



# Greetings!

---

**Hi, my name is Liberty.**

You used to call me Chris. I've been a member of Fairlawn Avenue now for only a few short years, but in that time you the congregation have done so much to change my life. You took an oath with me, at my confirmation, and you sent me to Emmanuel College so I could fulfill my call to become a minister. Being at Emmanuel College has been very hard. Most days I'm not sure if I will ever be good enough to be a minister. The program is the hardest one I've ever taken! And I have graduated 15 times since leaving high school. Emmanuel changes your very being. You have no choice but to be who you truly are, in vulnerable authenticity.

I have been trying to honour God, in my call. And I have been trying my best to find out the truth of who I am and why I have been called to this path. One of the questions that has been on my mind has been, "Why has God called me?" I have tried to answer it in many ways. Something kept knocking on the door of my heart. I was not being truthful about who I am. I told you my name was Chris. That's only partially true. Chris is the first half of my middle name. But it never really fit me. Emily, my birth name, was worse. I started to change it in Grade 7. First, Emily became Emilie. Then, I became Em...

I've been struggling with my name for so long. I think that's because I have been struggling with who I am. You see, the inside of me is different from the outside of me; from how I appear to you. Inside of me, I am much larger than on the outside. I'm not so simple, I'm more complex. I'm not just a woman. I'm more than that. So much more. I feel whole. I feel larger than the roles that my body prescribes me to. I feel like I have something more inside of me than what some people expect from me when they first see me. When you look into my eyes you are seeing the soul of a whole being. Not just a feminine soul. So, I spent some time listening to my soul. I tried to hear what my soul sounded like. And then I heard it. I felt it.

Liberty.

I have come here for freedom.

This is a name that finally works for me. It feels right. And I have decided to change it legally. That is something else Fairlawn has helped me with. Paul Mills made my name change legal. Thank you, Paul. All the paperwork is complete. Now I just have to send it in.

So, hi. It's nice to meet you. My name is Liberty and I use they/them pronouns. Thank you for inviting me into this community. I am honoured to be here.

Liberty Leonard

## Fairlawn Avenue United Church

### Calendar

October 21-28, 2021

<b>Thursday, October 21</b>		<b>Monday, October 25</b>	
2:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry	10:30 am	Breast Friends Support Group
4:00 pm	Explore Spirituality Council Meeting	8:00 pm	<a href="#">Broadview Discussion Group</a>
7:00 pm	Senior Choir Get-together	<b>Tuesday, October 26</b>	
<b>Sunday, October 24</b>		1:30 pm	Knitting Group Craft & Chat
9:00 am	<a href="#">Online Music Bulletin</a>	7:00 pm	<a href="#">The Art of Compassionate Listening with Patti Thompson</a>
10:30 am	<a href="#">Online Worship</a>	<b>Wednesday, October 27</b>	
10:30 am	In-person Worship <a href="#">Registration Required</a>	12:30 pm	<a href="#">Mid-week Prayer</a>
4:15 pm	<a href="#">Coffee Chat</a> w/special presentation	7:00 pm	<a href="#">ES Series: The Illumination of the Ordinary World – Pt. 2/6</a>
		7:30 pm	<a href="#">Christian Meditation</a>

## Worship & Music

**In-person Worship.** You're invited Sunday, October 24 at 10:30 am, to in-person worship in the sanctuary. Capacity is limited and [registration is required](#) by noon on Friday, October 22. You are required to wear a mask at all times when inside the building as per the [City of Toronto bylaw 541-2020](#), and to respect social distancing protocols. A self-assessment questionnaire (available [online](#) or on-site) must be completed for entry. For additional information, please visit our website at [www.fairlawchurch.ca](http://www.fairlawchurch.ca).

**Online Worship.** Sunday, October 24 at 10:30 am, login and join us for worship on our [YouTube channel](#) with the Rev. Rob Metcalf. The scripture passage from [Mark 10:46-52](#) will be read by Sue Metcalf. The virtual musical offering features the solo *On Eagle's Wings*, sung by Fairlawn bass section lead Giles Tomkins, accompanied on piano by his wife Kate Tremills.

**Eleanor Daley, Director of Music**, curates a weekly [online music bulletin](#) to accompany and enhance worship in addition to the special virtual weekly offering featured at both our in-person and online services. Included in the bulletin are virtual and audio congregational hymns, an anthem by the acclaimed American contemporary composer Dan Forrest, a virtual performance of J. S. Bach's *Siciliano* by the harp ensemble Harpourri, and a video of Christopher Tin's *Baba Yetu* (The Lord's Prayer), performed live in 2017 at the 70th Annual Llangollen International Music Festival in Wales. This Grammy award-winning choral hit is conducted by Tin. Please scroll below the postlude to read the music notes.

## Special Presentation

**Award presented at Coffee Chat!** Please join us this week at Coffee Chat for the presentation of the Baillie Volunteer Service Award to Laura Schlee. The Award, which recognizes youth and young adults for their commitment to volunteer service, will be presented by the Toronto United Church Council's Executive Director, Ron Ewart. For more information about the Award please visit [www.tucc.ca/baillie-award/](http://www.tucc.ca/baillie-award/)

## Explore Spirituality

**The Illumination of the Ordinary World – Sacred Stories.** There is still space to sign up for any or all of the remaining sessions of the six-week series led by Jean Ward. It is often in the ordinariness of our lives that true courage is found and the sacred known. You do not have to have read the featured book in order to participate. The series continues via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, to November 24. [Registration is required](#). For additional information, please visit our [website](#).

**Celebrating Your Unsung Hero.** As a lead-up to All Saints Day, November 1, we would love to hear about an unsung hero in your life. We want to celebrate those ordinary people and the things they do, small or large, that have made a difference in your life. You can honour your unsung hero by writing a few lines on a tag provided at the 'Hero' station on Fairlawn's lawn and attaching the tag to one of our Hero trees. To submit online and have your thoughts transferred to a tag or to share more information about your hero story with us, please contact [es@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:es@fairlawnavenueunited.ca).

## Experience Belonging

**Broadview Discussion Group.** Meets on Zoom, Monday, October 25 at 8:00 pm. The [October/November](#) issue includes a cover story about the movement to set up outdoor churches; a look at the pilgrimage of Indigenous grandmothers to residential schools and reserves across Canada; and "Self-Guided Jazz Walk". All are welcome to [login to Zoom](#) and participate in the discussion.

## Embrace Action

**Street Eats is back!** The tasty fundraiser, launched by the CRC and now part of Fred Victor, takes place Wednesday, November 3 – with a twist. People with tickets will find out a few days before the event which restaurant they will be going to for dinner. Find out more at <https://streeteats2021.ca/>. Fred Victor is one of the organizations supported by Fairlawn's Embrace Action Fund.

## North Toronto Cluster

**Thriving in Uncertain Times,** October 27. The COVID-19 mental health series, offered by ESG (Eglinton St. George) United, continues this fall, with facilitator Mary Thomson. It's an opportunity to name emotions that are surfacing and discuss strategies for coping more effectively in these uncertain times. [Find out more.](#)

## Financial Contributions

The church is continuing online and now holding in-person worship at limited capacity. Many congregants are already on our Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) program. If you are not, please consider one of these ways to continue your offering:

- Send e-transfers to [etransfer@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:etransfer@fairlawnavenueunited.ca) (please include your name and mailing address in the memo line, so we can send you a tax receipt at year-end),
- [securely donate online](#) to support Fairlawn,
- [sign up to make regular contributions](#) through our PAR program, or
- mail a cheque to Fairlawn Avenue United Church, 28 Fairlawn Avenue, Toronto, ON M5M 1S7

For assistance with any donation method, including signing up for PAR or making any changes, contact our bookkeeper Heather de la Rua at [heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:heather@fairlawnavenueunited.ca). Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated.

*Greetings!* is published every Thursday by Fairlawn Avenue United Church. Comments and submissions are most welcome and should be sent to [greetings@fairlawnavenueunited.ca](mailto:greetings@fairlawnavenueunited.ca). The deadline for submissions is noon on the Tuesday before each issue. Notices can be up to 110 words.



Fairlawn Avenue United Church,  
28 Fairlawn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5M 1S7  
Phone: 416-481-6848

