



# SouthWinds

## MAY 2024

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Windsor Park  
United Church

1062 Autumnwood Drive  
Winnipeg MB R2J 1C7  
Phone: 204.256.8792

Visit us at:  
[windsorparkunitedchurch.com](http://windsorparkunitedchurch.com)

## Welcome 2024

### The MAL Group of 5

2024 is going to be a “Banner Year” for Windsor Park United Church as a LOT of exciting things are happening.

Here are some of the events occurring from April to June.

## AGM Meeting

This is your executive team for 2024-2025.

Name	Position
Alana Davis Caitlin Trias Dorothy Read Howard Ashdown John Lwiwski	Members-at-Large
David Anderson Carol Belsham Linda Dart Morag Fisher Gwen Polak	Trustees
Doug Waldron	Treasurer
Sue Turley	Recording Secretary
Marlene Glover	Corresponding Secretary
Leo Grandy Margaret Grandy June Kaan	Ministry and Personnel
Bill Belsham Don Hunnie John Lwiwski	Finance and Property Cluster
Prairie to Pine	Patricia Todd
Rev. Phil Read	Pastoral Charge Supervisor

## Bed Build – May 25

Our Bed Build is scheduled for Saturday, May 25, 2024. A volunteer sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Jim Thiessen of Sleep in Heaving Peace will be speaking at the Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> Service. We are collecting twin-sized bedding. (sheets, pillow cases, blankets, pillows, etc.)

## Sanctuary Renovations

Renovations are in full swing.

- ★ Pews will be removed during the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ★ New Flooring will commence during the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Completion in early June.

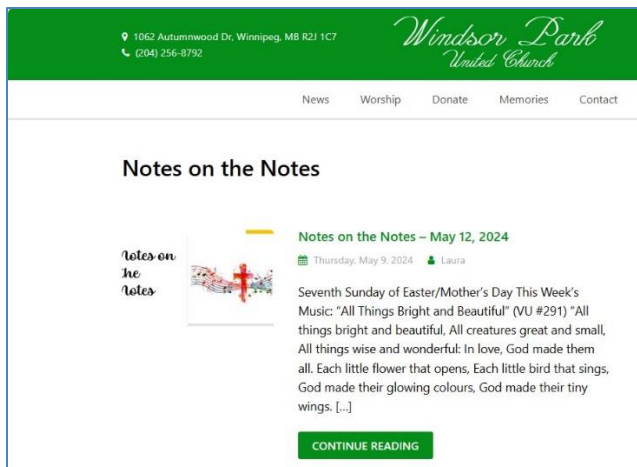
## Sunday Services

With the Sanctuary renovations happening, we will be playing musical chairs for a few weeks. Here is the program.

May 5	Upstairs in Pews
May 12	Upstairs in Pews
May 19	Upstairs in chairs
May 26	Downstairs in chairs
Jun 2	Downstairs in chairs
June 9	Upstairs in chairs

# Notes on the Notes

Laura Steidl



In 2022 I was asked to write an article about the Notes on the Notes feature on our website. This article was written for and published in the United Church of Canada magazine, "Gathering - Resources for Worship Planners Pentecost 2 - 2023."

When my church, Windsor Park United, started a website in 2011, we were looking for some engaging content that could be updated regularly, giving our website more of an up-to-date, rather than static, look.

As Music Director, I came up with the idea and started writing Notes on the Notes in 2012 as a way to encourage our congregation members to engage regularly with our website. It was also a wonderful opportunity to add context and meaning to the music we were using in worship.

Each Sunday, music is intentionally chosen to amplify or compliment the scripture readings and theme of the service. At times, however, it seemed that the congregation just thought we opened the hymn book and picked things at random!

Through the Notes on the Notes, I was able to connect the music choices to the worship services in deeper ways than would be possible during the limited time constraints of a church service. The information on the

music comes mostly from sources on the internet and Voices United hymn book notes. I often look for interesting stories about the context in which the hymn was written, giving people some insight to the hymn's history, lyrics, and composer.

In worship, people may sing the hymns without really thinking about the words and the connection to their own faith journey. The Notes on the Notes gives people the opportunity to read and think about the words of the hymns in their own time.

Notes on the Notes also gives a sense of anticipation for the upcoming services. People are able to learn about the music and why it was chosen, as well as often being able to hear the music before the service.

Service music choices are often balanced between old favourites and new music. But, in this day and age, we can no longer assume that hymns that may have traditionally been considered as "known" will be known by all. So, I often include links to videos so that people can hear the music.

Sometimes, it will be a video where the words are on the screen so that people can sing along if they like. Other times, people will get to hear the music in a way that we are unable to provide during our services. For example, a full church with pipe organ, someone singing with a guitar from their home, a well-known singer or group, or beautiful acapella video in multiple parts performed by one person.

The Notes on the Notes is also a great way to introduce "new" or contemporary church music. People can see the music used in worship and hear it before they come to church. Since the fall of 2022, our church has had both in-person services and livestreamed services. The Notes on the Notes offers another way to connect both our home and in-person congregation.

During the pandemic, the Notes on the Notes gave people at home another point of interaction with the church, keeping them connected during this time of isolation. Bonus videos give people a chance to hear music that we are not doing during the service, but still connects with the theme for the week.

This initiative has been a positive addition to the music ministry at our church and has now started to be used by other church musicians as a source for their music ministries!

## *Death of a Landmark*

*Carol Belsham*

**THIS WAS THE HEADLINE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1987 OF THE WINNIPEG SUN.**

*Loving memories all that remain of Young United Church*

*Ashes and Ice*

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Firemen look sadly at the ruins of Young United Church, consumed by the blaze late Sunday, December 27, 1987. They were joined by hundreds of mourners who came to take photographs and reflect on the building that in many ways was the heart of its community.

On September 1, 1987, Agape Table had just moved to their new location at Young United. Now they had lost their home. The West Broadway Youth Outreach Program had worked out of this church for ten years. The church was also used for recreational activities and as a drop-in centre Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

A host of other cultural, religious, and social groups were left homeless. The firefighters were able to save the steeple or tower of the church at the corner of Furby and Broadway. All the rest of the church was destroyed even the beautiful stained glass windows and pipe organ.

But even with this terrible tragedy, Young United has survived. The tower was saved and incorporated into a multi-faith, multi-function building: Crossways in Common.

Our church, Windsor Park United Church helps through our outreach to make lunches for West Broadway Community Ministry about every four to six weeks for the homeless or poverty-stricken people in the area.

This is only one function that Crossways in Common does, and Windsor Park United Church is proud to be a part of it. Our interest in writing about this is because we were married in this beautiful church (Young United) in 1964 and were saddened that Sunday evening December 27, 1987 when someone passing nearby telephoned to tell us Young United was on fire.

We have been attending Windsor Park United Church since 1977—47 years! We have seen many changes over the years as many of you also have. We've seen a few ministers over the years and now in the process of finding, sharing, and hiring a half-time minister.

Our five Members-at-Large plus Sue Turley (Office Administrator), Laura Steidl (Music Director), Myrna Hagues (Accompanist), and Gina Grant (Custodian) have done a phenomenal job keeping our church going this past year!

Now we face a new change in our sanctuary with the pews being removed but his is all progress and it will also be an extension for more outreach opportunities—be it for seniors, recitals, or rentals as well as a place for worship.

Onward we go in a positive way just like Young United Church (Crossways in Common) has.

*[Articles on following pages]*



ROYALTY REIGNS SUPREME AT WESMEN CLASSIC / 44



GIRL SCOUTS  
CONSIDERED / 2

FERRY WENT UP  
IN FIREBALL / 13

VOL. 7, No. 309 Tuesday, December 29, 1987 CITY 25¢ (OUTSIDE METRO 35¢)

# DEATH OF A LANDMARK

LOVING MEMORIES ALL THAT REMAIN OF YOUNG UNITED CHURCH / 4



## ASHES AND ICE

Firemen look sadly at the ruins of Young United Church, consumed by a mystery blaze late Sunday. They were joined by hundreds of mourners who came to take photographs and reflect on the end of a building that was in many ways the heart of its community. For more, see Pages 4 and 5.

Sun Photo by RICK MacWILLIAM

This week in  
*Neighbors*

Students  
learn at  
their own  
pace

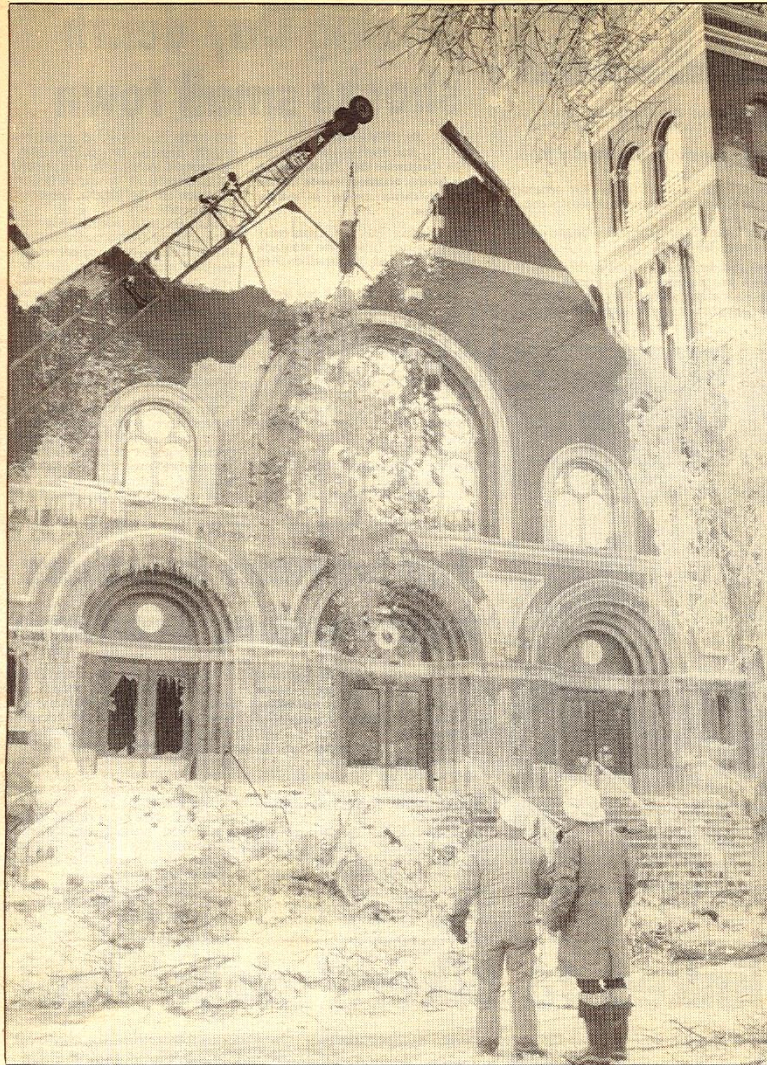
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- Ringette coach sees the world / 21
- New laws for off-road vehicles / 23

TEAM CANADA WINS IN ANTI-CANUCK SETTING / 46

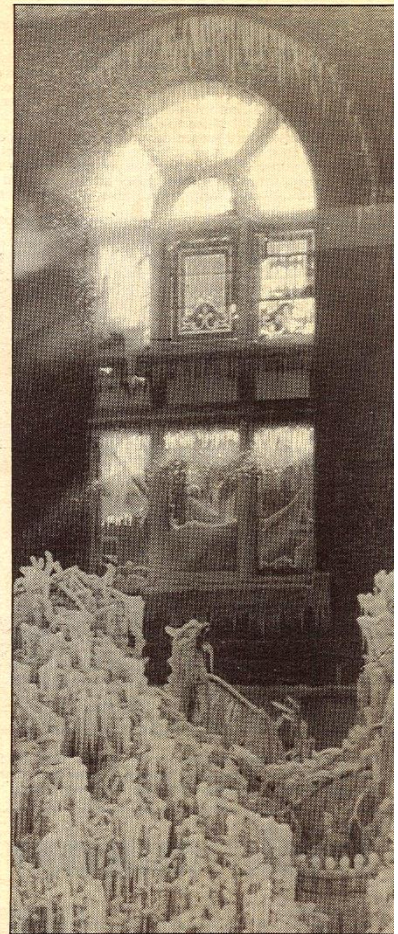
TRIPLE MURDER CHARGES GO TO COURT TODAY / 3





Bricks and mortar tumble from the gutted front wall of Young United Church, demolished for safety reasons.

Photos by RICK MacWILLIAM  
Stories by PAUL CANTIN  
and JUDY FOSTEY



Sunlight filters through a veil of broken stained glass.

# A terrible beauty is born

**It was like a giant outdoor funeral.**

Except that the hundreds of mourning Winnipeggers who gathered on Broadway yesterday were paying their last respects to a church.

Many who came to view the remains of Young United Church carried cameras, hoping to capture a last look at the historic building. Others stared silently at the skeleton of what was once a vibrant house of worship and a vital part of the social and spiritual community.

And some couldn't help but marvel at the beauty left in the wake of the misfortune that befell what had been Manitoba's first Methodist church.

"It's so picturesque, how the ice has formed over the whole building, and the way the sun makes it shine," said one bystander and former member of the congregation.

"What happened is horrible. But it's fascinating how something so beautiful can come from a tragedy," she said.

The four-alarm fire destroyed the building, valued at \$4 million, a fire department spokesman said. The cause will remain a mystery until fire inspectors finish sorting through the ashes.

All four alarms came in within 20 minutes of the first call at 10:05 p.m., indicating it was a runaway blaze that would require a full force of firefighters.

Twelve hours later, giant icicles hung from the fragile, still-smoking remains as firefighters trained their hoses on the church. Water draining from the building reduced the corner of Broadway and Furby Street to a slushy lake.

The weight of the ice that formed on surrounding trees sent limbs crashing to earth and bent other trees so that their top branches touched the ground.

Demolition experts consulted with fire department officials for hours before finally pulling down the walls most in danger of collapsing — the east wall facing Furby and the wall on the alley behind the church.

"It really is a sorry sight," retired concert flutist Albert Horch said. "I played in concerts there. It had beautiful high ceilings and fine architecture, and it was so well-maintained. It's sad to see a beautiful building be lost like this."

Another musician who had performed in Young United said she was distressed by the destruction.

"I sang there many, many times, although I'm not a member. I just feel sick about it. I can't believe what has happened," she said. "It's not right, it's just a mess now."

"At Christmas time, of all times for something like this to happen," area resident Betty Chalmers added.

Chalmers said the thing she would miss the most about the church was the massive stained-glass window that overlooked

ed Furby Street.

"I hope Westminster and the other churches open their doors to all the social services that were in the church," added.

Many of the bystanders said they were worried how homeless would cope now that the Agape Table soup kitchen had lost its home.

The night before, tears of sadness flowed down the faces of church members as they watched the building go up in spectacular flames.

"A lot of people were in tears. It's all a shock. It's like there all our lives," said church board chairman Sid Glen. City councillor Harold Taylor arrived at the fire site shortly after 11 p.m. Sunday.

"The roof was gone and there were lots of flames and an enormous amount of smoke," said Taylor (Memoir yesterday).

Firefighters had to move the ladder trucks back because they were concerned that the steeples may fall on them.

"The church steeple flamed right up like a column. You couldn't see anything in the steeples at all and all of a sudden they were like torches, just flaming into the sky."



# Church charities rendered homeless

Young United Church was home to dozens of people and organizations, some that worked to help the hungry and poor — but yesterday those groups were left searching for a home.

Agape Table soup kitchen, which served 250 needy people daily, lost all its food supplies and kitchen equipment in the blaze.

Coordinator Ted Wood said all he could do was watch the flames destroy the church, which became Agape's new location on Sept. 1.

"Standing there I couldn't believe it. People seemed stunned, like I was."

He said the loss of the church means guests of Agape may have to travel far to get a morning meal.

"Our program was the only one in the area that served a morning meal. They may now have to go to programs in the North End, which will be hard for the elderly."

The program also served young children, single mothers and the unemployed, most from the surrounding area.

"It's not just the loss of food that will be hard, it's also a meeting place for lots of people," Wood said. Organizers will meet this afternoon to make plans to relocate.

Agape Table moved into Young United in September after it was forced out of the Broadway Optimist Community Centre amid complaints that the program attracted panhandlers, drunks and solvent-sniffers.

Various churches donate to Agape, Wood said, adding that he hopes to set up at a temporary location where people in need can at least get coffee and sandwiches.

Later yesterday, another Agape spokesman said donations would be accepted at Harrow United Church on Mulvey Street.

Rev. Beverley Baptiste of the Metropolitan Community Church, a non-denominational group that worshipped in the Young United chapel, said her group finished their service at around 9:30 Sunday night, which likely made them the last persons in the church before the fire.

"Someone phoned me around 11:30 that night to make sure our people had gotten out after they heard about the fire," Baptiste said.

"I was in shock. It's something that you figure only happens to other people."

A board meeting will be held today to discuss a new location, Baptiste said. The West Broadway Youth Outreach program, which has worked out of the church for 10 years, also called a board meeting for today.

Jamie Kinaschuk, spokesman for the group which helps four to 12-year-olds, said the fire hit them hard.

"We've lost everything. Games, sports equipment and all our camping equipment which really hurt."

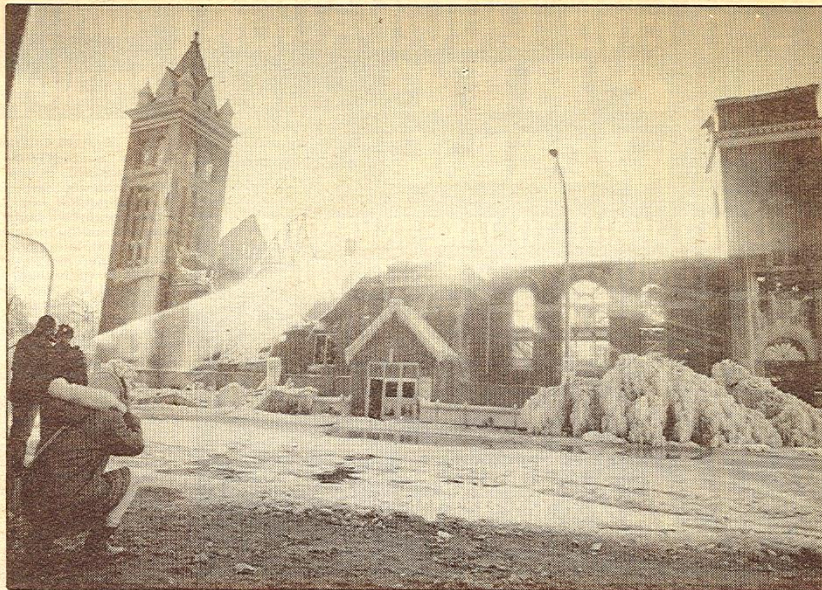
Most of the group's work involves visiting homes of local residents and just walking the streets and being visible to kids who might want help, Kinaschuk said.

The church was also used for recreational activities and as a drop-in centre Monday to Friday from 1-9 p.m.

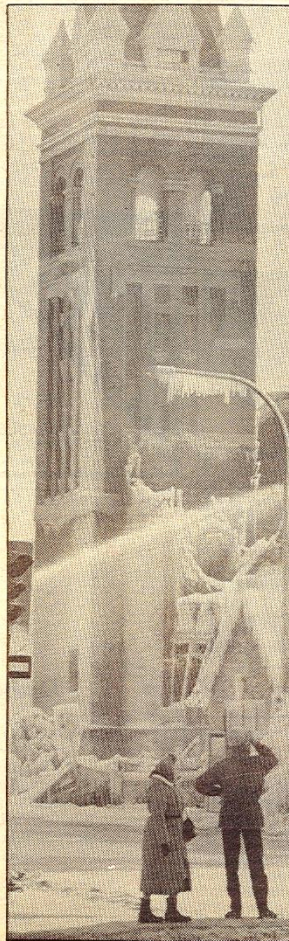
Kinaschuk said the Broadway Optimist Community Centre has offered them temporary space for the program and he's glad it will continue because it's really needed.

"Business people have told us that vandalism has gone down and the kids now show more respect to adults."

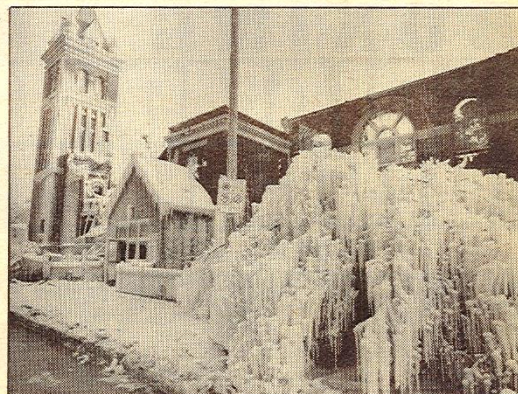
A host of other cultural, religious and social groups were left homeless, said Joyce Christie of the United Church Presbytery. They include: the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Winnipeg Singers, the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir, several Alcoholics Anonymous groups, the gay community's ministry, a clothing depot, a senior citizens group, the Youth Community Ministry program, and a friendship group for psychiatric outpatients.



Young United Church's steeples frame the ruins of the church as fire hoses soak the smouldering debris.



Spectators view devastation.



Ice encrusts branches of trees next to the church's Broadway entrance.

## Members wept at tragic news

Winnipeg lost more than a historic building when it lost Young United Church yesterday.

Church board chairman Sid Glensk said yesterday many of the members wept when they were told of the fire.

The building had been declared a historic landmark last year and Glensk said many of the items in the church can never be replaced.

"The organ was a beauty. It's been kept up-to-date and the sound was beautiful. The CBC had used it for presentations."

Glensk said he was especially sad that pictures of church founders which had been hanging in the lobby were lost.

"We also lost a list of church members who had served in both world wars. As far as we know, all our papers are gone."

The church was founded in 1891, but the building that burned Sunday night was built in 1911, he said.

The board held an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon to decide the church's future.

He said the building was insured but he didn't know if it could be rebuilt because it could cost up to \$6 million.

Bob Thompson, a minister at Westminster, said the loss of Young United would be greatly felt in the community.

"Neighborhood people who had need for food or street people who needed a place to drop in and get warm used the church."

He said his church may be able to provide worship space but it can't take over the Agape Table soup kitchen program.

"I don't know where they'll go."

The church was also home to the body that governs Winnipeg's 48 United Church congregations.

The United Church Presbytery held an emergency executive meeting yesterday to discuss finding a new office.



## *A Brief History of Windsor Park United Church*

*Laura Steidl*

The first service of Windsor Park United Church was conducted on July 13th, 1958, in a temporary building. Prior to this date, much work had been done to establish the United Church as part of the Windsor Park community. In August of 1957, six couples met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. W. Collins to initiate the establishment of a United Church congregation. On November 9th, 1958, the congregation received its official charter. A church building was erected and dedicated in April of 1962, including a date stone, behind which was a sealed copper box containing a list of all members on the Communion Roll, a copy of the church directory, a 1962 church calendar, a copy of The Lance containing pictures and articles about the sod-turning, the Annual Report and Financial Statement for 1961 and a copy of the Dedication brochure. A celebration and burning of the mortgage service was held on September 12, 1976.



*Original temporary building*

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In March of 1979, a much-needed building extension was completed at a cost of \$200,000, expanding the building to include the lobby, ministers' offices, upstairs kitchen, and bathrooms. In 2003/2004, the downstairs kitchen was renovated and is now a commercial kitchen.

In 2001, the Memorial Garden was built and dedicated.

A need was seen to install a lift to make the downstairs area of the church accessible to all. We also installed a parking lot next to the building, again allowing for more accessibility, especially in the winter months. Both the Lift and Parking Lot were paid off in 2014. 2015 ended with the completed installation of a much-needed new boiler system.



### *Turning of the sod for the Parking Lot*

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Over the years, many changes have also been made within the church Sanctuary itself:

- ★ Installation of window-darkening blinds
- ★ Expansion of the choir loft and removal of the lectern/seating on the choir side to be re-used as a portable lectern/pulpit
- ★ Installation of extra electrical outlets to allow for updated technology use and use of this technology in worship
- ★ Installation of the stained glass windows

In 2020, a major basement renovation was undertaken due to flooding of the basement. A neutral colour palette was chosen to make the space more user-friendly for renters.

In 2020/2021, we also had an extensive renovation of the chancel part of the Sanctuary. The area was changed to be on one level with a ramp installed for accessibility. Previously there were two steps up to the chancel, a step down to the choir loft, a step down to the back landing and a step up to the pulpit area. The choir loft pews were also removed to allow for greater flexibility for this area.

This spring (2024), we are undertaking the renovation of the congregational area of the Sanctuary. The removal of the pews will allow for more flexible use of the space, both for the congregation, and to generate potential rental revenue. There will also be new flooring installed.





*Mid-way through chancel renovation*

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Over the past 60+ years, Windsor Park United has continued to build on its history of care and hospitality. We are a community that understands what it means to journey this path of faith together. As we see from this brief history of the physical church space, Windsor Park United Church has been growing and evolving since its inception and will continue to do so!

## *Our Wish*

*Thursday Morning Group Study*

Our wish for Windsor Park United Church is to have a minister for all people to visit with if only during some of the time.

Ideally, we would have a minister to lead us every Thursday morning.

That is our ultimate dream!



## Putting out a “Welcoming Mat”

Doug Waldron (Treasurer)

### - FORESIGHT AND HINDSIGHT FROM 2021

In the Fall of 2021, my submission to SouthWinds was titled “Putting out a Welcoming Mat”. With the luxury of time, we can look back at its vision and maybe adjust a future vision.

From 2021: “... We have secured grants from the Winnipeg Foundation and UCC Embracing the Spirit and hired a Hub Coordinator ... the Finance and Stewardship Council can execute on its vision of using the Church building and resources ... to bring more self-sufficiency to our building costs while full filling our congregational mission”.

2024: We have secured more grants for the Church building and are on the cusp of having even more flexible community space. The Hub funding is helping host the “Holy Ground Café” and is positioned for more growth.

“ .. It struck me that we made a design mistake of not having wheelchair access to the Little Free Library level... a long path with a gentle slope could be built from the street sidewalk near our Memorial Garden entrance to the landing in front of the library. We believe we can secure a grant to assist with the construction costs. If you would like to assist with this project, please contact me to ensure All are truly welcome.”

2024: Nobody has come forward yet and the design flaw is still there. We may need to expand the outdoor vision with the revitalization of the Memorial Garden in the near future.

“... After many years of having between 90 and 105 PAR participants we are now down to 89 and the number of Canada Helps donations has leveled off. The number of envelopes being dropped at the church has also dwindled. The Finance Council has asked the Executive to make some hard choices on how to fund our expenses with just a promise to replace the funds when we “return to normal”. Everybody has a hand in the “Welcome Mat” to our church programming, at this time it represents what was expected from the past, but it may reflect what we can afford in the future.”

2024: As we know it is now the “new normal”. Patrick made a hard choice for us. PAR is currently between 75-80 and other than the first Sunday of the month the envelope count is on the smaller side.

I believe this statement still holds true:

*Everybody has a hand in the “Welcome Mat” to our church programming, it may reflect what we can afford in the future.”*





## Garden Tour 2024

Laura Steidl

### Calling all Gardeners!

This summer we will be having our fifth annual WPUC Virtual Garden Tour!!

There will be a call for photos in mid-July and all photos should be in by July 31.

The photos can be of your own garden or pots, as well as gardens you may have visited this summer.

Watch for more details coming in early July.

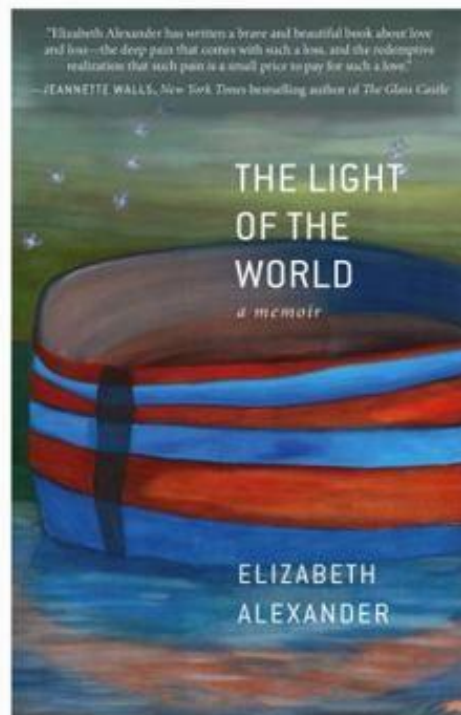
For some inspiration and to see the videos from the previous Garden Tours, type @wpuc7570/playlists into your search bar. Then scroll down to find “WPUC Garden Tours,” and click on the picture to play all. Enjoy!



## Book Review

Susan Turley

### THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD BY ELIZABETH ALEXANDER



**Elizabeth Alexander** is a poet, writer, and literary scholar. She currently serving as president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a post she has held since 2018. For 15 years, Alexander taught poetry and chaired the African-American studies department at Yale University.

Her work caught my eye on January 20, 2009 while watching the president inauguration of Barak Obama on television. She recited the poem she created for the occasion “Praise Song for the Day.” She joined the ranks of Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, and Miller Williams in providing presidential inaugural poetry.

What drew me to Alexander’s works was her delicious use of the English language. For anyone who loves the language and enjoys reading descriptions that set your mind dancing, she is an author you should peruse.



## *Editor's Note*

*John Lwiwski*

A big thank you to this edition's contributors.

Our gratitude also goes out to our staff: Laura, Myrna, Sue, Catherine, and Gina for their continued support and for just being "awesome".

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

See you in the fall.

*Watch for the  
Fall edition of  
Southwinds.  
Available late  
September.*

## *Book Review (Cont'd)*

My favourite work of Alexander's is "The Light of the World." Elizabeth Alexander's husband, Ficre Ghebreyesus, died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 2012, leaving Alexander to face the world with her two young sons. Ghebreyesus was an Eritrean-American artist, proficient in the styles of representational, abstract, and a dreamlike combination of the two.

This rich, lucid piece recalls a love story that is a story of loss. She remembers the beauty of her married life, the devastation of her husband's death, and the peace she found in aiding her two teenage sons through the loss of their father. Alexander uses her own extremely personal journey for coming to terms with grief and the continuation of life.

"The Light of the World" is an absorbing memoir. It is a celebration of a life well-lived and

The *Light of the World* is at once an endlessly compelling memoir and a deeply felt meditation on the blessings of love, family, art, and community. It is also a lyrical celebration of a life well-lived and a testament to the invaluable gift of human companionship. This is a book that I highly recommend.

