



Welcoming Our Community

By Doreen Coyne

Our Church decided to become a part of the United Church's project called "100 tables", a part of project "A Place at the Table". With United Church seed money, Rev. David and Bill Hurdman purchased a delightful black/bronze coloured metal park bench as our representative table in our front lawn, chained to the tree to ensure it will remain as long as possible. It looks great! We hope it will welcome passers-by to take a seat and relax; take some time to think about the neighbourhood and our church. Perhaps gain a new perspective.

The bench needs some tweaking given that when my son tried it out, and then leaned back on the bench, it fell backwards. 😞 Not exactly the welcome he, nor we, were going for. But I'm sure it will be quickly fixed. We were hoping for a welcome more like the hymn, "Come in. Sit down. You are a part of the family." We're hoping someone can build two small pine end tables to complete the look. BTW: The Montessori school will buy another of that same bench for their playground!



So some more work on ensuring the bench is level and stable is required. We're also working on a small plaque that will be made and screwed onto the bench. It will say "Relax and enjoy the world around you. All are welcomed at St. Matthew's." We also hope to have a congregational and neighbourhood welcoming meal in the front yard—perhaps on Celebration Sunday? Your input is welcomed for the plaque, the community meal, and the little tables. Don't be shy. Just email me your thoughts.

**A big THANK YOU to Rev. David and Bill Hurdman
for their efforts on this project.**

Links to recent services:

- July 6. [Video replay](#). The sermon began a series of messages that will be on trees. The Richmond Hill United Church joined us for this service.
- July 13. [Video replay](#). This week's sermon was on the Palm Tree.
- July 20. [Video replay](#). This service carried on the theme of Trees in the Bible, this week focusing on Shrubs.

Upcoming Events, services:

- ♦ Aug. 10: Karen Jarvis will lead the service; the RHUC congregation has been invited to join us for that service.
- ♦ Aug. 30. "Harmony's Embrace" will perform flute and guitar pieces at our church from 3pm to 4:30. Doors open at 2:30. Come and enjoy the quiet charm of their music. Get tickets [at this link](#). Pricing: \$25 for the general public; students and Senior's at \$15.
- ♦ Aug 31. Rev. David's last service with us until he returns in Dec. after his sabbatical.
- ♦ Sept. 7: Rev. Hoon Kim starts his ministry with us during David's absence. Please welcome Hoon and his wife, Insook as Rev. Hoon takes on this role for our congregation.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE—SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

Thank you again for your support donating school supplies to YRES, York Region Educational Services, who are trying to provide summer camps for youth at low cost and if possible at no cost for individuals in need.

- **Back to School Program.** Please continue with your support as we are once again asking for donations on behalf of the Salvation Army for their back-to-school program. We will end collections on August 10th. **Most sought after items:** markers, backpacks, pencils and binders. You can read about this program which provides free supplies to the school aged children of families in need by [using this link](#).



- From August to early November, we'll run the **"Fill a Purse for a Sister"** program by collecting new and gently used purses for that program. If you prefer you can donate items that would be placed into the purses for distribution to women in crisis and in shelters. Items most needed are shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, tampons/pads, deodorant. Other suggested items include a hair brush, tissues, lip balm, hat, scarves, gloves, and gift cards. We need to have our donations packed to drive over to the group by mid-November. [Use this link for more details](#).



Thank you for your support.
The Outreach team appreciates and needs your support
to help these groups this year.