

Step Onto the Lenten Pathway... 'Coming Back to Life'

During winter we are aware that much of the world lies dormant, and in spring a truly amazing thing happens, no less amazing because it happens every year: the world comes back to life!

As the days lengthen we become aware of the waking world, rising again. That's where the word 'Lent' comes from: an old English word for 'lengthen,' referring to the longer days. 40 days for waking up and getting ready for Easter, a festival of new life celebrating Jesus' resurrection and the new world that's on the way.

This year's Lenten theme is: **'Coming Back to Life'** and we invite you to use the Lenten devotional booklet (provided by the Worship Committee) available on the Welcome Table—devotions and activities for the season of Lent.

Additionally, begonia plants will be available for the next two Sundays (March 9th & 16th). Through the solemnity of Lent there is ample proof of home that comes to us in growth; Clear evidence of God's ongoing acts of Creation. You are invited to nurture your plant over the coming weeks, returning it in blossom for Easter Sunday worship to brighten and enliven our worship space.

You may wish to have a tangible reminder of your own personal journey through Lent; river stones are available on the Welcome Table; pick a stone that speaks to you and carry it through the season to Good Friday when we will place them at the foot of the cross.

This year's Lenten study, **'Something Sacred: Reflections on Music and Faith'** can be accessed by Zoom, every Wednesday evening between March 12th and April 23rd @7pm. (Details are in the announcements pages.)

Further Lenten resources can be found on the AUC website at: auroraunitedchurch.ca with new resources posted every week.



The Worship Committee wishes you a meaningful Lenten season.

Palm Sunday-April 13th/Good Friday-April 18th/Easter Sunday-April 20th

Contacting Our Church Staff by Phone 905-727-1935 or Email

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar x 23 Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care
 Rev. Andy Comar x 22 Minister of Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
 Suzanne Whitehurst x 21 Secretary
 Affe Zhao x 24 Bookkeeper
 Margaret Heney x 26 Music Coordinator
 Lisa Kyriakides x 27 Handbell Choir Director

lorraine@auroraunitedchurch.ca
 andy@auroraunitedchurch.ca
 info@auroraunitedchurch.ca
 bookkeeper@auroraunitedchurch.ca
 margaret@auroraunitedchurch.ca
 handbells@auroraunitedchurch.ca



Aurora United Church

March 16, 2025~11 am

Church Office Hours 9 am ~ 12 pm (noon) Monday ~ Thursday

Aurora United Church Office 905-727-1935 x 21 ~ www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Annual License w/Podcasting, no. A-718074 for Mar 01, 2024- Feb 28, 2025

Hearing assists available on the Welcome Table and from the volunteer in the sound booth.



March 16 to March 23~ Lent 1

Sun. Mar 16 Cash card deliv	11 am Lent 1 11 am Nursery (to age 4) 11:15 am Sunday School ~ children's program (ages 5-11)
Mon. Mar 17	7 pm Woman Spirit ~ Zoom
Tue. Mar 18	10:30 Sunrise of Aurora ~ service 7 pm Book Club ~ Zoom 7pm Finance Committee ~ Sacristy
Wed. Mar 19	9 am AUC Breakfast ~ Sunny Morning (15975 Bayview Ave.) 10 am - 2 pm Aurora Community Café ~ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 5 pm Welcome Table ~ Trinity Anglican 5:15 pm - 6:45 pm Faith-A-Peal, Handbells ~ Sanctuary 7 pm-8:15pm Bellissimo, Handbells ~ Sanctuary 7pm Lenten Study Group ~ Zoom
Thurs. Mar 20 1st day of Spring	11:30 am — 1 pm Martha's Table ~ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 7 pm — 8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sat. Mar 22	9:30 - 10:30 Rise & Shine Community Breakfast
Sun. Mar 23 Cash card deliv	11 am Lent 3 11 am Nursery (to age 4) 11:15 am Sunday School ~ children's program (ages 5-11)



RISING FROM THE ASHES

Congregational Challenge - Donor Match

The Rising from the Ashes Campaign is thrilled to announce that an anonymous donor has made an initial gift of \$25,000 and committed up to another **\$25,000** to match donations to this campaign **made in the month of March.**

Help us reach our goal – a potential total of \$75,000!

Here's your chance to double your donation if you get it in before midnight on March 31st.

Go to: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/news/auc-rising-from-the-ashes> to read the full challenge!

As of Sunday March 9, we have raised \$218,796.26

The Donor Match Campaign has raised \$10,000

Thank you for your support!

The Life and Work of our Congregation continues...



AUC BREAKFAST

Join us 9am for breakfast,
Wednesday January 15, 2025

Sunny Morning (15975 Bayview Ave. -
St. John's "Chocolats Favoris" plaza), entrance
off of St. John's Side Rd.

Welcoming Arms Lent Appeal

What is Welcoming Arms – Bridging the Gap Program?

Many of those who come to Welcoming Arms for
assistance need, food vouchers, toiletries and a
listening ear. Aurora United Church is in
partnership with six other churches in supporting
Welcoming Arms, through financial assistance,
volunteers, and providing toiletries each week.

- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body wash
- 3-in-1 shampoo/conditioner/body wash Paper towel
- Toilet paper/Kleenex
- Dish soap/Laundry Detergent
- General household cleaning products (ie Windex/Lysol etc)

For a complete list of needed items go to:

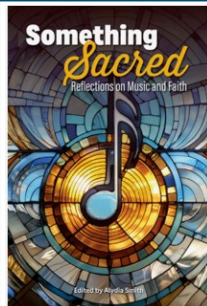
<https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/serve-at-aurora-united/welcoming-arms>



Coming Back to Life

Be sure to pick up your
free copy of 'Coming
Back to Life: Devotions
and activities for Lent',
available on the
Welcome Table today.

Also...add a river stone to your Lenten
journey (Welcome Table) and
return it to the foot of the cross
on Good Friday.



Lenten Study Group on Zoom

Lent is here; instead of giving
something up, why not think
about what you would like to
learn from your journey this year?
What we sing together has the
power to change us. What
music do you hope will be sung
in churches generations from now? What music
helps you become the follower of Christ you
hope to be?

Copies of *Something Sacred: Reflections on Music
and Faith* are available through the UCRD store

<https://ucrdstore.ca/products/something-sacred-reflections-on-music-and-faith>

You do not need to have the book to join the
study group! Every Wednesday from March 12
to April 23 at 7:00 pm

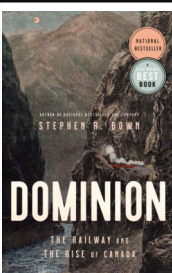
Check out the AUC website for the Zoom
link: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/news/something-sacred-reflections-on-music-and-faith>



Annual General Meeting

Save the date for the AGM
Sunday March 30,
following worship!

Lunch provided by UCW



Book Club

Tuesday March 18
7 pm Zoom

Stephen R. Bown continues to revitalize
Canadian history with this thrilling
account of engineering triumph that
created a nation.

For more information go to:

<https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/connect/book-club>



Saturday, April 5, 2025

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Trinity Anglican Church Foyer
79 Victoria Street, Aurora

Donations Needed:

Accepting all children's books and only paperback
adult books.

Donation Drop Off Details:

Friday, April 4, 2025 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 5, 2025 8:00 – 10:00 am

Volunteers Needed:

Members of the congregation are invited to donate a
couple of hours of their time for sorting or selling.
Teens are encouraged to earn community service
hours.

Inquiries: Paula Hanna 905-727-2584

Sponsored by Aurora United Church Women
Proceeds to support local charities



Cash Cards

When you purchase gift cards for everyday items you are buying anyway -
groceries, gas, coffee, etc. - the church benefits because the retailers offer the cards to us at a
discount. For example, if you purchase a \$100 Loblaw gift card, AUC makes \$4.00.

To purchase Cash Cards go to: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/connect/cash-cards--43>



Woman Spirit
Monday March 17
7 pm on Zoom

Women of the congregation
are invited to gather to
further explore faith and life
issues related to spirituality. Come for sharing, for friendship
... come for community.

FMI Rev. Lorraine, lorraine@auroraunitedchurch.ca



Affirming Ministry

(Affirming is a verb!)

MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on **Monday, March 31 at 7 pm** in
Binions Hall for our first ever *Affirming
Movie Night*. Named one of the top 5
documentary films of 2024, *Will &
Harper*, follows actor Will Ferrell and
SNL writer Harper Steele (who has
recently completed a gender transition),
as the duo takes a 17-day road trip
across the USA.

Enjoy a piece of delicious PIE as
you watch this intimate, honest
and heartfelt documentary!



Affirming ministries work in many
different ways toward the healing and
wholeness of creation, challenging bias
and discrimination based on appearance,
culture, class or age; working to end
racism; promoting economic justice;
increasing accessibility or caring for
the planet.

Check out the Affirming Ministry table in
the entranceway for resources, key fobs,
buttons, and other items relating to our
Affirming ministry.

See: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/ministries>



Coffee Time

You are invited to
remain in the
entranceway following
worship for a time of
conversation and
refreshment.

The Life and Work of our Congregation continues...