

Engaging in the Community

Whether you are returning to West Hill or are still figuring us out, we hope you'll find some interesting things in the community that you would like to explore.

Are you creative, a thinker, or a do-er?
Do you like to read or prefer to listen?
Do you love to sing or going to movies?
Are you a fundraiser or a party planner?
Are you happier outside than in?

Whatever your gifts, talents, interests, likes, skills - we're happy to have you engage in whatever way works for you.

Connect with West Hill United

62 Orchard Park Drive,
Toronto, Ontario, M1E 3T7

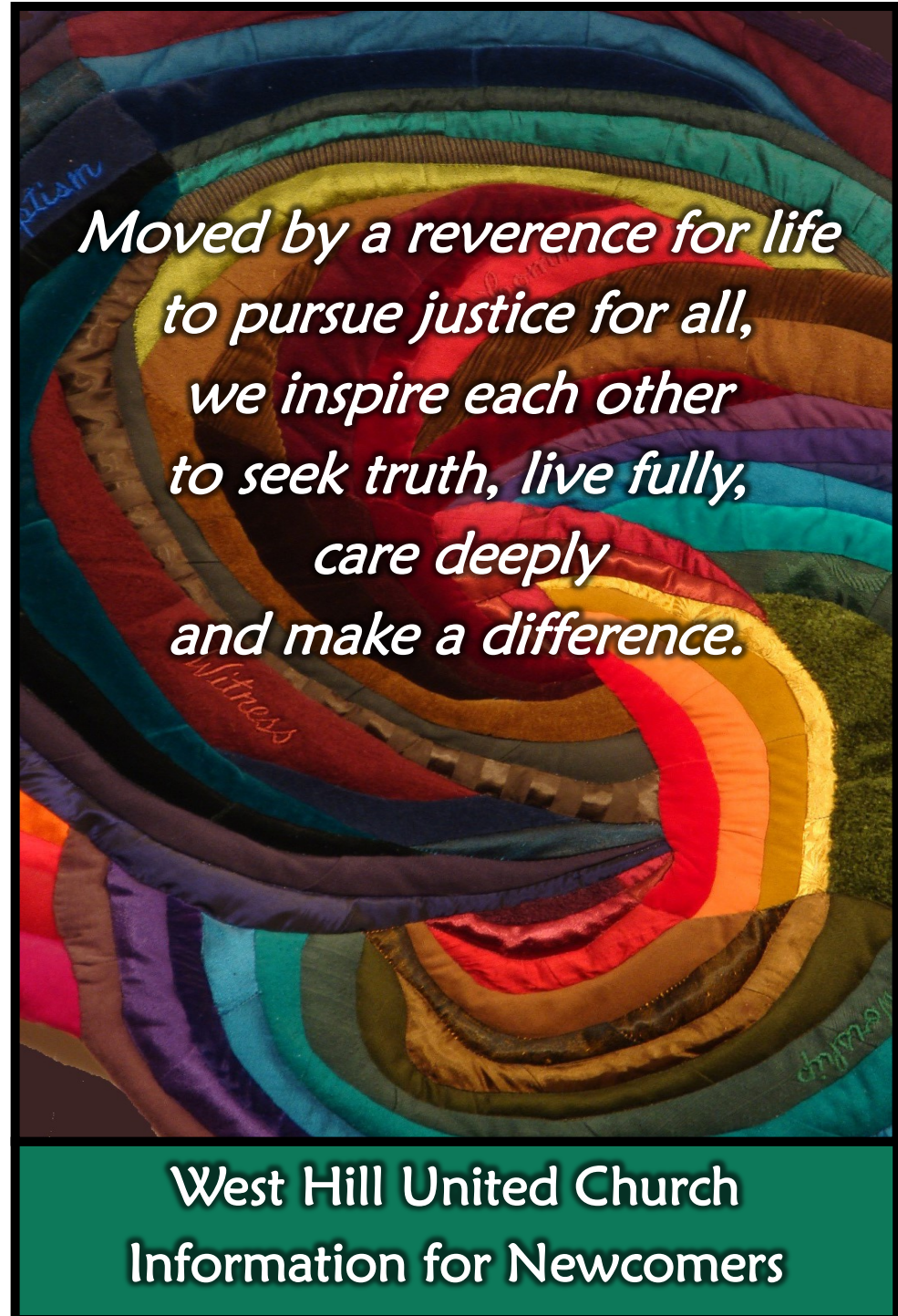
We are wheelchair accessible and offer free parking on site.
Our gatherings strive to be nut-free and scent free.

Phone: 416-282-8566
westhillunited@gmail.com
www.westhill.net

Search West Hill United Church to find us on:
YouTube, Facebook, Instagram

Drop us a line to sign up for our weekly E-blast for news about upcoming services, programs and events.

We'd love to hear about your experience at WHU.
Our admin team would be happy to put you in touch with the Leadership, Celebrating or Friendship Teams at West Hill United - Worldwide!



*Moved by a reverence for life
to pursue justice for all,
we inspire each other
to seek truth, live fully,
care deeply
and make a difference.*

**West Hill United Church
Information for Newcomers**

West Hill United Church

A progressive spiritual community where how you live is more important than what you believe.

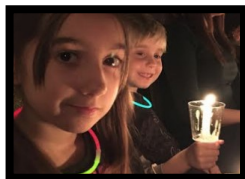
And now we are global! In 2020 our services moved online allowing us to open our arms to folks from around the world and we are so much richer for it. Our services are now *hybrid* and welcome both in-person and on screen attendance through zoom. To join us online on Sunday mornings, just make your way to westhill.net and click the button to greet the community. Near or far, **“together”** is the important piece!



Our Mission

West Hill is a people, a place, and an idea. We strive to make a positive difference in our own lives, the lives of others, and the world. At West Hill, rather than sharing a common doctrine, we share a common mission statement:

To develop, offer, and support innovative ways for people to connect with each other in a values-based community for mutual care and inspiration.

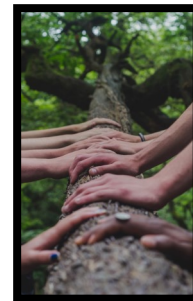


Our Vision

People world-wide have opportunities to meet in community to nurture and share the values of love, justice, and compassion for self, others, and the planet.

We Honour Diversity

- ◆ We honour diversity in age, race, creed and custom.
- ◆ We honour diversity in class, education, ability, and employment.
- ◆ We honour diversity in immigration status, family structure, size, physical and mental health.
- ◆ We honour diversity in background, and welcome within our midst those who have been incarcerated.



- ◆ We are an Affirming ministry who made a public, intentional and explicit (PIE) declaration to stand alongside and in solidarity with those who have been marginalized due to their sexual orientation and gender identity or those who advocate for them.



Our sources of inspiration are diverse! We draw from novels, poems, journal articles, rap, blogs, memoirs, nonfiction books, spoken word, TV, movies, and music for our services.

Signature Services Through the Year

We have special services throughout the year that mark the passing of seasons and help us re-tell important stories. We share our cares and concerns with each other to help bear each other's burdens and celebrate each other's joys.

- ◆ **Inspired by Hollywood Service Series**
pop culture film series scheduled in the weeks ahead of the Academy Awards



- ◆ **Women ROCK!**
First Sunday in March



- ◆ **Dream Away:**
Part I & II, Palm & Easter Sunday



- ◆ **Celebrated Lives**
First Sunday in November



- ◆ **Affirming Anniversary Celebration**
First Sunday in December



- ◆ **Singing the Season**
Second Sunday in December



- ◆ **the longest night**
Eve of the Winter Solstice, December 21st



Our Values

In light of our interconnectedness in life, we choose love as our highest value and guide: by love we mean actions that embody justice, compassion, honesty, openness, integrity, courage, kindness... for self, others, and the planet.



VisionWorks

We call our statement of shared values and practice, *VisionWorks*. The cycle of revision involves input from the entire community into each section as well as careful work by a diverse writing team.

Grounded in life

- ◆ In connections, experience and in life as a source

Guided by love

- ◆ Love in action: choice, advocacy, decisions, and in interpersonal relationships

Growing in wisdom

- ◆ The pursuit of wisdom, exploring sources of wisdom and sharing wisdom

As we strive to live in these ways as individuals in community, we often soar and often stumble; yet in joy and sorrow. In certainty and doubt, we travel together in a spirit of love.

Visit our website to read the full document and consider what resonates most deeply for you on this journey of life.

Symbols in the Building



Our Tapestry

The beautiful fabric art displayed on the front wall of the Gathering Hall represents a journey from pain and brokenness to healing and wholeness. The ragged ends of the colours become strong threads, and the dance of knot and loop represent the ways that we hold each other.

Prayer Flag Frame

You will also see a wooden frame with ribbons tied to it. Each of those ribbons represents something shared with our community by one of our members. Whether a joy or a concern, the ribbons help us remember the deep ties that hold us in community and the diversity of experience present in our midst.

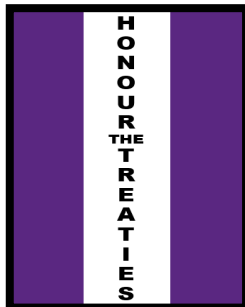


Tree of Transformation

A piece of participatory art that we use to recognize moments of transformation. The tree expresses our hope that coming together in community makes space in each of our lives for us to be transformed, whether a person is visiting once or a regular attender. Tie a ribbon to the Tree to recognize a moment of or hope for transformation in your own life.

Honour the Treaties Banner

A tangible sign of our commitment to solidarity with indigenous peoples and their rights which were finally recognised here in the Williams Treaties of 1923, and the UN recognition of the importance of supporting global rights and cultures of indigenous peoples.



Words of Commitment

The earth is my home
and the world my family.

As I live every day

I want to be a channel for peace.

May I bring love where there is hatred

And healing where there is hurt,

Joy where there is sadness

And hope where there is fear.

I pray that I may always try

To understand and comfort other people

As well as seeking comfort and understanding from them.

Wherever possible,

May I choose to be a light in the darkness,

A help in times of need,

And a caring, honest friend,

And may justice, kindness, and peace

Flow from my heart forever,

Amen.

This prayer, written by Gretta Vosper and Scott Kearns, is based off the traditional prayer ascribed to Francis of Assisi. It replaced the part of the service where we used to say the Lord's Prayer.

As we came to recognize that the words of that traditional prayer represented a barrier to participation to people who don't believe in a personified God, we stopped using it, but we still recognize the value of speaking a commitment together in unison.

Many members of our community use this statement for daily devotion at home, and many of us have even brought it into our workplaces and other communities.