



# *Jubilation!*

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

*September 2022*

## *Notes from Norm*

### **Caribou, Abraham, Covid and Carrying on**

How's that for a title? Do you see the connection?

Well, let me set the context. Those four words connect for me because my great nieces came to visit me at the end of August. My wife's two nieces each have two daughters, her (and therefore my) grand-nieces. They are Ivy, Stella, Willow and Eloise. They are 5, 4, 3 and 2 years of age. I'm sure you've figured out that Ivy and Willow are sisters and that Stella and Eloise are also sisters.

Well, they all came to visit, along with both moms and one dad (the other dad was unavailable due to work). Just two days with four little girls that, thanks to COVID and some distance, I hardly know. The last time I saw Ivy and Stella, they were two and one years old). I couldn't wait to see them. I adore children and I love the pictures of my nieces that we share online. I was anxious to have them in the house and under foot, their little voices filling the noise void that COVID created and my wife adores.

Two weeks before the big visit, I was thinking, "Oh boy, I can't wait... little kids everywhere". 13 days before the big visit, I was thinking "Oh no.... little kids everywhere!" I hadn't childproofed the house. I have breakable items perched precariously on tables and a cat that was not going to be impressed with little hands and feet all over her. Children are notoriously unpredictable, which is another way of saying that they are simply unreliable. I wasn't so sure that I wanted them to visit after all... I mean, I miss them and want to be with them, but my wife and I have come to really enjoy the routine that we've created over the past two years, which has meant more quiet and less dusting; more "our time" and less "people dropping by".

Twelve days before the arrival, we booked a couple of rooms for our guests at the local Holiday Inn. It had a pool and a breakfast bar. We told ourselves that the kids would love that (and they did), but mostly, we were unsure about spending “all of that time” with the kids.



They came and it was great. We went to the park and we went to the zoo. We had a barbecue and a generous helping of Disney movies. They ran screaming around our house and broke things (at least one Beswick pony is beyond the miracle of any ceramic vet). And after two full days, we were sad to see them leave, but also glad to have peace restored (even if some pieces could never be restored).

As we are emerging, slowly but surely, from COVID, I find that I am feeling much like I did while anticipating my nieces. Thrilled! Can't



Wait! So good to see people again. But also, cautious and worried about things getting broken (like me), comfortable in my routine and not used to being questioned or told what to do. I've spent a good deal of time taking care of myself and being inward looking. It's a little tricky being around people, hearing about concerns that aren't mine and putting up with people who **don't** see things the way that I see things. Sometimes I despair that I'm never going to get back to normal.

### **So, I see COVID and Carrying On in the story, but I'm not seeing the Caribou or Abraham.**

I'm getting there.

Caribou teach the next generation how to navigate the wilderness. They teach them the trails and about the land, by guiding them through the trees and open spaces, rivers and rocky terrain. That's not a big surprise to us; most of us understand parents teaching their children. However, the remarkable thing about caribou is that they teach the next generation **NEW** ways of navigating the forest; they don't teach them the trails that they themselves were taught; they help the young ones find new ways of being in the wilderness, because the wilderness is always changing. It is a Dene teaching that, like the caribou, we must teach our children to find new ways to be in the wilderness and in the world because the world is always changing.



The hard, but important, lesson of COVID for many of us, as we've gone through stages and variations from Delta through Omicron, is that the wilderness (the world) is always changing and we can't simply live in the world today as we would have lived in it yesterday. I have found that wanting things to go back to “normal” has been a great source of anxiety and disappointment for me, and letting go of those expectations and finding new paths and new ways of being in the world has brought me some wonderful energy.

I look at the folks who make up “Resistance Church” and I see a path that I had not walked before. I remember wanting to try a new path four years ago and beginning a venture with Bri- anne, who was finishing her diaconal studies under my supervision here at Jubilee. With a small investment from us and another from the Toronto United Church Council, we found a new

“community” in folks who felt hurt, ignored, distanced and damaged by the church, but still wanted connection to the holy. Today, groups around the continent seek out Bri-anne for advice on how to make Resistance Church happen for them.

I look at the folks who proudly declare that with digital services, they haven’t missed a Jubilee Sunday Service in over two years – not one!! Who knew that we could find such connection. If you count our Sunday numbers online and in person, you find that over 200 people value their time with us every Sunday. Not some Sundays... every Sunday...and it’s a much greater number for special Sundays and seasons.

On any given Sunday, I look out at the 40-70 people who gather in person and I recognize so many faces that weren’t there, who didn’t know us two years ago. I know where they are coming from and they are bringing new energy, new insight and new ideas into our community. They are also leading me (and us) along different paths, because the wilderness is always changing.

So, when I am feeling anxious about what happens next, I think of the caribou and look forward to finding new paths and opportunities in this new wilderness that I find when I look out my door these days.

### **What about Abraham?**

Well, I mentioned feeling anxious. And I do feel anxious. Donations are down from what we had hoped they would be. Costs are going up. On one hand, we have as much money in our investments today as we did four years ago, but on the other hand, we had significantly more money invested one year ago. It’s hard. Some people want to spend into ministry, while others want to protect the asset for future generations – both groups are wise and compassionate. Thanks to careful management of money and the legacy of St. John’s United Church we really are a church of abundance, even if we feel some of that abundance dwindling. So, what are we to do?

Well, it was said of Abraham that he was a rich man. Which is peculiar, because as you likely know, rich people are not well regarded by scripture. How is it that Abraham is so rich, but never seems to be consumed by his wealth? It was said that he had a very large house with four great doors to the east, south, west and north, and they all led to a great banquet hall where the table was never empty and people were invited to come and feast. That’s rich!

He must have had a great deal of wealth set aside to keep the tables full. The ancient legend tells us that Abraham’s table was never empty because he never considered himself to be rich. He never considered the wealth or the assets to be “his” – rather this bounty belonged to God and it was his privilege and responsibility to share it. He lived with an assumption of abundance, always willing to risk and share God’s bounty with the world and so his table was never empty and he avoided the fate and the scorn that awaits so many other “rich men” in the Bible.



As I emerge... as we emerge into this new wilderness, I look for new paths and I try to work from the assumption of abundance. I trust that God will provide, particularly if we are sharing our wealth with the world. I realize that our investment portfolio may have diminished in the past year or two, but when I look at the past four years, I see that we have weathered an incredible storm, and while other churches have closed down or turned

inward, we have expanded and grown our ministry and we have the same money we had four years ago. I don't like the diminishing trend, but I admire the courage and faith that got us to where we are today and I start to get excited, not just with the assets that we have in the bank, but with the glorious riches we have in community – the riches that I see every day in our staff and in the folks who come to worship, to visit, to create and to simply be together.

It even makes me a little bit braver, and I honestly think that my wife and I could probably have handled our four little nieces in a quiet house... maybe I missed a chance to be brave.

Blessing and hope Always,

*Norm*

## **A New Day and a New Music Director!**

**There is no better time to start something new... or return to a favourite activity.**

**Talk to Jeannie Wyse after the service or come on out on a Thursday for the 7:00pm rehearsal and find out for yourself that there is always room for one more.**

And if you haven't yet met Jeannie, allow her to introduce herself.

Hello Everyone!

My name is Jeannie Wyse and I am very excited to be joining the community of Jubilee United Church. Through Norm, I have been familiar with Jubilee for many years and even subbed once may moons ago!

I have recently been Associate Music Director at Metropolitan Community Church in Toronto, and have worked in many other churches in the Toronto area since 1990. I am also a music director in the theatre community, teach privately, and I head the vocal department at the Randolph College for the Performing Arts. I trained as a classical singer, pianist, organist and conductor and fell into the world of musical theatre unexpectedly in the mid-90s. I look forward to bringing all of those worlds together at Jubilee.



My husband Michael and I have been together for 25 years (married for 20) and it's all Norm's fault - he married us! We have two children: Gabrielle (Elle) who is 17 and Leonardo who is 13. I am sure you will meet them in due course. They are musical as well and have a flair for the dramatic, like me.

I look forward to meeting all of you as comfort and connection allow. Congratulations on making it through a crazy couple of years and it feels so good to be able to meet and worship in person, especially with live music!

All the best,  
Jeannie (she/her)



## BEING CHURCH IN DIGITAL SPACES

by Rev. Bri-anne Swan

Earlier this year, Rev. Norm and I sat in the Heritage Room, trying to decide what our ministry titles might be. It was quite the exercise! Titles can, at times, be limiting. However, in our context we thought it might help the congregation have a clearer sense of how the different pieces of Jubilee's ministry were divided among both of their ministers. Rev. Norm is *Minister of Worship, Care and Faith Formation*. This probably sounds fairly straight forward. My title is *Minister of Digital Community, Growth and Public Witness*. A major piece of my ministry portfolio (so to speak) is offering *Digital Ministry* in a variety of formats and online spaces.

### **What is *Digital Ministry*?**

For the purposes of this conversation, ***Digital Ministry*** refers to Jubilee's online offerings that are not directly linked to regular Sunday Morning worship. We refer to the Jubilee online worship service as ***Virtual Ministry***, because our current format of online worship has been designed to connect people to an already established (yet evolving) way of worshipping and being church together. *Digital Ministry* includes Resistance Church, Rev. Norm's daily reflections, online Bible studies, as well as our social media presence.

When Rev. Norm and I created our "Who You Gonna Call?" handout, we decided that he would be the first point of contact for *Virtual Ministry*, and I would be the primary person for *Digital Ministry*.

### **How has Jubilee been engaging in *Digital Ministry*?**

While *Digital Ministry* might seem like a new Jubilee initiative, we have been engaged with *Digital Ministry* for many years—long before the pandemic. We've maintained Instagram and Facebook accounts. Resistance Church came into existence in the late fall of 2019, initially as part of my final student placement. While initially envisioned as a primarily in-person worshipping community, Resistance Church shifted to an entirely online presence after a snowstorm cancelled one of our services. This allowed us to engage with people who longed for a Christ-centred, justice-seeking expression of worship, but who would never be able to attend a service in-person.

Then, March 2020 came. Just like that, Jubilee United Church, like so many other churches, was unable to gather in person. Rev. Norm began creating virtual (online) worship services for the community. Also, because Resistance Church was a few months ahead of the online worship curve, Jubilee was suddenly a leader in navigating this massive shift to offering ministry in online spaces. Our work was cited as an example of creative virtual and digital ministry by both Shining Waters Regional Council, and the General Council Offices of the United Church of Canada.

Soon, additional opportunities for online gathering emerged. Book clubs. Bible studies. The online service began to reach folks who were too far away to worship with Jubilee

before the pandemic. Rev. Norm began offering his daily scripture meditations on YouTube and in a podcast format. This series has developed a dedicated following, both in Canada and south of the border.

In early 2021, Jordana Wright was brought on to work with Jubilee for eight months, exploring what was possible for the congregation and how Jubilee could expand its reach into the wider community. Out of Jordana's time with us came a Jubilee app and Bible Story Time with Haley. We also discovered that not every online possibility is a good fit. It became clear relatively quickly that a phone app specifically for the Jubilee community was a bit ahead of its time. We are, however, hoping to bring back Bible Story Time with Haley very soon.

Other pieces of Jubilee's digital ministry have grown. Resistance Church now serves spiritual seekers from across Canada, the United States, England and Australia. We gather five nights a week on Instagram live for community prayers. We have also shifted from once-a-month worship to a weekly online worship gathering. Our TikTok has grown to nearly 3,500 followers, and we are constantly engaged in conversation about what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this beautiful, yet often very broken world. It is a model being examined by other congregations and denominations, on how to offer *Digital Ministry* in their unique contexts.

Our Jubilee social media accounts are used to showcase the culture of the Jubilee community, as well as offer excerpts from sermons, music, and other worship offerings. For both Resistance Church and the Jubilee United Church social media presence, we go far beyond simply posting about upcoming events. This is very real, two-way communication with people who are looking to engage with their faith, often for the first time in years.

### **What has been the impact of Jubilee's *Digital Ministry*?**

I wish I could show you all the powerful interactions I have had in online spaces with people who truly appreciate and value the investment Jubilee has made in the spiritual nourishment of those for whom traditional church models are not accessible. I have had more Zoom coffees, email exchanges, and instant message conversations than I've been able to keep track of.

These are people who have been harmed by the church. People who feel a "niggle" towards something greater than themselves and are trying to understand what it means. People who are in particularly challenging places in their lives. People who had no idea that churches who were affirming of those within 2SLGBTQIA+ communities even existed.

Here are just a few examples:

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.



Good evening  
@resistancechurch,

My name is [redacted], and I've watched/read some of your content. Thank you for offering this online ministry. Without going into details, I've been really questioning my faith a lot since my teenage years, and still do to this day.

I just wanted to say that I am grateful for your account and this platform, it does feel like a safe space to me amid my (what feels like a long) religious journey. Please pray for me. And may God bless you!

A few days ago, we had a particularly bad day [redacted]

[redacted] I then later that day saw the video you posted about if you are having a bad day, you see me and I am doing great. I cannot tell you how much this resonated with me and actually centred me again.

I don't wish to sound like I am getting out the little violin and sad music, but I have few people that I talk to that are unbiased to my situation and that are removed from the emotion, and so I do often have times where I feel very alone.

**You made a difference!**

**You made me feel better!**

**You helped me remember that it's ok to not be ok!**

\* \* \* \* \*

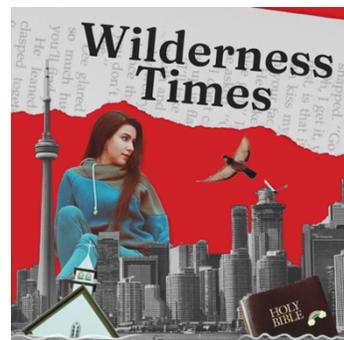
I've received many, many comments just like these, expressing gratitude that Jubilee is existing in digital spaces where people can feel safe, heard, and able to ask questions they may not have been able to have answered (or, at least wondered about in community) anywhere else.

This is very special, and I am so grateful that Jubilee has made virtual and digital ministry a priority as we move forward into a post-pandemic world.

### **What's next in Digital Ministry for Jubilee?**

Both Rev. Norm and I are heavily committed to continuing Jubilee's digital and virtual ministry offerings.

On September 21, we will be launching the first season of *Wilderness Times*—a podcast exploring the intersection of faith and justice-seeking. The podcast features music, scripture, and conversation with guests from around the world. The hope is that this podcast will have a reach beyond Jubilee's current community and social media



presence. There will be opportunities for listeners to donate in order to support this unique form of ministry.

I am also looking at how to expand our social media presence with the assistance of a Social Media Committee. There is only so much content one person can create on their own! This group will meet one a month to film videos for TikTok and Instagram. *Anybody* (young, not so young, etc.) can be a part of this group. If you are interested, please email me: [bswan@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:bswan@jubileeunited.ca)

The Apostle Paul wrote letters when he couldn't be with his community in-person. The tech might be flashier today, but this is very much what *Digital Ministry* is—being with people in the ways that we can, bringing with us messages of God's love and care. It is evangelism in its original meaning: sharing the message and teachings of Jesus to those whose hearts may be yearning to hear. It is an investment in God's beloveds and I am so grateful to be in ministry with Jubilee in such powerful and creative ways.

**Bri-anne**

## **JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH - 5K RUN / WALK**

**October 1, 2022**

**Start Time 1:00pm**

**By Gary Norris**

We are just a couple of weeks away from this major and financially important fundraising event for Jubilee. Registrations at this time are few, and without participants and getting sponsors, we will fall short of our goal of \$20,000. With COVID we have not been able to run our normal fundraising events and our rental income shut down as large indoor activities were derailed.



Please sign up as a participant and get family, friends, and neighbours to sponsor you. If you cannot do the walk or run, please find a participant to sponsor or send a cheque or e-transfer to the church marked General Support. It will be most appreciated.

You can get all the information at the Jubilee website in the EVENT tab. You can find a list of participants that you can sponsor, become a participant, or volunteer to assist on the day of the event.

Expenses for the event have been covered by special sponsors, so all the sponsorship money you raise goes directly to help fund Jubilee's operations. Much work has been done to organize this event and support is needed and greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

**Gary**

## Jubilee Market

By Pat Lansche, Chair, Jubilee Market Committee

After a respite in August, the Jubilee Market fundraiser was back in full force on September 10, with 19 booths and several new vendors joining us. Many visitors began their holiday shopping as the sun shone brightly on the last market barbeque for the year. Yes, last barbeque – but never fear! Chili will once again be on the menu at next month's market on October 8. Attendance for the September market was around 180, and profits were over \$1,500, our largest numbers to date. Really, the only downside was that the bake table was empty by about 11:00. Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods, plants and paintings. Thanks to Bri-anne for the donation of cd's of her music. Thanks especially to the 33 volunteers who gave of their time to work at the Jubilee booths.

Going forward, just a few booth spaces for vendors remain. That's very exciting! If you know of any home-based vendors whom you think might be interested in having their goods and services known to the community, please do let me know.



***We continue to require your assistance with promoting each of the remaining markets, through fliers, lawn signs, word-of-mouth, and other ways to advertise.***

***Please contact me if you can help in any way. We really need people to attend throughout the whole time, so encourage those late risers to come, too.***

There are two areas where we raise the most funds: refreshments and baked goods / preserves. ***We continue to need your donations of baked goods at each of the remaining markets.*** The more we have, the more we can sell and raise more funds in support of the many upcoming activities and events we look forward to having here at Jubilee.

Can't wait for the rest of the market season!

**Pat**

## BID EUCHRE

**Jubilee United Church Auditorium  
Tuesdays, 12:30pm to 4:00pm**

Everyone's welcome

Don't know how to play? We'll teach you.

Come out for an afternoon of fun and socializing.

Great prizes and great fun!



Nominal fee: \$3.00 per time

**Contact: Judy Olson 647-352-0357 or email: [pypfergd@gmail.com](mailto:pypfergd@gmail.com)**

## MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

*By Charlie Scott and Elizabeth Clarke*

We are very pleased to announce that Jubilee will once again be hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre at the church on Saturday, November 19, at 7:00pm. The late Ed Rutherford, a creative genius in our view, created the intriguing script for this particular murder mystery and Barbara Rutherford kindly provided this script that was written and performed a little over 20 years ago.



The evening includes a wonderful dinner (meat or veggie lasagna) with salad and dessert, coffee and tea, and a cash bar. The meal will be prepared by our chef, Gary Norris. It will be followed by our theatre presentation (murder mystery) with some audience participation in solving the mystery, along with some musical performances as an added treat.

This is a fundraiser for the church and we hope you will attend and enjoy the delightful meal and the entertainment. Ticket prices will be \$40 per person or \$75 for two persons.

Please mark your calendars for this special event and we hope to see you there.

***Charlie & Elizabeth***

## End Racism. Build Peace.

**Each of us needs to do what we can.**

***By Pamela Lock***



Credit: Photo:Image by Tumisu from Pixabay

It seems there's a day set aside for everything under the sun: World Nerd Day, Pistachio Day and Squirrel Appreciation Day to name a few. There are so many special days that we can become immune to them. But when September 21 rolls around every year, it's important to tune in. The International Day of Peace was initiated by the United Nations over 40 years ago and is observed around the world on September 21. The theme this year is "End Racism. Build Peace."

### Why??

"Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures, and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality and it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies and erodes the legitimacy of governments," says Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General.

News emerging from Ukraine and fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic perfectly illustration Guterres' point.

As people fled Ukraine, social media feeds became flooded with a deluge of reports outing the mistreatment and abuse of people of colour at the borders. Countless reports told the ugly tale of people of colour prevented from crossing borders while white Ukrainians were ushered to safety. Similarly, racism reared its ugly head during the pandemic. Anti-Asian rhetoric surged alongside COVID-19, and statistics emerged, revealing that people of colour were more likely to be hospitalized and die from the virus.

There can be no peace without justice. Each one of us needs to do what we can.

“We all have a role to play in fostering peace. And tackling racism is a crucial way to contribute,” reads the United Nation’s website. “We can work to dismantle the structures that entrench racism in our midst. We can support movements for equality and human rights everywhere. We can speak out against hate speech – both offline and online. We can promote anti-racism through education and reparatory justice.”

Your support through **Mission & Service** helps us, as a whole United Church, work toward a world free of racism and racial discrimination by supporting educational initiatives, programs, and partners working hard to dismantle racism.

Thank you for helping build a better world – a world where we are eager to honour the divine spirit in everyone.

**Pam**

***Brookbanks for African Grannies***  
**By Jeanne Kennedy**

Greetings. We have been part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign since 2007. We are proud to be supported by Jubilee as part of outreach.

We have continued meeting and fundraising throughout the pandemic because millions of people in Africa die every year from HIV and AIDS. Grandmothers have stepped in to care for children whose parents have died, but they require assistance to raise a whole new generation. We have had a table twice at Jubilee Marketplace to raise funds.

This summer our group has made a virtual walk in Zambia in order to support three different community organizations, which provide medical, emotional and financial help to grandmothers, children, and people living with HIV and AIDS. To date, we have raised over \$6,000 and walked over 400 km.

Our donation page is open if you would like to support us. An income tax receipt will be issued immediately.

<https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/stridetoturnthetide2022/t/brookbanks>

or to give a cheque or cash, contact Jeanne Kennedy at

[jeannekennedy346@gmail.com](mailto:jeannekennedy346@gmail.com) or 416-444-1856

Please stay tuned for information about our next fundraiser or check our website

<https://www.brookbanksforafricangrannies.com>

We also have lovely wildlife cards and jewelry for sale and all proceeds go to the Grandmothers for Grandmothers Campaign.

**Jeanne**



**It is back.  
Join us for some peace and quiet...  
A chance to breathe and to wonder.  
The first Monday of the month  
at 6:30pm  
Led by Rev. Norm Seli  
Starting Monday, October 3.**

## **The Benevolent Fund**

It's important to me that this NOT appear to be a campaign for fundraising. This update is included in every Jubilation Newsletter to let you know what your money has been doing, not solicit for more. Any money donated is appreciated and used and I do my best to NOT keep a balance, but instead keep the money active.

This fund reaches out to people who are left out of the mainstream. It is used to help those who are in less "dramatic" straits, but for whom a little bit of financial help can keep them from getting into deeper trouble or despair. As you can imagine, COVID and inflation have increased the expressed need for our help.

We have helped with special dietary needs that foodbanks can't include reliably, some school supplies, support for someone who was offered a chance at a job working from home but lacked the technology to make it work. As always, we've provided grocery cards and helped cover several specific bills that have allowed people to keep the lights on and the roof over their heads.

The Benevolent Fund is modest and discreet; there are no reports made nor records kept. It is used entirely at my discretion. It is my 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. Support from the people of Jubilee has been exceptional and you many never know the people that you have helped, but then again, they just might be sitting beside you in church one day.

Thank you for all that you have done in the past, and should you wish to contribute in the future, donations can be made directly to me, but also to the Church office or in the offering box in an envelope marked “Benevolent Fund”. You can also send an e-transfer to [admin@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:admin@jubileeunited.ca) or use Canada Helps and simply note “Benevolent Fund” in the box. When you donate through the office you are assured to get a Tax Receipt... to me directly, it is not as reliable (I do forget to write things down from time to time).

Thank you for making a difference in people’s lives in these vulnerable times.

*Norm*

## **Jubilee and Refugees – is it time again?**

It was just five years ago that we embarked on providing support for refugees at Jubilee. We responded to the needs of Syrian Refugees, and also included a mother and daughter from Iraq, a family fleeing violence and religious persecution from Saudi Arabia, and two individuals fleeing horrific violence in Uganda as members of the LGBTQ communities. Together we have helped with clothing, housing, medical and dental needs, community connections and school. As the willing hands of God’s love, we have helped to shape, and even save, the lives of 16 people.



Some are wondering if we are willing to be those hands of love and hope again. In a time when we worry about our own finances and how the economy effects our lives and the future of our own church, there is a wisdom that suggests that we look inward and take of ourselves at this time. But there are also people wondering why we’re not doing more when we have so much? They ask if their church is actively concerned for the world outside and the people who are struggling.

We appreciate both perspectives and also want to be both loving and careful; daring and wise. We had planned to consider a Refugee Sponsorship in 2023 with a likely arrival date in 2025, but an earlier opportunity has arisen. A family from abroad wishes to come to Canada to live safely and be reunited with other members of their family who came as refugees a few years ago. A unique opportunity for us to begin the process in 2023 with a hope to having this family in 2024 is suddenly possible. But we would need to raise \$25,000 before the end of THIS year. That’s a big ask in 2022 and we know it. And there will be more costs ahead, although we will have at least a year to raise additional funds. The question is, are we ready to try now?

If you might be willing to contribute to a Jubilee Refugee Fund, you can contact me or Rev. Bri-anne and let us know how much money you would be willing to donate. We’re not asking for the donation right now - more of a “pledge” so we can gauge the feelings of our community. Are we looking in or looking out right now? What is our wisdom around timing and priorities? Once we hear from you, we will be in a better position to share more about the family and begin a proper campaign (if appropriate). For now, we just want to hear from you.

Be in touch with Rev. Bri-anne at [bswan@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:bswan@jubileeunited.ca) or with me at [nseli@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:nseli@jubileeunited.ca) or give us a good old fashioned phone call at the church (416) 447-6846 and we'll keep you posted.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

*Norm*

P.S. It seems that we have about \$5,000 already committed, so it might not be such a big mountain to climb.



**Bible Study**  
**In Person, Tuesdays 830-930am**  
**in the Garden Room**

Led by Rev. Norm Seli  
we consider the readings  
for the upcoming Sunday  
and wonder what it might  
be that God is saying to  
us in these words  
and in our discussion.

**No experience required.**

An open Bible is shown in the bottom right corner of the text area, with text visible on both pages.A close-up of a green clock face with white numbers and hands. The word 'QUARTZ' is visible at the bottom of the clock face.

**Jubilee Office Hours**  
**Tuesday-Friday**  
**10am - 2pm**  
**or by appointment**

The Jubilee United Church logo, featuring a green stylized 'J' and the text 'Jubilee UNITED CHURCH'.