

# EPISTLE

May 2021



**St. James United Church**

available on-line at [www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)

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YOUR INVITATION TO

HOLY COMMUNION

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH**

Date: Sunday, May 23, 2021

Time: 10:30 a.m. – Service of Worship (Online)

Please advise the church office (416-622-4113) if you wish a phone visitation from our minister or of any pertinent information necessary to update church records.

Updates can also be sent to [stjames\\_uc@rogers.com](mailto:stjames_uc@rogers.com)

**Outreach offerings in support of:**

United Church Camping (March 28 through April)

The Scott Mission (May 23 through June)

Next Epistle Deadline: September 19, 2021 at Noon.

Please email all items to [sjepistle@yahoo.com](mailto:sjepistle@yahoo.com) if at all possible, or place in the Epistle mail slot at the church.

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## We Are All Treaty People



It's 10:30 am on a Sunday morning and J.-C. is about to play the prelude. Shortly after he has welcomed us into a meditative space our presider will greet us and acknowledge the

Indigeneity of the land where we live, work and worship. Why? Aside from responding to the call to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we do this because we are all treaty people. Whether your family came to Canada centuries ago, or you are a refugee, or a recent immigrant, or like me an Indigenous person from another territory and a first generation Canadian (who could never imagine living anywhere else), you are not Indigenous to Canada, you are all settlers. According to the first residents (Indigenous people) of this land, when we decide to settle here we become people included in the agreed upon treaties. We are all treaty people.

According to Harold Johnson's *Two Families: Treaties and Government*, the understanding of treaties is very different from the colonizers' and settlers' understanding. It is crucial that this misunderstanding is cleared up if we are to be in right relations, as the United Church of Canada encourages.

So what is the Native understanding of a treaty according to this Cree writer? Treaties are a means of entering an adoptive relationship. Simply put, at a treaty the Indigenous community adopts the Queen (the Crown) and her children (us). (p. 13) All of the expectations of the Indigenous peoples, the honouring of promises, the sharing of space and resources, and the understanding of balance, were based on the familial respect that comes from being “at treaty”. A treaty is not an unchanging, nonliving document that is solely an agreement to give up lands, but rather an agreement to share space on the land of the Creator as part of the relationship we make at a treaty.

When one looks at a treaty, written in English, one can barely understand the lawyer jargon illustrated in the treaties and court judgments. For example Treaty 6, which is where Johnson is from reads: “The Plain and Wood Cree Tribes of Indians, all the other Indians inhabiting the district hereinafter described and defined, do hereby cede, release, surrender and yield up to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, for Her Majesty the Queen and Her successors forever, all their rights, titles and privileges, whatsoever to the lands...” (125) I can clearly see how the colonizers could understand the treaty to mean that the land is theirs. Arguably for the Indigenous peoples, the jargon is as incomprehensible as the Requerimiento, an injunction the

conquistadors read out (in Latin!) to the Indigenous people of “New Spain”. From reading the Treaty Commissioners' journals and letters, the meaning of such words as "cede, release, surrender and yield up... all rights, titles and privileges" were never explained. Indeed, Johnson shares in his book, “The misunderstanding of my ancestors at treaty was linguistic and conceptual.” (41) This is unfortunate, for to have a legal and binding agreement between two parties, there must be a full understanding of what the agreement means to each party. (I am being kind; it was deceptive)

Moving forward, Johnson acknowledges the colonizers' right to occupy the territory and even benefit from the resources. What he takes issue with is how the occupation and use of resources have taken place. For example, the part in Treaty No. 6 to survey the reserved land and help the Cree nation set up an agricultural lifestyle did not take place. This is the same thing that happened at the Six Nations Reserve, according to the Rev. Susan Beaver (based on a presentation on October 19, 2015) who shared that the promise of non-interference was an expectation that was sadly unfulfilled with terrible repercussions.

When we as a community of faith acknowledge the Wampum Belt Covenant, we are acknowledging not only where our church stands, but the relationship we are meant to respect

and maintain. How often we do this, in my opinion, depends on how much we value said relationship. My heart is always warmed by the acknowledgment. It reminds me that there were others before me who spoke and worshiped here, and I feel it permits me to speak of the Creator in the most sacred of ways... in relationship.

\*\*\*

I invite you to read up on the TRC Calls to Action on the United Church website: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/truth-and-reconciliation>

*Rev. Maya Douglas*

## Editor's Notes



Happy Anniversary St. James! As we continue to celebrate remotely through our fabulous Sunday Services via YouTube, we remember how fortunate we are to be a part of this special church family. I am sure all of us are looking forward to meeting our new minister in person and congregating inside our cherished building....a luxury we most certainly took for granted. What a treat it will be once again to enjoy the beautiful piano music and listen to the choristers in situ, not to mention those delicious community luncheons full of good food and fellowship.

I know we struggle with coming to terms with a delayed return to normal and possibly a summer like last year full of restrictions and postponed get togethers! Be sure to read the Cherished Lives article on Lenore Beecham that we are including again in remembrance of her life and service. Keep the faith and thank you for continuing to support our church family through your Epistle submissions and your participation in

online events. to St. James. We hope that you have a wonderful summer.

The first deadline in the fall will be on Sunday September 19th. Please send your submissions to [sjepistle@yahoo.com](mailto:sjepistle@yahoo.com) which is the preferred method during COVID-19.

Please access the digital version of the Epistle at the St. James website:

[www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)

Your co-editors,

Jennifer Flaxman and Jennifer Ling

### ***Disclaimer:***

***1) Some of the articles submitted are intended for information purposes only and do not reflect the views of the St. James congregation***

***2) The Epistle is a publication shared with St. James and the larger community. Please be mindful of including personal information and refrain from sharing your phone number and address***



Marilyn Fender, Sharon and Rob Beecham and the Beecham family on the passing of Rev. Lenore Beecham on January 30, 2021.

The family of Earl Jarvis, who passed away on January 26, 2021.

Robert (Bob) Burns and the Burns family on the passing of Mildred (Milly) Burns on February 6, 2021.

Stan Macdonald and the Macdonald family on the passing of Lorna Macdonald on March 25, 2021.

*Submitted by Rev. Linda Maw*

St. James United Church would like to extend our congratulations to Rev. Dr. YunJung Kim, the co-pastor of the Good Tree Korean Church\*, on successfully completing a Doctor of Theology thesis and also completing the required courses and interviews and will be officially welcomed as a United Church minister serving at Good Tree. We extend best wishes and blessings to Rev Dr. YunJung Kim.

\*The Good Tree Korean Church uses St. James United Church to worship and meet and we are so grateful and honoured to have them as part of the St. James' community.



April 2021 - UPDATE FROM ST. JAMES FOOD BASKET

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Safety**

As we wade through this 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of this unrelenting COVID-19 pandemic, keeping our patrons and volunteers safe continues to be a top priority:

- We work constantly on cleaning surfaces and maintaining physical distance between people;
- We have asked volunteers to double mask. With the surge in cases, especially with the now widely circulating COVID-19 variants of concern, we are listening to the experts to minimize the risk of transmission;
- We will move our Wednesday afternoon food-distribution outdoors in early May, for increased safety;
- As of the middle of April, 60% of our current volunteers have received their first vaccine shot; this proportion will keep on increasing. As food recipients and volunteers receive their second shots, we will begin to consider moving back to our pre-pandemic, market-style food-distribution.

### **Food Basket Impact**

We have been consistently providing food to about 180 families per week. Thank you for your continued thoughts and support of our St. James Food Basket community!

Marie Truelove, Chair



## Message From Finance

*Submitted by Bob Harris, Finance Chair*

The Church financial reports to the end of March this year were not available for the Epistle deadline. However to the end of February, the total congregational support was \$25,639.

Last year the figure for the same period (before the start of the covid-19 shutdown) was \$30,327. Other income this year for the same period was \$13,234. This was slightly higher than last year when other income totalled \$12,528.

Expenses to the end of February this year totalled \$50,371, a figure higher than last year,\$43,636.

The increase was mainly due to property repairs, custodial costs, the UCC assessment and personnel costs.

St. James thanks for your continuing support.

## Mission & Service

*Submitted by Marty Linton, Chair*

As of January 2021 the Mission and Service and Outreach Committees have been amalgamated into one committee - the new M&S/ Outreach Committee.

There are 4 members on this committee: Mhairi Godley, Jennifer Gray, Marty Linton (chair) and Rev. Maya Douglas (ex-officio).

### M&S

Our 2021 M&S pledge amount of \$30,000 was approved at the AGM on March 7, 2021.

As of the end of March 2021 a total of \$7,705.81 has been received for M&S and remitted to UCC Finance. This is 25% of our annual pledge.

Please send your donations to St. James United Church, 400 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9B 2A8 and mark your envelope “ M & S Donation,” OR donate on-line at our website : [www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)

Please add “M & S donation” under “special instructions to the seller”.



*Submitted by Marty Linton*

#### The Benevolent Fund:

To date, no money has been withdrawn from the Benevolent Fund by our ministers since March 15, 2019. Deposits continued to be made into the Fund at the rate of 10% of our Outreach Offerings until April 6, 2020. At that time the balance of funds in the Benevolent Fund was \$1,215.56. Our first Outreach Offering during COVID-19 was received during April/ May for The GO Project. A total of \$125.00 was received and it was decided by the Committee to donate the total amount. Since that time no money has been deducted from any Outreach Offering for the Benevolent Fund.

#### Outreach Offering:

Throughout the month of February/ early March we received an Outreach Offering for All Saints' Kingsway - Out of the Cold. A cheque for 100% of the funds received, \$535.00, was mailed to ASK-OOTC. The money was used to buy food vouchers from local Kingsway restaurants to distribute each Tuesday to those

needing a meal and to supply bagged lunches at All Saints' Sherbourne for people using their community drop-in, which is one of only two Out of the Cold centres open in downtown Toronto East.

Our Easter Outreach Offering, being received during the month of April will be donated to United Church of Canada Camps.

## Sunday School Updates!

*Submitted by Karen Forgrave*

Our Easter Rotation was an EGG-citing time in Sunday School! A few of weeks before Easter, families came to the church to “curbside pickup” packages of materials, including real palm branches and a dozen plastic Easter Eggs per child. Thank you to Linda Maw for ordering the palm branches, and to Matty Decarolis for assisting with the curbside pickups!

Over the course of two weeks in Sunday School, students worked to create their own “Resurrection Eggs”. Each egg was numbered and filled with one item that represented part of Holy Week – from the palm branch for Palm Sunday and Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the final empty egg, representing the empty tomb on Easter morning. Items gave students tactile experiences as we emphasized important parts of the Easter Story.



For example, a small piece of towel let us talk about Jesus washing the disciples’ feet and teaching his disciples to love and serve others. Later, we used these eggs for a variety of games, from “What is missing?” to “Dizzy Lizzy” – where students rolled dice, and you had to pick up the egg that matched, spin around the number of times rolled, and then open the egg and show the contents to the camera. The first person to do this was the winner of that round! There was lots of laughter and action in this game, as we reviewed the important events of Holy Week!



Before our Easter Rotation, we did a rotation on “Jesus Blesses the Children”. Students did a great job participating in a drama workshop together, and doing a “Reader’s Theatre” to retell this Bible story. The students came up with insightful comments about what this story teaches us.

I wanted to share some with you:

This story shows us that Jesus is....

- including of others (inclusive)
- kind to everyone, and listens to them
- likes children
- makes time for everyone



*Jesus' love grows here! Our plant is displaying a beautiful crystal heart that we grew in Sunday School, as we learned about Jesus loving and blessing the*

### **What's up next?**

We will be continuing our online Sunday School at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays for JK – Grade 9 students.

Our next theme is “Phillip and the Ethiopian” (Acts 8). Did you know that the Ethiopian Orthodox church has been around for about 2000 years, and

is full of amazing iconography and traditions? They trace the origins of their church to the encounter between Phillip and the Ethiopian, recorded in Acts 8. We will be looking at some of the traditions of the Ethiopian church as we do this rotation in Sunday School.

This year, due to Covid, we will not be able to have our traditional “end-of-year” picnic in the park. However, we are still discussing plans for honouring the end of the school year in June. Students enjoyed our “Spring Break Fun and Games Sunday” with online Wheel of Fortune, Bingo and Jeopardy. In lieu of a picnic, we may have an online celebration of games together this year (although the egg-and-spoon races, and water-balloon races may not be possible inside!)

Hopefully next year, things will be back to normal and we can have fun together in person! In the meantime, I am enjoying seeing so many students online each weekend, and I am so thankful for the technology that allows us to remain connected!

## **The Children's Bible In A Nutshell**

### **Judas Asparagus - Bible Humor**

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. This is amazing and should bring tears of laughter to your eyes. Here is what was written:

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did.

Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.....Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David...He got to be king by killing a giant with a

slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the

Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.



*istockphoto.com*



# St. James Garden In Wonderous Bloom!



## Co-Vid Medical Experts

Medical experts in Belleville, Ontario today were asked if it is time to ease the COVID lockdowns.

Allergists were in favor of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve.

Obstetricians felt certain everyone was laboring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow.

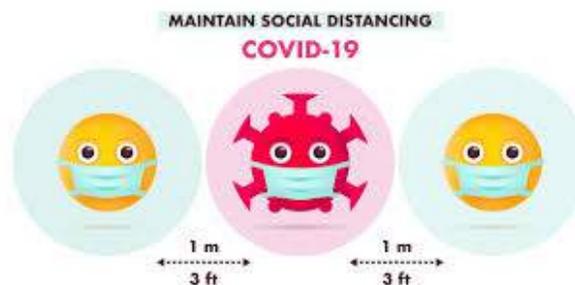
Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off

by the whole idea.

Anesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the asses in politics.



[freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com)

## Remembering Lenore Beecham -excerpt from Cherished Lives



In 1981 Lenore returned with her family from Korea where she and her husband Walter served as United Church Missionaries. She immediately enrolled at Emmanuel College where after 2 years she graduated with a Masters in Religious Education and was ordained for the ministry. She served part time with several Korean/Canadian United Church congregations before accepting an invitation from St. James to fill a 10-month interim placement after Robin Sharpe retired.

Following that, she took a position at our neighboring Richview United Church where she served for 8 years. At this time, Lenore was the first full time female minister in The Toronto Conference.

Lenore returned to St. James as a retired minister. She chaired the Outreach Committee, and was a member of many groups over the years such as the Social Justice Working Group, Marjorie's Chorus, Christian Meditation and Morning Meds, as well as a Reiki Volunteer in our Well being Place.

Beyond our walls she was an active member of Toronto West Presbytery and served on the Justice and World Affairs Committee as well as the Toronto West KAIROS. She was also active with the Toronto Conference Ethnic Ministry Committee and our own church's Green Audit Committee advocating environmental responsibility.

While in Korea her life was enriched by her involvement in the Human Relations movement where there is great emphasis on the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Perhaps this is why she was so open to learning Reiki.

She appreciated Rev Coral Prebble's distinct approach to ministry with her receptiveness to new ideas and the breadth of her inclusiveness. She found Coral's sermons intellectually stimulating while being relevant to current events and lifestyles and being deeply rooted in scripture. I end this narrative with her favourite Hebrew scripture of Micah 6; 8:

“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

Lenore will be remembered for her boundless energy, her contagious smile and her words of comfort, caring and inspiration.

Lenore passed away on January 30, 2021 and we are truly grateful that she generously shared her life with us.

This has been just a glimpse into the life of Lenore written by Barb Madry for Cherished Lives.



## Children in Church

From the mouths of children - they are so adorable and cute, but they don't hear too well.

### Jesus' Dad's Name

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The kid said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

### Kids In Church

3-year-old Reese:  
"Our Father, Who does art in heaven,  
Harold is His name.  
Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying:  
"Lord, if you can't make me a  
better boy, don't worry about it. I'm  
having a real good time like I  
am."

After the christening of his baby  
brother in church, Jason sobbed all

the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail."

One particular four-year-old prayed,  
"And forgive us our trash baskets  
as we forgive those who put trash in  
our baskets."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

~~~~~  
A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

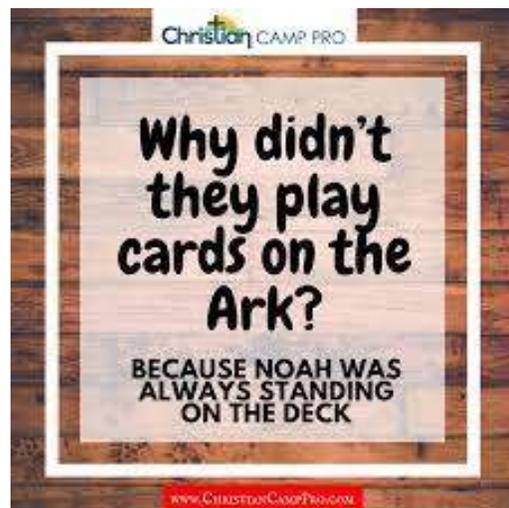
~~~~~  
A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

~~~~~  
A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



[christiancamppro.com](http://christiancamppro.com)

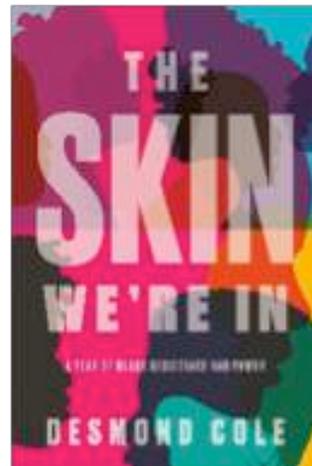
## Christian Development Committee Updates

*Submitted By Karen Forgrave*

On Tuesday, February 16th, we hosted a virtual Pancake Day gathering (BYOP – Bring Your Own Pancakes!). It was our first experience using “break-out rooms” to create smaller groups of people for discussion, much like if you were sitting together at a table in Fellowship Hall for our traditional Pancake Lunches. It was nice to see people, and I always love eating pancakes, but I sure did miss the plate-sized blueberry and chocolate-chip pancakes that we are usually treated to at St. James, thanks to the Richards Family! Hopefully next year!

Our Lenten Journeys this year: When Covid hit in March 2020, our Lenten Study Group shifted from in-person to online to complete our sessions. This year, our Lenten Study Group was planned with the online experience in mind! People were invited to join in any or all of the five evening sessions held in February and March. Together, we were able to watch a TedTalk

video as Rev. Maya shared her screen, so that we could all view together. We engaged in discussions afterward, as we examined different forms of storytelling through a Christian lens. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Members from Bloordale and St. James United Church also joined in the book study that was hosted by

Rev. Hewitt Holmes of Collier United Church in Barrie, Ontario. Weekly from February 24th to March 31st, we engaged in meaningful, thoughtful, and often challenging dialogue around issues of racism as we worked our way through the eye-opening book *The Skin We're In* by Desmond Cole.

We were delighted to have Rev. Maya arrange for a guest speaker near the end of our book talk. A

former classmate of Rev. Maya's, and currently a CBC Ottawa news anchor, Adrian Harewood spoke about his own experiences as a black male reporter and newscaster. He is currently teaching at the school of journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa, and is using this book as part of his course on journalism, race and diversity. He has also done multiple interviews with author Desmond Cole. It was wonderful to have him join us.

On April 1st, the Christian Development Committee hosted a virtual event to watch the initial screening of "Shoreline". This documentary followed the story of A Greener Future's Executive Director, Rochelle Byrne, as she embarked on a 430 km paddleboard journey across Lake Ontario to raise awareness about plastic pollution.

Her adventure took place in the summer of 2020, and was started because the COVID-19 pandemic was interfering with her ability to engage community members in their traditional litter cleanups along the shores of Lake Ontario. This event was eye opening, and

provided valuable, local information to include in letters to companies and members of parliament in order to encourage the reduction and elimination of micro-plastics and single-use plastics.

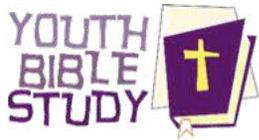
The pandemic has not been good for litter, with the use of many single-use, throwaway containers and masks! Many end up on local beaches and in the lake where they affect water quality and wildlife. It is shocking how many people still do not put litter in recycling bins and/or garbage bins. We are all encouraged to do our part – and to encourage others to do theirs!

### **Coming Up Next:**



**NEW** – Evening Bible Studies – Mondays at 7 p.m.

Use the Zoom link that is included in the weekly bulletin. It is the same Zoom link for the 1pm and 7 p.m. Bible Study Groups.



Note that the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month will be

for youth/young adult Bible Study sessions, starting on May 3rd.

Adult Bible Study sessions are held Mondays at 1pm and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. (e.g., May 10th).



**Trivia Night!** Fun for all ages! 7 p.m. on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!

**Social Justice Group:** After watching the documentary “Shoreline” and reading “The Skin We’re In”, many of us felt a need to “do something”! We know we have many members of St. James who are passionate about the environment, or other important issues that we see in the news. If you would be interested in sending letters to members of parliament or governmental organizations to promote a cause (e.g., to promote enhanced water quality, through a number of possible initiatives), please let us know.

An email will be sent out the week of May 10th to collect the names of people who are willing to be part of this email group.

This group of people will be part of the “social justice online group” who will be forwarded suggested petitions, or letter writing suggestions from members of the congregation (e.g., a form letter that you can modify and sign), to be passed along. You can choose to participate in as many or as few as you like. There is power in numbers!

Please look for your chance to join in if this is of interest to you!



**Summer Book Study:** Rev. Maya will be leading a book study during the summer, meeting once a week over Zoom for approximately 6 weeks. Further details will be available in June - please check your bulletins.