

LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
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DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Hybrid services now offer us a choice of how to attend on Sundays. While some will still choose to attend by Zoom, we hope to see more and more LUUCers who are comfortable and are doubly vaccinated join us in our sanctuary. We have many December “specials” that are even more special when enjoyed in person!

We have Covid precautions in place, and everyone is seated safely distanced to enjoy the service. We can even sing quietly behind our masks, and of course, we can enjoy the “live” songs and music of our musicians and Lakeshore choir. We are encouraging those in the church to stay for Coffee Time conversation with our presenter, and each other.

LIVING OUR UU PRINCIPLES AND VALUES and LEARNING FROM FIRST NATIONS

Topics for our Sunday services are inspired by the UUA’S monthly Worship Themes. For December, the worship themes are ***Opening to Joy and Healing***.

We also try to reflect the seven sacred teachings in Indigenous culture: truth, honesty, courage, respect, wisdom, humility and love. We hope you will find these themes reflected in our Sunday Services.

~ **Sheila Laursen**

December 5, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

HONOURING WOMEN

Jeannie Jane

We welcome as our guest speaker, Jeannie Jane of Saturviit, a non-profit organization created 15 years ago to represent the voice of Inuit women from Nunavik at all levels of government. Jeannie will speak on the successes and concerns of Inuit women.

We will also recognize the 31st anniversary of the Polytechnique massacre and light candles in memory of those who lost their lives as well as for missing and murdered women across Canada. Many of our congregants will be participating in this service in person as well as the Lakeshore Community Choir.

Service Leader – Sheila Laursen

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz & Michael Cartile

Zoom Greeters - Chris Bassett & Nancy Schmidt

Joys & Sorrows - Chris

In-church Vacc checker - Caitlin Berry In-church Greeter – Christopher Thomson

December 12, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

CELEBRATIONS

Our LUUC children & youth

The children and youth are working hard to put together this December holiday themed service. They will share what they have learned about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas and there will be poetry reading and singing!

This service is for ALL ages. We hope everyone will come out to support our children and youth, in person or virtually. We are looking forward to a great end to the 2021 year!

Service Leader – Erin Berry

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz & Michael Cartile

Zoom Greeters - Jose Van Amerongen & Nancy Schmidt

Joys & Sorrows - Jose

In-church Vacc checker - Caitlin Berry In-church Greeter – Christopher Thomson

December 19, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS - PAST AND PRESENT

LUUC members

At this service, we hope to have many **attend in person** as we plan to fill the sanctuary with the joyous carols and songs of the season. Some of our members have agreed to share their memories, and reflections of Christmas - past and present. Please join us.

Service Leader – Paul Sullivan

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz & Michael Cartile

Zoom Greeters - Jose Van Amerongen & Nancy Schmidt

Joys & Sorrows - Jose

In-church Vacc checker - Caitlin Berry

In-church Greeter – Sari Kelen

December 24, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Please note this special evening time to join us for our annual Christmas Eve service. We will hear our Lakeshore Community Choir, share memorable stories for all ages, and we will sing our favourite Christmas carols.

Please come out in person to be together and to enjoy "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"!

Service Leader –

Musicians - Kerry-Anne Kutz & Michael Cartile

In-church Vacc checker - Caitlin Berry In-church Greeter –

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TWO CHRISTMAS CONCERTS WITH KERRY-ANNE AND MICHAEL



Please join us and the superb pianist Chad Linsley for two heartwarming concerts of Christmas music, indoors in Kirkland and outdoors in Beaconsfield!

The wonderful Petits chanteurs de Laval, an excellent choir of 40 voices will be at the outdoor concert in Beaconsfield!

Kirkland Recreation Centre (indoors) **Saturday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.** - 16950, Hymus Blvd., Kirkland (Québec)H9H 3W7

Beaconsfield Centennial Hall (outdoor) **Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.** - 288 Beaconsfield BoulevardH9W 4A7. Wear your woollies and bring your voices!

SARI'S HEART AND SOUL SPIEL ON A RETURN TO IN-PERSON CHURCH ATTENDANCE



As a congregation, those coming to church are missing something: People! We miss you- very much!! We average 12-14 people every Sunday, including Odbjorn.

It is understood and appreciated that some of us are wary and uncertain about being with everyone else in our space. It is so, too, about those who are immunocompromised, who feel that it just is not safe for them to attend in person.

Kerry-Anne has said I could add that, although she is immunocompromised, there is *nowhere* else she would rather be on Sunday than in church- *in person*!

Sheila has suggested that in addition to seating at the ends of every *other* pew, people could sit in the centre of the in-between pews. In this way, there would still be 6 feet between people, with no one seated directly in front of anyone else. In the large space, a window opened improves ventilation in addition to the fans overhead.

I recently wrote to the Sunday Services Committee, of which I am a part, to do with *how church attendance is affecting our future as a congregation*. Here is what I wrote:

Dear Friends:

I am all in favour of having the service on the 19th where the congregation can sing carols, in addition to a Christmas service on the 24th.

I feel there is a special place for lots of Christmas goings-on in our last week before we break for the holiday. As Christmas is a special time, we need people in our midst. How can we have a rousing carol-sing with only fourteen people, as we had today. (November 14th)

I think a big push for in-person participation is needed, not a gentle request. Some truly convincing argument for their presence needs to be presented in the newsletter. Let the "Zoomer" congregation know how much we miss them in our big empty church!

It is **important** to be there in **December for the children's service on the 12th!** People must know how good it feels to watch children do a service. How children love to stand up in front of an audience, and show how smart they are! It's also showing appreciation for **Erin's** work. We need to keep our S.E. program alive and well.

~ *continued/...*

A live audience is also important for the hard-working techies to feel appreciated for their perseverance and dedication. We wish to avoid burnout.

On the 19th, I volunteer to speak for 2-3 minutes about memories of Christmas past, and thoughts of Christmas present.

There, I've had my say! I hope that on reading this, people will rethink where our future lies and decide it's time, whenever possible, to meet in 3-D together again.

Best wishes, to you all, my dear extended family!
Sari

THE KNIT CHICKS AND THE MITTEN TREE



Do look at the beautiful hat that **Christine Wooley** knitted for me (**ed**) – for the Auction we had earlier this summer. It's snow white with cable, blackberry and rib stitches – all topped with a luxurious pom-pom – and so warm and comfortable.

The knitting group is finishing its work with the blankets and is concentrating on making **scarves**, **hats** and **mitts** for the **LUUC MITTEN TREE**. The items go to the children of Maple Grove school.

We ask that you kindly help us with our project, by donating **mittens**, **hats** and **scarves**. If you can bring these items to the church, kindly do so – if not, then do let one of us know – and we'll arrange for a pickup. All your donations will be appreciated.

***The Knit Chicks, Margaret, Nancy S.,
Christine, Hélène, Shelly, Dori, Constance, Toni and Heather***

Did you know that when BBC aired its first TV show in 1936 – 85 years ago – that viewers were known as “Lookers-on”?

THE IMPACT OF HYBRID SERVICES



The opening words on the front of the November Newsletter were “Hybrid services offer us a choice of how to attend on Sundays”, and I opened my column with the question: “So what is your reaction to hybrid services thus far?”

Well, as of November 25, it seems we have our answer: a Sanctuary filled with some expensive high-tech equipment, but almost no people!

Have we gone to all of this effort, only to find that it was a big waste of time and money?

Hybrid services are more complex to choreograph than regular services. Some very dedicated LUUC’ers have volunteered, and are still volunteering a lot of their time to make it all happen – putting in more hours that were required before. Hybrid services also cost more money. It is not just a matter of a big investment in technical equipment: doing hybrid services requires, for the foreseeable future, paying a real-live technician to be present for each service.

It’s still very early in this experiment to draw any definitive conclusions, but the Tech Team and the Board Members are finding the current situation somewhat unnerving.

Clearly the pandemic is having a major impact on what we can do.

While pandemic restrictions are in place, we can’t really take advantage of some of the most persuasive reasons for holding services in the building:

- 1-Choir performances and the joy of singing hymns together require a building.
- 2-Pot Luck lunches require a building.
- 3-And probably most dear to our hearts, IN-PERSON COFFEE HOURS!

We have instituted numerous guidelines to ensure that members can gather safely including:

- Proof of vaccine is checked upon entry for those attending the service
- Everyone must wear a medically approved mask at all times
- Everyone must sit 2 metres apart (except for families)

We need to remind ourselves that having only ZOOM services leaves out a central aspect of our raison d’être: Our Spiritual Exploration Programme can’t happen without a separate meeting space. This means that SE parents need the service to be in the Sanctuary, if they are bringing their kids to SE. The children have been very clear that they are not interested in online programmes.

I am proposing that we start the process of looking at the implications of all this by collecting your feedback. A questionnaire will be sent out at the same time as the December Newsletter to gather your views. We will call a Special Congregational Meeting in January to discuss the results, and find some members ready to become a Long-Range Planning Committee to take an in-depth look at our future.

~ *Susan, President*

CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2021



Last year many LUUC members gave generously and we were able to help the children of some of the asylum seeking/refugee families that we know had a much merrier holiday thanks to your help.

This year we would again like help several of the families that we have come to know over the past few years with gifts for their children.

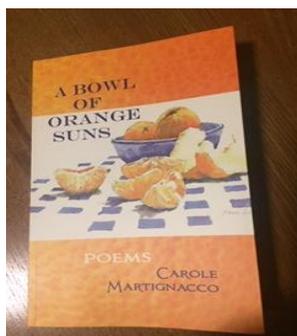
If you are able to help out, please send donations either by e transfer to lakeshoretreasury@gmail.com or by cheque made out to LUUC and mailed to the church address or brought in person to the church on a Sunday. PLEASE INDICATE "CHRISTMAS DONATION" ON YOUR CHEQUE OR E TRANSER.

To give time to purchase and wrap the gifts all donations would need to be received by December 12th, 2021.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

~ *Margaret Godbeer*

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING – TO YOURSELF – OR OTHERS



Shoreline Press has now produced **Rev. Carole Martignacco's** new book of poetry, ***A Bowl of Orange Suns***. **Sheila Laursen** will have a limited number of copies on hand - they are \$20 each.

Please contact **Sheila** at 514-697-4195 to reserve one - or several! (Many LUUCers (of all ages) have already enjoyed Carole's award-winning book, *The Everything Seed*.)

FROM YOUR TREASURER



Many thanks to those who continue to donate on a regular basis. It is greatly appreciated. We have made some significant investments in new equipment over the summer and fall to enable us to start having hybrid services as of October.

Among other things we have a new camera, sound board, laptop computer and a large screen television. The Norwegian Church Association shared the cost of the camera and television. We also had to buy miles of cables 😊 and new microphone stands.

Now that we are able to meet in person, we have an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you wish to donate and have a tax receipt, please use one of the envelopes in the basket.

Please continue to give to the best of your financial ability.

The Investment Use Committee met over the summer and has made recommendations to the board about the use of our investments to sustain and grow the congregation. A long-term planning committee will hopefully begin meeting in the new year.

Just a little advance notice! Tax receipts for donations are issued for the calendar year (January to December) not our fiscal year. Receipts will be emailed in February 2022. Any donations received after December 29th will most likely not be considered deposited until after January 1st.

~ Margaret Godbeer

A BEVY OF BEAUTIES



This photo was taken at the last Child Haven Dinner before the pandemic hit us. It shows (left to right) **Talia Sanchez-Rooker, Olivia Gavanski, Bella Gavanski and Erin Berry.**

They helped with the set up/clean up, filling the water glasses, collecting money at the auction – and generally being invaluable during that busy and happy dinner.

Photo by Selina ~ ed

EXPANDING OUR CHILD HAVEN EVENT IN COVID TIMES

Our Montreal Child Haven organizing small team decided to go bigger and bolder with organizing its annual fundraising this year – especially as it has to still be on Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic precautions.

So with **Bonnie, Fred and Robin** Cappuccino's encouragement and support, we promoted and hosted a Zoom Child Haven event on Saturday Noember 20th that stretched beyond Montreal to include folk in the Eastern Townships (UU Estrie members) and to New Brunswick and to Nova Scotia too!

Rev. Carole Martignacco, who lives in St. Andrew's by the Sea in New Brunswick and Rev. Norm Horofker, helped to get the word out to UUs in those regions. So on Saturday evening when our Montreal Greeters, **Olivia and Isabella** Gavanski asked the 62 people attending to wave to everyone when their region was named, it was excitng to see so many new faces. **Bonnie, Fred, Dr. Shah, Kerry, Steve** and **Cheryl** were there from Ontario and we even spanned the USA/Canadian border, with Robin and Madhu in Vermont, and Wendy Jane Hugessen joined us from New York.

And best of all, we welcomed Ganesh of the Child Haven home in Kaliyampoondi, India and the many children and youth of that home, who treated us to 4 amazing, energetic dance demonstratons – which took place at 6 a.m. on Sunday morning their time! The long-distance internet connections were sporadic, but the enthusiasm and skills of the dancers shone through. We were able to speak to three of Child Haven's post-secondary youth as well A. Seciliya, who is in her final year of studies for a MSC Physics, and her sister A. Roslin who is in her final year for a BA in Computer Applications. They spoke about studying during the pandemic and the career goals they are working towards.

During the evening we held a special fundraiser for several items on Child Haven's Needs List. Our goal was to raise \$2,600 to mark our 26th Montreal Child Haven event. We were successful in raising enough to:

- Repair the screens in the Boys and Girls dormitories in the Nepal CH Home.
- Buy 2 desk top computers for the Hyderabad Child Haven Home
- Pay for dental braces for a child in the Nepal Home
- Purchase sports equipment for all the CH Homes and
- Provide vitamins and fruit for all the Homes for one month – to boost resistance to the virus.

Special thanks to Zoom Host **Margaret Godbeer**, Greeters **Olivia and Isabella Gavanski**, and Needs List manager **Wendy Buchanan** - and of course, **Bonnie, Fred, Robin** and team!
 ~ **Sheila Laursen**

CARING CORNER



Gary Spiller is the LUUC Caring Committee contact. 438-927-6257 or by email at gary_spiller@yahoo.com

Helen Cimon Auer and **Heather Fraser Fawcett** are adjusting to their new surroundings after moving to new apartments in the Cambridge and Wellesley respectively. It was nice to see **Constance Belanger** on Zoom for the successful Child Haven Fundraiser last week.

Maude Bonnier listens to most of our services on Zoom and enjoys the singing and hearing familiar voices.

Our chair **Jose van Amerongen** sent a card to **Peter Abbott** who is recovering from an operation last month. She then put on her Happy Feet and left for her son's wedding in Arizona and to visit her sister in Virginia. Bon voyage Jose! Stay safe!

~ **Gary Spiller**

WARM AND COZY

Nancy Graham kindly offered a blanket she had knitted for the LUUC Bazaar Raffle...then Sheila mentioned that **Barbara Jackson** needed a blanket, as she was cold sometimes at her care home...so the blanket was given to Barbara.

Barbara was thrilled with both the blanket and the fact LUUC thought of her – Nancy was so pleased that her blanket was appreciated, and LUUC was pleased our coffers were enhanced. A win-win-win situation! Many thanks to all.

- **ed**

FUN & FROLICS

The **Fun & Frolics Committee** is planning to have two family movies: The proposed dates are:

December 4 at 5pm for [Charlie Brown's Christmas](#)

December 11 at 5pm for [Happy Feet](#).

If we only have one night it would be December 11.

Please call Gary at 514-697-6257 for more details.

ALUSINE BAH – FROM CHILD SOLDIER TO SOCIAL WORKER HELPING FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS



For those who didn't meet him then, here is a brief story that I wrote when the YMCA awarded **Alusine** an Honorary Peace Medal in 2007:

Alusine Bah was 14 years old when his town was attacked by the R.U.F (Revolutionary United Front) rebels. He fled into the forest and it wasn't long before he was found by the Sierra Leone Army and forced to become one of their many child soldiers. Alusine was a child soldier in the Army for two years before he was rescued by the Catholic Church's "Children Affected by War" program (C.A.W).

He was sent to a rehabilitation centre to begin the long and difficult recovery and normalization of his life. In November, 1996, Alusine was chosen to come to New York to speak at the United Nations about how children's rights are being violated in war-affected countries and the impact of war on children.

While there he met Bob Wright, a Montrealer who later sponsored him to come to Canada. In 2003 Alusine started a new life in Montreal. Since then he returned to school after an eight-year interruption. Alusine also helped "Youth in Action", a Montreal chapter of "Free the Children". He wants to raise awareness of Canadian youth to the history and reality of his country, and to the plight of children and youth affected by war everywhere.

Bob Wright, Alusine's Canadian father sent me this recent article from a McGill University report of a research study using art in the healing process for child survivors of war, including former child soldiers. Alusine met McGill professor Myriam Denov in Montreal in 2007. At the time, he was 25 and had been in Canada for four years, having been sponsored by a Unitarian Church.

In 2011, in partnership with a local Sierra Leonean NGO, Denov worked with a group of former child soldiers living in Mabella, a slum community on the outskirts of Freetown. Using cameras provided by the research team, youth engaged in a 'photovoice' project: they documented the world around them from their own point of view. Through local

exhibitions organized to spur reconciliation efforts, participants were then able to share their photographs with the community.

Committed to involving former child soldiers in roles as co-researchers, Denov asked Alusine to travel back to his home country to help run the project and provide mentorship to the group of youth in Freetown. “Myriam told me, the only one I can trust to see what is really happening there is you,” Alusine remembers. He met with fifteen boys and girls in Mabella. Hearing the stories of these former child combatants was like hearing his own story from someone else’s lips. The participants were shocked when he told them he was a former child soldier himself.

Far from adopting the traditional approach of neutral observation and data collection, Alusine made use of his own experiences to help inform how he spoke with participants. “Everything changed for me,” Alusine says.

During his childhood years of forced combat, his education was disrupted; he is now completing a master’s degree in social work.

** You can read the full article at <https://www.mcgill.ca/research/article/masks-we-wear-healing-and-hope-child-survivors-war>

(Alusine has married and the father to 3 children - while completing his Master’s degree!)

~ *Sheila Laursen*

NEW PROGRAM: RECYCLING OF DISPOSABLE SAFETY EQUIPMENT



The City of Pointe-Claire have bins available at City Hall, the Aquatic Centre and Bob Birnie Arena to recycle disposable safety equipment and have this material be recovered rather than end up in the household waste.

Disposable masks, earplugs and protective eyewear can be dropped off in the bins identified for this purpose. The materials are recovered by a North American company that transforms them into raw materials that are then used to make new products.

Give new life to your disposable masks, earplugs and protective eyewear by dropping them off at one of the collection points!

Sheila notes – I have put a small recycling bag near our church exit door and will deliver the contents to one of the Pointe Claire collections bins. Thanks go to **Christopher** and **Gordon** for their whole-hearted support of this initiative! They have already filled the bag twice with used disposable masks. Christopher has been saving his used ones for 18 months and Gordon brings ones from around the school grounds near his home.

~ *Sheila*

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

What an interesting time we live in! The Throne Speech was delivered by the first indigenous Governor General in Inuktitut, English and French promising to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as promised by Prime Minister Trudeau in Glasgow a few weeks ago. BC is experiencing the effects of climate change with unprecedented flooding at the same time as the Wet'suwe't'en Hereditary chiefs and their clans are protesting the construction of a pipeline in Northern BC which will increase greenhouse gas emissions!

Marlene Hale, a member of one of the Wet'suwet'en clans returned last week from several months in BC to reconnect with her friends at LUUC. I met with Marlene and **Jose van Amerongen** and she described her struggle to save the old growth forest at Fairy Creek on Vancouver Island where some protesters were living on platforms high in the trees to try to save the thousand-year-old trees from destruction. Marlene is back in Montreal to encourage us to take social action to ask our government to stop funding pipelines and to protect the environment!

The Social Action Committee met Oct 26 to discuss international, national and local issues. We agreed to study all 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission!

Some of the issues have been reflected in our Sunday services with indigenous speakers bringing us closer to understanding our cultures. Peter Abbott asked a great question last Sunday if our guest speaker felt Canadian and she replied that she felt both indigenous and Canadian.

Human Rights Day is December 10th and we are encouraged to write to our MPs to recognize indigenous rights and the rights of political prisoners including Hussein Celil a Chinese Canadian who has been imprisoned in China since 2006.

Movie nights: We are planning to screen a documentary on the pipeline issue early next year. <https://www.stand.earth/files/fracking-peace-documentary-trailer>

Fun and Frolics

In December we are planning two movie nights with Happy Feet December 4 at 5pm and Charlie Brown's Christmas December 11 at 5pm.

Gary

on behalf of the SA Team: Sheila, Selina, Jose, Margaret, Christopher



We have a plethora of December Birthdays – We wish you all a **Very Happy Birthday** – and health and happiness throughout the coming year.

Nancy Graham in December 2nd

Hélène Cimon-Auer on December 6th – a very special lady with a special birthday**

Sari Kelen on December 9th

Irene Hausknost on December 18th

Annelise Ogle on December 22nd

Talia Sanchez-Rooker on December 22nd

Caleb Willms on December 23rd

** We send extra birthday wishes to **Hélène** who has a very special birthday on December 6th. Her son, **Luc**, who lives in Antwerp hopes to visit her for Christmas and to join in with the celebrations – covid permitting.

Hélène and her husband **Fritz** were LUC members before I joined - but I had met the family before that time, when **Hélène** sent **Luc** and her other son **Philippe** to my nursery school – all so very long ago. They were a very musical family – and Fritz and family gave us many enchanting musical Sunday services, with antique style instruments that Fritz had made himself.

Hélène is a Knit Chick – and contributes beautiful items to our charity efforts. She is currently making a scarf for the Maple School Christmas project, using a basket weave stitch. She always choses such beautiful colours.

Happy Birthday Hélène

FRUITCAKE. GLORIOUS FRUITCAKE



As you know, I love fruitcake, and I enjoy making it each fall as part of our LUUC fundraising efforts. I began doing this in 1978, and one thing I have learned over the years is that those who hate it, REALLY hate it – and those who love it, love it a LOT!

This year, I have orders for 81 pounds of fruitcake – from 30 different people. Dark is still the most favoured (55 pounds of dark requested, compared to 26 pounds of light).

I was a bit worried this year about the pandemic and its impact on fruitcake supplies, and so I had increased the price slightly. My concerns were borne out. Glazed pineapple proved impossible to find and green cherries were snatched up as soon as they were put in the bin at Bulk Barn stores! I was able to find another form of candied pineapple to use this year, thank goodness.

The ingredients to make 81 pounds cost \$412. That is \$50 more than last year, when I made the same amount. Kerry-Anne and Sari spent a morning at my home to help, the three of us chatting and chopping many pounds of cherries and other wonderful sticky ingredients. After expenses are covered, a bit more than \$600 will be raised for our LUUC coffers. So let us all eat cake!!

~ **Sheila**

BARBARA DIABO



On November 6th after a very long delay LUUC and the Quebec Association of Geography Teachers were thrilled to finally have Barbara Diabo as a guest. The event has been postponed several times due to covid restrictions.

An award-winning choreographer and dancer for over 25 years, Barbara specializes in creating works that highlight Indigenous themes/stories/perspectives. Barbara provided us with an interesting and informative presentation of the history of hoop dancing. She is an acclaimed dancer who has performed all over North America and we were thrilled to finally be able to have her with us in person.

Around 40 people attended the evening on November 6th, all wearing masks and safely distanced. It was a delightful evening and great to see so many attend. For those who were not able to be here is a short video of Barbara dancing.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uXd785vdB0JDujMIlIKl4mMvPk_nutl/view?usp=sharing

~ **Margaret Godbeer**

SINGING FOR SUITCASES!



Hello to all of our friends at LUUC.

The board of directors of Suitcases for Africa would like to express their thanks to everyone who helped make our recent fundraiser such a success. **Kerry-Anne** and her **students** put on a tremendous concert which was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to the generous support of so many people we were able to raise over \$1,000! This means that we will be able to assist some well deserving students with their education costs.

We appreciate your continued support & encouragement – you make us feel like we are “part of the LUUC family”.

We would also like to extend our best wishes to you all for the fast-approaching holiday season.

Take care,

Wendy

Treasurer, Suitcases for Africa

AN UNEXPECTED CALLER



On the morning of November 13, as **Sheila** was reading the newspaper and enjoying her cup of coffee, she began hearing something like a squeaky garden gate that was opening and closing, opening and closing.... Wait a minute, there is no garden gate in her back yard! So she went to the patio door to check its source.

And there, not 3 feet away from her, was this handsome(?) creature - calling to her! Its voice sounded just like a squeaky gate. Sheila stared at it, and it stared right back at

her. Not the least afraid! Sheila even had time to run for her camera to take this photo (she quite wisely kept the double doors closed to do so...)

After a while her wild turkey visitor just waddled away without so much as a goodbye squawk. Sheila spotted him later checking out Pointe Claire’s new orchard and solidarity market garden at the end of her Pointe Claire street - looking for tasty pickings no doubt!

EXPANDING CULTURAL AND RACIAL EMPATHY

CARE is our congregation's **Circle of All Races Equity** group, an informal gathering of LUUCers who share their thoughts and feelings on cultural-racial issues.

Once a month, Talia Sanchez-Rooker and Selina Ann Rooker host a one-hour session on race equity relations. Our next Zoom meet will be on Sunday, December 12th, at 7pm
<https://zoom.us/j/97832799342?pwd=YTFZYZ1h1a2s0T0ZiR2dnZzBwOURvZz09>

Most recently, we have been discussing Islamophobia generally and, in particular, current issues faced by Canadian Muslim women. Rich background info may be found here, on the website for the Canadian Council of Muslim Women:

<https://www.ccmw.com/our-mission>

CARE's aim is to nurture personal empathy and to support each other along our spiritual paths to face prejudices, identify colonial culture and dismantle systemic racism, within ourselves and throughout our Canadian community.

Beloved community healing happens one person at a time. We invite you to join this compassionate circle.

Talia and I thank members of LUUC's Social Action Committee, for their reciprocal support along this journey of education and healing.

**Warm regards,
Selina Ann Rooker**

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

~ *Martin Luther King Jr.*

BAZAAR



NEWS FLASH: Our Bazaar is now finished, and we are in the middle of distributing and delivering all the goodies you have so kindly made – (it's a bit of a logistical nightmare!)

A huge thanks to the bakers and makers and buyers – you have all enhanced LUUC's coffers – we have topped **\$900.00** with our efforts.

~ *ed*

BOOK NOOK



Are you looking for a good book to read this winter? Sheila has a couple you could borrow and enjoy.....

'Lilac Moon - Dreaming of the Real West' is an interesting new book by author Sharon Butala. Sharon grew up in Saskatchewan and through her recollections and research, she describes what it means to be a "Westerner". The book begins with

the pioneer past in western Canada, and the changes wrought when settlers displaced Indigenous peoples, to the realities and challenges of the 2020s. It is described as "a book not just for Westerners, but for all Canadians who want to experience their own dream of the West."

'State of Terror' is a page-turner thriller co-written by Louise Penny and Hillary Rodham Clinton. It has characters that can be easily relatable to "real life people" and a plot that is very relevant to our current time and circumstances. You can enjoy spotting and recognizing the contributions and knowledge of each of the co-authors throughout. I made a point of NOT reading it before going to sleep - it would have kept me looking under my bed!

Let **Sheila** know if you wish to borrow one of these... 514-697-4195

Rev. Heather Fraser Fawcett has kindly recommended several authors and books of the mystery genre.

Louise Penny: I have especially enjoyed her books from 2019, "A Better Man," and 2020 "All the Devils Are Here." Her 2021 "The Madness of Crowds" was perhaps rushed to publication. It's worth the read but would have been better with more editing. A little too long for me.

Elly Griffith's Ruth Galloway mysteries. I started reading them in 2016 beginning with "The Woman in Blue." "The Lantern Men" was also very good.

I get recommendations from my cousin, who is an avid reader. She suggests the following writers for people looking for other good mystery writers:

Martin Walker's "Bruno" books, these are set in France;

Clara Black mysteries; the main character is Amy Leduc.

Happy reading!

Rev. Dr. Heather Fraser Fawcett

SNIPPETS FROM YOUR LUUC BOARD



- Our Special Congregational Meeting on November 28 will have voted on our Lay Chaplains for the 2022 year, and will have decided whether we accept the “Call to Action” for LUUC as a congregation, based on Articles 48 and 49 of the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Hybrid Sunday services have had 10-14 people attend in the church and 13-20 people on Zoom. We are still working on the inevitable “glitches” involved with the complexity of hybrid services, and are grateful for your patience and understanding.
- In November, we opened the doors of the building to more people through the concert by Kerry-Anne’s students in support of Suitcases for Africa, the Barbara Diabo hoop dance performance and presentation on her Mohawk culture, and the Melodies from Armenia, Hungary and Czechia concert. Each event had more than 40 people attend, and everyone was so happy to enjoy these in person!
- Weddings are back too, and the Abbott family have contributed to keeping our Lay Chaplains Kerry-Anne and Paul very busy!
- The month end brought our annual Child Haven fundraising event, and our Christmas Bazaar - both on line, and both VERY popular!

~ **Sheila Laursen, Board Secretary**

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| December 4 th | Christmas concert at Kirkland with Kerry-Anne | See page 3 |
| December 4 th | Christmas Movie at LUUC | See page 10 |
| December 11 th | Christmas Movie at LUUC | See page 10 |
| December 11 th | Christmas concert at Beaconsfield with Kerry-Anne | See page 3 |
| December 12 th | Christmas Basket – last day to donate | See page 7 |
| December 12 th | Children’s Service with Erin and the kids | See page 2 |
| December 24th | Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm | See page 3 |
| December 29 | Last day to donate for tax receipt in 2021 | See page 8 |

WELCOME TO LAKESHORE

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **December 27th, 2021**

OUR WEB-SITE: www.LUUC.org

**HAVE YOURSELVES A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
STAY SAFE
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Sunday services acknowledges that we are located on un-ceded Indigenous lands.

The Island of Montreal is the traditional territory of both the Kanien'kehá:ka (KA-NYUNK-YA-HAGA), "Mohawk," and the Anishinabeg, "Algonquin," peoples.

We want to repair our past relationships with Indigenous and other people, and work together towards a future that honours all.

