



# Spirited Summerlea

United Church of Canada

## Newsletter

May 2018



225 - 50<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lachine, QC H8T 2T7  
514-634-2651

Email: [summerlea\\_united@videotron.ca](mailto:summerlea_united@videotron.ca)  
Website: [www.summerlea.ca](http://www.summerlea.ca)

### CALENDAR

#### May

6	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship
8	Tues	7pm	Taizé Service
13	Sun	10:30am	Mother's Day
20	Sun	10:30am	Food Sunday
27	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship

#### June

3	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship
10	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship
17	Sun	10:30am	Father's Day
21	Thurs	7pm	Piano Concert
24	Sun	10:30am	Sunday Worship

*No church service from July 1 – 29th inclusive*

#### August

05	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship
12	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship
19	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship
26	Sun	10am	Sunday Worship

**A WORD FROM THE EDITORS:** *Jane Cowell  
Poitras, Susan Hawke & Lynn Closs*

#### A Fond Farewell

Susan Ippersiel, our much loved church secretary, will be retiring in June after 23 years of dedicated service. She will be dearly missed. Her cheerful disposition, ready smile and gentle, efficient manner will be hard to replace.



Susan grew up in Verdun, one of eight siblings. Shortly after marrying her husband Rick, they moved to Lachine and made their home here ever since. Susan worked several years at both Nortel and Sandoz before taking off time to raise her boys. Once they were well established at school, Susan decided to return to the workforce and Summerlea has reaped the benefits of that decision ever since.

Susan began at Summerlea in May of 1995. She worked closely with five ministers over that span of years - Deane and Doreen, Howard, Heather and Scott. Her duties changed with the advent of new technology with some being added and others disappearing. One of the new duties she especially enjoys is helping to produce publicity regarding the church and its activities. Susan also does the Meals on Wheels scheduling. It is not part of her job and is something she has taken on of her own initiative. She plans to continue with that work after her retirement.

Susan says that she so enjoys working together with Scott, Connie and George. Being part of this close knit team is something she very much values. She loves the people contact that her job affords and the constant flow of people in and

out of her office is what she will miss the most about her job. Not to forget the tea and cookie delivered to her office every morning by one of Medhi's group!

Retirement will allow Susan and Rick more spontaneity with their travels and give her more time for piano playing and gardening. Whatever her plans and where ever her journey takes her, we all hope that her path will involve many visits back to her Summerlea friends. Good luck Susan!

*Susan Hawke*

"A retirement reception will be held for Susan after the church service on June 10. Please join us in wishing her good luck at that happy occasion."

### A Word from the Minister

I remember my grandfather used to say this slightly off-colour rhyme to describe the season: "Spring has sprung, fall has fell, winter's coming and it's colder than... well, you know the rest! Or how about this one: "Spring has sprung, the grass is ris, wonder where the birdies is". Or here's one of my own: "Spring is here, fall's far away. Looks like warm weather is here to stay."

I am writing this the day after the very first really warm spring day that we've had, a welcome relief from all that snow and ice and freezing temperatures. This past winter was one of the harshest we've had in some time, and a lot of people have been waiting, or should I say pining, for the return of springtime and warmer weather. Even Easter Sunday was celebrated this year amid conditions that we normally associate with a month earlier than Easter, but finally we seem to be having more spring-like conditions.

And we know where the birds is (oops, I mean "are") because we can hear them singing and

calling in the trees, such that every walk that we take outside is serenaded by a beautiful chorus of birds hailing the arrival of spring. And it seems that the arrival of spring brings with it a lifting of our spirits as well. As we breathe in the warm, refreshing air, we seem to be casting off the mantle of the past winter, as well as our actual winter coats! In my neighbourhood, one sign of spring is that all the parents with children emerge from their houses and stand in a cluster talking, while their children ride their little bicycles up and down the block. And the best part of all is that everyone seems happier. Even if it is only fleeting, everyone's mood seems to be lightened, and we seem to put our troubles on the back burner and enjoy, if only for a little while, the blessings of springtime.

And I say "if only for a little while," because some people, even though they might like to, often cannot seem to maintain this festive spring mood for very long. So often, people find themselves giving in to this feeling of springtime joy, only to have certain realities of today's world begin to crowd out that feeling of hopefulness and new life. Some might even be tempted to say, "how can we allow ourselves to bask in this festive spring mood when the world is in the state that it's in?" It almost seems that there is a sense of guilt in allowing ourselves to feel joy in something as frivolous as warm spring weather, when so much in the world is not the way it should be.

Perhaps what I'm really trying to say is that we needn't feel guilty about taking pleasure in something as simple as warm spring weather, because, to me, this is one of the purposes of this season of new life. The coming of the springtime can be something we enjoy, which is not unlike a visit from an old friend we haven't seen for a while. But this season can also be one of inspiration for us, as well. We talk about spring as being a season of new life, which obviously has to do with the budding plants and trees that we see all around us in nature. We don't necessarily celebrate Easter in April

because that is the time when Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead. We celebrate Easter in the spring because this is the time when the whole world is bearing witness to the power of resurrection and new life. Each spring, we are reminded of all those many ways that new life can come to us and to this world. This is a season of great possibility, and it can also be a season of hope and a means of finding the courage and the strength we need to continue to do whatever we need to do to bring new life to this world.

Seeing the news coverage of the recent sentencing hearings in the case of the Quebec City mosque shootings, I was suddenly transported back to the last Sunday in January of 2017, and I was struck by how much I was reliving the horror and the hatred of that event. During the testimony, there emerged an even more chilling portrait of the shooter who was intent on killing as many Muslims as he could. Then I began to realize that, if I was as affected as I was in revisiting the events of that terrible day, the family members and loved ones of the victims are affected many times more, and my heart went out to them. But through all of that, there continued to emerge a small voice calling, not for revenge, but for understanding, and for all of us to do what we can to help create a society and a world where violence and hatred are overcome, and all can live together in peace. It is this sense of hope that this season of spring reminds us of. Even in the most terrible of situations, there is always hope and always possibilities for something new and life-giving to emerge. My hope is that the coming of this spring season will inspire us all to do what we can to respond to the possibilities that are before us. We had to wait all through that long winter for spring to come, and now it has. We know there is nothing we can do to make spring come any faster. But we can all work together to bring new life to this world, and as I celebrate the coming of spring, I am also filled with hope that, together, we can truly make a difference in the life of this world.

*Rev. Scott A. Patton.*

### Summerlea Refugee Update

By the time you read this we will have had our welcoming pot luck luncheon to meet and greet our refugee family Bilal and Farah and their 4 children Dalal 12, and her 3 brothers Abdullah 11, Baraa 5 and Huzaifa 3. Michele Fitzgerald of the Montreal Quilt Guild will have presented a beautiful quilt to Bilal and Farah.

Members and friends of Summerlea United, Merging Water United and Lakeshore Universal Unitarian Church worked for over 2 years with our co-sponsor, Salman, to bring his brother Bilal and family to Canada as sponsored Syrian refugees. They arrived in Montreal on February 12<sup>th</sup> and were greeted with hugs, laughter and tears by brothers Salman and Saad and representatives of the 3 sponsoring congregations.

The family is well settled into their new community in Ville St Laurent. We are fortunate to have Salman as a co-sponsor. Salman has been in Canada for 5 year, works with an immigration lawyer and is taking courses to become an immigration consultant. He certainly knows the system. He found and apartment for Bilal in the same building, so the two families are close together and Salman and his wife are providing valuable support. There is another brother, Saad, who lives with his family in the next building. They are extremely hospitable and several members of our committee have enjoyed delicious food and had fun watching the 10 cousins play exuberantly together. Bilal's children are now enrolled in classes d'accueil in the same school as Salman's children and they ride together on the school bus. Salman's children are well on their way learning French and will be able to help their cousins. Bilal is an experienced car mechanic and is enrolled in English classes so that he will be able to start working. They have experienced shopping at COSTCO. One of our committee



went with them. They were given a \$500.00 gift certificate for Pharmaprix.

I am sure they will enjoy the warmer weather and as Bilal said, translated by Salman, "I am feeling very good I feel I am in my home"

### Chuckle Corner

If you are a Senior you will understand this one. If you deal with Seniors, this should help you understand them a little better, And if you are not a Senior yet..... God willing, someday you will be.

#### *The 2.99 Special*

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the 'Seniors Special' was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$2.99.

'Sounds good,' my wife said, 'But I don't want the eggs.'

'Then, I'll have to charge you \$3.49 because you're ordering a la carte,' the waitress warned her.

'You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?' my wife asked incredulously.

'Yes!' stated the waitress.

'I'll take the special then,' my wife said. '

How do you want your eggs?' the waitress asked.

'Raw and in the shell,' my wife replied. She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

**DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS!** We've been around the block more than once!

*Always laugh when you can - it's cheaper than medicine !*

**Annual Perennial Plant Sale - Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am – Noon** in aid of the Dominique literacy project. If you have any perennials beginning to emerge in your garden, please consider splitting and potting them for our fundraiser this Spring. Please label your donations (popsicle sticks work well) and place

with soil in clean pots, water well and store in shade until June 1<sup>st</sup>. Bring your plants to the church on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Then, come and shop on Saturday! Used pots are also appreciated, and can be left at the church.

### Update On The Food Bank At

#### Resurrection Of Our Lord

As you know every third Sunday of the month we at Summerlea collect food and money for the food bank at Resurrection of Our Lord Church. Our donations are really appreciated. I recently spoke with the coordinator of the food bank and asked him for an update on how they are managing.

Due to the recent influx of refugees and asylum seeker they have registered 31 new clients. They now have 35 families with 157 children between them. This is the largest number of children that the food bank has ever had. He suggested the following favored items, peanut butter, canned tuna and baked beans although of course other items are necessary too. The money donated is used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, orange juice and hamburger meat. The food bank is also able to use the Loblaw's \$25.00 gift cards.

Our continued support of the food bank really does help meet a growing need in our community.

### Meals on Wheels, Western Lachine is a



volunteer organization that provides hot meals to our seniors in the community. We are always looking for volunteers to help cook, deliver or clean up after meal preparation. Volunteers work as a team of 2 or 3 people for as little as 2 hours a month (one shift), or twice a month if you prefer. If this interests you, please call Susan Ippersiel at 514- 634-4827, and I can provide you with more details. Something to think about for a new Fall activity??



## Music Notes

We are coming to the end of another musical year with the choir. Our Common Vision Concert in late February was a great success and we raised over \$750 dollars for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank which was quintupled to over \$3750 by the Canadian government! We can be proud of this achievement.

I also noted that many who came to the concert enjoyed their participation in the hymn-singing. This has given me ideas! Many thanks to my choir members and to all who came out for this cause.

By the time you read this, Octet Plus will have given their spring fund-raising concert. Thanks to all who came out to support us in raising money for our refugee family, who still have many needs. A big thank you to the members of Octet Plus for giving their time to help us.

**Piano Concert Please note:** One last concert will take place on **Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm.**

Elias-Axel Pettersson, who has given concerts here at Summerlea several times over the last few years, will be returning to play duets (four-hands, one piano) with his fiancée, Jessica. He will also perform some solos. The late date is due to Jessica coming here from Arizona for two weeks to help Elias move down to the States. He will return occasionally to Montreal for visits and concerts, but this may be the last time to hear him play for a while, and it is always a pleasure. He is such a fine pianist and I love his introductions to the music! It is certain to be a great concert and I hope many of you can come to enjoy it. Check the bulletin for more details.

Finally, I would like to thank my faithful choir members for all their hard work during the year. I am blessed to have such great singers who are so enthusiastic about choir, and support me in my various projects.

I hope you all have a great, restful summer!

*Connie Osborne,  
Music Director*

## RECIPE CORNER

*From Marion Golden*



### Fruit Cocktail Cake

- 1 yellow cake mix (I used French Vanilla)
- 1 can (16 ounces) Fruit cocktail, undrained
- 1 cup coconut plus
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

### Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Combine cake mix, fruit cocktail with juice, 1 cup of coconut and eggs in a large mixing bowl. Blend and then mix on medium speed for 2 minutes.

Pour batter into a 9X13 inch greased pan.

Sprinkle batter evenly with the remaining 1/2 cup of coconut and then the 1/2 cup of brown sugar.

Bake at 325 for 45 minutes.

Serve warm or room temperature...Stays moist for several days...

### Lois Pavlasek's "Particle Board"

Lois baked these easy, yummy oatmeal squares often when she wanted to make a quick treat. Son Donald, when learning about carpentry, kindly noted that they looked like particle board. True, they do, but they taste way better. Lois would have been pleased to share the recipe with anyone who's not deterred by the name.

1 cup butter (well-softened, not melted) could also use vegan margarine

½ cup brown sugar  
 ¼ cup white sugar  
 1 ½ cups rolled oats  
 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour  
 ½ tsp. vanilla

Mix the butter and sugars together well. Blend in rolled oats, then flour, then vanilla. It's okay to use clean hands to get it all well mixed. Press firmly into a 9 x 13" pan (no need to grease pan). Bake at 325 F about 20-25 minutes until starting to brown. Cut into squares while hot. Remove from pan when cool.

### A Note from the Secretary

I will soon be retiring and would like to take this opportunity to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my 23 years at Summerlea as Church Secretary, and so grateful for the friendships made along the way. Although I will miss the hustle and bustle of the workplace as well as my work "besties", Scott, Connie, and George, I do look forward to joining Rick as a retiree enjoying an active life together and spending good times with family and friends. Life is good! *As they say in Costa Rica, "Pura Vida!"*  
 Susan

### Gratitude Lowers Stress

When you are feeling stressed and your life is in chaos, take a moment to write a list of twenty things for which you are grateful. Since your brain can't focus on two different thoughts at the same time, focusing on what's going right in your life will keep the stressful, negative thoughts out of your mind. It will also put your life into perspective because you will be seeing the broader picture.

Keep your gratitude list where you can see it throughout the day. Whenever you are feeling stressed, add ten more times.

### News and Notes

Congratulations to Kirsti & Georges upon the arrival of their second child, **Nicolas** on March 21st.

Congratulations to proud grandparents Sinclair & Dik Harris, and to big sister Julie.

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Margaret Johnston who passed away peacefully on March 24. Margaret was a member of the former St. Andrew's Presbyterian and leaves behind many friends. Condolences are given to the family of Jack Miller who died in March.

Please continue to keep in your thoughts and prayers those in hospital, or recuperating after a hospital stay. We wish you all speedy recovery. Let's remember our shut-ins as well.

If you would like more information on Summerlea's monthly activities, or if you would like to view Sunday's service along with current events at the church, please visit us at [www.summerlea.ca](http://www.summerlea.ca). Many thanks to John Osborne for regularly keeping our website updated. *If you are receiving this Newsletter via regular mail, and would prefer to receive it via email, please contact the church office at [summerlea\\_united@videotron.ca](mailto:summerlea_united@videotron.ca).*

*The sunshine of a summer day  
 A blue and silver sea,  
 The wonder of a garden plot,  
 And all of these are free.*

*Susan Ippersiel*

