

UPC Fall 2024 Newsletter



**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
(Psalm 107:1)**

Unionville Presbyterian Church

www.upc.community

600 Village Parkway, Unionville, ON L3R 6C2 905-475-6233

The Unexpected Harvest

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for our God is good; the Lord's love endures forever.
The Lord brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle.
They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest;
The Lord blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased,
And the Lord did not let their herds diminished."
Psalm 107:1, 36-38*

The beginning of the harvest season is a festival of thanksgiving for the bounty of the earth in many cultures. Although this time of the year has been more significant for agrarian societies who still have a very close, intimate connection with the land, our Thanksgiving Holiday also started as a harvest celebration. There are still areas in our modern world where there are no supermarkets to stock up from, - only small grocery stores and farmer markets are available and there are still people who trade their produces with each other.

There were only a few brief years of my life when I did not have a vegetable or a flower garden. As long as I can remember I grew up with the appreciation of the land, fresh produce, homemade meals and preserves. There was never any waste. We saved the kitchen scraps for the chickens and the pigs.

Principles of sowing and harvesting are similar in different cultures. But one needs to learn to work with the local soil, climate and familiarize herself with those plants that like the local conditions. The beginning of planting and the end of the harvest also needs to be adjusted according to the different zones of the farmers' almanac.

Gardening teaches many life skills: it cultivates patience, problem solving, assimilation, creativity and humbleness. No matter how skillful we were in one climate we must learn to adjust, no matter how well we cultivate the soil when it comes to establishing a permaculture that provides successful harvest one needs to be patient. Usually, it takes several years to turn a piece of land into nourishing soil and to learn how to be in symbiosis with nature.

Yet there is always the surprise factor...There are always plants that reseed themselves without us noticing them, and there are plants that yield harvest beyond any human expectations! The unexpected harvest can often bring the most joy and fulfillment. Nevertheless, they usually do not happen without previous planning, caring, nourishing and cultivating. The unexpected harvest speaks just as much about God's provision as it speaks of dedicated and diligent labour.

I hope that we will see together many unexpected harvests at UPC in the future together, as we serve our Lord together diligently, caring for each other and our neighbours, sowing seeds of service, inclusion, love and kindness. My prayer is that our Lord may allow us to experience together both the joy of sowing and harvesting at UPC.

Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

Rev. Anita



A message from Margaret MacKenzie, Clerk of Session

Fall weather has finally arrived after an extended time of summer like weather. September was especially enjoyable as we came together to celebrate UPC's 40th anniversary. Sept. 22 was truly a wonderful day, from Rev. Joan's inspiring message to the music that lifted our hearts, to the beautiful flowers and decorations, and the many old friends who returned, some of whom taking their former places in our choir.

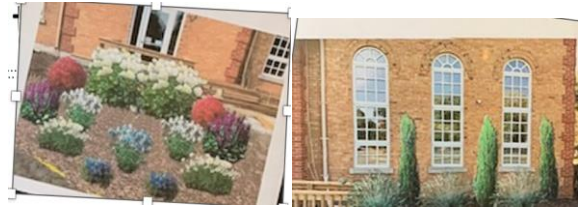
Three trees, a gift to future generations, were planted to honour UPC's milestone year. Also, donations on the day raised over \$400 for the Markham Food Bank.

There was a great deal of planning and effort that went into our anniversary celebration. We are very grateful to everyone who took part in all the many ways that made the day a special, special time. Thank you all.

As we move forward into the time of Thanksgiving, your Session, guided by the Spirit, continues to oversee and support ministries on many fronts, some new, some ongoing. Here are just a few:

- The Alzheimer Society of York Region, "Minds in Motion" program, has begun meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays, from 1 to 3pm – a support program for people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

- Landscaping improvements, including an access ramp at the front of the building. More plans will start to take shape this fall and in the spring. Here is Lorne's computer generated image of what it could look like eventually, with plants that will attract birds and butterflies.



- We now have in place our new Treasurer, Lydia Shields, (following the departure of Bebsie) and the Finance Team meets monthly and reports regularly to Session. The transfer of records and responsibilities is mostly complete in large part due to the efforts of Alison as lead of the Finance Team.
- The Mistletoe Market, set for Nov. 16, is on track and folks are working hard at the preparations. Please offer your help where you can. Give Alison or Vikki a call.

On behalf of the Session: We are grateful to all of you in our UPC family who help throughout the year to support the ministries of UPC in ways both large and small.

Blessings,

Margaret

The following are words taken from a First Nations prayer:

Loving Creator, You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your Spirit, now and forever. Amen

Thanks for Lorne Cook for a tremendous amount of work on cleaning up the grounds for our 40th Anniversary and to Andrew and Leah who came out to help plant the new trees. We were fortunate to secure new Maple trees from Dutch Master at a much lower cost than our first quote which meant that the donations received covered the cost of the trees, watering bag and soil.

Our contractor Austin worked nights and weekends, with a broken hand, to make sure the front deck and garden along with the new path at the back were completed for anniversary. There were many late nights, but the end result is a beautiful blank canvas ready for the next phase.

Lorne and Alison are working on a gardening plan which may see some items planted this Fall and the balance next Spring. Watch for a fund raiser.



Under Fund Raising:

Mistletoe Market is around the corner, and we need your help!
Santas Elves are already busy at work preparing.
But the Elves are getting tired!



We need people who can join the cooking day on **October 26 at 10 am** – no cooking experience required – it is more an assembly line. If you can put filling in a pie, label and pack and put into the freezer (one task only not all), you are hired! Please let Alison and Julie know so we can ensure we have enough helpers.

And we need items to sell. Donate new or gently used Christmas decorations (no lights or electrical items please), donate new or gently used accessories. If you can please have them to the church by **the first Sunday in November** that will provide us time to sort and price.



Oct. 26 @ 10 am

If you have any suggestions for new tables or items to sell, we would love to hear from you.

Alison

Markham Food Bank

Food insecurity continues to be a reality for many. Our local food bank services many families and individuals in our community.

As partners with them, we can make a difference! They like to include the same items to each client every visit. One of the items on their most recent list of most needed foods is kidney beans. So . . . let's fill our Markham Food Bank wagon with enough cans of kidney beans to provide one can for every client that visits the food bank on the 29th of October.

Our UPC goal - fill our Markham Food Bank wagon with 85 cans of kidney beans by Sunday, October 27th.

Jean



MFB Most Needed Food Items

- Small bags of rice
- Individually Wrapped Snacks for School
- Hot Cereal
- Instant Coffee
- Jam
- Canned Salmon, and Sardines
- Canned Evaporated Milk
- Non-Dairy Milk (oat, almond, rice)
- Vegetarian Soups
- Habitant Soup
- Cooking Oil
- Kidney Beans
- Peanut Butter
- formula stage 1, 2 and 3

Most Needed Personal Items:

- Shampoo, Conditioner,
- Body Wash,
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

My Year of Residence at St. Elsewhere:

Remember this medical drama? In the Opening credits, it shows a large building with above ground subways rushing by and a large fountain in front of the doors. In 1969, I was driven from Nova Scotia to my new home in this building. Those 'trains' ran by my room, day and night. At that time it was known as "Franklin Square House", a home-hotel for women. It later became a seniors residence.

But in my year of 'liberation' after graduation from high school, it was a foreign world located in Boston next to an area known as 'The Combat Zone' because of discord between Puerto Ricans and Blacks who lived there. This fact was not told to us till we got lost looking for our destination.

Needless to say, Mom & Dad left me there in August, with fear in their hearts and lots of prayers till I returned home the following year. It was the year I changed from a quiet, shy bookworm into "Patti-Lynn" who was finally best friends with the cheerleader instead of the outsiders. We were attending a career & 'finishing' school' where us small town girls could transition to a trade that could help us fit into New York Fashion fields. I took Merchandising, modelling and learned hair, makeup and social skills. One of my teachers was dating Bobby Orr. The Vietnam war was raging and the sailors had an apartment across from us. It was a magical year for me. The Jim Morrison & The Doors concert ran late so I missed curfew xo poor Mom got a call. She used to joke that she sent me to Finishing school and they finished me 'but good'. I was returned to them a 'hippy' who had to change clothes before they'd drive me back over the border to Canada.

However, a few years later we ended up opening a boutique together, fulfilling a dream of Mom's. Considering my original grad-plan was to get a university degree to teach Home Economics it was the proverbial fork in the road. (I was too ill with allergies to do 4 intensive years of study) That course was eventually axed in schools. God works in mysterious ways to lead us to our necessary path.

I've always tried to listen to that guiding voice, trusted I would be kept safe, then prayed for guidance to my next stage of life. As I neared my 30's. Along came Andres "Baby Duck" winery (now Peller Estates), Marnie & Mitzi, and a new adventure I couldn't have dreamed of. But that's another story... 📄📖📅

By Lynn Thompson



Mistletoe Market Christmas Sale

- ❖ Christmas Baking & preserves
- ❖ Homemade pies
- ❖ Holiday gifts
- ❖ 'New-to-You': Jewelry & accessories boutique!
- ❖ Gently Used Christmas Decorations
- ❖ Meals on Heels: Frozen Meals
- ❖ Home décor: Pottery, Afghans, Dishcloths
- ❖ Café: Morning coffee or join us for lunch

Saturday
November 16
9am – 1pm

UPC Community Church

600 Village Pkwy., Unionville
905-475-6233
upc.community

**All Proceeds going to
Presbyterians Sharing**
*(a national church fund that supports
mission and ministry in Canada and around
the world)*

Our market is a congregation-wide event, let's all pitch in and do what we can to make this year's event another great success!
Thank you to Vikki Cox, Lynn Taylor & Alison Toscano for their leadership. Please speak to the team if you have any questions.

We Are Called To Be Fruitful

You have to be really aware of the difference between fruitfulness and success because the world is always talking to you about your success. Society keeps asking you: "Show me your trophies. Show me, how many books have you written? Show me, how many games did you win? Show me, how much money did you make? Show me. . . ." And there is nothing wrong with any of that. I am saying that finally that's not the question. The question is: "Are you going to bear fruit?" And the amazing thing is that our fruitfulness comes out of our vulnerability and not just out of our power. Actually it comes out of our powerlessness. If the ground wants to be fruitful, you have to break it open a little bit. The hard ground cannot bear fruit; it has to be raked open. And the mystery is that our illness and our weakness and our many ways of dying are often the ways that we get in touch with our vulnerabilities. You and I have to trust that they will allow us to be more fruitful if lived faithfully. Precisely where we are weakest and often most broken and most needy, precisely there can be the ground of our fruitfulness. That is the vision that means that death can indeed be the final healing—because it becomes the way to be so vulnerable that we can bear fruit in a whole new way. Like trees that die and become fuel, and like leaves that die and become fertilizer, in nature something new comes out from death all the time. So you have to realize that you are part of that beautiful process, that your death is not the end but in fact it is the source of your fruitfulness beyond you in new generations, in new centuries.

By Henri Nouwen

Alzheimer Society

YORK REGION

ACTIVE LIVING MINDS IN MOTION

A program that combines physical activity and mental and social stimulation for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. This program is offered for 8 weeks and a great opportunity to establish new friendships with others living with similar experiences.


Mondays, October 7 - December 9, 2024
(excl. October 14 & 21)


1:00 - 3:00pm

Unionville Presbyterian Church, 600 Village
Parkway, Unionville

\$20 fee for care partner +1

Registration is required
contact Jennifer Barta at

 437-238-6571

 jbarta@alzheimer-york.com

Spaces still available!

UPC Newsletter



UPC Newsletter is issued four times annually (Lent, Summer, Fall, Advent) for members and friends of UPC.

Contributions on the life and work of UPC are always welcome.

Please send your submission to julie@upc.community at any time throughout the year!