

News from UPC *The Season of Lent 2023*



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12)

Unionville Presbyterian Church www.upc.community
600 Village Parkway, Unionville, ON L3R 6C2 905-947-8798

*It is the season of renewal ...
you are invited to come to
Unionville Presbyterian!*

1 st LENT Feb. 26 11 am	Rev. Allyson MacLeod
Communion Service	
2 nd LENT Mar. 5 11 am	Robert Revington
3 rd LENT Mar. 12 11 am	Robert Revington
4 th LENT Mar. 19 11 am	Robert Revington
5 th LENT Mar. 26 11 am	Min. Christine Skinner

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2 11 AM

LAY MINISTER CHRISTINE SKINNER

*THOSE WHO WENT AHEAD AND THOSE
WHO FOLLOWED SHOUTED, "HOSANNA!"
"BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME
OF THE LORD!" (MARK 11:9)*



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7 10 AM

REV. HEATHER JONES

*FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE
ETERNAL LIFE. (JOHN 3:16)*



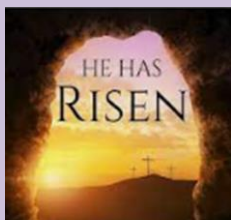
EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 9 11 AM

REV. HEATHER JONES

COMMUNION SERVICE

*PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! IN HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US
NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION
OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD. (1 PETER 1:3)*



Easter Blessings to All!



**UPC Annual
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 5, 2023
following the service**

We'll reflect on the year that was,
then plan and commit in faith & hope
to the year ahead as a congregation
of God's people.

Your presence matters!

Zoom Meeting ID: 972 0515 1886

Passcode: 221044

Adult ESL Conversation Group

– advanced level

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Tuesdays on line with John Weston

Thursdays in person at UPC

No fees or registration



We are looking for volunteers to lead the
beginner-level and intermediate-level
classes. You don't need to be an English
teacher, just have a good understanding of
the language and be willing to facilitate.
Please contact John or Julie if you are
interested in helping out.

*Practicing Jesus' Seven Last Words, a
devotional guide for LENT will take you through
the seven final phrases said by Jesus according
to the gospels, providing prayers, reflections
and activities for each week of Lent.
Hard copies of this guide are available
for pickup at UPC.*



Hi, everyone! Julie asked me to “write an introduction of myself to an audience like Julie who are “new” to UPC.” Because you are my home congregation, I am blessed with many UPC friends, but certainly many others have since come to call UPC their church home. So, here are a few words of introduction.

I was born into Presbyterianism, being baptized at St. John’s, Toronto, at the age of six months. At age 5, my family moved and joined Willowdale Presbyterian Church. There I grew up, sang in the Junior Choir, became a member, attended the youth groups, was married and had our first two children baptized there. Scott and I moved to Unionville in 1974, and so we were delighted when Unionville Presbyterian Church was born. Our third child was baptized under the basket ball net at William Berczy Public School, one of the several locations where the congregation met for worship prior to the construction of the current building.



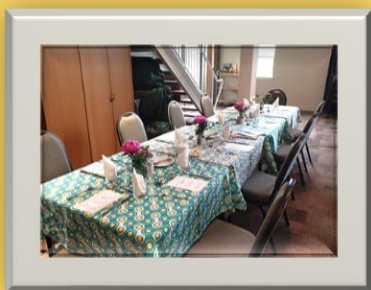
Career-wise, I served as a climatologist with the Meteorological Service of Canada for thirty years, and then took early retirement to be able to be more active in serving the church. I worked at the national office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in Planned Giving and later in Canadian ministries, but came to realize that I was still lacking something in my life. Eventually, following a conversation with my and your former minister, Rev. Gordon Timbers, I enrolled in the Master of Divinity course at Knox College, University of Toronto, and instantly, I realized I had found what was missing in my life. I loved being a student again, and able to grow in my faith in so many ways. Following graduation, I eventually was called to serve as Minister at St. James Presbyterian Church, in Stouffville, and I am happily now in my 10th year there. The many aspects of ministry are deeply satisfying.

Together, Scott and I continue to enjoy our grandson Aidan, recently baptized at Armour Heights Presbyterian Church, and our several hobbies: RVing in our trailer and stargazing as amateur astronomers. The greatest “ah ha!” moment of my life was experiencing the total eclipse of the sun in Nebraska in 2017. The magnificence of God’s sacred creation was revealed.

It is a gift to be able to work with UPC people once again to discern God’s call for its future. If you and I haven’t yet crossed paths, I’d be delighted to meet you! I have yet to participate at an ENJOY lunch, but I hear they’re wonderful; perhaps we could share fellowship there! Call me any time at 416-992-4901.

Joan

"ENJOY" Group
Embracing - Nurturing - Just - Older - Youth



Every Thursday, the ENJOY group meets at noon for a homemade lunch prepared by one of our UPC volunteers. The participants not only received a delicious and nutritious lunch, but the conversation at the lunch table also brought many joyful moments. During the first two years of the COVID shutdown, the lunch was delivered to individual homes by our volunteer drivers. On March 10, 2022, with the lessened pandemic restrictions, the group was back to UPC in person. We thank our volunteers, Margaret MacKenzie, Brent MacKinnon, Pat Richards, Nancy Robertson, Julie Swei and Linda Weston for their perseverance during the pandemic, and their dedication to making the meals that are enjoyed week after week by the group.

Starting in March, a 45-minute exercise class for seniors will be provided following the lunch at 1:30 pm on Thursdays. This class not only will eliminate the travelling between one's home to a community centre, but it will also help to strengthen muscles and improve flexibility and balance. Both the lunch and the exercise class are free to participants and funded by UPC Hope -In-Action, with the help of our dedicated volunteers.

Soup-of-the-month

Since the start of the Soup-of-the-Month in June 2021, fourteen different kinds of soups were made fresh out of the UPC kitchen. A total of \$1,550 profit resulted from this fundraiser; a sincere thank-you to all the loyal supporters.



A Lenten Prayer

The Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are not times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me. Amen.

By Henri Nouwen

