



David's Dialogue

Dear members and friends of St. Matthew's:

John 10: My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

Bob was a member of the Mandaumin United Church that I served near Sarnia in the early 2000s. Bob was a farmer. Most of my congregants were farmers. But there was something special about Bob's farm: Bob had sheep. Easter had just passed and Bob was coming to church looking a little more excited than usual. He was very keen to tell me that the mama sheep were giving birth. He wondered if I had the time to come for a visit. I did indeed. But when I showed up I discovered the sheep didn't want to see me. When they heard my voice they scampered off to the far side of the pen. Bob explained that they always did that with strangers. As Bob and I talked there at the fence, however, I noticed how they began to relax. Especially when Bob talked. His voice would draw them in. It seemed to put them at ease.

The experience gave me an important insight into the Bible passage this morning, and indeed into many passages and stories from the Bible: **"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."** That part about the voice is important. Sheep notice the voice. They recognize the voice. Somehow, it is at least as important or maybe even more important than recognizing the shepherd by sight.

There is an intimacy to the voice. Sounds can fill us with fear, make our blood run cold or curdle. A scream or shout for help, for example, especially from someone we know. Sounds can also fill us with a sense of comfort, safety, and warmth, like the sound of a loved one stepping in the front door or calling out in greeting.

It is a remarkable and curious fact that so many of the prophets in

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the Bible were shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Rachel and all their sons and daughters were shepherds. Moses heard God's voice while tending his flocks. David was called from shepherding the sheep to be king of Israel. It must have been a very special experience to have a group of animals so completely dependent on you to lead them to the green pastures and quiet waters, reliant upon you for safety in the most extreme dangers, and your mercy in life and death. As a shepherd, a person would have responsibility for a whole range of needs and would develop a sense of trust with the sheep that one kept. That experience must have taught a lot of good lessons about how to lead people and also about the nature of God's love for us all.

The shepherd's voice plays an important role in their ability to communicate with the sheep. The same is true of our relationship with God. Voice counts for something. The great call to faith in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, begins this way: "**Hear, Oh Israel, YHWH your God is one!**" The Good News of the gospel is something that is first heard, rather than seen or touched or tasted. It travels in through our ears then into our bodies to touch our innermost heart. The ear is the channel to the soul.

This month pay attention to the voices around you, those of other people and of the non-human creatures around you. How does their sound affect you? When do they make you feel safe? When do they put you on alert? When do they comfort? When do they instruct? God continues to speak to us. It is important to recognize God's voice.

Peace Like a River,

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

Editorial note:

We have often been told about the "Good News" during our time at church. Perhaps some of us may lose focus on what that means. The Good News in the Bible, often referred to as the "gospel," centres around the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's the announcement that God has provided a way for humanity to be reconciled with him through Jesus's sacrifice. Essentially, it's the promise of salvation and forgiveness of sins, offering hope and a restored relationship with God.

In the Christian faith, the terms "Good News" and "*Gospel*" are often used interchangeably. "*The good news*" (or "*gospel*" = "good spiel") is a literal translation of the Greek word euangelion.

Good News: The Birth of Two New Babies

A Granddaughter for Valery and Scott McMurdo

Marissa Hedy McMurdo was born to David (Valery & Scott's younger son) and his wife Joanne on April 17th. A little bundle of joy for the family. Marissa is named after her grandmother. This is their second grandchild as their older son and his wife have a son. Such a cutie pie. Photos below were taken by the family. The one on the left on April 20th, the other two in late May.



A Great Grandson for Virginia Wainman

Tyson James Hunte was born on April 25 weighing in at 6 lbs. 9 oz. He's at home and doing well. Virginia tells us that he looks like his father except that his hair isn't as curly as his dad's yet. On the afternoon of May 13th, Virginia had a very special visit at her Granddaughter's home to see and hold little Tyson. It's always a thrill to hold a new baby in your arms! The photo on the left was taken that day; the others in early May.



JUNE 18 2025: Our Annual Strawberry Supper



Join us for a tasty cold dinner of roast beef, ham, salads, desserts, tea and coffee. All for \$25. Get your tickets from Bill Hurdman or reserve them with a quick email to him at hurdman0347@rogers.com. Please invite your friends and family. Dinner starts at 5 pm.

**For fun and to help raise money for our recent and upcoming repairs, we are running a 50/50 draw.
And with each ticket you buy,
you get an entry to win the door prizes!**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE—SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

2 Projects; 1 Request

We will begin collecting school supplies (backpacks, lunchboxes, pens, notebooks and other classroom necessities) from May until the middle of August.

- **Supplies brought in by the end of June** will be distributed to the York Region Educational Services, a not-for-profit group, for their upcoming summer camp program. This group has many programs running and seek donations to help lower the costs and keep specific programs free or more affordable. Check [this webpage](#) for more information. **Items needed include:** writing utensils (pencils, pens, erasers, etc.), colouring materials (crayons, markers, etc.), calculators, pencil cases, paper (blank, line, and graph paper), colouring books, colouring sheets, writing notebooks, chart and poster paper, art supplies such as paintbrushes, watercolours, popsicle sticks, googly eyes, gluesticks, etc.) and of course, storage boxes to keep them in!
- **Supplies brought in during the months of July and August** will be distributed to the Salvation Army for their back-to-school program. **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](#).

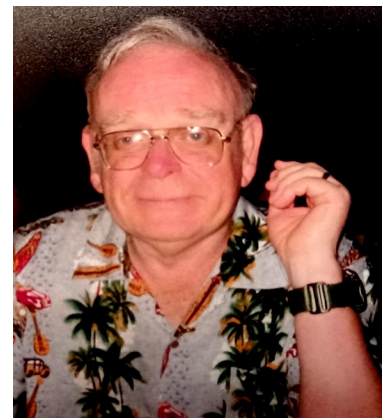


**The Outreach team appreciates and needs your support
to help both of these groups this year.**

The Passing of Kendall Wainman:

Saturday, March 9th, 1946 - Saturday, May 3rd, 2025

On May 3rd, Kendall Wainman, beloved husband of Virginia passed away. The photo on the right was taken during a vacation that Kendall and Virginia went on some years ago.



Kendall had been a long time member of our congregation. His Celebration of Life service will be held at St. Matthew's United Church on Saturday, June 7th with a visitation at 10am followed by the service at 11am. A luncheon will be offered after the service. You can read his obituary or leave a message on the memory wall [at this link](#).

Recently, we heard of the passing of two former members.



(Colonel George Thew Burke, aka Shaun Peppy and the Duke of Richmond, aka Robin Derrick on the Goulbourn Township Historical Society float in the Richmond parade.)

Robin Derrick. He was a good friend of Bryan Buchan when Bryan attended our church in its early years. The Derrick family attended our church for many years. Robin's family lived on Browndale Crescent until moving to Ottawa circa 1963. He was born in October 1945 and he passed on April 16, 2025. His wife's name is Georgia, and they had one son, Matthew.

We have not been able to find an obituary for him at this time. In efforts to find out more about his passing, your editor uncovered that Robin had been an active member of the *Goulbourn Township Historical Society (GTHS)* in Stittsville. Their President responded letting us know that their club's members were also saddened by the loss of Robin. For many years, he was actively involved in the GTHS, particularly in the role of the Duke of Richmond whom he portrayed so well. Robin held many positions on the board for this group including President, Past President, Vice President, and Membership Director.



Doris Monahan died peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, April 14, 2025 in Huntsville. Many of you will remember her even though she and her husband moved north many years ago. You can see her obituary [at this link](#).

April 27th was Membership Sunday



The service was dedicated to the membership of these eight people. What it means to be a member as opposed to an adherent had been discussed in earlier services but the point was brought home today as we all felt as if we were all being renewed with the vows of membership during this service. Many of these people have been attending for many years and we welcomed them all with pleasure when they decided to join as full members of our church. They each received a certificate and a “flourishing Symbol” of peace, a pink carnation. Please welcome them as members of our church: (l to r) Elisa Francisco, Grace Cheng, David Kemp, Masoud Bolghani, Wilma Hoogenboom, Reinard Romero, and Orlando Francisco. Missing: Rachel Bernard.

After the service, we gathered in the hall for a social time. A special cake was set out which was cut then enjoyed with ice cream by all attendees. Everyone enjoyed this special social time to chat with old and new friends while having refreshments.

The photo was taken by Rev. David Kim-Cragg.

Upcoming Special Services and Activities

- ◆ Before June 23rd: *From Helen Smith:* I'm planning a Hymn Sing Sunday for the service I'll lead on June 29th. Please send me the name of your favourite hymn and why it is your favourite. Please also tell me if I have permission to connect your name with your story of why it is your favourite. Send me your story (helenksmith7@gmail.com) or write it out and give it to me at church any Sunday before mid-June. Thank you.
- ◆ June 1. Pride Sunday. We will go to RHUC to join them in worship today.
- ◆ June 8. **Communion, 100th Celebration & Congregational Meeting.** We'll celebrate the United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary. A Congregational meeting will follow the service to vote on the Board members, committee chairs, and others holding positions. Afterwards we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our denomination with brownies and ice cream in the hall.
- ◆ June 9. Worship Committee Meeting at 7pm. Available in-person and on Zoom.
- ◆ June 15. We will join RHUC at their worship this day.
- ◆ June 18. Strawberry Supper! Tickets will be available from Bill for \$25 each. Dinner will be served at 5 pm.

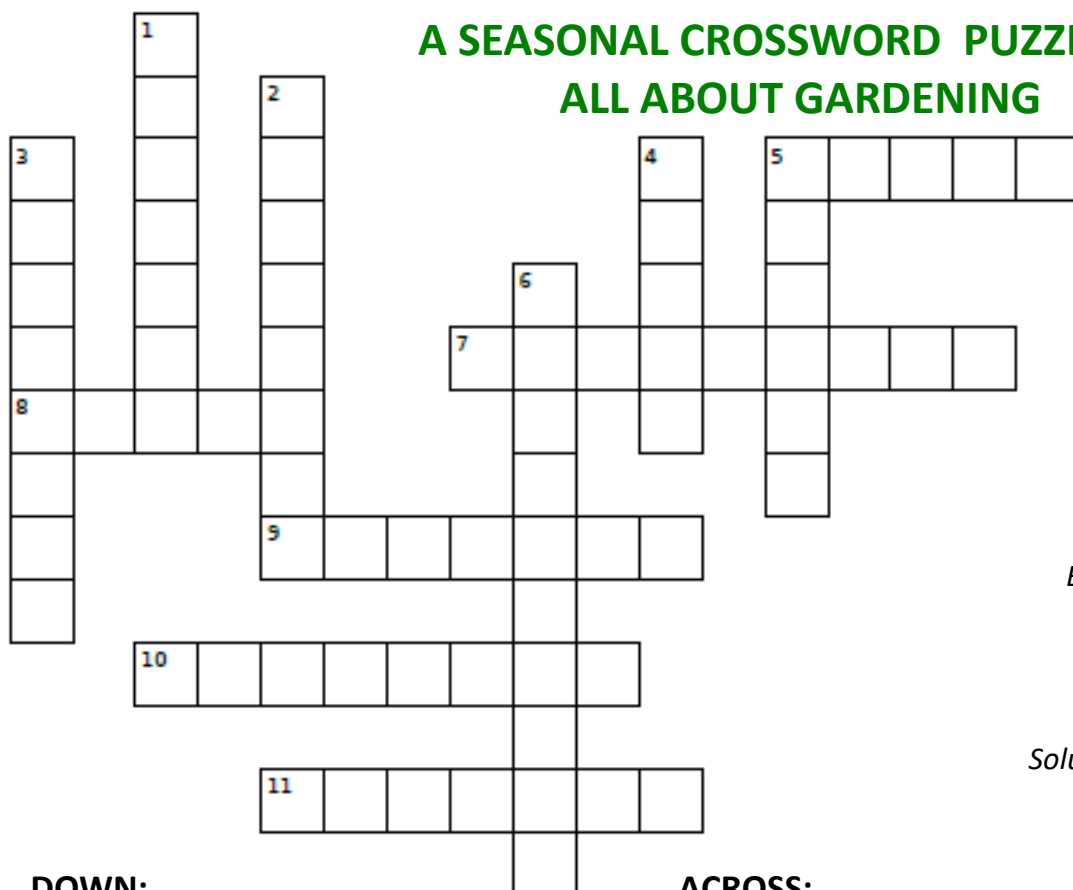
Upcoming lay ministers for our services while Rev. David is on holidays.

- ◆ July 6: The members of the Richmond Hill UC have been invited to come to St. Matthew's for Sunday services on July 6th.
- ◆ June 22: Doreen Coyne will lead the service.
- ◆ June 29: Helen Smith will lead the service
- ◆ August 10: Karen Jarvis will lead the service; the RHUC congregation has been invited to join us for that service.

Recent Work On Our Building

- ◆ Bill arranged and supervised the digging out and replacement of a section of the main sewer pipe leading from the women's washroom. The pipe was snaked with a camera which located the break near the "T joint". Access to the break was needed in the hall's large closet at the south end. The repair company did a great job. Twelve tiles were removed to break up the floor to get to the pipe and when the repair was done, that section of the floor was cemented in making a smooth surface. The work is now complete so flush away without fear! The price? Some \$8,000.
- ◆ We are still awaiting estimates for our parking lot repairs. We need to dig out the lot on the east side of the building, refill the sunken areas, replace the paving, then paint the parking space lines. We may need a few signs added as well. Total job could be \$70,000 or more.
- ◆ Still to be done: Repair the ceiling near the front door. Supplies were purchased; Bill now needs helpers to do the job. The water damage in the ceiling between the kitchen and Room 101 require the replacement of some ceiling tiles. Can you help?

A SEASONAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE: ALL ABOUT GARDENING



*Brought to you by
Doreen Coyne,
With help from
Education.com's
Puzzle generator.
Solution provided in the
next newsletter.*

DOWN:

1. A pile of biodegradable plants or food.
2. First white flower of the season
3. Attracts bees and butterflies.
4. What you plant in late May
5. Noisy yard task done weekly
6. Additive for your soil

ACROSS:

5. Retains moisture in your gardens
7. Small plants
8. A task done almost daily in July
9. Cutting your trees and shrubs
10. First yellow flower of the season
11. What to do with your vegetables

Missed a service? Watch it now.

- Apr. 27. [Video replay](#). We had eight new members join our church today and the sermon reflected on why people join.
- May 04. [Video replay](#). The message by Monique Romero, revisited the topic of reflection, specifically, reflecting on our own and others' pain and suffering. And how we work through it.
- May 11. [Video replay](#). This sermon focused on mothers giving care and love to all who need it including their own children regardless of age or relationship with them.
- May 18. [Video replay](#). The service spoke to seeing clearly and understanding that we may not yet have the vision to understand all the things that are possible with God.
- May 25. [Video replay](#). The service was led by Monique Romero and her sermon was titled "The Power of Forgiveness"

