

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [August 22 Worship Service Video](#)

- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is: https://youtu.be/lzx_YdgCJwo
- For news and events please have a look at **Life & Work**: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- Read the scripture lesson for today by clicking here: [Ephesians 6:10-20](#)
- **Offering Information at:** www.charleswoodunited.org/donate Thank you for your generous support.

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, August 22, 2021.

It has been difficult to get to the church this summer. Literally. There is extensive construction on Roblin Blvd starting at Dieppe Rd. (the church's corner) and extending more than a mile to the west. The result has been that if you are coming to the church driving from the east you are not allowed to make a left turn onto Dieppe. Neither can you turn left at the street after that. Or the street after that. You see where this is going.

In fact, if travelling from the east on Roblin you have to drive to the end of the construction, make a U-turn at the first available intersection and then make your way back to the church from the west, turning right at Dieppe. It has been quite confusing for deliveries, and contractors, and anyone paying a visit to the church for any reason.

Word of Warning: if you are coming to the church from the east for the Farmers' Market on Sunday you are wise to turn left off Roblin on one of the streets east of Dieppe (Buckingham, Coventry, or Fairmont) and travel south to Eldridge, approaching the church parking lot from the south on Dieppe.

Of course, it has been difficult to get to the church for other reasons as well. Like the re-routing on Roblin we have had to take the long way round. We have asked you to navigate the paths of our website, email, YouTube channel, e-transfer, and Zoom, all in ways that were foreign to us a year and a half ago. We have tried our best to provide a map for staying connected, and in large part you have proven to be more than capable navigators.

Even as we remain hopeful that in-person activities will be able to resume this fall, it appears we will still be required to take the long way round for a while. To be clear about what is decided for us and what we need to decide ourselves, the current public health orders permit worship gatherings of 150 people or 50% of capacity whichever is greater, provided a distance of 6 feet is kept between people of different households. While our capacity would suggest our limit is 175 (50% of 350), the social distancing requirement will make that number lower. That is out of our hands. What we, as a community of faith committed to keeping one another safe as the highest priority, will have to determine for ourselves is all that remains. This includes the wearing of facemasks (likely), requirements of vaccination, the limits of singing, the flow of traffic to maintain distance coming in and going out, and much else.

However, the process has begun. Council will be meeting right after Labour Day to initiate a framework for our return. Small groups of vaccinated people who are socially distanced will be able to return (i.e. meetings and study groups). We are taking the long way round, and like travelling on Roblin these days it means taking more time. But we know where we are going and we are certain we will get there.

I must thank you for all the ways you have remained connected and committed to the church. By reading letters and tuning-in to services, by letting us know of friends and neighbours in need of care, by providing the resources so we can reach out to the community, and by sustaining our operations in generous ways, we have remained a vital congregation even while traversing the construction surrounding us.

When the work on Roblin is over, the road should be smoother and safer than ever. May it be so for us as well.

Grace and peace

Michael

The Healing Farm Farmers' Market

Fresh farm produce from **The Healing Farm** (our partnership with Operation Ezra and the Yazidi Refugee community) will be on sale in the church parking lot Sunday, August 22 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Please drop by.

YAZIDI FARMERS MARKET
Charleswood United Church
4820 Roblin Blvd.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22/21
9:00 am TO 12 noon

Special Guest Vendor – Also available that day, a sample of local meats and agricultural products from **Prairie Routes**, a local Farm-to-Table initiative. For more information visit: <https://www.sustainablegrain.ca/prairie-routes>