



Jubilation - June 2026

SOCIETY PAPERS

Dearest Gentle Reader,

This past season at Jubilee has been nothing short of a social triumph. From the glories of Eastertide to the first golden days of a long-awaited summer, our calendar has brimmed with celebrations, gatherings, music, and merriment enough to keep even the most devoted observer delightfully occupied.

Allow me, dear reader, to recount all that has set hearts soaring and spirits shining.

A Most Remarkable Spring

The season commenced splendidly with Easter Sunday. The faithful greeted the dawn at our Sunrise Service upon the labyrinth before gathering for a most agreeable Easter breakfast. Yet even these delights were surpassed by a joyful worship service overflowing with music, celebration, and the promise of resurrection hope.

Among the season's most distinguished offerings was the Spring Lecture Series, graciously presented by the Outreach Committee and expertly organized by Pamela Lock. Across three Monday afternoons, attendees were enlightened by speakers addressing matters of health, security, and history. Particular acclaim was reserved for author Arlene Chan, whose reflections on the history of Chinese Canadians captivated all in attendance. One hears whispers already of the series anticipated return in the autumn.

Not to be outdone, the garage sale of May 2nd proved a resounding success. Through the tireless efforts of many volunteers, under the capable leadership of Jeanette May and Val Winters, the event raised the remarkable sum in excess of \$22,000. Such triumph has only heightened anticipation for its sequel, the fall garage sale, scheduled for October 3rd. One suspects eager bargain hunters are already preparing their strategies.

Nor must we overlook the abundance of other notable occasions that have filled our social calendar: a magnificent choir concert, the GMS recital, Pride Sunday celebrations, the ever-popular Muffin Church, and a brilliant 5K fundraising event. Truly, there has been something to delight every member of the Jubilee community.

It must be noted that these events and so many others reflect the tireless effort and care of numerous volunteers. I recommend that you declare your gratitude to these personages whenever you have occasion.

The Gentle Pace of Summer

Alas, dear reader, the bustling days of spring now yield to summer's softer rhythms. The season after Easter gives way to sun-drenched afternoons and a pace perhaps best described as pleasantly unhurried.

Tuesdays shall be somewhat quieter, as both Rev. Norm's and Rev. Anne's Bible Studies pause for a well-earned summer recess. Yet there is no cause for alarm; they shall return in September, with participants refreshed and ready to continue their learning and conversation.

As is our custom, Tuesday Coffee will take on a slightly different character during July and August. Though the Garden Room shall remain open and welcoming, guests are invited to bring their own refreshments, while enjoying one another's company.

Several regular gatherings, including the UCW, will likewise pause for the season before resuming their customary schedules in the autumn.

Common Ground Worship will conclude its season on July 5th with a celebration featuring favourite musical selections performed by the Grove Band. What a fitting finale before its return on September 6th.

After a shining year of *Path of the Wise Woman* under the guidance of Roz Espin, participants shall enjoy a season of rest and reflection before gathering once more.

And with both gratitude and a touch of melancholy, we have bid farewell – for now – to our magnificent choir. Yet the observant among us will note that many of their number continue to grace Sunday mornings, often gathered together in cheerful company. Their absence from the chancel is keenly felt, making the prospect of their crimson-clad return all the sweeter.

One suspects that this summer respite shall only heighten the desire to resume these cherished activities in the autumn.

Summer Engagements Continue

Lest anyone imagine Jubilee entirely surrendered to leisure, I must assure you otherwise. Community and worship continue to flourish throughout the summer months.

Our commitment to online worship remains steadfast, as do our Sunday morning in-person services at 10:30. Programs for children and youth continue under the care of their beloved leaders. While confirmation classes enjoy a summer pause, the Youth Group remains very much in session.

Emancipation Sunday on August 2nd promises to be a meaningful and important occasion in our summer calendar.

The energetic members of our Twenty-Somethings Group have already arranged gatherings for June 28th, July 19th, and August 16th. One admires such enthusiasm.

Rev. Norm will continue to provide Ulterior Worship, along with services at Donway Place.

The Reverends will also lead Brown Bag and Bibles on July 12th and August 9th, ensuring opportunities for study and fellowship remain close at hand.

Meanwhile, our third annual Ukulele Camp will once again fill Jubilee with melody during the week of July 20th–24th.

And readers will undoubtedly be intrigued to learn of a special concert on July 30th. The Grove Music Band shall take centre stage, with a programme featuring the beloved music of Adele. One anticipates a most enjoyable evening indeed.

Matters of Society

And now, dear reader, for the item that has surely prompted the keenest interest.

The wedding of the season took place on February 28th, when our own Dianne Clare and her beloved Suzanne exchanged vows. By all accounts, matrimonial bliss has settled comfortably upon the happy couple.

Indeed, love appears to be flourishing throughout our community. Warm congratulations are extended to Kye Andrews and the lovely Lady Brittany on forthcoming nuptials, as well as to Isabel and her beau Kevin, whose own happy celebrations lie ahead.

One cannot help but wonder whether Cupid has taken up permanent residence among us.

Until Autumn

And so, Gentle Reader, as the summer unfolds before us, may you find moments of rest, renewal, and joy. May the sunshine upon your shoulders nourish your spirit and may the company of good friends and faithful community sustain you through the season.

Until we meet again, I remain,

Gratefully yours,

Lady Underhill



Always Something

With gratitude to "Lady Underhill", we do notice that Jubilee has been an incredibly busy place this spring. "There's always something going on here" is a phrase I've heard on any given day. Our record might have been June 13 - the day of the 5K walkathon, a music recital, square dancing, bingo and Community Table. This day is the perfect example of what is going on amidst our many events and activities.

The 5K, like the Garage Sale, raises money for our many ministries at Jubilee. They also create joyful community as we work alongside each other and welcome neighbours, friends, and family with enthusiasm.

While the music recital was not specifically a Jubilee event, it was put on by one of our choir members and is an instance of the role music plays in the life of our church, weaving beauty and joy through our worship and gatherings.

Ministries supported by our fundraising events include Jubilee Cares, who put on the line dancing and bingo event - again, creating space for connection and fun. As does Community Table as it provides nourishment within and beyond our doors.

Outreach, joy, community building, ministry, and connection all in one day.

In The Song of Faith

"We sing of a church
seeking to continue the story of Jesus
by embodying Christ's presence in the world.
We are called together by Christ
as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved,
living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God
in our time and place."

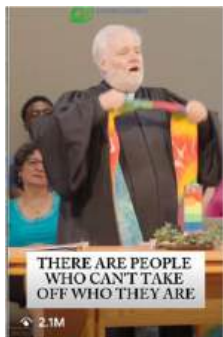
We live into this song as we gather to worship, work and celebrate together.

As summer arrives, we hope there will also be room for rest, reflection, and the quiet deepening of faith. After such a full and faithful spring, may these coming weeks offer you a time to notice where God has been present among us and in your life - in the work, the laughter, the music, the meals, the care, the long conversations peculiar to summer, the joy of gardens and the sound of people embracing life. May this summer renew your spirit and invite you into something new... something that we might be able to share at Jubilee.

There is always something going on here - something full of joy and hope, and something even more. Something that maybe only God alone can see, but something that we can all feel.

Rev. Anne and Rev. Norm

Jubilee goes Viral!!



Every now and then, something happens on social media that reminds us of why this work matters. In late June, thanks to the care and skill of our Social Media Producer, Marty Smyth, Jubilee shared a two-minute video on *Instagram* of Rev. Norm speaking about the importance of allyship with 2SLGBTQ+ and Trans communities.

In a time when loud voices of derision and exclusion are far too common, the message was simple: no one should have to stand alone, and no one should be made to believe they are less than beloved by God. Within the first five hours, the video had been viewed more than 500,000 times. Over the next ten days, it reached more than 2,000,000 views and received over 7,000 comments.

While those numbers are astonishing, the deeper blessing has been found in the responses. The vast majority of comments have been positive, grateful, and often deeply moving — people expressing what it meant to be seen, named, and affirmed by a church, especially when many have heard the opposite from religious communities. Marty and Rev. Norm have tried to respond as faithfully as possible, offering reminders that people are seen, loved, and not alone. Those exchanges have been life-giving and holy. We are grateful when our posts connect with hundreds or thousands of people, but every now and then something like this happens and helps us understand more clearly the value of social media as ministry: a way to witness to our faith, to share love publicly, and to remind people that they are included not only by us, but by God.

Legacy Giving



Jubilee has shaped lives, nurtured faith, and offered hope and community to many people over the years. One way to help ensure that this ministry continues for generations to come is through legacy giving.

In May of this year, Jubilee launched our legacy giving campaign, **Seeds of Hope**, and already people have begun responding with generosity and care. Gifts from the estates of Charlie Scott and Anne-Mari Rimmel helped support the Jubilee 5K, strengthening one of the many ministries that brings our community together in service and hope. Others have made specific plans to include Jubilee in their wills or to name Jubilee as a beneficiary of insurance policies or registered accounts.

Legacy gifts of every size can help support ministries like Community Table, the Grove Music School, and Jubilee's ongoing work of welcome, care, and compassion. The **Seeds of Hope** section on the Jubilee website outlines five ways that legacy gifts can be shared with Jubilee, and people have already begun to take those steps.

The website also includes a growing list of legacy donors in the **Seeds of Hope** area. Their generosity reminds us of the breadth and depth of support for Jubilee's ministry, and of the many people who believe in helping this community continue to flourish into the future.

If you have already included Jubilee in your plans, or are considering doing so, please let us know. We would be grateful for the opportunity to thank you, honour your intentions, and plan wisely for the future of Jubilee's ministry.

Outreach and Mission & Service

Pam Lock

Jubilee continues to support several outreach projects and programs. For instance, individuals regularly drop non-perishable food items in the bin in the Garden Room for the Community Share Food Bank. Christine Crosby is a volunteer civilian member of the 33 Division of Toronto Police Services that conducts *Cram-a-Cruiser* events at supermarkets and regularly delivers our food items. We also give financial support through our Sunday envelopes to food banks. As of March 30, 2026, Jubilee sent cheques of \$1,315.60 each to the Community Share Food Bank, the Scott Mission, and Toronto Urban Native Ministry.

Our April lecture series attracted audiences of 30-40 people from within the congregation and from the neighbouring community. Please mark your calendars now for our continuing series:

Be Informed, Be Entertained, Be Inspired - Monday afternoons: November 9, 16, and 23



Showing love and compassion for our local, national, and global neighbours through our financial support of the United Church's Mission and Service fund is another aspect of congregational outreach. This year, we sent \$11,955 to M&S in March.

If you wish to make a specific donation to Mission and Service, you can use an envelope from the table of opportunities at the back of the sanctuary (beside the offerings box) and designate M&S on the envelope. Another way to support M&S is by ordering gifts from the [*Gifts with Vision*](#) catalogue to celebrate special events and honour individuals in your lives throughout the year, not only at Christmastime. Thank you for your continuing support.

Jubilee members who have subscriptions to ***Broadview*** magazine will receive notices in the summer about renewing their subscriptions. The magazine has extended our subscription period to November, while transitioning to a new system of renewals.

If you are not yet a subscriber to ***Broadview***, you can borrow a copy from the table outside the church office and see if its content interests you. The focus on spirituality, justice and ethical living also includes a section on matters concerning our national United Church of Canada. Please speak to me if you need more information.

Brookbanks for Africa Grannies

Jeanne Kennedy

Our members are deeply affected by the death of Stephen Lewis and gratified by so many wonderful stories and praises. We will continue our work in his name.

We are worried about conditions for people in Africa affected with HIV and AIDS, so we have been planning two fundraisers of our own each year, plus some work with other Grannie Groups. We had two concerts last season, one with the Dalyma trio, and one with the Amadeus Choir in April. Each was different and both were highly enjoyed by their audiences. Some faithful supporters attended both concerts. Thank you to Jubilee for being part of our team! We are planning two concerts again next season! Thanks again from the grandmothers here and in Africa, their families and the agencies which care for them.

The Benevolent Fund



As summer arrives, many of us look forward to quieter days, warmer evenings, and time with family and friends. Yet for some in our community, summer does not bring ease. The bills are still coming. Groceries remain expensive. An unexpected cost, a missed shift, or one more rent increase can quickly become overwhelming.

Through Jubilee's Benevolent Fund, we continue to offer quiet, compassionate help to people who might otherwise fall through the cracks. This year, we have helped with groceries, utilities, transportation, children's programs, school supplies, and other urgent needs.

We are very aware that some of the Benevolent Fund's most significant and faithful supporters are no longer with us. We give thanks for their generosity and for the difference they made. At the same time, need seems to be increasing, even as our capacity may be changing. Still, Jubilee continues to make a difference, offering help, dignity, and hope to people who need to know they have not been forgotten.

If you would like to support the Benevolent Fund this summer, you can do so through the usual means (envelopes, e-transfer, Canada Helps), marking your gift "Benevolent Fund."

With deep thanks, Norm

Thank you, Marcus



With deep gratitude, we want to recognize and thank **Marcus O'Brien**, who has just completed a two-year contract with Jubilee.

Marcus came alongside us during the important and demanding work that followed the amalgamation with Forest Grove United Church. His role was to help facilitate the many physical projects connected with that transition, and those projects were

considerable. They included the repair and cleaning of the Forest Grove property as it was prepared for sale, the careful moving of necessary items to Jubilee, the creation of new office space for The Grove Music School, the addition of a new tiny house storage area, and the ongoing work of helping the existing Jubilee team keep things running smoothly.

Marcus also leaves his mark in many visible and lasting ways around our building: the felt bulletin boards, the much-admired felt hangings in the Garden Room, and the beautiful presentation and protection of the cornerstones from our founding churches, now on display at the southeast entrance of Jubilee.

Through all of this, Marcus brought skill, patience, good humour, and a deep respect for the history and future of this congregation. His work has helped us honour where we have come from, care for what we are entrusted with, and prepare our space for the ministry still unfolding among us.

We are grateful for all that Marcus has done, and we are especially glad that he will continue to be part of the Jubilee community as a member of our church.

Thank you, Marcus.



Weddings

Ryan Lithgow and Alex Greer (April 24, 2026)

In Memoriam:

Frank John VanVeen (April 27, 2026)

Anne-Mari Remmel (June 7, 2026)

Brenda Henderson (June 19, 2026)



Upcoming Events

July 11 (Saturday) Community Table Dinner

July 13 & 27 (Mondays) Ulterior Worship

July 20-24 (Monday-Friday) Ukelele Camp

July 30 (Thursday) Grove Music School Jubilee Summer Concert

August 2 (Sunday) Emancipation Sunday Service

October 3 (Saturday) Jubilee Fall Garage Sale

November 14 (Saturday) Jubilee Christmas Market

December 5 (Saturday) Jubilee Choir Christmas Concert

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

A time of celebrating ordination, anniversaries, birthdays, Muffin Church, the Jubilee 5K, and grandchildren has prepared us for summer!

