myself in that holy category). However, I pride myself on learning so much with you early on in my ministry: 1) the value of listening to others, 2) the value of punctuality down to the minute for both choir rehearsals and Sunday morning worship (thank you, Jeanette May!), 3) communication with staff so that clarity becomes a holy necessity not a drudgery, 4) forgiveness of others and myself and 5) seeing the light even when times are challenging.

Thank you, dear choir, for your open-mindedness and hard work, each and every day. It has been one of my life's greatest honours to work with you week after week. The choir is the hardest working and most present group in any church community. We meet for hours each week and journey through faith and matters of the spirit with music: the very stuff of the subconscious. Music: its resonance, tone, melody and harmony is non-representational, and thus is a metaphor for God, and the Spirit. We are a lucky, if industrious, bunch who proffer ourselves to our congregations and prepare the way to Sunday. We act as a sort of microcosm to the ministry and mini community within a larger following, and we lead the congregation in song and help find our faith through the miraculous combination of melody and word.

We have fun, joke, cry, laugh, dance and contemplate. We are moved, bored, excited, exhausted and submit ourselves to the collective, while, at times, and with some folks, we relish a chance to shine, whether we are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass. Our lungs, minds, hearts and spirits are engaged in this process and we enjoy a fellowship that is

deep and long lasting, because we are engaged in the song and in the communing together in the time that we meet. And we have Cheron Christmas Lafleur to organize us and keep us all on the right track!

My hope is that you find a supremely talented Music Director whose contribution will resonate in these sanctuary walls, and whoever becomes the next Director of Music, know that I will be there to offer some guidance from a distance. That person is indeed a fortunate soul, because they will hopefully enjoy the gift of a foundation: a firm and gentle foundation of choral excellence, concerts, recordings, openness to new ideas, talented and faithful choral leads and soloists and the love and admiration of a loyal congregation. I only added to that great foundation that was established by Art Wenk and others. Whoever is chosen will be able to contribute to this amazing legacy.

I want to thank Norm, Bri-anne, Barb, and Dianne for being incredible staff members. Although COVID has been challenging, we have come together in various ways and I hope that my successor can really be part of a more cohesive team once COVID abates. The music program needs to be integrated into the whole ministry here. We have two extremely talented musical Ministers and that is indeed a blessing. My hope is that the choir will have a stronger voice in the virtual services and the in-person services, so that balance between collective joy through group singing can be balanced with solo offerings. This is achievable because there is a place at the table for everyone!

Although this is farewell, it isn't good-bye. I am just up the street and my Rimbala program will continue online as a continuously running ZOOM class, drawing folks from many parts of Ontario and indeed around the world.

You will always be in my heart and a part of my soul. I love you, Jubilee.

Daniel

THE JUBILEE MARKET

By Pat Lansche

The Jubilee Market was borne from a request by Council in January of this year for fundraising ideas which would help to bring Jubilee people and the wider Don Mills community together in a safe and supportive way.

This market is a chance for independent, home-based vendors to get back into the community after months of restrictions, and a chance for the community to get to know them and what they have to offer. Each month, there are some returning vendors and some new vendors. Given current COVID restrictions, the May market was at near capacity. October, November and December are also nearing the limit. However, our vendor numbers for the summer months are rather low, so ***if you know of anyone who might fit the bill, please let me know and I will reach out to them.***



In terms of fundraising, the April market brought in \$947.50, the May market brought in \$1,082.68, and the June market brought in \$1215.14.

Kudos must go to Barb Secord. Not only does she arrive early and leave late on market day, but throughout the planning process, she also acts as a great sounding board, all the while juggling the multitude of balls involved in coordinating a Jubilee event while keeping everything else in line!!!

Many thanks also go to Charlie Scott for doing much of the leg work in recruiting volunteers. For the markets so far, there have been a total of 35 different volunteers from Jubilee, with several generously staying for the whole day. Many have worked at two or three markets. Thank you to everyone who gave, and continues to give, of their time and talents to make these markets a success.



Moving forward, I ask for ***further involvement from the congregation***. If you can participate in any of the following activities, please contact me at

jubilee.market.toronto@gmail.com

There is always a need for more staff on market days. Most volunteers are not available for every market, and positions sometimes need to be refilled at the last minute as lives and plans change unexpectedly. There are many opportunities to be involved, at the bake table, the refreshments area, the BBQ area, the Information / silent auction table, and the paintings / plants table. Please consider giving a few hours for a shift or two on one or more of the market days (second Saturday of each month).

Behind the scenes, I need someone to coordinate the ***staffing*** for market days. Many volunteers and their availability are already known, and a renewed recruitment blitz is underway.

I also need someone to work with the ***advertising***. While much is already in place, some need to be looked after each month. It would also be helpful to have additional advertising avenues.

A ***photographer*** would also be helpful to take pictures of the vendors, as well as general photographs.

I encourage EVERYONE to spread the word to all contacts. Here's the link to the webpage: <https://www.jubileeunited.ca/jubileemarket/>. Printed fliers are also available.

Most of all, we need shoppers!!! Mark your calendars! Bring your friends and family!! Join us for lunch!!! The Jubilee Market is a great place to get Christmas gifts – get a jump on the rush and support local vendors.



Come and show your support for Jubilee!

This is YOUR market.

The Benevolent Fund



As you can imagine 2022 has been a tough year so far and doesn't look like it's going to get much easier. The cost of food and gas have put a number of people at a serious disadvantage, some having to choose between food and rent. I appreciate that most of us are feeling a lot more vulnerable these days and are less likely to donate money when we are unsure of what tomorrow will cost. I understand and I hope you can do what you need to, to take care of yourself and loved ones. For those of you who can contribute to the Benevolent Fund, thank you. Thank you for all that you have been doing. We are sharing a lot more grocery cards these days, helping with a utility bill so that the rent could be paid, and helping with Presto Cards for the TTC. We have also helped to send a couple of kids to camp as we emerge from COVID - families have spent a lot of time inside and together, and helping a family send a child to camp benefits everyone in the family. Thanks to your kindness, we've been able to do that.

The Benevolent Fund is a discretionary fund that your ministers administer confidentially to those in need. Our support is not meant to be "on-going" 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 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, cheques 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 thank you for your on-going support of the Benevolent Fund.

Norm

3rd Annual Jubilee 5K Walk/Run **Saturday, October 1, 2022** **YOU ARE INVITED**



By Gary Norris

Hello congregants. It's training time again. The 3rd Annual Jubilee 5K Walk/Run is coming. Now as the weather is going to be great from June to the end of September you should start your training for this supportive event of Jubilee.

- Plan to join the team as a participant or as an assistant to help run the event.
- Plan to get your family, friends, neighbours, to form a group or several groups to participate in the 5K.

Hope to see many of you on October 1.

Gary

Mission and Service

By Pamela Lock

During these past two years of reduced activities in congregations across Canada, United Church of Canada members can be thankful that the national Mission and Service Fund has continued to offer financial support to local, national, and international programmes of various kinds. These range from community kitchens to camps to emergency aid in Ontario, other provinces, and countries overseas.

At Jubilee, supporters of M&S through PAR or designated offerings continue to show their faith in action. Our quarterly contribution to the national fund was over \$ 4,000.

If you would like to know more about M&S, please speak to me, Jubilee's M&S enthusiast in the rainbow-striped hat.

Pam



Brookbanks for African Grandmothers

By Jeanne Kennedy

Brookbanks for African Grandmothers is having a virtual walk through Zambia! We are raising money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign. We are also delighted to be part of Jubilee's Outreach network! Our last walk was two years ago when we virtually walked across Zimbabwe. We would be delighted to have sponsors again.

To donate to our cause, you can telephone me at 416 444 1856 or go online to: <https://slf.akaraisin.com/stridetoturnthetide2022/brookbanks>. At this website, click on DONATE . Your gift will be acknowledged quickly, Donations of \$20 or more receive an income tax receipt from the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Our *Walk Through Zambia* started at the beginning of May. We will learn about the agencies and groups we support as we "visit" some agencies along the way. We are happy to accept donations at any time. If you would like to join our group, please call me.

The Grandmothers act in solidarity with grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa who are responding to the AIDS pandemic, raising a young generation who have lost their parents to AIDS-related illnesses, or who are affected by HIV and AIDS, while mobilizing and advocating for their human rights. We support grass roots agencies who provide medical, financial and education support for grandmothers, grandchildren and people living with HIV and AIDS. For further information please go to <https://grandmotherscampaign.org>

Thank you for your support from Brookbanks for African Grannies.

Jeanne

Report from the Property Committee By Brian Kalanda and Barb Secord

Many tasks have been done or are being worked on:

- painting of the SW main entrance and SE entrance. Grateful thanks to Gary Norris for his workmanship!
- painting and some repairs to an office for our new congregation *A Place by the Well*.
- six new exterior doors that were ordered are ready; waiting on door hardware in order to complete the installation.
- continuing to work on getting a final quote for the LED light replacement program.
- repair some winter storm damage to eaves troughs and siding.
- investigating a more permanent solution to the carpenter bees eating into the wood soffits.
- continual support by Barb to various initiatives like all of our tenants, monthly market, wear and tear repairs, organizing gardeners, etc.

We will likely schedule a volunteer property work time over the summer, with various jobs to be done inside and out; we will let you know once we have a date.

Brian and Barb

Wonderful things going on in the Jubilee Community

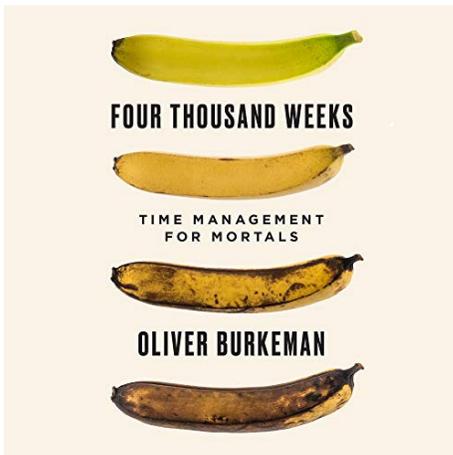


On May 10, Heather and Sly welcomed their new baby into the world - Skyler Haven Kankam. Teagan and Oliver have a new sister and Gary and Barbara have a new grandchild!

Marianne Loranger and Ken Webber were married at Jubilee on Saturday, May 14, and it was a great day!!



On May 22, we celebrated with Carrie Frias and Emmanuel Santos (and lots of family and friends) the baptism of Emmarie and Pio Alexander.



Men's Contemplation Group Wednesday Evenings @7:00pm by Zoom.

We intend to meet in person from time to time, but we're not quite ready yet. We gather for one hour and we're pretty good at sticking to that schedule. We check in when we gather, we spend at least a few minutes in non-speaking meditation and then we talk about the book that we are reading. We have just started to read **Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals by Oliver Burkeman**. If you would like to join us, we would be very happy to include you. You don't have to have been with us from

the beginning of the book (we only read between 30 and 70 pages a week; easy to catch up) and you don't have to come every week. Most of us don't, but we come often because we feel a connection in our time together and we value the different perspectives that each of us bring to the reading. **If you are interested in joining us, please be in touch with Rev.**

Norm - nseli@jubileeunited.ca

Since our last Jubilation, a lot has happened, including Lindy's birthday; old friends dropped by, people met in wonderful places; a whole bunch of ministers came to Jubilee; families gathered; knitting went on; sidewalks were chalked, Father's Day happened; Spring came and we planted some sweetgrass at Jubilee. Don't believe me? Have a look for yourself!



On Sunday, May 29, in Orillia, Ontario, our former minister and friend, Lee-Ann Ahlstrom was ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in the United Church of Canada. Many will recall that Lee-Ann was a DLM (Designated Lay Minister) for the nine years that she was with us, but somehow found the time to complete her Masters of Divinity degree and all of the requirements to become ordained, while working as a minister at Faith United Church, Fairlawn Avenue United Church and ultimately Northlea United Church, where she serves as their full time Minister.



What a journey and accomplishment.
Congratulation Lee-Ann!



Jubilee Cares is up and running and we are hoping that you might feel God calling you to be part of the most important ministry at Jubilee – the ministry of care and connection.

There really is a role for almost anyone to play, just as God calls us to use our different skills and gifts in different ways.

Are the kind of person who would like to call folks once in a while, maybe 3 or 4 people every month or two? Then we want you on one of our Jubilee Cares visiting teams. At present, we are only visiting by phone and that never has to change for you. You will

have the support of our Ministers and some questions that you can ask to get conversation going and even a training session.

Maybe you feel called to prayer... Would you join the prayer group? We have a prayer list that you can pray for every week or every day. Once a month we will gather in person to pray together (you don't have to attend). There will be some training and support from your Ministers, Rev. Bri-anne and Rev. Norm.

Maybe you feel called to creating events and programs that people really need. If you're a big picture person or an event coordinator, we need you on the Jubilee Cares team. The Team will meet four times a year to plan events. Do we need a presentation on death and dying? How about a group for new widows and widowers, or maybe some for those caring for loved ones at home. We would love to have your ideas and plans.

Maybe you're already making prayer shawls or perhaps you like to write cards and notes. You may be perfect for our support team, a group of folks who largely work on their own, but every now and then would be called together to be thanked and to share some time together. People in our community appreciated get-well cards and notes of congratulations; prayer shawls are appreciated more than we tell you. In this group, you can help us not only stay in touch, but appreciate each other with a card, prayer shawl or some other tangible sign that we are loved.

Maybe you're more of an admin person. We do need help being organized and staying focused. We need a Chair for Jubilee Cares and we wouldn't say no to an administrator or two, who can keep the lists and co-ordinate this spirit-driven ministry.

So, today or very soon, why not be in touch? If you're not sure what's the best fit for you or how you can best help people feel the strength of community and the love of God, maybe you want to talk about it with one of your ministers. You can email Rev. Norm at nseli@jubileeunited.ca or Rev. Bri-anne at bswan@jubileeunited.ca and volunteer or just talk about the idea of volunteering.

So how is the Spirit calling you?



**Masks
Optional**

While masks are not required here, please respect those who choose to wear one.

Thank you!

As of Sunday, July 3, Sunday Worship, Events and Day-to-Day Activities at Jubilee will be “Masks Optional”.

That means that you can wear a mask and expect complete support in staying distanced from others, but you don't have to wear a mask to attend Jubilee. We will monitor health risks very carefully and do our best to keep the comfort and safety of the community as our priority.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!!

