

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
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Aurora United Church

March 23, 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 23 to March 30~ Lent 3

Sun. Mar 23	11 am Lent 3 11 am Nursery (to age 4) 11:15 am Funday Sunday ~ children's program (ages 5-11) 12:30 pm Affirming Ministry - Minister's office
Mon. Mar 24	7 pm UCW Grace Unit ~ offsite
Tue. Mar 25	10 am Staff meeting ~ Minister's office
Wed. Mar 26	10 am Chartwell Hollandview ~ service 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 27	11:30 am — 1 pm Martha's Table ~ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 7 pm — 8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sat. Mar 29	9:30 - 10:30 Rise & Shine Community Breakfast
Sun. Mar 30	11 am Lent 4 11 am Nursery (to age 4) 11:15 am Funday Sunday ~ children's program (ages 5-11) 12:30 pm AUC AGM



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 16, we have raised **\$220,647.76**
 The Donor Match Campaign has raised **\$11,851.50***

Thank you for your support!

The Life and Work of our Congregation continues....



Sunday Morning Nursery
Infants to 4yrs

If you are interested in serving as Nursery volunteer (ages teen to adult) contact the office at:

info@auroraunitedchurch.ca

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:

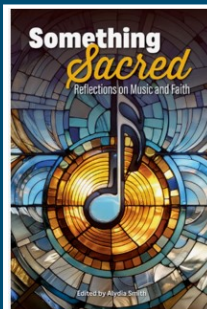
<https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/serve-at-aurora-united/welcoming-arms>



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

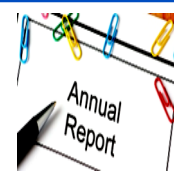
Lent is here; instead of giving something up, why not think about what you would like to learn from your journey this year? What we sing together has the power to change us. What music do you hope will be sung in churches generations from now? What music helps you become the follower of Christ you hope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



The Aurora Community Café

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Wednesday 10 am - 2pm

The purpose of the cafe is to provide opportunity for adults with differing abilities to learn to prepare food, serve and customer relations.

Would you like to volunteer at the Café?

Contact: Rev. Andy andy@auroraunitedchurch.ca
See: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/connect/aurora-community-cafe--256>



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>



Funday Sunday— Children's Program

The Funday Sunday Children's Program is for children from age 5-11. Children go downstairs to Binions Hall following the lighting of the rainbow candle. Children will return upstairs following the service.

For more information about the program:
<https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/connect/children>



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....