

The Harcourt Herald February 2021

The Life and Work of Harcourt United Church





Harcourt Memorial United Church

An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to... **Seek. Connect. Act.**

Our Mission: Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate and non-violent relationships.

Our Vision Statement: To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service.

Our Core Values: Risk... Respect... Responsibility... Vulnerability... Trust

Our Purpose: To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

Church Administrator:
Wendy Guilmette

Worship, Communication
and Technical Support:
Shaina Ensing and
Casey Connor

Custodian: David Kucherepa

The Ministers: The People
with
Reverend Miriam Flynn and
part-time pastoral care
minister Rev. Marcie
Gibson,

Director of Music Ministry:
Alison MacNeill

Office Hours: Monday to Friday
9am to 12pm and 1pm to 3:30pm

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The Minister's Quill

by Rev. Miriam Flynn

Meet our new supply pastoral care minister, Marcie Gibson



Hello! I'm excited to be in ministry with you and Miriam during your discernment and search process. In choosing a profile picture, I decided to take one with my headphones and a woody background because that's likely how you will "see me" for the next while – either on screen or maybe on a walk in the woods, when it's safe to do so. For those who don't have video access, I will be visiting in person with a mask when situations warrant and protocols allow.

A little about me: I'm a diaconal minister with a background in community organizing and social work (BSW/Women's Studies & Community Economic Development Graduate diploma). I am on program staff (part-time) at the Centre for Christian Studies (ccsonline.ca) where I teach, mentor and support candidates for diaconal ministry and other folks who are curious about lay or continuing education. Alongside that educational ministry, I also offer short-term supply with various communities of faith, like yourselves, and teach the UCC Polity and Administration course through United Theological College in Montreal.

I live in Hamilton, but as the minister at Arkell United from 2015 to 2018, I got to know the beauty of Guelph. In Hamilton, I enjoy getting out on the Bruce Trail with our son's service dog, Archer, exploring waterways, occasional art and music, and spending time with family (okay, a lot of time with family these days!). Erin and I have two teens still at home and a cosmic constellation of adult children, co-parents, cats and more. In our queer Jewish and Christian family there is lots of opportunity for holy days and fun learning.

I look forward to getting to know you and your family and community over the coming months. *Marcie can be contacted at marcie.canoe@gmail.com*

Making technology easier is goal of new staff member *by Ann Middleton*

Casey Connor is the latest addition to Harcourt's technology team. Her official title is worship, communications and technical support assistant.

During Casey Connor's first week on the job at Harcourt, she was responsible for getting the church service onto YouTube while Shaina Ensing was on vacation. It took longer than she had hoped. When some members of the congregation noted they couldn't "go to church" early Saturday evening, Casey was delighted to hear from them. "It shows that people love the flexibility of attending church when it suits them," she says. That Sunday she joined the Zoom coffee hour to meet some Harcourt folks. The second week on the job, she had the service up by noon on Saturday.



A recent U of G psychology grad, Casey loves working with people and is enjoying the interaction with Rev. Miriam Flynn and music director Alison MacNeill. She will also work with guest speakers during the transition time at Harcourt, providing support for Shaina. Another important part of Casey's job will be facilitating events such as weddings and funerals on Zoom.

She has already been asked about livestreaming services in the future and how to make technology use easier. "There is a learning curve," she says, "but in the long run technology can make life easier. I'm here to help with that." She would like to engage the wider community through social media. "We have a lot of amazing opportunities at Harcourt, but people my age don't even know they exist," she says.

Engaging with others goes back to school days for Casey who was active in environmental and anti-bullying initiatives and fundraising for therapy for families who could not afford it. In the gap year after high school, she became a Big Sister. At university, Casey worked with Student Accessibility Services, connecting students with campus resources like counselling and wellness services and helping with the development of time management skills.

Casey lives downtown with her partner – music student James Barker and their cat Rose. James and Casey met at a concert by Modest Mouse, an American Indie rock band, and can't wait for Guelph's music scene to ramp up again. They both love the outdoors, particularly hiking and camping.

Letter from the Editor's Desk

“Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.” (Henri-Frédéric Amiel) Jim always ended his worship serves with this blessing...

This month we grieve the loss of a faithful and hardworking member of Harcourt, whose active life was abruptly cut short by a stroke. Joan Barham , Chair of the Communication Committee (that is also responsible for the Harcourt Herald), is gone. She will leave a huge hole in Harcourt's Communication strategy. As we grieve her loss, let us take Amiel's – and Jim's - exhortation seriously: let us be swift with our love, now and always.

February! We are slowly but certainly walking into more light. And for me my energy level increases and so, I look forward to the discernment process for Harcourt's vision of its future, for the GUM developments, and the positive changes Church-wide.

For the time being we are still very restricted with physical interactions, but the digital possibilities are growing. More and more helpful developments appear on the market, and more and more people venture to use them. I understand that for Harcourt many avenues are being explored and will extend the ways we can communicate with each other. I also hope the Herald will be one of the tools that keeps our congregation together in becoming more interactive encouraging ever more voices to be heard.

So, please make use of the “Letter to the Editor”, tell us what you like, want to add, change

We will try to keep each issue to a reasonable length, so short and precise articles are very welcome.



Remembering Joan

Nancy Ryan



I feel blessed to have had Joan Barham in my life for over 50 years, first in Edmonton (where our husbands were graduate students together), then in New Zealand and finally in Guelph. We first met at a University of Alberta student dance where she was selling tickets. Smartly dressed with her hair in a fashionable updo, she was enthusiastic, warm and welcoming, with a distinctive Kiwi accent that seemed very exotic to my Edmonton ears. She was a force to be reckoned with even then. Busy with her young family, she still found time for others including the American draft dodgers sponsored by the local United Church.

Back in New Zealand, where Richard was chair of the Education Department at the University of Otago, Joan multi-tasked as only she could. She was a marvellous mother, gracious hostess, keen gardener and enthusiastic participant in the Play Centre movement. This unique program which trained parents to run programs for preschoolers was a natural fit for Joan who had ideas galore for engaging children and their caregivers.

That play centre experience served Joan well when the family moved again, this time to Guelph where Richard became chair of the Department of Family Studies at the university. She became the sole teacher at the Royal City Cooperative Preschool. Always upbeat, creative, energetic and patient, she was an inspired educator and a wonderful role model for participating parents.

After completing studies in gerontology, Joan became active in community development, an ideal outlet for her energy and vision. As the director of a large multi-service agency in the Halton region she developed innovative services for clients, acquiring new skills, new contacts and new friends. Joan, who was always a great organizer, became very good at getting things done. We have been so fortunate that, in retirement, she was able to apply these talents to our Harcourt community.

Joan was not one to indulge in trivial pastimes or lazy indulgences. Even a fun trip to Toronto could be exhausting, packed with activity from morning to night. She happily began gardening at 6 a.m., and her yard was a creative masterpiece enjoyed by every visitor. Originally trained as a dietician, she loved to cook but not just for its own sake. Food was for sharing; she knew its seductive power and was not above luring people to a meeting with the promise of pavlova. Her meals were legendary, always delicious and beautifully presented. No one ever declined a dinner invitation.

I once asked Joan about the source of her inspiration, commitment and energy, and she quoted the motto of her Auckland high school, St. Cuthbert's: *Service Before Self*. Another St. Cuthbert's friend assured me that not everyone took that dictum quite so seriously. But Joan was special. She was *always* quick to love and hastened always to kindness – the living embodiment of Jim Ball's beautiful benediction.

We will all miss her so much.

Council News

Lorraine Holding, Council chair

What will our future look like? We knew that would be our focus this year, both at Harcourt and all around us. Now we move into our active and intentional journey as a community of faith.

As part of our short-term staffing plan, we have welcomed to our staff team Rev. Marcie Gibson as supply minister for pastoral care (20 hours a week) and Casey Connor as worship, communications and technical support assistant (15 hours a week) for the next few months. This approach provides flexibility to test potential scenarios that might evolve during our discernment time. Decision making about a future staffing model will likely take up to a year.



At our January 20 council meeting, we took time to review various conversations that have taken place regarding future technology needs (e.g. live streaming), the move towards flexible seating, re-imagining building use, and visioning work by Harcourt and Guelph United Ministries (GUM). All of these pieces feed into our discernment about the future. Based on the changing restrictions due to COVID-19, our

experiences hosting a small memorial service and wedding in the sanctuary and a funeral on Zoom in the fall, and information provided by Mark Sears and our tech team, we agreed to proceed towards live streaming. Implementation of a plan initially proposed and discussed at our July 29, 2020 meeting is a start, and requires consideration for future compatibility with other decisions that might be made regarding the sanctuary.

The transition steering team has launched the series of 10 **Harcourt Conversations – Round 1** (February 1-5 still available). Our goal is to have 100 people participate in Zoom groups of 10 people each. Active participation by many is needed to help re-imagine Harcourt's future – our ministries and structure. As our discernment process unfolds, we plan Round 2 in April and May.

In between, we encourage Harcourt people to participate in two conversations hosted by GUM and Rev. Dr. Paul Miller.

Read the details in this newsletter about

COVID-19 Conversations – Challenges and Opportunities

(February 18-24 and March 16-24). Interaction with our sister churches is equally important as GUM explores what the



future Guelph United Church presence might be. Watch for registration details in the e-weekly about these Zoom opportunities.

Finally, council has started to plan for Harcourt's first virtual annual meeting,

scheduled for Sunday, March 7 at 1 p.m. Again, watch for more details this month. We require a quorum of 50 people.

With faith and hope, our journey unfolds.

News from the Property Committee

Dave Hume, Chair of the Property Committee

Here are some updates. Right now, members of the Property Committee take turns to do a daily walk through the church, checking to see that nothing is amiss. We will do that until mid-February, when David Kucherepa will return from paternity leave. (Their baby boy was born in late December). Here's some good news. Snowfall has been minimal for the last month so the church is saving on snowplowing and salting. The long stretch without much snow has also been kind to our earnings from solar panels, which was \$8,954 for 2020. A steel railroad container has been installed in the south corner of the parking lot as a more secure place to store camping gear for the church's Scouts. The Royal City Pre-School is back in action with classes MWF a.m. and p.m. and TTh a.m. Finally, one of the big, red pumps in the boiler room started to leak, has been fixed and is now in operation again.

Thanks for all the help from the committee members. Some of the members have served for a long time. We would like to hear from anyone new who is interested in joining our committee.

The last goodbye - Jim and Anne at the Drive-Through after Jim's final service, Dec. 27.

by Ann Middleton

Jim Ball loves the old hymn tunes, but often finds the words reflect antiquated language and outdated theology. Choir director Alison MacNeill says that often new texts have great words but tunes that may be difficult to learn.

Jim's solution was simple: choose Stuttgart, familiar to us all as the music for Charles Wesley's Advent hymn Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.

Alison explains that 8787 is one of the most common metres for hymn verses. "We have often found ourselves pairing that old standby with new lyrics," she says. "In fact, Jim suggested it so often that it became a running joke between us."

In the spirit of "Stuttgart", we present two parodies, the first by Alison for the choir. Jim was so delighted by the song that he responded in kind after his last service.

A Choral Song from Alison

When we find tunes unfamiliar
But Jim wants to use the hymn
Stuttgart is our go-to always
Need not go out on a limb.

The tune is so very useful
As it fits most texts so well
That is why you hear it often
And it always rings a bell.

Yet it's not always so simple
Jim will want to write new words.
Gender neutral, all inclusive
Ancient texts are for the birds!

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
Second line has only seven
When we match some words to Stuttgart
Then we feel like we're in heaven.

Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Stuttgart!
That's the tune we always sing
Reverend Jim, he really likes it
Almost more than anything.

A Farewell Song from Jim

So they sat us on a park bench
Where the winds blow strong and cool
With a heater and a blanket
To relieve the winter's cruel.

Not quite sunny, nor quite shadowed
was the day we sat outside,
waving hands and whisp'ring thank you's
to the crowd of passers by.

Car by car they drove up to us,
Not too close and not too far,
Only one bumped the propane tank
Not so hard the day to mar.

Two brave people held the sign up
showing words I've often thought
"Less is more," the sign encouraged,
Sparking laughter, I 'xplain not!

What to say about such kindness?
What to say about such care?
Grateful are we for the send-off
More than words could ever share.



All Things Christmas: Behind the Scenes

By Janet Webster

***with Marilyn Sears, Carol Jones,
Heather Hoeg, Lisa Mactaggart.***



January is the time we rest, review and start planning the next All Things Christmas sale. I am now looking at the best date to allow for Advent decorating of the sanctuary (usually many of the same people do both) and for outside rentals.

This year we raised \$6293.30. Thanks go to the many people who shifted to the new reality of an outdoor sale, creating arrangements in limited shifts and answering the call to be parking lot monitors. Our success is due to the support of SO many.

Examples of that support include:

- the loan of four tents (one came from J.F. Ross CVI)
- the expertise of Local Line, an online platform set up to help area businesses carry on during the pandemic
- plant materials from Full Circle Tree Service
- the Morris, Crowe, Daynard and Mactaggart families

In the interests of keeping this report brief, all the workers cannot be listed. Know that the organizers are grateful. People cut evergreens, created wooden lollipops for arrangements, gathered milkweed and teasels, sprayed branches, filled pots with soil and created bundles of greenery, baked goods and more.

As we reflect on this effort, we do wonder if we have been TOO successful. Many are feeling very tired and a little overwhelmed by the decisions and planning that are necessary in the months leading up to the event. We would really like to train others to assist with some of those tasks. Would you like to spend a few hours collecting plant material in the beautiful outdoors, spraying teasels and other branches? Please get in touch with us, we would welcome you with open arms.

Otherwise, we may not have another sale.

A Guide to the Liturgical Year – Year B: The Season of Lent

Andre Auger

We continue our exploration of the seasons of the liturgical year. After the Season of Epiphany, which usually focuses on Jesus's baptism and mission, comes the Season of Lent. Lent is usually a time to reflect on our brokenness and the problems of the dominant culture of consumption and violence. Ash Wednesday, which launches Lent, occurs on Feb 17 this year.



Lent 1	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus
Lent 2	Mark 8:31-38	Cost of discipleship
Lent 3	John 2:13-22	Driving out the money-changers
Lent 4	John 3:14-21	Healing & health
Lent 5	John 12:20-33	The deep truth about life in God

In the gospel of the first Sunday in Lent, we follow Jesus into the wilderness. Wilderness seems to be the best place to pause, reflect and assess our situation: Jesus rejects the traditional ways of changing society – wealth, status, and power – and eventually leaves the wilderness with a very different approach to bringing about God's dream. On the second Sunday, we are advised that letting go of the dominant culture, as Jesus suggests, and living differently will not be easy. With the story on the third Sunday of chasing out the money-changers – which John, unlike the other gospels, places at the beginning of Jesus's ministry – we are told that sometimes we will need to be strategic in our resistance to the dominant culture. The gospel of the fourth Sunday of Lent tells us that the heart of wholeness lies in shining light into our darker corners so that we are less tempted to act out of our darker side. Finally, the last Sunday before the passion cycle begins, we are reminded that we need to die to one way of life in order to help build another.

Where are the People?

Julie Henshaw looks at the United Church from her perspective as one of our younger members



I want to share an experience from my context as a “young person” in the United Church. At 38 years of age, the irony is not lost on me that I am still able to call myself a “young person” – thank you United Church demographic!

When I was in university and in my 20s, a number of my peers on campus identified with the Christian faith. However, most of them did not share the same liberal ideology that is fundamental to my beliefs. My home church at the time was Chalmers. I loved the sanctuary and the powerful sound of the organ. I was also pleased to be able to put my faith into action as a volunteer at the Friday Morning Food Shelf (now Chalmers Community Services) and the Saturday Night Suppers. I enjoyed the worship; it was spiritual and quiet.

But, as is often the case when you’re 20 and attend a United Church, I was the only “young person” in the pews. I longed for the camaraderie that my peers experienced at their churches. Going out

on a limb, I attended a few services with my friends at large non-denominational churches in Guelph. From the outside they were so attractive: they had huge, financially healthy congregations, a modern worship service, and were packed to the brim with young people. They proclaimed a message of being welcoming to all. However, I only had to attend once or twice to realize that despite their modern façade, the core ideologies of these churches were fundamental, conservative Christianity.

I couldn’t stomach it. As much as I wanted to be part of a large, lively church (and fit in with my peers), I wasn’t willing to sacrifice my beliefs in order to experience an energy that was missing at the United Church. For me, ideology was more important than experience, so back to my quiet (old, dying) United Church I went. Before long Chalmers sold its building, and its congregation dispersed.



The United Church of Canada

I love the United Church. I mean it. Principles of social justice, affirming congregations, ecological consciousness, genuine efforts towards truth and reconciliation with indigenous communities – what's not to love?! **But where are the people?** Why can non-denominational mega churches attract thousands of congregants while United Church after United Church closes its doors due to dwindling congregations?

Here's where GUM (Guelph United Ministries) comes in. It's been a few years now since I attended one of GUM's large services that combined all the United Church ministries in Guelph – but what an experience that was! It turns out, when all of us United Church folk in Guelph come together, we are a mega Church.

The last GUM service I attended was at John F Ross and there were easily 800 people in attendance. It was vibrant and

uplifting. For the first time as a United Church congregant, I felt hope for our future.

I know no one wants to think about ever having to say goodbye to their home church. Each United Church in Guelph is unique and has a distinct character. But the energy we create when we come together as United Church people is undeniable. Together, we have the potential to be everything those other flourishing churches are. And we can do it while upholding the rights of 2SLGBTQ communities, while honouring the environment, and while seeking justice and right relations. That's my kind of church.



The church of the 21st century – post-Covid

Andre Auger

I am writing this article for the February issue at the beginning of January, just as we start thinking about the year to come. The suggested topic for this issue relates to the future of Harcourt, GUM and the church in general. We know there's no going back. But into what kind of future are we walking?

Many scholars have been writing about the future of the church. Certainly well before 2020, scholars were envisaging quite a transformed church, one that is smaller, more in line with its original roots in the teachings of Jesus. The pandemic has forced many congregations and denominations to rethink more quickly and more urgently what "church" would be like if we were forced out of our comfort zones of buildings, social gatherings and committee meetings. Zoom and Yardstream and other new media approaches have shown us what is possible, but they have also shown us what we would be missing in these media-mediated ways of being the Body of Christ,

The distinguished scholar Harvey Cox, famous decades ago for his *The Secular City*, has offered his take on the future of the church in *The Future of Faith*. So have Phyllis Tickle, the late head of the theological division of *Publisher's Weekly*, and Brian McLaren, spokesperson for the emerging Christianity movement. All pre-Covid, of course.

Here are my own thoughts about the 21st century church. They are provisional and certainly not definitive. I offer these as one person's take, based on what I have read and have been thinking of. The first set of predictions predates the pandemic. I first shared them at a retreat I co-led with Fr. Bernie Carroll, SJ, a couple of years ago. Each of these points would deserve its own paragraph. But let's just list them to get the conversation going.

- The Church will be less denominational.
- It will focus less on affirming a set of beliefs about Jesus and more on acting in ways that reflect Jesus' life and exhortations.
- It will take science seriously and let go of outdated theologies that cannot be supported by sound science.
- It will include a cosmic dimension to worship, acknowledging the mystery of the universe as a way to revere the mystery of God.
- It will take biblical scholarship seriously. This includes a more accurate understanding of its own history and evolution.
- It will take dialogue with other faiths seriously and with humility and openness.
- It will be trying to recover what was essential about Jesus's message.

- It will be less afraid to be political.
- It will be intentionally focused on making the Divine more visible in the world.
- It will actively seek and involve lay leadership and become less “clerical.”
- It will finally let go of secular models of governance and decision-making in favour of prayerful discernment of the Spirit.
- It will take Sabbath economics and make sure the marginalized have equal opportunity.

The pandemic makes me add a few more personal predictions:

- Future forms of the church will be less rooted in physical space.
- People will have access online to a fantastically wide range of worship styles, and will find a congregation that best meets their needs.
- At the same time, there will be the danger that worship will increasingly be seen as a personal spiritual consumer good, rather than a communal act.
- Congregations will make use of small groups as a means to keep members connected – in person and via the internet.
- Congregations will be smaller, but they will consist of those who take their faith and spiritual life intentionally and seriously.
- Worship leaders will redefine what constitutes a congregation outside the building of the church.
- Congregations that have successfully outgrown the physical space model and embraced the new technology will thrive; others will slowly wither.

Am I happy with all this? No. I value physical presence, chance conversations, seeing lots of familiar faces, worshipping in spaces I consider sacred. But in these rapidly changing times, I do not have the luxury to long for the good ol’ days. We are barrelling down a new path. We’d better make the best of it.

What is your vision of the church of the 21st century? Where do you think we’re heading? How might we be church today in light of these reflections? How do we make the best of all this? How do we help create the kind of human communities Jesus was talking about in a time of pandemic?



One of us: Interview with Angela Jimenez *by Julie Henshaw*

Julie: Thank you for agreeing to meet with me. Let's get started! How long has Harcourt been part of your life?

Angela: Since I was a baby – so all of my life basically.

Julie: And I'm guessing you're a student. What grade are you in?

Angela: I'm in 12+. I graduated (high school) in the spring and now I'm doing an extra year.

Julie: What subjects do you enjoy at school?

Angela: Lots of drama, music, creative writing.

Julie: So artsy subjects.

Angela: Yes, artsy subjects.

Julie: Do many of your friends attend church or other religious or spiritual organizations?

Angela: I have a few friends who attend church, who are Christian. And I also have a friend who is Buddhist. But I don't have many friends who go to church, but a few.

Julie: What brings you to church?

Angela: It's just MANNA, being part of that community.

Julie: What made you decide to come to your first MANNA service? That might have been quite some time ago, if you can think back that far.

Angela: I'm honestly not sure. I probably just showed up at church one day with my Mom, and I went downstairs to the friendship room and she went to the regular service. I don't really remember the beginning of MANNA.

Julie: Fair enough. How would you describe MANNA to someone who has never attended?

Angela: MANNA is a fun interactive place for anyone who wants to go to church and not just sit and listen to someone talk.

Julie: I think that's a really good way to sum it up! This is my last question. What do you think Harcourt should focus on to thrive into the future?

Angela: Maybe just finding more ways to have the MANNA service and the regular 10:30 a.m. service together.

Julie: So finding some way to blend those two things?

Angela: Yeah, finding a way to blend them together.



Julie: I'm curious. Why do you see that as important?

Angela: I think it's important because in MANNA, it's mainly young families, and at the regular service it's more older people. I think we just want the church to be able to continue and go on. And if no one else is going to the main service at some point, then it might just be MANNA.

Julie: Okay that makes sense. Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Angela: No, nothing else.

Julie: Thank you for your time and sharing your thoughts with us.

GUM: COVID Conversations – Challenges and Opportunities



The impact of COVID 19 has been truly universal. Everyone without exception has been touched by it. And COVID has profoundly changed our churches. Some of those changes will be permanent, affecting how we gather, how we worship, how we plan, how we use our buildings.

You are invited to participate in two online COVID Conversations where together we will look at the changes our churches have had to make, the lessons we are learning, and what church life after COVID may look like, and what kind of leadership will be required.

These conversations are for everyone, not just our church leaders.

Our voices are needed to discern how to respond to these changes as we prepare for a post-COVID future.

Each conversation is offered on multiple dates. Please select one date for each.

Conversation One: *What has COVID changed?*
 What have we had to learn? What have we had to unlearn?
 What new opportunities has COVID presented?
 Dates: (Choose **one**)

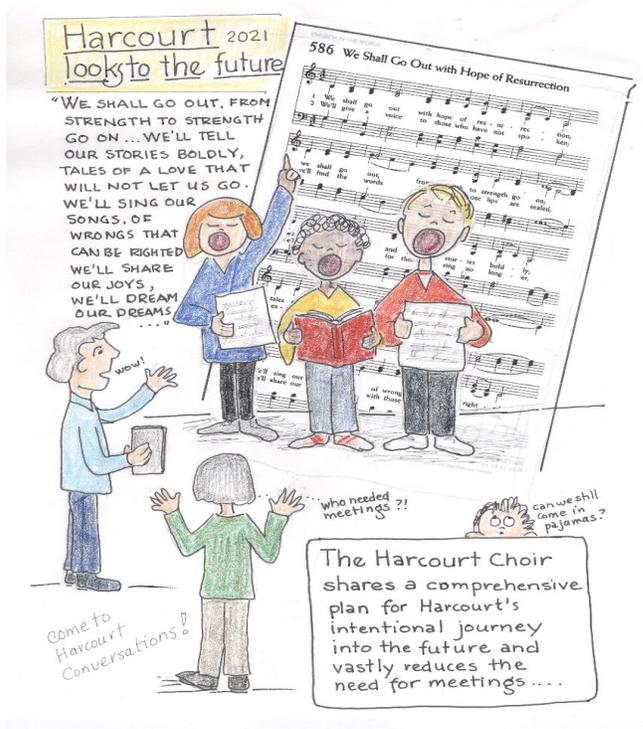
Thursday, February 18	7 – 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 21	2 – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 23	2 – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 24	7 – 8:30 p.m.

Conversation Two: *How do we respond to the changes COVID will bring?
How can we lead our churches through change?*

Dates: (Choose **one**)

Tuesday, March 16	2 – 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 18	7 – 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 21	2 – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24	7 – 8:30 p.m.

All conversations will be on Zoom. They will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. Paul Miller who has been working as a consultant with Guelph United Ministries. Links will be provided a week before the event. If you have not received instructions from the church office on how to sign up, please contact Wendy Guilmette at: office@harcourtuc.ca or call the church and leave a message.



Passages



Norman McIntyre, a resident of the Village by the Arboretum, died January 12, 2021 at Guelph General Hospital. Born in Macklin, Saskatchewan, Norm was married to Thelma Everitt for 62 years. They lived in many places in Ontario during Norm's long banking career with RBC.



Joan Barham died on January 21, 2021. "What a great loss and so suddenly. Joan's contribution and enthusiasm and wisdom is gone but her legacy will continue". (Bill Lord, Co-chair of the Spiritual Life)



David Kucherepa's son Dylan Kucherepa.
Born on Dec 30 at 5:36pm

And here is Joan's famous Pavlova cake recipe



Pavlova is a New Zealand Kiwi classic – especially at Christmas. It is meringue-based dessert with a crisp outer shell and a soft, light inside which is then topped with lots of whipped cream and summer berries (in New Zealand Christmas is in the summer). Joan Barham's Pavlova is a favourite at Harcourt events. Here is how she makes it - as served at the Convenanting Reception for Miriam Flynn.

You need an electric beater and preferably egg whites that are not too fresh. Fresh eggs result in a pavlova that 'weeps'. Fresh eggs from farmers can simply sit for some days in the fridge.

To prepare: (15 minutes)

Ingredients

6 egg whites – preferably at room temperature

Pinch of salt

1 and a half cups of castor sugar (I whizz regular granulated sugar in the food processor for about 15 seconds to make it finer. You can process more sugar than the recipe calls for and then store it in an airtight container for another recipe).

2 teaspoons of corn starch.

1 teaspoon of white vinegar

Topping

Half a litre of whipping cream

Several containers of mixed berries, kiwi fruit, pineapple, whatever you fancy on your pavlova

Method

Heat the oven to 180 C degrees (350 F degrees)

Place parchment paper (or other baking paper) on an oven tray (cover the tray)

Place egg whites in the clean bowl of an electric beater

Add salt and beat until the egg whites are stiff

Slowly add the sugar with the beater running. Beat for about 10 minutes at high speed until the meringue is thick and glossy – it should be thick enough not to fall off the beater

Lastly, whisk in the corn starch and vinegar.

Dollop the meringue onto the baking paper in a circle shape – about 16 inches diameter. Make a few swirls on the top rather than flattening to a neat tidy disk.

Bake at 180/350 degrees for 5 minutes then reduce the heat to 130 C degrees (165 F degrees) for a further hour. Turn off the oven and leave the pavlova to cool in the oven.

Note: I turn off the oven after the 5 minutes at 180 degrees and leave the pavlova there for an hour and a quarter. Don't open the oven door while it cooks or it will crack! Pavlovas are forgiving about time. You can leave it in the oven until it cools or take it out and cool it on the counter. Every NZer has her/his own "way" of cooking and preparing this treat. Cook ahead and store in an airtight container, or freeze.

