



# FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.

We have been quite up-front with one another about the losses we have experienced through this extended pandemic turbulence. We have spoken honestly about grief over those who have died at a distance, celebrations that were postponed, re-scheduled, and then postponed again, newborns who have not yet been held, and so on. There is a prevailing sadness that we do our best to counter with practices that encourage resilience – exercising, getting outside, listening to music, or learning a new craft or hobby.

But “lost” does not just refer to what is gone from us. It also applies to things we have *mislaid*, that are out of place or dislocated. And, sometimes “lost” actually means that we’re lost. We need to find ourselves again. We need to be relocated in the world.

The dislocation we have experienced comes to us in different ways. For example, we make jokes about it, but we’ve lost our sense of time as it once existed. We ask ourselves: What day is this? What time is it? Did I miss that meeting, that phone call, that birthday?

But, in a larger sense, as well, we’ve lost our sense of where we are in the bigger story of life. It is as if history has been disrupted. Where are we? Where are we going? We find ourselves seeking a new, meaningful story to frame our lives because the older stories are quite literally out-of-date.

We’ve also become physically dislocated – we’ve lost our sense of being “with” others in-person and lost our sense of place in the world, our sense of location. Technology has shifted us into cyber-space and we’re challenged by living in this virtual location. Things like gardening, baking, knitting, and walking give us ways to feel grounded, but the physical disconnection remains.

And, we have lost our ease with the daily flow of interaction with others, the familiar back and forth and sharing of emotion and experience with others in community. We wonder, some of us, if we will need to learn how to be social all over again when interaction becomes gradually possible – we worry that we have “gone feral” though these months! How will it feel to be in large groups again? We’ve become dislocated in our relationships.

Thinking about this, I am aware that, as we emerge from this upheaval, faith communities like Fairlawn can, and should, be about the work of relocation – finding what has been lost, repairing what has been broken, and re-grounding people into their own lives and communities.

One of the ways, perhaps, of seeing the ministry of Fairlawn as we move beyond pandemic restrictions is through this work of finding, repairing, and relocating ourselves and one another. We can strive together to reconnect ourselves and others with time, history, physicality, and relationships – because our lost world needs finding. We don’t need to return to the old ways. But we do need to be relocated. We need to find a new place, a new home in a disrupted world.

At the very heart of finding our lost selves is relocating our hearts in, and with, God. There is a journey beyond the pandemic and we will find the way a step at a time, together. We haven’t been to this particular future before. We will need one another to get there.

Blessings, and peace,

## FAIRLAWN AVENUE UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### FAIRLAWN GREETINGS!

May 6 – 13, 2021

<b>Thursday, May 6</b>	
3 p.m.	Children & Youth Research Project Meeting
7 p.m.	Senior Choir Get-together
<b>Friday, May 7</b>	
3 p.m.	Scugog Team Meeting
<b>Sunday, May 9</b>	
10:20 a.m.	Sunday Service Audio Only Call: 647-374-4685 Meeting ID: 924 6751 5853 Password: 7051020
10:30 a.m.	Check <a href="#">here</a> for Mother's Day Service.
11:15 a.m.	Coffee-time Chat Login: <a href="#">here</a> Or call: 647-374-4685 Meeting ID: 856 1376 7649 Password: 7051115

<b>Monday, May 10</b>	
9 p.m.	Fairlawn Basketball on Zoom
<b>Tuesday, May 11</b>	
10 a.m.	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:50 p.m.	Tuesday Lunch Crowd Login: <a href="#">here</a> Or call: 647-374-4685 Meeting ID: 898 9050 1544 Password: 2211245
4 p.m.	Property Council Meeting
7 p.m.	Amnesty International Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 12</b>	
12:30 p.m.	Mid-week Prayer Login: <a href="#">here</a> Or call: 647-374-4685 Meeting ID: 841 9872 8242 Password: 3051230
7:30 p.m.	Christian Meditation. Email Patrick Sullivan at <a href="mailto:patcheen@sympatico.ca">patcheen@sympatico.ca</a> in advance for login details.
<b>Thursday, May 13</b>	
3 p.m.	Children & Youth Research Project Meeting

Please send *Greetings!* submissions to [greetings@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:greetings@fairlawnavenueunited.ca) by Tuesday noon.

Maximum length for *Greetings!* notices: 110 words generally and 150 words for a more complex Governing Council notice.

**Would you like to be a *Greetings!* guest writer?** We usually have guest contributors every second week, and we're looking for people who would like to write a letter in the spring or summer. It would be a personal reflection related to Fairlawn and should be about 625 words. Please email [noelle@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:noelle@fairlawnavenueunited.ca) if you're interested. Thank you!

### Worship Service

#### Sunday, May 9:

**Online Worship Service.** Sunday at 10:30 a.m., we gather online to worship. Please click [here](#) and select our Mother's Day service with the Rev. Douglas duCharme. This service will include personal stories, reflections, and a musical offering honouring special women and mothers. This week's scripture reading is [John 15:9-17](#). You can also access the service audio only by phone. See the calendar above for call-in details.

**Online Music Bulletin.** The virtual musical offering in this week's worship service features Fairlawn's treble section leads and a pre-recorded children's choir, alongside a collage of Fairlawners with their mothers and grandmothers, as well as mothers with their children and grandchildren. Eleanor Daley, Director of Music, has also curated an [online music bulletin](#), which contains an anthem recorded by the Fairlawn Senior Choir women and Intermediate Choir, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra's lockdown virtual performance of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* from Symphony No. 9, and more. The musical offering in the service video is included in the online bulletin. Please scroll below the postlude to read the music notes.

### Governing Council

#### Volunteer Position Opening – Chair HR&R.

We are seeking a volunteer to chair the Human Resources & Relationships (HR&R) Committee, effective as soon as possible. This committee is responsible for human resource management at Fairlawn, including supporting ministry and lay personnel employed by Fairlawn and acting as a liaison between staff and the congregation.

The ideal incumbent will have experience and knowledge of human resource management or equivalent experience from having worked in leadership positions. In addition, the incoming Chair should have experience with coaching, mentoring, and change management practices, conflict resolution skills, strong interpersonal skills, the ability to keep confidences, and should also enjoy leading and working with a team. The committee chair is a member of Governing Council.

More information about the committee, including its terms of reference, can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in this role, please contact [hrandr@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:hrandr@fairlawnavenueunited.ca).

## Experience Belonging

### Into the Home Stretch – Getting Through the Pandemic Together.

- Mental Health Awareness week: The United Church of Canada has named this week Mental Health Awareness Week. Click [here](#) for information about webinars on such topics as trauma fatigue, anxiety, and depression.
- “There’s a Name for the Blah You’re Feeling - It’s Called Languishing”. Check the *New York Times* [article](#).
- Staying hopeful: COVID cases are coming down and vaccination numbers are going up!
- Interested in forming a small group to support one another to get through the current COVID bump in the road and adjust to a post-COVID world? Please let us know at [eb@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:eb@fairlawnavenueunited.ca). - Kathy Salisbury

**Tuesday Lunch Crowd: Tuesday, May 11, on Zoom.** Join Jannie and Paul Mills as they share their wonderful memories of their trip paddling down the stunning Nahanni River in the Northwest Territories with their three grown sons! Join us around 12:50 p.m. on Zoom. Check the calendar above for the phone and computer login details.

**The Broadview Discussion Group: Monday, May 17, on Zoom.** The April/May issue has an interesting cover story on three writers' visions of a Black Jesus and a master gardener's reflections on applying the Seven Grandfather teachings at the Evergreen Brick Works. All readers of the print and online editions are welcome. We are meeting on Zoom from 8 – 9:30 p.m. Watch *Greetings!* for phone and computer login details.

**Fairlawn Remembers** is an electronic book of remembrance created to remember and honour members of our church and their family who have died since the church building was closed on March 14, 2020 and those who may pass before we are able to reopen again for services. The site contains a page for each person, which tells his or her life story through a write-up and photographs. Barb Steep, project coordinator, maintains *Fairlawn Remembers* and invites you to visit [here](#) to read the stories of Fairlawn family and friends who have been part of the church and helped make it the special place that it is.

## Explore Spirituality

**Thank you!** Thanks to everyone who submitted pictures for our Mother’s Day virtual musical offering this coming Sunday. We will be doing much the same for our June 20 Father’s Day virtual musical offering. Please stay tuned for further information which will appear in *Greetings!* later this month.

**Celtic Spirituality Series Coming.** Join the Rev. Jean Ward again for a four-part series to “Dip Your Toe in Celtic Spirituality: Go to the Sea and the Sea Will Teach you Everything”. The series will run on Wednesdays, from May 26 to June 16, from 7 - 8 p.m. The conversations will allow you to dip your toes, mind, and heart into the elusive, yet earthy, world of the Celts and their spiritual ways. Please check [here](#) for more details and register [here](#) to get the Zoom login details for this free series. Everyone is welcome!

**Mid-week Prayer.** Join us on Zoom on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 1 p.m., when the Rev. Douglas duCharme leads our weekly gathering time to check in, share experiences, and offer prayers. The Zoom login details are in the *Greetings!* calendar above and at [fairlawnchurch.ca](http://fairlawnchurch.ca) (under Fairlawn’s Current Activities).

## Embrace Action

**Understanding the Challenges of the Opioid Crisis.** Are you concerned about how substance use is affecting vulnerable people and our community? Join a facilitated conversation with community leaders and City of Toronto staff for an information session and discussion on Monday, May 17, at 7 p.m. To join the meeting, please visit [www.toronto.ca/roehampton](http://www.toronto.ca/roehampton).

## Financial Contributions

**Financial Contributions.** The church is continuing online and many congregants are already on our Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) program. If you are not, please consider one of these ways to continue your usual offering:

- send e-transfers to [etransfer@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:etransfer@fairlawnavenueunited.ca).  
If you are a new donor, please include your name and mailing address in the memo line, so that we can send you a tax receipt at year-end.
- click on the “Support Fairlawn” icon at [fairlawnchurch.ca](http://fairlawnchurch.ca) to:
  - [securely donate online](#) and continue to support Fairlawn,
  - [sign up](#) to make regular contributions through our PAR program, or
- mail a cheque to Fairlawn at 28 Fairlawn Avenue, Toronto, ON M5M 1S7.

Please contact Heather at [heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca) for information on these options or to make other arrangements. Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated.