



Jubilation!

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

Editor: Elda Scott

September 2023

Notes from Norm

It's September 2023 – so, now what are we going to do?

Rev. Bri-anne has moved on to the East End Ministry, our digital worship numbers are strong and a lot of new people have joined the Jubilee community in the past year, and we are planning an amalgamation with Forest Grove United Church. **What are we going to do?**

We don't know what's going to happen next... what can we do?

For starters, we're not going to panic. We are going to celebrate. We will celebrate Bri-anne's new ministry and take some pride in that as Bri-anne has helped to shape our community, we have helped to shape Bri-anne and her leadership. The trust that we have in God that allows for broad spiritual expression and community engagement, and the vulnerable sincerity that is evident at Jubilee will become part of East End Ministry – not that they lacked spirituality or community, but some of what we cherish at Jubilee will go with Bri-anne and impact East End Ministry.

Years ago, Jubilee wondered how we might have great impact on the United Church of Canada and Rev. Bri-anne Swan is part of our impact. In her absence, it is tempting for us to go and find another "Bri-anne" to take her place. But, of course, there isn't another Bri-anne Swan in the world and Jubilee finds itself in a time of great change as we envision a new ministry with Forest Grove United Church.

We're not sure exactly what we will need in leadership a year from now, so it makes sense for us to take some time as a community, assess our needs and aspirations and listen for the movement of the Spirit before we fill out our leadership team.

As we listen for the Spirit, Jubilee Council has invited me to help find some short-term leadership to keep Jubilee vital and open to God's call. We have a variety of guest preachers in order to hear more voices than mine. Rev. Alison Mock and Rev. Marlene Britton are already on our schedule and others are being sought. We are confident that we will soon have a technical producer on board to help us shape and maintain our digital ministry work - someone to edit, format, inspire and produce material for Tik Tok, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and anywhere else that our digital ministry should engage. Our emphasis will not only be on opening up new projects and connecting with new people, but also producing material for our existing community and providing greater access for our traditional members.

I am currently speaking to people who might be interested in working with us for a few hours a week to co-ordinate and inspire our programs for community relevance – some call it social justice or outreach. We would benefit from someone who can help us focus on what we already do well, and perhaps invite us to consider other opportunities to be of value to the community near and far – to help us matter to people who do not come to Sunday worship. I am hoping to have someone in place by October, but we are prepared to take our time and find the right person.

What about new folks who have come to Jubilee? What are we going to do?

We are going to be changed by them. We are going to recognize that each person who decides to make Jubilee their home will change who we are, so we are going to provide opportunities for them to grow in faith and connection with Jubilee. We will find a way to welcome new members this year; we will have activities that we have never had before, because we are going to invite people into leadership roles and provide them with opportunities to share their gifts. We are going to bring back old things in new ways and shape together the community of faith we call Jubilee.

What about Forest Grove and amalgamation? We are exploring God's call for us to become community together. As a plan for ministry comes together this fall, we will share it with both congregations and eventually have a vote on whether or not we hear God's call to be together. We are imagining the coming together of our communities, under the name of Jubilee United Church, meeting and being community together in the current Jubilee United Church building. We would enhance our transportation network to make Jubilee accessible to folks living closer to Forest Grove United Church in Bayview Village and combine our considerable assets to create something that neither of our communities have ever done before.

We are hoping that the Grove Music School will find a home at Jubilee and grow the program to provide access to affordable music lessons to people in our immediate community and beyond. Right now, the Grove Music School has seven teachers and 42 students; we believe we can grow that number at Jubilee and provide community relevance to neighbours with music lessons and concerts that are not shaped by a profit model, but are seen as a ministry to the whole community. Forest Grove has the people and gifts; Jubilee has the facility and the community that would love such programs. Some of us can feel God calling us together.

Forest Grove will bring new people and traditions going back over 65 years and Jubilee will become new with their inclusion. It may not look much different to the outside world, but within our community we will be inviting some new leadership, creating new friendships and bonds, engaging new ideas and talking of the world and each other with new wisdom and experience.

Not only is Forest Grove proud of the Grove School, but they will bring with them a commitment to refugees through ways other than direct sponsorship. They will also bring years of worship experience, digital ministry and faith-filled activity that will find a home in Jubilee. Some of us feel God calling us to share these things together, but we will remain open to the movement of the Spirit and listen as God talks to us through each other, those on the amalgamation committee, and those providing support from the Shining Waters Region of the United Church. And when we know what God is calling us to do... we will do it.

So, I don't know what's going to happen next, but I'm pretty excited about it. I'm looking forward to the adventure of being led by the Spirit and doing things that we have not done before, even as I relish the return of some things that have always helped to describe Jubilee to myself and others. I am going to focus my time on worship (in-person and digital), amalgamation potential, pastoral care and new programs for Jubilee, as I rely on the rest of our community to provide leadership and support in the days ahead. Look at all of things that we've already go planned for the fall!

We don't know what's going to happen next; what can we do?

We can trust in God and in each other. We can listen to the Spirit whisper and occasionally shout... we can

enjoy being community together and we can love one another. Even if we knew exactly what was going to happen next, I think we would do exactly the same thing.

I trust you and I trust God. And, truthfully, I can't wait to see what happens next.

God bless you and all of us in the days ahead.

Norm

Dear Jubilee Family,



As I write this message, I am still a bit damp from all the tears shed during my last service as part of your ministry team. I am so touched by the outpouring of well wishes as I wind down my time with Jubilee and look forward to a new chapter, ministering alongside the folks of [East End United Regional Ministry](#). Please know it was not an easy decision to leave. Jubilee has been such a huge part of the lives of me and my family over the past five years, starting with my husband's internship, and then my helping out part-time over COVID, and finally, being called to Jubilee two years ago. You have been my family. You are my family. As I was reminded yesterday, if this leaving wasn't hard, something would be wrong.

It has been a blessing and a privilege being one of your ministers. I am grateful for the risks Jubilee has taken - from Resistance Church to exploring expressions of digital ministry, to refugee sponsorship. I have been moved by the bravery shown during vulnerable conversations around accessibility and ableism. I have been heartened by decisions and policies that move us in the direction of reconciliation. I have been humbled by the amount of love this community shows, both to those who call Jubilee home, as well as to neighbours near and far.

I will miss the conversations at Tuesday coffee. I will miss the Resistance Church nightly prayer gatherings. I will miss all the limericks!

I will miss having my friend, Norm, in the office next door. I will miss working and playing with Jeannie, Dianne, and Barb. It is a wonderful thing loving every single person you get to work with. What a blessing this staff team is. Thank you for being such a foundational part of my ministry journey.



I leave you now with the words we ended the sermon with this past week:

I have brought all the love I could to my time here with you. I know I have witnessed and received so much love in return.

Our love and care — for the world and for one another — is the way we testify to God's love for all of creation. Sometimes it's complicated. Sometimes it hurts. But it's always good.

I am a better minister and a better person for having been here. I thank you for that. I hope I have left you changed for the better as well.

I love you. I love you all. Thanks be to love. Thanks be to God.

Rev. Bri-anne

P.S. THANK YOU for the beautiful advent stole and bee veil. I hope both keep me safe (good liturgy can be dangerous sometimes!) throughout my next adventure.

Greetings from the Music Ministry!

We are back and so excited to worship together in song once again. Seven choir members turned out in advance on September 3 to celebrate Rev. Bri-anne's last Sunday and wish her well in her new church home.

We had an excellent first rehearsal on September 7, where we welcomed back our returning section leaders, Allie Jeffery (Soprano), Katie White (Alto) and Lily May Vers (Tenor). Henry Paterson, our bass section lead last season, has taken a position at St. James Cathedral and we wish him well.

I thank all of our choir members for their spirit and continued dedication.

The choir welcomes new members. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7-9:00pm in the sanctuary. You do not need to sight-read or have prior experience; just a love for singing and a willing spirit.



Newsflash - The date has been set for another fabulous Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 9, at 7:30pm! Due to popular demand, Broadway (Heather Bambrick, Julie Michels and Diane Leah) will be our special guests once again, along with their band!! It is already shaping up to be an amazing event so please mark your calendars and tickets will be on sale at the beginning of October.

I hope that everyone had an amazing summer and look forward to seeing your faces in the congregation.

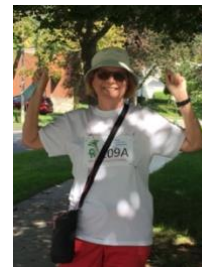
Jeannie Wyse, Music Director

JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH - 5K RUN/WALK

October 14, starting @1:00pm

By Gary Norris

It's time to lace up the running/walking shoes and start training so you are ready for the 4th annual 5K in support of Jubilee in our community. Get your family and friends together and come out and join in the fun. There are two routes to choose from, and if you can't make it to the church site, you can do the walk/run at a location and time of your choosing.



Registration is online through the Jubilee website (jubileeunited.ca) under the "Events" tab. Everyone gets a T-shirt, goodie bag, and certificate of participation. A BBQ awaits on the labyrinth during the event, and all are welcome to come and cheer on the participants.

If you can't do the walk, please consider sponsoring a participant, each of whom is asked to try to raise a minimum of \$200, but this is not a pre-requisite to participating. Sponsorship of \$10 or more will get a tax receipt that will be issued after December 31, along with regular donations. Our goal this year is to raise between \$10,000 and \$14,000+.



Volunteers are needed for route marshals, registration desk, goodie desk, and BBQ servers. Please sign up on the website.

Don't be shy; join up and fun and support Jubilee.



AN UPDATE FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In 1970, Diana Ross recorded her first single album after leaving The Supremes. “*Reach Out and Touch Somebody’s Hand*” became a hit single, recorded by many artists over the years. Its lyrics have inspired countless individuals and groups, including communities of faith like Jubilee United.

In the June issue of *Jubilation*, Rev. Bri-anne summarized the many outreach activities of our past, present, and possible future. We hope that many of you will re-read that message to find something that sparks your interest. A proposed model for Jubilee outreach is a “wheel with spokes” with a central coordinator as a hub, and many spokes of projects/activities led by volunteers. These spokes could be single, time-limited projects, or ongoing ones throughout the year.

You are invited to consider how you can:

“Reach out and touch somebody’s hand. Make this world a better place if you can”.

I would love to hear from you with your ideas.

Mission and Service

In the biblical scriptures, God identifies with the most vulnerable among us. What are the implications for us as disciples?

In recent years, we’ve experienced living with the COVID-19 pandemic. Then Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Global food shortages followed. Climate changes around the world are causing wildfires and other natural disasters. When we feel helpless in the face of these crises, it is reassuring to know that the United Church of Canada is an integral part of a multinational network of partners and ecumenical relationships in over 120 countries. Wherever there is an emergency, Mission & Service is there to help.

Our financial gifts to M&S have made, and will continue to make, huge differences around the world, as well as in local and national programmes. Thank you for your continued support.

Gifts with Vision

We all know people who are so organized that they have done their Christmas shopping before Thanksgiving. For those who find shopping an ordeal, the United Church of Canada has created the *Gifts with Vision* catalogue (in print and on-line) as part of the Mission and Service work with many partners. You can find gifts in all price ranges and categories to help you celebrate all occasions, not just Christmas. For instance, \$10 will buy one gift card for food for an Indigenous Elder. For \$20, you can support a sponsor’s attendance at a refugee settlement training session. With \$35, you can provide support for families living in poverty.

For more details about this ongoing way to celebrate a person or occasion AND to change the world, one gift at a time, check the website. <https://giftswithvision.ca> . You can also speak to me about a printed catalogue which shows a selection of the gifts available. Happy Shopping Days!

Pam Lock

Brookbanks for African Grannies



By Jeanne Kennedy

On Saturday, October 21, beginning at 1:30pm, Brookbanks for African Grannies and Jubilee United Church are delighted to host the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, a progressive, feminist organization rooted in the principles of social justice, international solidarity and substantive equality. An anniversary quilt, created by Grannies across Canada, using fabric donated by the country's grannies groups and by groups of grandmothers in Africa, will tour

Canada throughout the year.

Our wonderful Jubilee supporters are welcome to join this celebration, which will include the viewing of the quilt, entertainment, refreshments and a marketplace. Admission is free, but registration is encouraged, and donations are gratefully accepted. More details about signing up for this wonderful event to come!

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT – 5K WALK / RUN – CAMPFIRE DAY

What do these three things have in common?

The **Fundraising and Event Support Committee**, of course!

These are just a few examples of upcoming events and activities which the FESC supports.

We want you to succeed!!! We're here to help you make sure your planning has all your bases covered, from advertising to volunteers and everything in between.

Please contact me at pjlansche@gmail.com to discuss your event and get a helpful checklist with things for you to consider. After your event, we'd love to hear your thoughts (what went well, what not so much) – and develop a great resource for next time!

Thanks for all you do to support Jubilee!

Pat Lansche



The Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Funds helps those who fall through the cracks. It helps to pay a hydro bill, or helps with modest medical support. It provides grocery cards and helps folks make ends meet.

The Benevolent Fund is modest and discreet; there are no reports made or records kept. It is used entirely at my discretion. It is my policy to shy away from repeat requests, and to try to 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 may 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. 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 e-transfer to admin@jubileeunited.ca or use Canada Helps and simply note "Benevolent Fund" in the box.

Donations made through the office will assure that you will get a tax receipt. To me directly, that's 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 increasingly vulnerable times.

Norm

Rev. Norm is looking for some help. This might be the very call that you've been waiting for.



I would love to find someone to “host” the digital services on Sundays at 10:30am. Someone to log on and say “hi” to folks who gather for worship, make text comments during the services and maybe even host a Sunday Zoom call from time to time.

I would love to have some people take on Community Table, a monthly meal for 60-100 people at Jubilee. The shopping will be done, ingredients put in place by others, but you do the cooking. If we had six teams (could be a couple of friends or a social group) that would cook for Community Table twice a year, we would be set.

I would love to have someone to co-ordinate volunteers - not recruit them, just co-ordinate them as they volunteer for things like Community Table, Definitely NOT Church or another event. Someone who is good at keeping lists and sending out reminders by phone or email.

I would love to have some folks record scripture readings for digital services. I am thinking about setting up a video recording space a couple of Sundays each month at Jubilee to record people reading scripture for upcoming Sundays, or having people do it themselves and send the results to me. I'll have the readings prepared; all you have to do is volunteer.

I would love to have someone manage a wireless point-of-purchase machine on Sundays or at events. You know the “tap” machines in retail outlets and coffee shops? We have one and lots of people would prefer to tap their money to Jubilee rather than search through their pockets for cash that they hardly use anymore. But we can't just leave a machine unattended. With about 10 minutes of training, a volunteer could help make it easier for people to provide financial support to Jubilee.

Should we have a Christmas Dinner at Jubilee or something to celebrate the New Year in 2024?

I would love to have some folks help come up with ideas and create opportunities for Jubilee and Forest Grove folks to get to know each other as we consider amalgamating our communities. Some fun things, some serious things. What can we do together that will help us get to know each other and discover our shared values and potential?

If any of these things sound like a call to you – please speak with me. You can email me at nseli@jubileeunited.ca, you can call me at the church (416) 447-6846 or speak with me in person and together we can have some fun, engage your gifts and build the Jubilee Community. Oh, and don't limit yourself to my current list of “Help Wanted” opportunities. If you have something that you'd like to do, please let me know and let's get things happening!



**Coffee @Jubilee
Tuesdays 1-230pm
in the
Garden Room
You never know
who you will meet!**

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.



JUBILEE PROPERTY REPORT

Prepared by Brian Kalanda / Barb Secord

Summer may be a time for some people to take vacations and kick back a bit but not at Jubilee! For property, summer is the season for maintenance work, completing key projects and identifying new projects. As always, this work reflects the dedication, critical eye and leadership of Barb Secord. Thanks Barb!

LED Lighting

The LED lighting retrofit of approximately 800 bulbs/fixtures has been completed. We can enjoy sitting in the sanctuary and seeing everything working with the extended life of LED. We are closing out the project and submitting our invoicing to get our approved grant money to cover the full cost of the work.

New Exterior Doors

As reported in the last Jubilation, our six new exterior doors were close to being delivered and we did get them in late July. We are now working on having them installed in September: North entrance (two) and Garden Room (four) in September.

Sanctuary Accessibility Ramp

Working with our architect, Adam McGean, we prepared a package that was submitted to the City Variance Committee. After a long wait, we got great news in mid-August that our request to use the east hallway was approved! The Ramp Up team all supported selecting this as a primary option for a variety of reasons. We will now be working on next steps in the detailed design, selecting a contractor and obtaining building permits.

We are grateful to Elizabeth Clarke, Kathy Coats and Brian Kalanda who led the \$5,000 fundraiser that ran for the past two months. Thanks to everyone's support and generosity, the \$5,000 goal has been achieved! There are more envelopes, and every dollar helps, so if you have not yet donated, please consider doing so. We are waiting to hear if we will get a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



Maintenance

During COVID, we postponed many projects to help manage costs, some for 2+ years. Given our mission to maintain the building as one we are proud of, we had to invest in key projects, get them scheduled (not easy in a busy facility) and done, notably:

- windows cleaned inside and out,
- hallways and auditorium tile floors stripped and waxed,
- carpets cleaned,
- foyer and garden room ceramic tile floors cleaned and sealed, and
- numerous plumbing issues addressed.

Additional Projects

We have more work planned for the rest of 2023:

- installation of the six new exterior doors,
- vinyl cladding on the wood soffits,
- repainting parking lot lines, and
- repairing barbeque.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for acting with legal fiduciary responsibility for the protection of the assets of Jubilee United Church. We meet quarterly, currently in a virtual format, beginning with a financial update from treasurer, Gary Norris. John Sharp provides an overview of our financial performance as it applies to our investment funds. The return on our investment funds is required to assist in addressing our current operating deficits.

Each trustee has a specific area of responsibility and provides an update at each meeting.

- Elizabeth Clarke chairs the meetings and provides information on the status of employee contracts.
- Rai Remmel has responsibility for health and safety policies and programs.
- Rick Fries updates us on the renters and revenue expectations in close collaboration with Property Manager, Barb Secord.
- Charlie Scott has responsibility for insurance, and a recent appraisal confirmed the opinions of Barb Secord and Brian Kalanda that we were considerably under-insured on our property and chattels. We now have that additional coverage and, with the United Church assuming responsibility for insuring individual churches, we are now experiencing some savings in our annual insurance costs.

As members of the Board of Trustees serve for a specific term (minimum of two years) there is always an opportunity to welcome new members. If you have an interest in serving, please let one of our current members know.

On Sunday, September 3, we celebrated a four-year ministry with Rev. Bri-anne Swan as she preached her last sermon as part the Jubilee Leadership Team. She was brilliant.

We gave Bri-anne an advent stole that symbolizes new beginnings, loving support



and the holy mystery of how God calls us into ministry. We also gave Bri-anne a bee-keepers hat as her new office at East Ministry opens onto the roof where they keep local beehives (yes, Bri-anne is allergic to bees!). The folks who gathered on Sunday were able to sign the hat and Rev. Bri-anne will keep it in her office and always remember that we have her back!



Bri-anne sang with Jeannie during the offertory, enjoyed the cake we provided and took a moment for a couple of “sacred selfies” so that we will always have proof that we loved working together. Bri-anne’s impact on Jubilee will be with us always and we hope that our impact on her will never be far from her heart or her practice of ministry in the days and years ahead.



Some of our folks have passed away since the last Jubilation was published, and we will miss them.

Violet Bradbury, June 22

Marianne Bride, July 2

Norma Taylor, July 12

There will be a Celebration of Life service for Marianne Bride on Saturday, September 16, beginning with a family visitation @10:30, and including a lunch following the service.

Jubilee UNITED CHURCH

HALLOWE'EN PARTY
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 28, 1-3PM

DECORATE A PUMPKIN,
BOB FOR APPLES
TRICK OR TREAT FOR CANDY
SHOW OFF YOUR COSTUME
IN OUR PARADE
SAFE FUN FOR ALL AGES

JUST A LITTLE BIT OF
PRE-HALLOWE'EN FUN ON A
SATURDAY AFTERNOON.
WE WILL HAVE LOTS OF SMALL
PUMPKINS FOR DECORATING
FOR MORE INFO, CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE (416)447-6846

Jubilee Cares



That's Really in the Bible?

The Howling Heretics
& Jubilee United Church
invite you to
an ALL NEW
Definitely NOT Church

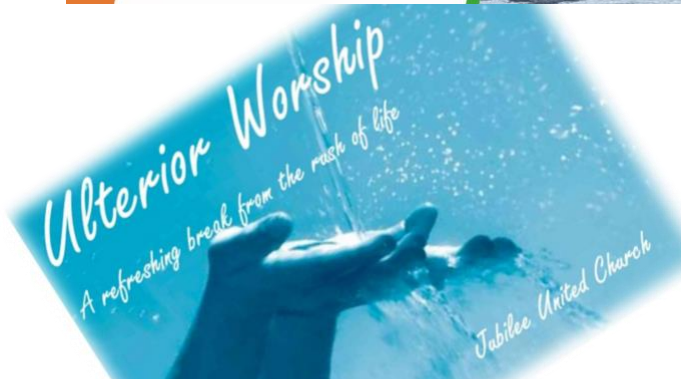
Sunday, October 22 @ 7:30pm

Voices in Tune, Eyes on the Prize and Tongues in Checks
Drew and Norm will share Pop Music from the Past 8 decades while
surprising and delighting you with stories that you never suspected were
hiding just behind Moses and the Good Samaritan
www.jubileeunited.ca



Ultior Worship
A refreshing break from the rush of life

Jubilee United Church



A Relaxed afternoon
with Friends.

Tea Time at Jubilee
Wednesday, October 4
at 2pm



Tea and Biscuits
Friends old and new.
and live Music from The Westenders
The perfect way
to welcome the Fall.
A great opportunity to bring a friend

Hosted by Rev. Norm Seli
and the Jubilee Cares Team
Transportation is available:
speak with Rev. Norm by phone (416)447-6846
or Email (nseli@jubileeunited.ca)

It's 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.

JUBILEE ON-LINE BOOK CLUB WITH REV. ALISON MOCK

THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
8-930PM ON ZOOM
BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 17TH

OCTOBER 17 - ALL THE QUIET PLACES BY BRIAN THOMAS ISAAC
NOVEMBER 15 - BEIRUT HELLFIRE SOCIETY BY RAWI HAGE
DECEMBER 19 - READ THIS TO GET SMARTER BY BLAIR IMANI
JANUARY 16 - WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED BY OMAR MOHAMED
FEBRUARY 20 - THE 57 BUS BY DASHKA SLATER
MARCH 19 - HOLY ENVY BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR
APRIL 16 - INCONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION
BY TATIANA SCHLOSSBERG
MAY 21 - WOMEN TALKING BY MIRIAM TOEWS
JUNE 18 - UNLIKELY ANIMALS BY ANNIE HARTNETT



FOR MORE INFO,
CONTACT REV. NORM -
nseli@jubileeunited.ca

THE ZOOM LINK WILL BE ON THE
JUBILEE WEBSITE
(WWW.JUBILEEUNITED.CA).

COME FOR SOME OR COME FOR
ALL - START READING AND GET
READY TO TALK ABOUT IT WITH
REV. ALISON MOCK



Jubilee UNITED CHURCH

Community Table
is back!

**THANKSGIVING
DINNER**
SATURDAY OCTOBER 7
AT 630PM
ALL ARE WELCOME
NO CHARGE

Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables,
Pumpkin Pie, Apple Pie, Friends and Neighbours
- a lot for which to be thankful



Like to help with Set Up, Serving or Clean Up?
Contact the Church Office (416)447-6846
or nseli@jubileeunited.ca
There will be NO donations
received at this dinner