

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [September 13/20 Worship Service Video](#)

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, September 13.

If things were not as they are then this week would be Musical Week at Charleswood. The annual youth musical has been an annual event at our church since 1999. On the Sundays prior to the show the cast comes to church and gives the congregation a sampling of what the show offers. It is an exciting time around the church with the Van Roon Hall set up as a theatre and people coming and going all week long. How the cast and crew finds time to sleep is a wonder!

Alas, this year the CUC Musical, like so much else, is on hold. Realising that rehearsals must begin in the spring in order to have a September show, the production team made an early decision that, for now, the show cannot go on. This year's production was going to be *Once On This Island* by Lynn Ahrens. It is set on a tropical island where a young girl uses the power of love to bring people of different social classes together. What an amazing witness that would have been, especially this year!

Musicals transport us to a different world, where stories and conversations are told in song and dance, and where almost anything is possible. While we lament that this year's show has been cancelled we look forward to the revival of CUC Musicals and the return of such joy to our community. In the meantime, we might briefly remember how the gracious gifts of musicals gone by can illuminate our present darkness.

Last year's show was *Annie*. The orphaned girl, who makes a family of those around her and discovers a new family of her own, has an indomitable spirit. When she sings the feature song Tomorrow, we are inspired to look beyond our current obstacles and remember that hope does not disappoint. A pandemic would never stop Annie from believing the best is yet to come and neither should it distract us.

The Wizard of Oz takes us to a dreamlike world where Dorothy's mission to return home is beset by all manner of pitfalls. Though that world is filled with colour and character and challenge (not to mention witches and flying monkeys!), it does not differ much from our own. As the Cowardly Lion, Tinman, and Scarecrow remind us, one cannot go far without the renewal of heart, mind, and courage.

The musical *Honk!* is perhaps less known but is based on the delightful children's fable The Ugly Duckling. Like so many shows that we have watched over the years, it is not an explicitly biblical story (though we have enjoyed some of those), but Honk's message of a beauty that lies within us and the recognition of that beauty is as Christian a promise as any parable.

When Broadway theatres are closed they say that it "has gone dark". Our CUC Musical Theatre is dark this year but the stage lights shall return and our voices will rise in song once more. For the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Grace and peace,

Michael

Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCaBJiwDe1I>

Tell Your Neighbours:

Yazidi Farmers Market and Craft Sale
Sunday, September 13, 2020
9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON
Charleswood United Church Parking Lot

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

- The Life and Work of our church is updated by Janet weekly. Please have a look at the Life & Work insert: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- Our annual **Bereavement Support Course** with Linda Churchill of Crescentwood Counselling is going to be offered in an online format this fall. The sessions will be held Thursday evenings September 24 – October 29 from 7-9 PM. Please register by calling the church office.
- **Dry Goods Food Drive** – This summer our refugee sponsorship program CREST learned that the sponsorship of new refugees is on an indefinite hold. They have chosen to direct some support to government sponsored Yazidi refugees in Winnipeg. We are supporting this effort by holding a dry goods food drive for the most common needs in Yazidi households. The list included items such as: Canola oil, Basmati Rice (Rooster brand), Cereal, White Flour, Sugar, Fine Salt, Red Split Lentils, Chick Peas, Nescafé Double Filter Coffee, and Tetley Orange Pekoe Tea. Full details are available by clicking here: <https://charleswoodunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020.09.08.-Food-Drive.pdf>
- **Water Bottle Drive for Westgrove School** – Westgrove School is in need of new, reusable water bottles. Due to Covid-19, water fountains in the school have been disabled. As a result, each student now requires a bottle for their own use. We will collect new, reusable water bottles until the end of the month. A drop-off box is located outside the church office. All items must be received at the church by September 30th.
- Look for YouTube church school with our Children’s Ministry Director Rosalie Finch set to begin in the weeks to come.

And finally, we have successfully managed to come through the summer in a healthy financial situation. Autumn will present challenges as fundraisers such as the Fall Supper and the musical will not take place and all rentals save Community Ventures are cancelled. If you would like to support the ministry of Charleswood United Church please visit: www.charleswoodunited.org/donate. Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute regularly.