

# Rainbows at Collier

After being a part of the Rainbows program here at Collier Street United Church since 2001, I have decided to officially "retire." This was a very difficult decision for me not only because this is a program that I truly believe in but it also means that the Rainbows program at Collier has come to an end. There is always hope that someone, someday will want to start up at another time but for now, it is on a break.

Rainbows For All Children is a peer learning program that was introduced to Collier Street United Church by Thelma Cockburn in 1992. At that time, Thelma was a teacher at Codrington Public School and was searching for a program to help her students deal positively with feelings related to divorce or death within their families. Thelma discovered Rainbows in the U.S. and then introduced a program at Collier as the first community site in the Barrie area. She and my uncle Jack Cain approached the official board here at Collier for the funding for supplies and the rest is history.

Since that time, the Rainbows program has been fully funded by you, the congregation. I don't have any records from 1992 to 2002 but after that time, it appears that we have helped over 600 participants, had at least 65 trained facilitators and at least 10 student helpers. Many of the facilitators volunteered year after year and even some of the students did a few years of volunteer service as well. Most of our facilitators were members here at Collier and then they brought in friends and we were able to source community volunteers too. Many of our facilitators over the years either had children take part in the program at some point or were even participants themselves in their youth and wanted to "give back".

We had wonderful feedback over the years from the parents and even though some of the children were hesitant to come at first as this was all a new experience for them, they developed strong bonds with their leader and the other children in their groups.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your loving support and I send a special thank you to all of the facilitators who truly made a difference in so many of these family's lives. We called ourselves "loving listeners." There was no judgement as these families grieved together, learned new coping skills and learned to live new "normal" lives in a safe and loving environment. We helped them feel better about themselves, to learn that they weren't alone in their grief and encouraged them to just "let it all out". Rainbows encourages families to move from hurt through healing to hope and I feel that we at Collier were a large part in helping them to do that.

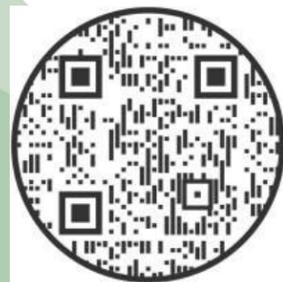
So, for now Rainbows is on hold at Collier Street United Church but if you know of anyone who could benefit from this program, please feel free to contact the Rainbows head office in Barrie at 705-726-7407.—Thank you. Susan Storrington



**Register for in-person worship**  
**at 10:30 am on Sundays**  
 with link below or call the office by Thursday of each week by 2 pm.



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdea\\_cDerEbT60Do9WakV50Gq04w-UISL0vKy6RbIndNXWnzQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdea_cDerEbT60Do9WakV50Gq04w-UISL0vKy6RbIndNXWnzQ/viewform)



# Minister

Beloved!

I write this link newsletter on a beautiful fall day in November. The weather has been just great this fall, I know some of my friends and perhaps you would like the snow to come to get on with winter activities, until then we wait in hope.

As I write, still in a pandemic, places are reopening, including Collier. We are thankful for your patience and commitment to the well-being of all concerned as we come to the Collier building and go into our community.

As you may know plans are already in place to continue the reopening in a safe way, with both in person and online, meeting the needs of our Church and city.

Especially in these times, I write with a thankful heart. I am honoured to share in leadership with you and extremely blessed and inspired by the team of leaders, volunteers and gifted staff in our Collier family.

I wish you safety and wellness for the rest of the fall, a holy season Advent/Christmas and a blessed and highly favoured 2022. - Hewitt

*"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people"—Luke 2:10*



## CHRISTMAS EVE 2021

Online Communion - 4:30pm

In person and Online Pageant Service—6:30 p.m.

In person and Online Lessons & Carols—8:30 P.M.

December 2021



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**COLLIER**  
 —CENTRED—  
 with God • in Barrie • on You

## Our music

Music at Collier continues to be vibrant. The choir meets every Thursday for zoom choir rehearsals and is in the process of creating another virtual Cantata, as well as periodic anthems for Sunday services.

We look forward to eventually being able to sing together in person and the possibilities that will offer for further singing activities, one being the Grand Family Flash Choir, which will start up again when singing in person is possible.

We are blessed to be able to have guest musicians for special occasions, regularly, organist John Charles and occasionally, Daryl Yaeger on trumpet. Sharon Saint and Colleen Dearham have also been offering their musical gifts in the form of piano preludes before the service. Anyone else interested in making musical contributions is encouraged to contact Sandra at [music@collierunited.ca](mailto:music@collierunited.ca).

## Programs

This academic year sees my training as a Diaconal Candidate for Ordered Ministry flowing into the Spiritual/Pastoral Care at Collier Street United. The pandemic protocols continue to interfere with the free movement into Long Term Care Homes and Senior residents. I have visited where possible and found the reception very warm and clearly everyone is eager for the love and spiritual support of the Collier family. Rev. Holmes and I anticipate that we will be starting occasional liturgical visits providing much awaited services. The "bereavement" group continues to meet weekly and has provided a much-needed connection for those who are walking a journey of grief.

One group that I am hoping to set up and engage is a Men's Club Meeting which can provide fellowship for Collier men. Saturday breakfast meetings with guest topics and speakers are some of the anticipated events. I look forward to keeping the Collier connections of faith and community strong and vital during this last period before we hopefully return to normal activity. Please contact Rob at [rmurdockunited@gmail.com](mailto:rmurdockunited@gmail.com).

## Music Room



*Have you ever wanted to try learning ukulele, guitar, or keyboard?*

*Do you wish you had a space to practice what you already know?*

*Would you like to hang out with other musical people?*

*Would you like sketching or coloring in a musical space?*

*Come check out the new "Music Room" drop in program at Collier United*

*Church.*

*Beginning Wednesday, November 24, the Music Room will be open from 3:30 to 5:00 on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.*

*The only requirement is to wear a mask and show proof of vaccination.*

*Contact Sandra at [music@collierunited.ca](mailto:music@collierunited.ca) for more information.*

*"Christmas is as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts." [sic]— Janice Maeditere*

## United Church Women

It's November already, 20 months into this pandemic and the members of Collier Street United Church Women are learning to cope with the new normal. Our Zoom online meetings have helped keep us together, but nothing is like feeling each other's physical presence. Recently we were able to meet in person with pandemic precautions and feel the value of that togetherness deeply.

Most of you know that we have held our second successful Purdy Chocolate fundraiser and are grateful to all of you for any purchases. Our Easter and Christmas chocolate sales have been our only sources of revenue this year, so we offer a sincere thank you for helping us. We recently passed over \$10,000.00 to the Operating Fund and pray that we can continue tangible support to the Collier ministry.

Looking forward, we hope that our members continue to enjoy the fellowship, learning and connectivity that are part of our organization. UCW will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2022 with a national conference in Sydney, NS in July. What changes we have seen and how we contin-

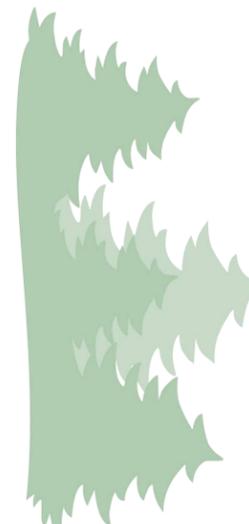
ually need to celebrate ourselves for continuing to be active, relevant and committed to the mission of our congregation.

In March 2022, we are planning to host the annual World Day of Prayer which brings people from all faiths into our church building. As well, we are hoping to add our support to a special foyer project being considered by the Collier Church Improvement Task Force.

So, we assure you that we are very much alive, have seen moderate growth in our numbers this year and report to you that we continue to support our church in many ways and hope to continue relevant participation.

With joy we offer warm good wishes to our Collier family for a joyous Christmas and pray you feel God's presence in your lives every day that you live.

Remember ... two units meet monthly - Amicae with evening meetings (leader - Susan Storrington) and WoHeLo with afternoon meetings (leader - Mabel Peyer). We warmly welcome new members.- Marion Tizzard



Connection, Community, Creativity, Inclusion, Love,

# Electronic Sign Dedication



## Worship, Connecting & Community

**Worship**—Once again, we are worshipping in our sanctuary and it's a wonderful feeling. We know that we can find God everywhere, but it sure brings us together being in the church building.. The church opened for worship in the sanctuary at the beginning of October. Congregants can preregister and all Covid -19 procedures are in place. This includes being doubly vaccinated. We have had good attendance and the services are hybrid so that people can join online. Sandra Ruttan continues to provide inspiring music and some choir members assist with the singing. John Charles on the organ and Daryl Yaeger on trumpet added greatly to our Thanksgiving and Remembrance services. As well, on Remembrance Sunday we named all those who have passed away from Collier family since November 2020.

With the guidance of Deb Tyler, our sanctuary has been beautifully decorated, and it certainly adds to the ambience of the services. This will be on going throughout the year, following the themes of the Liturgical calendar.

Holy Communion was celebrated on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, World Wide Communion Sunday. Communion was received in a different way with each congregant receiving an individual communion package. This method worked very well and will probably be ongoing.

Our electronic sign was dedicated on October 17<sup>th</sup>. It is an excellent way of highlighting what

is happening at Collier and what we stand for as a church. Plans are well under way for the Christmas season so stay tuned to the church bulletin to stay abreast of what is happening. It is our hope that the church will soon be able to operate in its full capacity.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer your services so willingly to help things run smoothly. We are always looking for members who can help with the ushering and protocols needed for our Sunday services. God's hands shape us and we ask for God's blessing and guidance as we move ahead.—Anne Snell

**Community**—Our Visitation Team met virtually via Zoom on November 10, 2021. We were pleased to welcome two new members to our Team, Elizabeth Chevrefils and Lynn Dolmage. Thanks were expressed to our three retirees, Annette Bowman, Donna Martin and Sharon Saint who have given so much over the years.

Our main Visitation takes place by phone, e-mail or cards during this time of Covid. There has been some lifting of lock down in some Retirement facilities with safety protocols in place.

We thank all of our Team for their continued diligence in providing spiritual and moral support to our Collier family. They provide a listening ear with a positive mindset and let our members know we care.—Dorothy and Sharon

### Collier Street United Church Calendar - 2022

<b>JANUARY</b>	2 <b>Worship</b> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas	28 Silent Auction/Gala Dinner
	9 <b>Worship</b> – Epiphany 1/Baptism of Jesus	29 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>
	16 <b>Worship</b> - Epiphany 2/Week of Christian Unity	29 Silent Auction/Fasta Dinner
	23 <b>Worship</b> – Epiphany 3/ Healing Sunday	30 Silent Auction
	25 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>	<b>MAY</b> (Asian Heritage Month)
	28 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>	01 <b>Worship</b> – Easter 3/ Earth Sunday
	30 <b>Worship</b> – Epiphany 4	02 CIM
<b>FEBRUARY</b> (Black History Month)	06 <b>Worship</b> –Eph. 5	08 <b>Worship</b> – Easter 4/Family/Mother's Day
	13 <b>Worship</b> – Epiphany 6	15 <b>Worship</b> –Easter 5 & Mini Concert
	20 <b>Worship</b> – Epiphany 7	18 International Day Against HATE
	21-26 <b>Board Team Meetings</b>	22 <b>Worship</b> –Easter 6/Ascension
	22 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>	24 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>
	25 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>	23-27 <b>Board Team Meetings</b>
	27 <b>Worship</b> – Epiphany 8	27 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	02 <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	29 <b>Worship</b> – New Members/Easter 7
	04 World Day of Prayer	(Indigenous Month)
	06 <b>Worship</b> – Lent 1 Communion, Annual General Meeting	05 <b>Worship</b> –Communion /Pentecost/ Collier's Table
	08 Lenten Service	11 Collier's Table
	13 <b>Worship</b> – Lent 2	12 <b>Worship</b> –Collier Kids Wrap up/UCC Union Sunday
	15 Lenten Service	19 <b>Worship</b> –Father's Day/ New Members
	20 <b>Worship</b> – Lent 3	20 UN World Refugee Day
	22 Lenten Service / <b>Church Board Meeting</b>	26 <b>Worship</b> – Indigenous Day of Prayer
	25 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>	28 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>
	27 <b>Worship</b> – Lent 4	<b>JULY</b>
	29 Lenten Service	01 Canada Day
<b>APRIL</b>	03 <b>Worship</b> –Lent 5/UCW 60 <sup>th</sup> Ann.	03 <b>Worship</b>
	05 Lenten Service	10 <b>Worship</b>
	10 <b>Worship</b> – Palm Sunday	17 <b>Worship</b>
	12 Lenten Service	18-21 Camp Awesome
	15 <b>Good Friday</b>	24 <b>Worship</b>
	17 <b>Worship</b> – Easter Sunday/Resurrection	31 <b>Worship</b> – Hymns of the Faith
	24 <b>Worship</b> – Easter 2/ Camping Sunday/Holy Humour	<b>AUGUST</b>
	26 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>	07 <b>Worship</b>
		14 <b>Worship</b>
		21 <b>Worship</b>
		28 <b>Worship</b> - Hymns of the Faith
		<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
		04 <b>Worship</b> -Creation 1
		05 Labour Day
		11 <b>Worship</b> – Grandparents Day/Creation 2

12-17 <b>Board Team Meeting</b>	18 <b>Worship</b> - Creation 2	19 CIM	23 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>	25 <b>Worship</b> – New Members/Orange Shirt Sunday (Orange Shirt Day – Sept. 30)	27 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	02 <b>Worship</b> – World Wide Communion	09 <b>Worship</b> – Thanksgiving (Trumpeter)	15 Collier's Table	16 <b>Worship</b> – Handicap able /World Food & Mini Concert	20 Food Fest/Fundraiser
	23 <b>Worship</b> – Reformation	25 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>	28 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>	30 <b>Worship</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>
	06 <b>Worship</b> – All Saints	07 CIM	12 <b>UCW Christmas Fair</b>	13 <b>Worship</b> – Remembrance	20 International Children Day
	20 <b>Worship</b> – 186 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Mini Concert (Transgender Day)	21-26 <b>Board Team Meetings</b>	22 <b>Church Board Meeting</b>	25 <b>Grand Family Flash Choir</b>	27 <b>Worship</b> – Advent 1/ New Members
	<b>DECEMBER</b>	03 Int. Day of Persons with Disabilities	04 <b>Worship</b> – Advent 2/Communion	06 National Day of Action on Violence Against Women	10 Human Rights Day
	11 <b>Worship</b> – Advent 3	18 <b>Worship</b> – Advent 4	24 <b>Worship</b> – Christmas Eve /Communion	25 <b>Worship</b> – Christmas Day/The Birth of Jesus	

WE VALUE: CONNECTION, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY, INCLUSION, LOVE, TRANSFORMATION, HOPE

# Leadership, Mentorship & Growth

Missional Priorities/Goals for 2021 and 2022:

During 2021, members of the LMG Team are Frank Best, Sandra Dowds, Steve Harding, Rev. Hewitt Holmes, Lianne Patterson, and Tom Stockdale. The LMG team welcomes your creative and forward-thinking visions for our Collier family.

OBJECTIVE	NOTES
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	
To encourage the Board to participate in strategic planning in the Fall for the following year and ensure check-in is completed 2x per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Team of the Board created their Missional Priorities for 2021. A Review of Priorities will be done in Nov. 2021 with the hope of identifying 2022 goals.</li> </ul>
To host 2-3 educational sessions to encourage and motivate individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans are ongoing for trainings to be delivered in first quarter of 2022.</li> </ul>
To communicate activities to invite participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans include a regular e-newsletter and Link update on opportunities for participation.</li> </ul>
To identify 3 racialized persons to sit on the Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We developed a Terms of Reference [TOR] to include racialized non-members on the Board, having a more diversified, inclusive, and well-rounded representation in all our board decision-making. TOR is with the Region for consideration and we are looking into personnel.</li> </ul>
<b>MENTORSHIP</b>	
To train present and prospective Team leaders on meeting management and strategic planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to include in Board meeting in first Quarter of 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>GROWTH</b>	
To intentionally ensure that those involved in the worship and events of Collier are growing in the practices of prayer, scripture reading and our core values of connection, community, creativity, inclusion, love, transformation, and hope.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growth is both spiritual and numerical. It is everybody's work. Engage regular check ins with members about how we relate to each other within our community.</li> </ul>
To identify new and creative ways to invite 5-10 family and/or friends (young or middle age) to worship and events of Collier on our journey of faith.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions continue on the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to make the congregation more reflective of the wider community? What would it take for our congregation to be reflective of the wider community?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Downtown Barrie Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program supports those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in our city. Breakfast is served outside the church hall daily. We have 4 churches supporting the program, with Christine Nayler and her team from Burton Avenue working 4 out of 7 days.

We continue to serve record numbers and are grateful for those who make food and financial contributions to the program. Thank you! Questions? Please contact Laurie Crosson at [lcrosson@rogers.com](mailto:lcrosson@rogers.com) or 705-722-2003 for more info.



# Regional Conference Report

The Regional Meeting was held on November 13, 2021, virtually due to the Pandemic restrictions in place for a second year. The meeting began promptly at 9:00 am and was chaired by the President, Dr. David Leyton-Brown, whose time was extended because of the pandemic. Following introductions, we held a time of worship led by Rev. Dr. Susan Eagle (Grace United) which included a musical portion featuring our own Sandra Ruttan. The Toronto Urban Native Ministries with Rev. Evan Swance-Smith brought Indigenous greetings to begin the meeting.

**Social & Ecological Justice** - In the morning we voted to continue the mandate of the Social & Ecological Justice Commission. The policies of social justice that Collier supports, arise partly from the good work being done in this commission, (along with our hard-working Minister and committee).

**Human Rights Issue** - The second motion involved the work being done to support human rights issues in Israel-Palestine regarding where the church generally supports investments that positively relate to this issue.

**Finances** - The Region's financial report involved the usual necessary details that arise out of any large organizational needs. It was interesting to see that Shining Waters is the largest and wealthiest region in Canada.

**Assessment by Eric Mathieson** - The Executive Officer of Finance from our General Council, reminded all local churches of the importance of giving to Mission and Service as this directly lowers our Annual Assessment and is a charitable method for saving the church necessary funds.

**Proposals being forwarded to the General Council** - The afternoon session was spent with examining nine proposals that had been submitted for consideration by the Region, to be passed on to General Council. While some of these motions were administrative there were three of particular interest. The Region overwhelmingly voted to support the position of the UCC in calling for the decriminalization of illicit substances for personal use and a policy of harm reduction. The Region also voted to support a strong policy of self-care for ministerial personnel, anti-bullying policy and support for clergy on the Discontinued Service List.

**Transfer of Leadership** - The day was completed when Dr. David Leyton-Brown was thanked for his lengthy service to Presbytery and Region and Rev. Betty Lou McNabb was invested as our new Regional President. A complete list of regional committees and commissions can be obtained by contacting this reporting member of the Church Board. - Robert and Maureen

## The Garden at Collier

Collier's Garden welcomes those who wish to feel the peace that comes with the beauty and bounty of God's creations. Collier members, Deb, Elizabeth, Leona, Mabel, Ria, Robin, and on occasion with the help of our custodian Wayne, gardened with hands and hearts, enriching the soil, seeding, planting, weeding, watering, and pruning. The trees, bushes, flowers, hostas, herbs, and even a squash thrived under their care. In Ecclesiastes it is written, "For everything there is a season....a time to plant and a time to pluck

up what is planted." Collier's Garden invites you to join fellow gardeners in planning for the Spring by calling Leona Appleby: 705-726-1884.

