



David's Dialogue

Dear members and friends of St. Matthew's

Exodus 3:5 "Take your sandals from off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Why does God tell Moses to take off his sandals before he gives him his mission?

There are some places where taking off one's shoes in the house is part of the culture. Japan is one of those places. A sociologist once surveyed Japanese people as to why they removed their shoes. Because, they said, it made them feel at home. Many people living in Japan feel more relaxed when their shoes are off. They feel more comfortable. In other words, they feel more like themselves. God may be saying to Moses, then, "I've got something to tell you so make yourself comfortable. Let us talk like friends or family members would at home with our shoes off."

But perhaps the reason for the bare feet is more than that, too. The African American spiritual goes "When I get to heaven gunna put on my shoes, I'm gunna walk all over God's heaven." To have shoes was a vision of heaven for African American slaves, because they were poor giving them little chance of wearing shoes in this life. For Moses, taking off his shoes may have been a way for him to identify more closely with the Hebrew slaves in their poverty.

Finally, there is a kind of joy and innocence in going shoeless, too. How many of you have enjoyed the experience this summer of walking around in bare feet? Did you walk barefoot through the house, feeling the cool floor underfoot? Did you walk barefoot on the beach, feeling the contrast between the hot sand and cool water? Did you walk on the lawn and let the grass tickle your toes? Did you walk on gravel and feel the sharp discomfort of the stones? Going barefoot connects us to the earth. It allows us to experience something sacred, to feel alive. When God tells Moses to take off his shoes, all these dynamics are at play.

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Rev. David Kim-Cragg ᐱᕈᕋᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐᕐ wahkohtowin;
Minister at St. Matthew's United Church (he/him)

Korean Musicians shared their music with us on August 30th

The name of the group's name is "Yesori Gayagum Byungchangdan" and the leader's name is Cheon Yoo Park. She is also the drummer for the group. This group of five women played two songs for us. Their instruments were unique to their heritage and the performance was very enjoyable. A warm welcome was given as well as a hardy round of applause afterwards. The photos below show the group during their performance. The two angles of the photos were taken with the hope of giving you a good idea of what their instruments looked like. You might notice the woman on the left has her instrument on her lap but it also rests on the next small sit to keep it stable. And so on down the row. The drummer is to the right and below the rest of the group.



SHARING IS GIVING



THANK YOU!

MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH

I find that our church tends to be a very musical church. I, and many others, are very pleased with our choirs – both the vocal choir and the English Bells choirs. I am also thankful for the time and effort that Rev. David and Sunny have been making to introduce us to hymns in the new United Church Hymnal titled “Then Let Us Sing”. I have a copy for myself and it contains many delightful tunes. I’ve also enjoyed the change for the last some weeks using “What Can I Do?” for the Doxology. It is in More Voices and yet these past few months were the first time, I’d heard the song. And we love Sunny’s added pieces that she plays for us on piano and organ. We are lucky to have such talent in our church. Below is a photo I took of Sunny as she played the postlude on the piano on August 30th. A lot of our music is a result of having a long-term Director of Music who enjoyed adding to our singing with bells, and more. Thank you, Joan! And thanks to those who volunteered their musical talents during our summer services.



Upcoming Activities & Meetings

- Oct. 4. Rick Knight will have your gift cards that your ordered to give to you today.
- Oct. 04. World Day of Communion 2026. Communion will be served.
- Oct. 18. Naomi Knight will lead the service.
- Oct. 24. Beef & Salmon dinner. Tickets are \$25. There will be two sittings. The first at 5pm and the second at 6:30. Eat in or get take-out. The finance committee will be selling the tickets in late Sept through Oct.
- Oct. 25. Anniversary Sunday. Our speaker will be Drew Marshall.
- Nov. 7. Hands & Hearts. Brunch & Market. 9am to 2pm.
- Nov. 29. 1st Sunday of Advent; Dec. 20th 4th is the last Sunday of Advent.
- **Missed a service?** Find the ones you want to watch [USING THIS LINK](#).

Upcoming Rental groups:

- Project Abraham - Every Thursday from 11:45am to 2:15pm from Oct. 8th to Nov. 19th.
- Rooks2Cooks. PA Day class Nov. 20 all day plus setup on Nov. 10th from 2:15 to 4pm.

PLANTS

Yes, we have plants in the Sanctuary which Grace enjoys watering and keeping them looking good. Grace is always willing to help nurse a plant that you might have that isn't doing well. Three such orchids have been at the front right of the sanctuary and in the west hall as well. At this point, the first two orchids have a lot of blooms and the third still requires some help to thrive. We've also got several plants running along the east side of the church which was cleaned up by Jing (Vicky) Tian's sons Qing Jun and Zi Xuan earlier this summer.

Thank you to all of our helpers.



Hands and Hearts Brunch and Market

Our first "Hands and Hearts Brunch and Market" will take place on Saturday November 7th from 9:30am- 1pm. It will have a greater focus on homemade, take-home meals.

The "Brunch Nook" buffet is back at a cost of \$15, with breakfast served in the morning; then, transition to lunch items later in the day. We will also be offering a variety of frozen meat pies and fruit crisps to take home, and the Outreach Committee will be selling frozen homemade soups to help support our sponsored child with PLAN International. We will also be offering a bake sale and cookie box sale. In addition, we will have several booths that will have non-food items for sale.

Mark your calendars and support your church by joining us for brunch on November 7.

BTW: We will need people to donate food items for the bake sale and cookie box, as well as helpers at the booths. For more information on how you can help, please reach out to Valery McMurdo or Karen Jarvis.

BTW: The photo at the bottom shows some of the team (Valery, Mary, and Bertha H.) preparing the Peach Crisps as taken by Doreen Coyne.



Project Abraham

They are a great group that we've now been renting to for the third year. Their goal is to help recently-arrived refugee women to learn more about our area and to meet others who would have similar concerns and hopes.



Early last summer they included a sewing class for the attendees. And this fall they will offer a cooking class during one of their sessions. What a great way to meet like-minded people while learning more about the country and city where they now live. Photo taken by staff and faces blurred by Doreen for privacy.

Do you knit or Crochet? If so, please help us prepare for Christmas Events

1. **White Gift Sunday** during Advent (typically on the second Sunday of Advent; occasionally celebrated on the third Sunday). If you can purchase a few containers of canned meats – tuna, chicken, ham, etc. that would be well received. If you want to donate pasta, please consider adding a can of tomato sauce as well!
2. We'll set-up the **Mitten tree for Advent** as well. If you can, please donate men's work socks and ladies' socks, gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. You can buy or make these yourself. Folks can also use winter coats – used but in good condition.
3. We also **donate "mitten tree items" to the "Out of the Cold" program, Shelters, and our local food bank** to ensure people have a little something extra for Christmas – including warm outerwear. For youth and adults, they'd love some warm winter wear such as mitts, scarves, gloves, hats, a neck warmer, etc. Perhaps you would be able to make some small teddy bears for babies and youngsters who may not get many gifts, your teddy bears would be very appreciated and well loved.



Celebration Sunday Sundaes

Over the years, we've celebrated the return of many folks back to church after summer vacations, travel, and enjoying the cottage. And the celebration wasn't always Sundaes. For many years, we had potluck meetings on the front lawn. There was also wonderful summers in which we were treated to a corn roast on the front lawn with refreshments in the hall. Those were great events as well.

What was common to them all? A time to celebrate our members' return to church and a chance to compare notes – so to speak – on the various things we and our church friends did during the summer.

This year's event took place on Sunday, Sept. 13th, after the service. Many thanks to the folks who bought, made, setup, and cleaned-up over the years for all these special events and refreshment times.

From Doreen: I apologize as I couldn't be there that day to take photos.

QHL United Church presents Garry Wesley as

Elvis!



(with special guest Keith Kirkpatrick as
Gordon Lightfoot and Neil Diamond)

DATE: Friday, Oct. 16th at 7pm

TICKET PRICE: \$25. Phone or email to reserve your tickets.

Performers: Garry Wesley as Elvis, and special guest Keith Kirkpatrick as Gordon Lightfoot & Neil Diamond.

This evening is proudly sponsored by both Look Up Physio, Queensville and Pharmasave Queensville Pharmacy.

Queensville Holland Landing United Church (QHL United) is a local pastoral charge of The United Church of Canada located just north of Richmond Hill in Queensville, Ontario.

Location & Contact:

Address: 20453 Leslie Street, Queensville, ON L0G 1R0 **Phone:** (905) 478-4781

Website: [QHL United Church Official Website](http://ghlunited.com)

Email: ghlunited@gmail.com

A Puzzle for You...

Everyone keeps me on hand. I'm ever to labor bent; but twist me about and then I'm only an ornament. (What word fits the first clue, but when rearranged, fits the second?)

--- The answer will be in the next issue.