

WELCOME BACK!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RETURNS

PICKERING VILLAGE UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPT. 19, 2021

Rev. Karen Smart and Rev. Dr. Steven Davis extend a hand of welcome to greet the return of our congregation for our first in-person worship service since Sunday, March 15, 2020.

Ministers' Messages: (Rev.) Dr. Steven Davis



As summer comes to an end, I find myself looking ahead to the coming months with a mixture of excitement and apprehension. I suppose, in a way, that's always the case. Summer has been relaxing, representing a welcome respite from the usual round of meeting after meeting and just the general busy-ness of the church at other times of

the year. Starting up again – getting oneself psyched, I suppose you could say – is always a bit of a challenge. This year that's been especially challenging. Since March of 2020 we seem to have careened from one crisis to another (not so much in the church, where things have gone surprisingly smoothly given the circumstances, but in society as a whole). It was nice to have a summer when things were seeming a lot closer to "normal" than they have in some time. But now September has arrived and we're engaged as a society in trying to stem the rising tide of a fourth wave of COVID and as a church in trying to put together the plans and details for a resumption of in-person worship services, even while we're not sure exactly what's going to happen in the world around us. Usually, I have a fairly good idea of what the plan is for the autumn months leading up to Christmas, and I'm already deep into planning. This year? Not so much! So the end of summer leaves me feeling perhaps less relaxed than I normally would, facing an autumn where there continues to be so much uncertainty.

Uncertainty, though, doesn't mean an absence of hope for the future. I'm extremely hopeful looking ahead. I may not know exactly when we're going to be able to get back to "normal" - and, to be honest, I'm not even sure down the road what "normal" is going to look like. But I do believe that the God "who has created and is creating" is even now working to create something new; something different – and because it is God doing the re-creating I believe that our church community will be just fine and that the restrictions we have to worship under as we re-start our in person services will be reduced and eventually eliminated. The Bible stresses the importance of patience in a life of faith. We've certainly had our patience tested in recent months, (Continued on Page 3)

Rev. Karen Smart



There are two songs ringing in my heart these days – "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" and "Welcome Back!" (from the old TV show, *Welcome Back Kotter*).

It is great to be back and so I do have a grateful heart!



Yes, we are now worshipping two ways! Our church family can choose the option which is best for them. They may watch the full service –

with hymns and Children's Time on-line or they may join us for face-to-face in-person worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30. I am giving thanks and exclaiming, "Welcome back!" It was a long eighteen months while we worked on how to live a little more safely with COVID- 19. Laura has now gone back to her group home, so Tom and I are feeling a little bit freer with our time. It is awesome to begin to see some of you in person. We are not all the way back to how we were, but we are moving forward. I do look forward to the day when we can take off our masks and sing together and share a coffee or a meal together! For now, it is more important to keep each other safe.

I am looking forward to welcoming our Church School back. Starting October 3rd, there will be classes offered for school- aged children. They will go directly to the basement to the Fellowship Room, through the south side door. They will be downstairs, in their classes, for the full church time. With a shorter service of up to 40 minutes, the full time is needed for their lesson. At the end of the service, they will meet their families outside the side door. For now, we are not able to offer the Nursery and keep our social distance. We hope as time progresses this option will again be available.

The Youth Group will also meet on Sundays in the basement either in their room or the chapel depending on their numbers. (Continued on Page 3)

(Rev.) Dr. Steven Davis *(continued from page 2)*

and the test will continue to go on for a little while longer, but with faith as our companion we will, I'm sure, pass the test and persevere. Our community is strong, and as we listen to Jesus' command to "love one another" we will help each other through these trying times.

By the time you read this, our in-person services will actually have resumed, and we will have had 2 or 3 weeks to see how things are going. As much as I'd like to be able to say that it's gone perfectly – I'm writing under the assumption that things won't be perfect. Karen and I, along with Oksana and the Worship Committee, are learning a new way of doing things. How can we worship without singing is a big question on my mind as I know it is with many of you. What will it be like having to be physically distanced from one another? How can fellowship happen without coffee hour? All these are good questions. The most I can say is that those of us responsible for leading worship are grappling with them, too, just as I know that those who are responsible for the church school have been asking those same questions as we prepare for the resumption of that ministry in October. I do know that we've done everything possible to make things as safe and possible as they can be. And remember that the resumption of in-person worship isn't meant to pressure anyone to come back if they don't yet feel comfortable. That's why we're continuing our usual online recorded services as we've been offering them for the last 18 months. Whether online or in-person, you're part of the PVUC family!

Keep the faith, everyone! Blessings to all for a happy and healthy autumn season!

Rev. Karen Smart *(continued from page 2)*

We know we will continue to evolve as we learn more and are guided by the Durham Department of Health, The Provincial Government, and our Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC).

For now, let's give God thanks for the journey we have taken safely and for the journey that is ahead. We know that God will guide us, each step of the way!

PVUC VOICE

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PVUC VOICE is published
eight times a year by
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Please contact the editor.**

September Update on PVUC Status - Resuming In-Person Sunday Worship

From Chuck Hay, Chair of the Church Council

As announced last month, in-person worship will resume on Sunday morning September 19 at 10:30 am. Church School will resume on October 3, with more details to follow later in September. I know that we are all excited and looking forward to this long overdue opportunity!

In order to keep our church family safe, and with direction from the Durham Region Health Department, modifications have to be made to how we access and use our church building, and how the worship services will be conducted. Here are some details, along with rationale for the changes.



- Only the main floor of the building will be used. Worshippers will access the building through the main front doors so they can register and be assigned their 'pew pod'. This allows us to keep track of attendance in case a worshipper later tests positive for COVID, so the Health Department can contact other worshippers who were present that day.
- Worshippers are asked to take their coats with them into the sanctuary, and not to use the coatracks. This will help us have a more orderly and safe entry and exit of worshippers.
- Masking will be required at all times for worshippers, while they are inside the building. Any who cannot wear a mask for the entire service, for whatever reason, are asked to watch the on-line service instead.
- There will be no congregational singing, since the action of singing with gusto (which I know all of us do) increases the distance the virus can travel through the air.
- The service will be approx. 40 minutes long; this is in order to minimize the risk of virus transmission, and also reflecting there will be no congregational singing.
- 2 meter separation between family groups will be maintained, via assigned seating; this also serves to minimize the risk of virus transmission.
- There will be no hymn books or Bibles in the pews, to eliminate the need for sanitizing after each service.
- There will be no 'coffee hour' time in the building, since this would require the removal of masks.
- Only the main floor accessible washroom will be available, because this allows us to more easily conduct the frequent cleaning required by health regulations.

(continued on page 5)

- The accessible lift is not available at this time, because its small size does not permit social distancing. The Re-Opening Task Group (ROTG) is actively working to see if there is a suitable process to open the lift for use, for the time when the church building is opened more widely.

As noted in last month's letter, we are handling the administration of sacraments as follows:

- A protocol for Holy Communion is being developed, and this will involve individual sealed packages of the elements, and consumption of the elements at the end of the worship service outdoors (weather permitting). In the event that Communion cannot be celebrated outdoors due to the weather, a separate celebration of Communion via Zoom will be arranged.
- Baptisms will continue to be performed at the recorded service.

The full worship service (approximately an hour in length), including hymns, will continue to be recorded during the week, and posted as usual on the church website on Sunday morning. We encourage those who are vulnerable or have not received their vaccinations to choose this option.

The church office remains closed at this time. Phone messages and mail to the church office continue to be checked daily and responded to in a timely manner. The ministers continue to be available to respond to pastoral care issues, and you can reach them by e-mail or by leaving a message on the church answering machine.

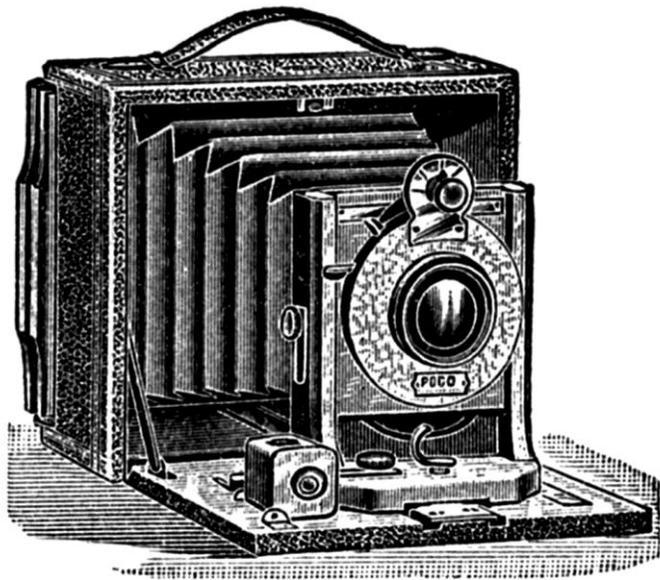
Church groups are encouraged to continue to meet virtually. If in-person meetings are needed, these will be considered by the ROTG on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the ROTG chair Bill Fox for more details.

On federal Election Day, September 20, PVUC will be renting the gym to serve as a polling site. Elections Canada will be ensuring voting at our location is conducted safely and with needed precautions in place.



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Doreen Hallé	905-427-9510, email dhalle@rogers.com
Bill Fox	905-706-2351



Seen Around At PVUC



Clockwise from top right. Phil Cox, our AV expert! Chuck Hay, Sue Barron, John and Heather Scott and Doug Brown are seen outside after the service. Heather Laderman holds up the new regulated seating plan. David Jones is escorted to his seat by Bill Fox.



In a light touch, children have been represented by stuffed animals during the Moment with the Children during our filmed services.

Bill Fox, Ruth Fox and Audrey Prichard study the rules for seating the congregation according to our new guidelines.



“The PVUC ministers and staff enjoyed a special perk this summer – a new “Executive Washroom”. This was provided by Bell Canada who was making upgrades to the cell tower for a few weeks during the summer months. Sadly, the perk was only temporary as the work is now completed. It was nice while it lasted!”

(Submitted by Ruth Fox)

“When This is Over,”

May we never again take for granted –

A handshake from a stranger

Full shelves at the store

Conversations with neighbours

A crowded theatre

Friday night out

The taste of communion

A routine checkup

The school rush each morning

Coffee with a friend

The stadium roaring

Each deep breath

A boring Tuesday

When this ends may we find that we have become like the people we wanted to be, and may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.

Submitted by a member of PVUC



Remembering Mary Hearn

Like many members of PVUC, Mary Hearn had a background in the educational system. Here are some memories of Mary by Jean Jackson, who knew her as a friend and educator. The qualities that Mary gained during her teaching and administrative career, made her an excellent source of ideas and inspiration during many PVUC Board meetings.



Submitted by Jean Jackson:

My memories of Mary centre around her as an administrator and a friend. I worked for Mary at three schools in Pickering, once when she was a vice-principal and twice as a principal. When you interviewed with her for a position, Mary promoted your skills so that the person interviewing with her would also learn about your strengths. This was valuable to me as I wasn't particularly good at promoting my talents. Mary opened Maple Ridge Public School and could often be seen at the work site with her hard hat and protective footwear and because of her diligence the school opened on time! Mary let you choose the style of your classroom so that you could order the furniture that best matched your approach to teaching. I knew that Mary would always have my back whenever I needed her support with whatever situation might be occurring in the classroom or school. Her staff meetings were very seldom longer than an

hour. She had a timetable that she carefully followed and was interested in hearing your point of view but not the same point three or four times!!

Mary had a great love of music and I remember her often telling me about taking part in the Kiwanis Music Festivals when she was in competition with the pianist who later played with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra for many years. Mary and I were members of the TSO and thoroughly enjoyed their Pops concerts. I believe she played the piano for the UCW at PVUC and also at the Orchard Villa Long Term Care home.

I travelled with Mary on a couple of occasions, once on a river cruise in Germany with Probus members and another time on a bus tour. She did have difficulty walking for any length of time but never stopped me from continuing on with the tour. She would find a place to sit and have a cup of tea and we would pick her up at the end of the excursion. Needless to say, having a good sense of direction was not one of Mary's strengths! I remember her telling me about ending up in Oshawa when she was driving home to Pickering. My sense of direction is equally weak so whenever we would go somewhere I would check out the route on line and then use my GPS or Waze app. I don't recall us ever getting lost and I think after she moved to the condo she chose to drive mainly around Pickering.

(Continued on page 10)

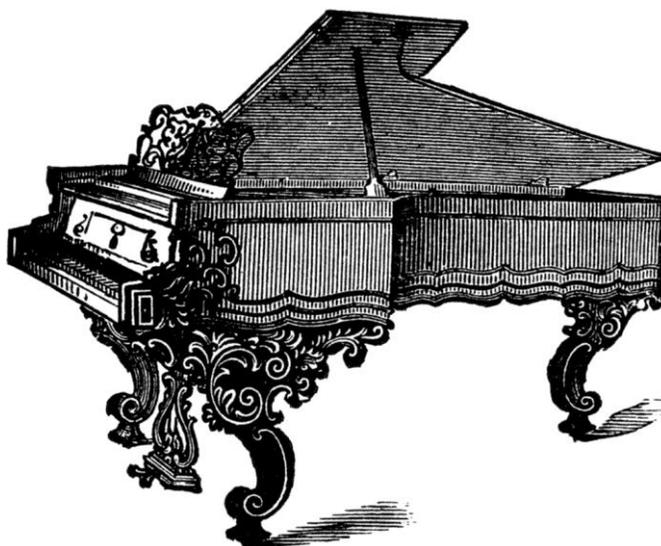
After retirement Mary became the president of Durham District 28 Retired Teachers Association. It's always challenging to find members to sit on an executive but Mary was very good about encouraging teachers to come on board with her. This is how I became her treasurer for three years and also the social chairperson! Mary was active in both the Ajax and Durham West Probus clubs and once again took on the role of president of Durham West. The meetings were scheduled to begin at 10:00 and with Mary at the podium they almost always did.

Before the pandemic, Mary and I would often go out for a bite to eat or I would pick up food and we'd eat at her place. During the pandemic when this wasn't possible, Mary regularly called me to check that I was okay. She would always ask about what I was doing and how my family was and was such a good listener. I will miss these personal and phone visits but have such lovely memories of the years I worked for Mary and spent time with her.

A Gift from Mary Hearn Submitted by Doreen Hallé

Thanks to the children of Mary Hearn, there is a 'new' piano in the Choir Room. Mary's beloved piano was donated by them and set in place on September 9th. Although the old piano used by the choir for practice had a lot of character, it was long past its prime and despite tuning was more often than not off key. This will be a great improvement for the choir, once they are able to be up and running again.

Thank you to Bill Hearn Jr. for thinking of PVUC and arranging the delivery of the piano to us.





Elizabeth Street Cemetery: A Link to Our Past by Dianne Catchpole

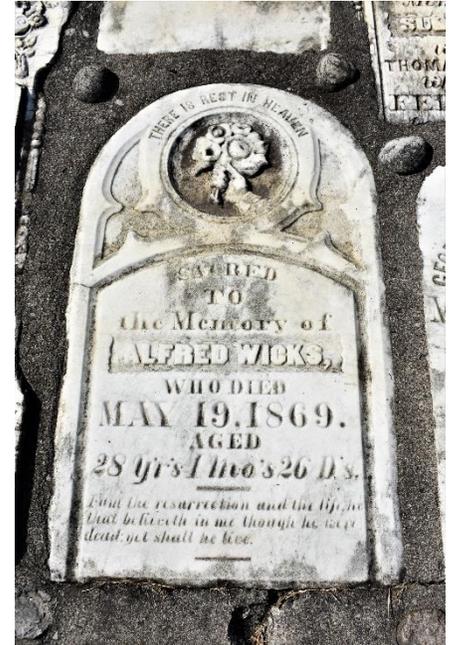
Pickering Village United Church has a strong historical connection with the earliest years of settlement in Pickering Village. Our continued supervision of the Elizabeth Street Cemetery in the Village, under the auspices of our Board of Trustees, is a link to the past which has its roots in the 1840's. The plaque which stands in this cemetery today explains its early history.

The following inscription appears on the aforementioned sign which is entitled, "Elizabeth Street Pioneer Cemetery"...

This old Wesleyan Methodist cemetery on Elizabeth Street (formerly Mill Street) is one of Ajax's oldest burial grounds. It is also the site of one of the earliest churches in Duffin's Creek (Pickering Village). The original church building, a white wooden structure built in 1843, was located at the north end of the cemetery. This church was used until 1879 when the congregation moved to a much larger brick structure on old Kingston Road. Wesleyan Methodism is a precursor of the present-day United Church of Canada.

Many of Pickering Village's prominent families and their descendants are buried in this cemetery. Reading the names on the gravestones is like reading a history book. The earliest internment in the cemetery was carried out in March 1842.

Located on the bank overlooking Duffin's Creek, this was a scenic location for a church and a peaceful resting place for those buried here.



This old Methodist cemetery was restored in 1966 and broken and fallen headstones have been placed in a cairn at the east side of the property. It's been designated a Heritage site by the Town of Ajax and is an interesting and relaxing place to explore and gain insight into the early days of Pickering Village.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Below are the numbers to the end of August. The results as they currently stand are not surprising given the trying times that we are living in. I hope that with the return to in person worship and the end of summer our financial picture will improve. There are still two COVID wage subsidy periods to apply for that relate to August and September and we will be seeing those this month. Normally these would amount to \$2000 for each period. It is not known for how long this wage subsidy will be available but we will apply for all subsidies as they become due.

Income	Jan-Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul	Aug	YTD
Gov't Wage Subsidy	13,209.03	2,690.72	15,226.42	0.00	31,126.17
CERB Federal Monies	0.00	6,174.00	0.00	0.00	6,174.00
Cell Tower Revenue	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Givings (PAR, Envelope, E-Tsf)	48,255.51	48,904.89	13,603.45	14,241.07	125,004.92
Total Income	61,464.54	67,769.61	28,829.87	14,241.07	172,305.09
Expense					
Building and Property Expenses	18,280.86	11,979.19	3,699.71	1,719.56	35,679.32
General & Admin. (incl. Worship)	8,694.71	8,514.13	3,614.27	3,175.61	23,998.72
Personnel Costs	50,333.14	50,191.20	16,906.40	16,730.40	134,161.14
Total Expense	77,308.71	70,684.52	24,220.38	21,625.57	193,839.18
Profit / (Loss)	(15,844.17)	(2,914.91)	4,609.49	(7,384.50)	(21,534.09)



Congratulations, Luncheon ladies!

Congratulations, to the PVUC ladies who raised \$1065 for our Benevolent Fund at an outdoor luncheon held on Wednesday, August 18th. Well, done!

PVUC CRAFTERS MARKETPLACE

pvuc-craftersmarketplace.ca

Looking for a unique hand-made gift? If you want something special, perhaps for a baby or shower gift, this is a good place to start. Beautiful hand knitted baby sweaters, blankets and hand crocheted toy animals are available. Also, keepsake growth charts for children are popular.

The Crafters Marketplace will be featuring seasonal crafts throughout the year starting with Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en items. Christmas will be here sooner than we think and there are quite a few ideas for stocking stuffers, such as Maple Leaf design tags for luggage, purses, backpacks, etc., bowl holders to remove hot bowls from the microwave, and microwavable hot packs. Hand-turned bowls/containers are attractive gifts – each one has a Canadian coin inserted (perfect for a Christmas present for someone living outside of Canada). So be sure to check the website often, as more Christmas crafts will be featured soon. (Shop early and don't be disappointed).



These various hand-made gifts also carry an added bonus. The United Church Women (UCW) have created this venue to support local Durham charities such as shelters for women, men and troubled youth, as well as food banks. Your purchase goes further to help our own community.

Here's How to Order...

Once you have made your selection, kindly provide the description, name and "letter" (if applicable) of each item you are purchasing.

Orders can be placed via email - at chasue@sympatico.ca or phone Susan Hill at 905-743-9050. Orders that are placed before Thursday of each week will be available for pick-up outside the main entrance of the church on Monday of the following week – between 10:30 – 12 noon – once the e-transfer has been confirmed. **PVUC members may pay by cash or cheque.** Make your cheque payable to Pickering Village United Church and put UCW on the memo line. Please see further "How to Order" instructions on the website. **Happy shopping!**

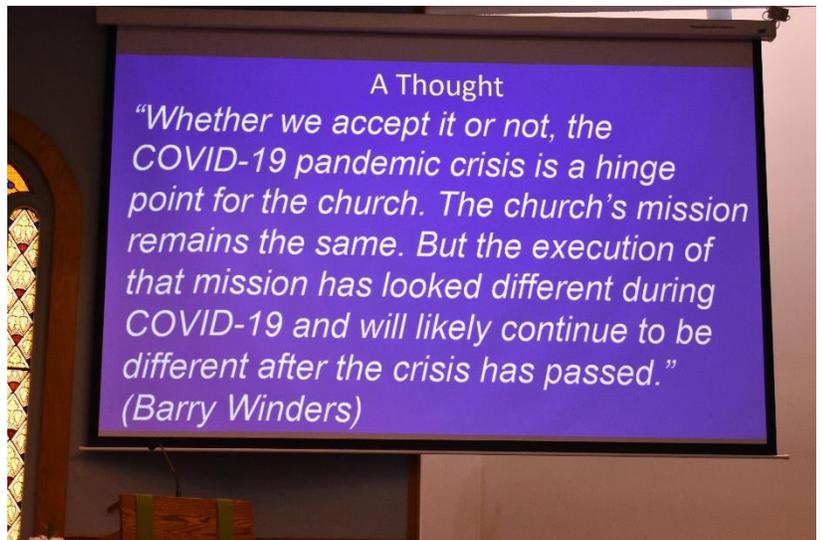
P.S. At the bottom of each page there are buttons to press. If you select Facebook, the first item on the page will appear on your Facebook page, and be seen by your circle of Facebook friends.

OUR UCW CRAFTERS



These are the ladies who made the PVUC Crafters Marketplace possible

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



TUESDAY MORNING CRAFT AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP (TMCFG): Rowena Dunlop



Following the rules set out by the ROTG, the TMCFG started meeting in person on August 24. Although the group had been previously meeting through Zoom, thanks to the technology capabilities of Chris and David MacCutchan, it had been almost 18 months since we had been able to truly enjoy each other's company. An extra thankyou goes to Chris for sending out the TMCFG email memos. So far, our "in person" meetings have averaged 10, but as time goes by, we hope that more members will feel comfortable returning.

All the usual activities have continued, whether at home or at the church. Thanks to Wendy Rothman, 16 milk bag mats have been completed and sent on with other donations to Karanda. Donators are reminded that the bags do need to be washed otherwise they may either smell or attract bugs. As well, knitted/crocheted baby covers, hats and 16 adult covers were delivered to the Ajax/Pickering Hospital. They were gratefully received by the staff of the hospital's foundation. A further \$74 went to the PVUC's General Fund through the Free Will Offering collected for masks, and another \$40.00 has been added by Florence Lee Kim thanks to her sewing skills.

The two prayer shawls for the Sunday School graduates have been completed and will be presented at the appropriate time by the Sunday School.

We will continue to meet in person in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Zoom was a great stop-gap, but nothing beats meeting in person so that we can catch up with friends, gossip, (not us!), share ideas and still get our charity work done. This is what we are all about! We look forward to seeing more of you in person as time goes by!

MISSION & SERVICE: Ruth Webster

DID YOU KNOW? Massey House in Toronto provides a fresh start for young women who find themselves pregnant and in need of help. Aria was a 3rd year law student, BIPOC, often facing racial discrimination, and with no close family ties. With secure housing and counseling, Aria was able to continue her studies. Some of your M&S donations go to Massey House to provide this kind of support. Thank you!

KARANDA – After two years of 24/7 work at Karanda Mission Hospital, Dr. Paul, Pedrinah and their family, had a month's holiday here in Canada. Some of us saw them briefly. All too soon they had to fly back to deal with the 3rd wave of COVID. In a country where 49% live in extreme poverty and only 10% are vaccinated, Karanda doubled its community outreach. 45,000 people were directly helped during the previous 6 months in these areas: palliative care, infant care, bore hole drilling, nutrition and income generation, mobile clinics, subsidized hospital treatment, child sponsorship and COVID education. At this time, we do not have the final details for shipping your many donations to Karanda. Meantime, please pray for the Thistles and everyone in Zimbabwe, plus safe shipment of supplies for the hospital.



Cardiac monitors from Rotary Clubs



Medicines from Canada



Some of 150 dresses for Karanda



The Thistles

CHANGES

Our Sympathy

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Marie Arsenault
Mary Hearn
John Jeffery
Sharon Peterkin
Don Upham



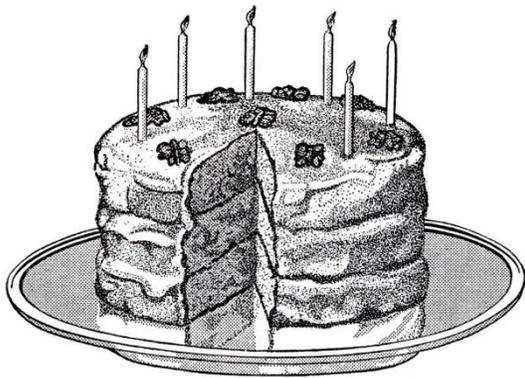
*Remember days of gladness; Remember times of joy;
Remember all the moments that grief cannot destroy.*

#494 Voices United

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Birthday News

Many of our PVUC family members celebrated milestone birthdays recently as follows:



Lillian Gauslin – turned 100 in June

Lorna Hocking –turned 90 June 19

Lois Polak – turned 90 on June 28

Zarina Khan – turned 90 on July 16

Lois Upham turned 90 on July 26

Chris Smith – turned 98 on August 11

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Baby News

David Kai and Marly Bown have recently become grandparents!! Their daughter, Tamiko, and her husband Chris Lupa welcomed baby Evelyn Sumi Lupa on May 31, 2021. Congratulations and warm wishes to all the family.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT VOICE IS
OCTOBER 15, 2021
PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES BY NOON ON THIS DATE.**

"Congratulations, Grads"



Sydney Hogan, oldest granddaughter of Rowena and Bob (deceased) Dunlop, recently graduated from the University of Toronto, receiving an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree with high distinction. She double majored in criminology and sociology with a minor in political science. She thoroughly enjoyed her time at university and made many great connections. She is looking forward to this new chapter in her life and is glad to have some time off school before applying for post graduate work.



Bryanna graduated as an Ontario Scholar with Honors from Brooklin High School. She is attending Durham College's School of Hospitality & Horticultural Science. She is studying to be a Horticulturist and hopes to one day run her own Garden and Landscaping Business.



Alexandra graduated Winchester Public School, with Honors and recognition from the Royal Canadian Legion for her 2nd place Poem literacy contribution. She is attending Brooklin High School and continuing to train as a level 6 gymnast 20 hours a week.