

SUMMERLEA UNITED CHURCH

FALL NEWSLETTER

September 2022



A WORD FROM ONE OF OUR EDITORS:

As of September 19th, Rev. Christine has celebrated the completion of her first year of ministry amongst us. I grew up in a railroad family that moved almost every 3 years. I know first-hand the upheaval caused by picking up stakes and moving to a new location. I cannot help but think what a challenge Christine must have faced coming to Summerlea in the midst of Covid with all its restrictions. It is hard enough trying to meet new people and put names to faces - let alone when everyone is wearing a mask! Christine rose admirably to task and along with her trusty companion "Bella" has welcomed us all back to regular activities at Summerlea including Sunday worship in the sanctuary. We are even passing the collection plate again and standing to sing hymns!

We are still in the midst of the pandemic, yet we are managing to live our lives and gather together. The love and support we give each other every day as a congregation will be what sustains and nourishes us, as we move forward in these uncertain times.

Susan Hawke

October

- | | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 01 | 3:30pm | Wedding of Sarah Abdullah & Peter Maklan |
| 02 | 10:30am | World communion Sunday |
| 09 | 10:30am | Thanksgiving Sunday |
| 16 | 10:30am | World Food Sunday |
| 23 | 10:30am | Peace Sunday |
| 30 | 10:30am | Reformation Sunday |

November

- | | | |
|----|---------|----------------------------------|
| 06 | 10:30am | Remembrance Sunday |
| 11 | 1-4pm | Summerlea Book Sale |
| 12 | 9am-2pm | Summerlea Bazaar |
| 13 | 10:30am | 23 rd After Pentecost |
| 20 | 10:30am | Reign of Christ Sunday |
| 27 | 10:30am | 1 st of Advent |

For we are God's Masterpiece.

Ephesians 2:10

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER



It has been a year this September since I landed in Lachine, into this extraordinary Summerlea congregation. Even though it was during Covid-19, I think that there was a lot accomplished through the work of our Outreach Committee, our Executive Board, our Worship Committee and other special groups, which were responsible for organizing activities. I was so impressed with the Bazaar! I love the activities of this congregation and it answers my wishes for a church that is involved in the community not only on Sundays. It is a year-round church.

We will be reaching out to families with children who were baptized here since I arrived and reach out to those families who are so busy but who can benefit from a short spiritual reflection occasionally.

I truly enjoy visiting with families and I feel that my vocation is worthwhile when I can be with the sick and the lonely. Our congregation is involved in many things and this gives me access to more people. I am truly blessed with Summerlea.

The question is: are you? Do you feel blessed with your church and congregation as well? How does our congregation serve you? Do you find what you need here spiritually and socially? Is there anything that we do not offer and that you would need? There are many resources around us in Lachine and the West Island, and our church team would be happy to help you find the resource or services you need in order to feel complete, safe, healthy and happy. This is what we are here for: to take care of one another.

I am looking forward to a beautiful fall season this year and it will evolve around a new liturgical year through which we will learn about Christ, pray together and worship our God who brings us so many blessings. Remembering each of us is a blessing to someone else.

Je m'en voudrais de ne pas saluer nos paroissiens francophones et vous dire que je suis disponible et que je me déplace pour venir vous rencontrer si vous le souhaitez. Notre collaboratrice Colleen est exceptionnelle et nous formons une équipe, avec George et notre musicienne, qui sait écouter et répondre aux besoins de notre communauté. N'hésitez pas à participer à nos activités et à rester connectés à Summerlea!

May God bless you all. Happy Fall Season!

Rev. Christine

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

“I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.” (*Psalms 13:6 ESV*)

WELCOME LUCIA!



With the retirement of Connie Osborne, Lucia Williams has assumed duties as Organist and Choir Director at Summerlea. She may look familiar to some of you as she filled in for Connie when she had her hip replacement.

Lucia grew up in Beloeil and in her early teens, her family moved up North. In 1982, she began her career as an organist by default - the current organist at the Mid Laurentian United Church in Rawdon retired and no replacement was in sight except her. Lucia's salary at that time was \$22.50 and she thought she was rich. She was 12 years old.

Moving to Montreal to attend CEGEP at 17, Lucia worked both at St. Edward the Confessor Parish on Saturday and at Union United Church in Little Burgundy on Sunday. Later she played until its closure at St. Andrews Presbyterian church. In 2006, she moved on to Roxboro United.

During the week, Lucia is a full time inclusive education music and resource teacher at John Grant high school in Cote St. Luc. Lucia is also working full time on her Doctorate at McGill University in Literacy Research Design in Education.

She lives in Roxboro with her husband Jack and twin daughters, Eva-Grace and Georgia.

Lucia comes to us with impressive qualifications and decades of experience with church music. We are so lucky to have her join us at Summerlea and look forward to making music together. Welcome Lucia!

UPDATE FROM SCOTT

By Susan Hawke

Wondering how Scott was faring as he approached the end of his first year of "retirement", I decided to call and catch up on the news. Happily, he, Ron and Ben are all in good health and enjoying life in their new home. When I phoned, they had just returned from spending their 24th year at their summer cottage rental on Lake Massawippi.

Scott continues to work half time, doing pastoral care in the area. He reports they had added a newcomer to the family, a rambunctious black lab called Skylar, who turned 1 in June. Ben seems to have adjusted well to his new "brother".

I could not resist asking Scott about his retirement gift certificate to Hovey Manoir. Never having been there, I was dying to hear all about his dining experience. Scott laughed and said that Hovey had been closed for a long time due to Covid and had opened the dining room only to hotel guests for much of this year. However, Scott has plans to finally use the certificate for his and Ron's anniversary in October. (He will also take his brother as a thank you for building their new house.) Bon appétit Scott!

Bazaar News

by Jane Cowell
Bazaar Coordinator



As you know, the Summerlea Bazaar has quite a reputation in Lachine and beyond and makes a significant financial contribution towards the church's expenses. It is also a fun event that brings the community together.

Recently, a meeting of bazaar conveners was held to brainstorm ideas and make decisions. As November 11th, is Remembrance Day, and we do not wish to conflict with any commemorations, we will therefore hold our **Book Sale on Friday November 11th from 1-4 p.m. The Book Sale will continue during the Bazaar, which will be held November 12th, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

All your Bazaar favourites will be back – Bake Table, Candy, Country Store, Crafts, Decorations and Knitting, Gift Baskets, Jewelry, Tempting Treasures et al. We are also going to be offering the popular Muir's meat pies, St-Viateur Bagels, Hot Dogs & Snacks and our Famous Tourtières.

How can you help?

We always need books for the sale! They can be dropped off at the church during office hours.

With abundant fresh produce in our markets, this is a great time to make relishes, jams, pickled beets, etc. for the Country Store. You can bake for the Bake Table or make fudge for the Candy Table and freeze for later.

We all have pieces of jewelry that we don't wear – why not donate a few pieces to the Jewelry Table? Knitting, Tempting Treasures, Crafts and Gift Baskets are all popular. Look around your home and see what you may have to donate.

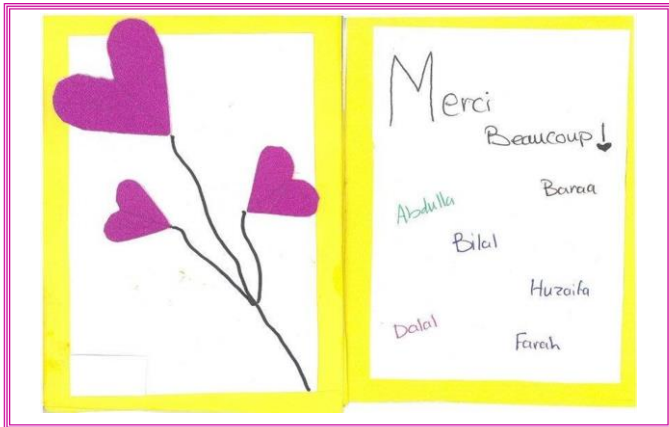
Thank you for all your help! Working together, we can make this event a big success!

Note from
Lynn Closs
Bazaar Coordinator

Not sure what to do with all your tomatoes from your garden? Check out a great tomato soup recipe, (on last page in our recipe section) that you can prepare ahead of time and freeze. If you find it makes too much soup, consider donating some to the Bazaar country store.

GREAT NEWS

By Nancy Mark



On September 15th, we received the exciting news that our sponsored refugee family Bilal and Farah and their 4 children have officially obtained Canadian citizenship.

What follows is a short trip down memory lane.

In 2015, the horrifying photograph of the dead 3-year-old boy washed up on shore shook the world into considering the plight of Syrians trying to flee the war. In September 2015 (7 years ago), the Summerlea Board mandated the Outreach Committee to research the possibility of sponsoring a Syrian refugee family.

By January 2016 the Summerlea Refugee Sponsorship Coalition (SRSC) comprised of the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Merging Waters and Summerlea, because of its significant assets, as the lead signatory was formed. Sheila Laursen from the LUUC agreed to be the chairperson. The Federal Government had developed a sponsorship programme. Action Refuge Montreal (ARM) was mandated to be the sponsoring agency. The Summerlea Board agreed to provide \$10,000.00 from the trustee funds to help raise the \$34,000.00 required to provide for a family of 6 for one year.

ARM paired us with Salman Kernazi to cosponsor his brother and sister-in law and four young children. SRSC continued fund raising with concerts, plays and bake sales. \$41,586.00 was eventually collected. The Summerlea treasurer managed the account. Just before the family arrived, furniture was collected and delivered to their new 3-bedroom apartment in the same building as Salman.

February 12, 2018 THE BIG DAY arrived. Members of SRSC, Salman and a younger brother were at the airport to greet Bilal and his wife Farah and their daughter Dalal(11) and sons Abdulla(10) Baraa(5) and Huzaifa(3). It was the beginning of an enduring friendship between the Kernazi families and the SRSC.

THE PRESENT DAY

On Saturday September 24th the members of the SRSC were treated to a delicious picnic prepared by Farah to celebrate their Canadian citizenship and what a feast she prepared. Their children now 15,14,9 and 7 gave us lovely handmade thank you cards. They are trilingual, French in school; English from interactions and of course their native Arabic.

Salman, Basma (his wife) Bilal and Farah said they truly consider us family and are forever grateful that they have us. The feeling is mutual.

The Green Corner

By Susan Hawke

There has been much in the news of late about climate change and its devastating effects on humans, wildlife and the environment. Our planet is teetering on the edge of disaster and it is a wake-up call for all of us to try to do more.

I am an ardent recycler - laboriously soaking labels off bottles and cutting price stickers off the plastic that wrap my veggies etc. Daily I tote items off to our recycling bin. Much to the chagrin of my family, I have even been known to pick items off the street and cart them home to recycle! Consequently, I was alarmed to learn that less than 8% collected plastic in Canada is actually recycled. The sad reality is that most is sent to land fill. All my hard work for naught!

I realize that despite my best intentions recycling is not the answer. I have moved my efforts this year towards reducing as much of my plastic "consumption" as possible. For example, I no longer buy liquid hand soap. I was also delighted to recently discover that some companies, such as Garnier, are producing shampoo in bars instead of plastic bottles. Whenever I shop now, I look for items not sold in plastic containers.

This column could be a forum for others of you who might like to share your thoughts or reduction ideas. We could even meet once a month over coffee and discuss issues in person. Ball is in your court readers. Let's hear from you!

Out and About in Montreal

By Susan Hawke

This column is meant to encourage our readers to explore parts of our own interesting city. One need not spend big bucks or board a plane to have fun. Past submissions covered the Canadian Railway Museum in St. Constant and the Parc des Rapides in LaSalle. Feel free to submit ideas for future consideration.

For those of you eager to take a cruise but stymied by Covid restrictions - or lack of money - consider taking the river shuttle from Lachine to Ile Ste-Bernard in Chateauguay. Costs about \$24 for a round trip. You can even take your bike! The voyage takes about an hour each way and docks just in front of the "Refuge Faunique Marguerite d'Youville". Nice little restaurant for lunch or coffee is at the refuge entrance. Lovely clean washrooms. \$6 entrance fee to enter the refuge. Well maintained trails with benches and good signage. Shaded areas and marshland with boardwalk. Many opportunities to birdwatch. If you purchase birdseed, the little birds are so tame that they will fly down and eat from your hand. On our recent trip, we even saw a wild turkey. Though admittedly, it could have been a buzzard... our avian knowledge is somewhat limited. LOL!

The river shuttle operates only on Saturday and Sunday and holidays. For more information: www.navark.ca

Summerlea Recipes

Summerlea has a well-deserved reputation as being home to some great bakers and cooks. Our newsletter continues to be the key to some of our famous recipes. Do not be shy to submit your family's favourite!

Brownies

Submitted by Lorna LaViolette

1 c. butter or margarine
2 c. sugar
2 tsps. vanilla
4 eggs
1 c. all purpose flour*
1/2 c. cocoa
1/2 tsp. salt
12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips



Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease 9x13 pan or use parchment paper. Melt butter. Blend butter, sugar, vanilla and eggs well. Stir in flour, cocoa, salt, and mix. Add chocolate chips. Bake for approx. 30 min. Enjoy!

* Also works well with gluten-free flour

Tyler Florence Roasted Tomato Soup (submitted by Lynn Closs)

Prep 20 min., cook 50 min., 4-6 Servings

Ingredients: 2-1/2 lbs fresh tomatoes
6 gloves of garlic, peeled
2 small yellow onions, slices
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
Salt & pepper to taste
1 quart chicken stock
2 bay leaves
4 tbsp butter
1/2 cup chopped fresh basil leaves, optional
3/4 cup heavy cream, optional



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees
2. Wash, core and cut the tomatoes into halves. Spread the tomatoes, garlic cloves and onions onto a baking tray. If using vine cherry tomatoes for garnish, add them as well, leaving them whole and on the vine. Drizzle with 1/2 cup of olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast for 20 to 30 minutes, or until caramelized. **This is the point when you can freeze to continue at a later date.**
3. Remove roasted tomatoes, garlic and onion from the oven and transfer to a large stockpot (set aside the roasted vine tomatoes for later). Add 3/4 of the chicken stock, bay leaves, and butter. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until liquid has reduced by a third.
4. Wash and dry basil leaves, if using, and add to the pot. Remove the bay leaves before using an immersion blender to puree the soup until smooth. Return soup to low heat, add cream and adjust consistency with remaining chicken stock, if necessary. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Garnish in bowl with 3 or 4 roasted vine cherry tomatoes and a splash of heavy cream.