

What does Aurora United Church (AUC) mean to me? Why do I keep coming to AUC?

My name is Susan Sue-Ling and my life path converged with Aurora United Church when I became a member in 2009. Mine was a transfer of membership from Oxford Place Methodist Church in Leeds, England, after I came to take up residence in Canada for a second time. Whenever I move to a new place, and I have moved many, many times, I always find myself in a church. This is due to my strong Christian background and it is my way of finding friends. I have been warmly welcomed here at Aurora United Church, for which I am truly grateful.

What is it, specifically, about AUC that keeps me coming?

I come because of the dedication of the Ministers, Reverend Lorraine and Reverend Andy. Rev Lorraine is creative in her sermons. Take, for example, the sermon about the Blue Dot. The Blue Dot signified an astronaut's eye view of the earth from deep outer space. Not to forget the service on the Migration of the Cranes and the associated construction of Origami cranes which Rev Lorraine and Rev Andy's son very patiently taught us to make. Rev Andy readily engages with the children and is tireless in his involvement with the many committees and outreach responsibilities of the church.

The music! Where else can I experience completely free, concert-level performances every Sunday? Margaret Heeney and the choir, along with an array of musicians entertain us with wonderfully appropriate and uplifting music. AUC is also blessed with 3 HandBell Ensembles, under the talented directorship of Lisa Kyriakides. It is such a treat to listen to them perform and I can assure you that there are very few other churches that can claim the breadth or level of music that is on offer here.

What else?

Aurora United Church has an admirable congregation of friendly, hardworking, energetic, resilient and generous people. Generosity is especially obvious in the many activities that are undertaken and the charitable donations freely given. I am only going to list a few. There is the Rise & Shine Community Breakfast, Carols by Candlelight concerts, the Prayer Shawl Ministry whereby shawls are available to anyone in need of comfort, AUC Women's donations to Blue Door Shelters, Aurora Food Pantry, Inn From the Cold, and Aurora United Church's involvement in the Not-For-Profit, Rent-Geared-To-Income housing units which comprise Oakwil.

That the members of Aurora United Church are resilient and energetic is glaringly obvious in their ability to continue on for 10 long years after a catastrophic fire, while still keeping together. This congregation never lost hope despite all the hurdles and setbacks they faced and continue to face. I look forward with enthusiasm to meeting the challenge of the upcoming year with the many friends and supporters of Aurora United Church both within our congregation as well as further afield.