



Rowntree Acorn - Easter 2024



From the Minister's desk

So, they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark 16:8

Mark's gospel begins with these words: "The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Now just 16 short chapters later, the original ending comes to an abrupt halt with fearful and silenced women. Of course, that wouldn't do, so an alternate ending seeks to fill in the gaps and make the scene more palatable. But maybe fear is the order of the day—raw, uncensored, and real.

Wouldn't you be fearful when everything you knew and understood about your world had been ripped apart and put back together in an amazing way?



Figure 1" Untitled Artwork 19 by Girish Advannheg

So now what? However, in the world would one begin again?

Truth be told, more than 2,000 years later there's still a lot of fear in the air. The story is really no less terrifying and amazing despite our many attempts to sanitize and manage it. We don't have pat answers, only fragile hope and wavering faith, and an utter dependence on that empty tomb.

The empty tomb provides a blank slate on which to record the next chapter of the Good News for this generation, for our time and context. Like those first disciples and witnesses, we are imperfect, bumbling, and prone to failure and disillusionment.

Despite that fact, nothing can stop the gospel. We know from (Acts 10:34-43) that Peter and the others reclaimed their voices and stepped into the light of day to tell the story of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, so that all who believe in him receive forgiveness of sins. Truly this is Good News that never ends, a story that begins again and again in the telling, the living, and the offerings of our worship and praise.

It is a story made known in bread in wine, in water and word, in the silent spaces and sin-darkened places. Not even our human fear and silence can stop it from breaking loose and pouring forth in love, grace, and mercy. The empty tomb is no empty promise. So even if we find ourselves struck dumb by fear, captivated and amazed by that which seems so unreal, and fleeing the scene, know that a new beginning surely dawns. The good news of Jesus Christ is for all people in every time and place. Take heart. Hang in there. You will find your voice to share this never-ending story of mercy, hope, and grace. Alleluia! Happy Season of Easter!

Blessings, Rev. Wendy

Doggy tales from Ilka:



Hi all you friends at the church! I have been living with Rev. Wendy (henceforth know as Mommy) for 7 ½ months now. I am getting more familiar with the neighbourhood and all the people, dogs and cats. I have made friends with several dogs and some of our neighbours. The neighbour behind us is very nice and I like visiting with him. Rick built a fence across the

back of my yard before I moved to London. But since I am now more adventurous than when I first moved here, it took me until after Christmas to really venture too far into the yard. I have had squirrels and rabbits that have “encouraged” me to see that there are gaps under the fence that I can squeeze through.



So... I did!

And I ended up in our neighbour Rick's yard. He came out to play with me before taking me home. My Mommy went out to block off my escape routes and I went to help her by showing her that she missed one of the spots.

So ... I did it again!

Mommy called me back and I showed her how I could go both ways. She blocked off that route.

You would think that this would be the end of my adventures but it was not. A few weeks later I found another gap.

So ... I did it again!

After taking the opportunity to show Mommy how I could get under the fence once more, our neighbour Rick brought me back home again. Mommy has been putting boards along the bottom of the fence. She is spoiling all my fun! But she says that I need to stay in my own yard. I'm not sure if that might be the end of my escaping adventures but you never know!

Hope you are all looking forward to the Season of Easter and Spring. I know I am!



Doggy kisses,
Ilka

Knit Happens (“Knot” what you expected!)

Knit happens continues on Tuesday evenings over Zoom. We are always open for new people to join in the fun of knitting or crocheting while meeting on Zoom. If you don't knit – that's okay too. Just come for the conversation and community building.

Over the last few months, the group has been on a mission to knit / crochet up little hats for the NICU, PCCU and the Family Birthing Centre. To date there have been about 75 hats delivered to LHSC – Victoria Campus. Our online crafters have been very busy with the “hat” project and have been blessed to have a few



others join in knitting hats. Less you think that is all that is crafted – there have also been socks, mittens, scarves and baby blankets that have also been completed. They are busy bees!



There is a box of yarn in the sanctuary (the one with the sheep on the side). These items are free for people to pick up and use as well as a place to donate crafting supplies that you are not going to use. Please make use of this opportunity to find some items that you can use as well as provide others with supplies they can use.

Keep on knitting, crocheting and crafting as it is an artform that seeks to inspire others to find their own inspiration and satisfaction of making wearable or useable art!

I'm knitting as fast as I can!

(Submitted by Rev. Wendy on behalf of Knit Happens)

More Items from Knit Happens

Sheila Kominek estimates it took her about 15 hours to create the crocheted item on the left and it took her mother Lois likely about 15-20 hours to make the pink and yellow knitted item on the right. Rev. Wendy knitted the items on the right- I'd take a wild guess and say they were a Thanksgiving theme!



Worship- Past and Upcoming

March 24th Palm Sunday

March 29th Good Friday Service – at Dundas Street Centre 10:30 am

March 31st Easter Sunday Service – 9:30 am

April 7th Second Sunday of Easter (Rev. Wendy on study leave*)

April 14th Third Sunday of Easter

April 21st Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 28th Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 5th Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 12th Christian Family Sunday – Mothers' Day,

May 19th Pentecost Sunday – Sacrament of Holy Communion

May 26th ARW Regional Meeting – worship leader - Mark Richardson

June 8th UCC Anniversary

June 16th Father's Day

June 16th or 23rd Indigenous Service



Figure 2 Serving Communion on Advent 1



Figure 4 Anniversary Sunday with Ryan & Choir



Figure 3 Our Secretary Laura knit these beautiful hearts

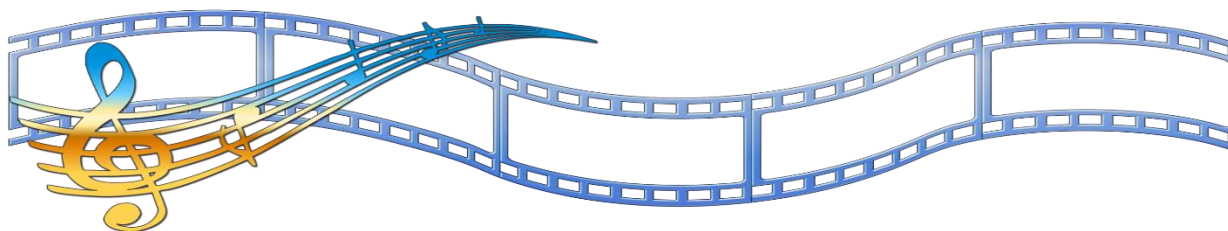
(c) Many thanks to Ryan Baxter and the Rowntree Choir as well as Committee members Margaret Thompson and Maryjane Joliffe. Additionally, a shout out to the Zoom, PPT and sound team of Brad McMurray, Brian Kominek and Laura Wilkes.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Wendy Noble (on behalf of the Rowntree Spirituality Committee)*

Rowntree's 2024 Fundraising Season Begins on a Musical Note

The 2024 fundraising season at Rowntree is beginning as the 2023 season ended ... with the music of the Forest City Singers.

On Friday, December 1st, the Forest City Singers presented "The Magic of Christmas". In this, the first evening concert at Rowntree in several years, the choir performed some beautiful and lively Christmas songs for an enthusiastic audience of over 90 music lovers. The proceeds from this event along with the Spring Concert, Fall Fling, and Poinsettia Bazaar pushed us well over our annual fundraising goal of \$5,000.



On Friday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m., the FCS present "Songs from Stage & Screen" - see poster on back page. We will be enjoying such tunes as "As Time Goes By" from the movie *Casablanca* when Ingrid Bergman pleads "Play it again, Sam", "Blue Skies" by Bing Crosby, "It Had to Be You" from the movies *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *When Harry Met Sally*, "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*, the 60's classic "Put a Little Love in Your Heart", "You've Got a Friend in Me" from *Toy Story* and crowd favourite Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah". Tickets are \$20 for adults with children 12 and under Free and are available through the church office. I will also have tickets available after church on Sundays or you can call me.



Moving ahead to the month of June, we are planning to bring back the ham and strawberry dinner. Please stay tuned for details as the date (tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 15th) and menu (aside from ham and strawberries of course) are still in the planning stages.

And of course, we'll be looking forward to this year's jam sessions. **P.S. There are still a few jars of red pepper jelly remaining from the 2023 batch.** -

Looking forward to seeing you at these 2 amazing events ... and don't forget to tell your friends and neighbours!

- *Submitted by Maryjane Jolliffe, Fundraising Co-Chair*

ELUCO (East London United Church) News

ELUCO Food Cupboard

We are located at 1461 Huron St. at Sanford, site of the former Gethsemane UC.

We are open Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 am until noon.

Our clients need to reside in the area from Clark Rd to Adelaide St. and from Fanshawe Park Rd to Dundas St.

They must bring proof of address and can come once a month.

Our numbers for January and February have increased by 18% for the same time frame last year. We are getting more people with refugee status.

As prices continue to rise, people are having a harder time trying to feed their family. They are grateful for our help.

ELUCO greatly appreciates all donations from the Rowntree family.

Welcome Wednesday

The clients are thankful for the nutritious meals provided.

We have more young men coming, some may be Fanshawe students.

There is always a small group who stay to help put the tables and chairs away.

Many thanks to the volunteers, this could not happen without you.

ELUCO Fund Raiser

The 9th annual Voices of Broadway Concert will be held at Siloam on Saturday April 6th at 2 pm. They are a group of very energetic singers and put on a wonderful

performance. Tickets are \$25.
Freida Owen and Judy White both have tickets to sell.
Hope you can join us as we celebrate 40 years of ELUCO.

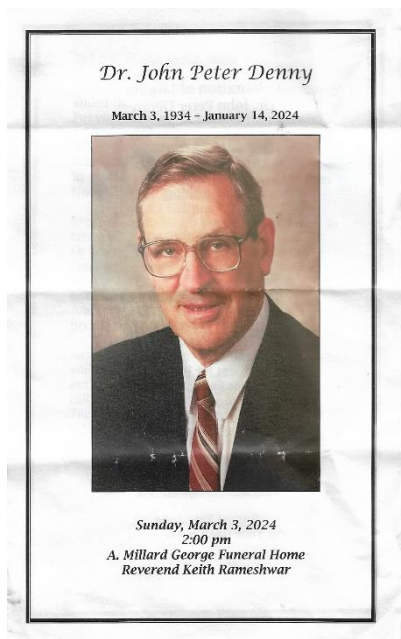
Nancy Howard, our community worker , continues to be busy in the Marconi Community. She runs many programs as well as giving support to many families who are having difficult times. She goes with people for medical appointments, housing appointments and helps where ever needed. There are several families with major health concerns and she finds time to comfort them as well. She also distributes food from the coalition truck and bread that she gets donated from Abundant Life.
She is one busy lady!

Submitted by Judy White

We celebrate having known.... Peter Denny and Keith Lindsay

Peter was the husband of Marion Johnson and both were long time members of Rowntree. Peter played in our jazz band (far side in picture) and would have been 90 yrs this March. He was a retired prof at Western and had many interests; music and camping to name a few.

More info on Peter at <https://amgfh.com/obituaries/john-peter-denny/>



LENT: Spring Training for Christians EASTER: OPENING DAY

Without Good Friday, Easter would be impossible.

Keith Lindsay was the husband of Lois and father of members Pam (Peter Font) and Sheila (Brian Kominek) and also Kevin and Scott. Keith was our greeter for many years. He also was known for being active with Huff N Puff and many other sports well into his 80's. More info on Keith at <https://logan-evans.ca/tribute/details/3775/Keith-Lindsay/obituary.html>



So what's it like to volunteer at Rowntree?

I'm **Martha Jones** (pictured on left with **Barb**, also a volunteer) and I started volunteering (first time) at Rowntree in May 2023 for the Tuesday evening hospitality meal, the Welcome Wednesday lunch and various jam making fund raisers. I'm at the church 3 to 4 hours a week.

Initially when my friend Lynn Patterson asked me, my reason for volunteering was to be of service in a meaningful way in retirement. I would sleep better at night knowing that I was saving the world (for free) because that's what retirees do. This was going to be great. I was going to be a hero and volunteer. I was going to do something for nothing and feel good doing it.

Two things happened. I met our clients and I met our volunteers!

Getting to know our clients and making them feel welcome is the best! They are wonderful and appreciative and often help out where they can. Our clients give in conversation and humour to connect with us. They've made me feel welcome!

The unexpected bonus in volunteering is the friendship of my fellow volunteers. It has been absolutely inspiring to spend



time with people who act out of devotion. I did not see this coming! I did not anticipate this benefit and know people would be astonished at what very few volunteers accomplish in this church. They just keep showing up and do whatever is needed to keep the place humming. They've made me feel welcome!

That's a lot of good stuff from a 3-hour shift where you don't get paid!

I'm also trying to turn **Murray Currah** (my volunteer hero) into a Toronto Maple Leaf's fan, but alas I'm just a volunteer, not a miracle worker. Submitted by Lynn Patterson

Pictured above is (Hero) Murray with our new \$ 11,700. commercial dishwasher installed by him and Brad in February. It replaced one that was 32 years old.



Figure 5 Our LVAC (Vietnamese) church with their Sunday School members on their Recognition Day

Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary."

Pickleball News

“Rowntree United Church is the absolute best place to play pickle ball! Not only is the court very nice, but the people who play there are great. We have a lot of fun, lots of good laughs, and a real sense of camaraderie. It’s my favourite place to play pickle ball for sure and I hope we can keep playing there for years to come.”
Gloria Leckie , as through Lynn Patterson

“My favourite day of the week is when I attend RUC to play pickleball. All the participants are such friendly and dedicated players. I am grateful to RUC for providing such a great atmosphere for players to meet, improve and form friendships.”
Catharine Williams as through Lynn Patterson

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Figure 6 Friday night Pickleball group

Some pictures from 2024



Figure 7 Ruth (foreground) and Maryjane



Figure 8 Glen Thompson doing his magic

The Acorn is published by the Communications Committee of Rowntree Memorial United Church and edited by Brad McMurray. Articles for the next edition are due Aug 20th 2024. Comments or articles can be emailed to wbmcmurray55@hotmail.com or left in the Communications mail slot at Rowntree. Stories are much more effective with pictures, as 'a picture is worth a thousand words'. You can also visit our web site at <https://rowntreechurch.ca/> to find audio from our weekly church services, more info on who we are, what we do, what we believe in and how you can support us. And look for us on Facebook.

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The Forest City Singers
Present
***Songs from
Stage & Screen***



Tickets \$20
(Children 12 and under free)
Office: 519-432-8075 or Maryjane: 519-455-5736

Rowntree United Church
156 Elliott St at Cheapside www.rowntreechurch.ca
Friday, April 19, 2024 7:00 pm