



Islington United Church

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors



A Glimpse at the Ministries, Programs and Groups at Islington United Church

At Islington United Church, we have come to believe that through participation in small groups, we can discover our gifts, support our sisters and brothers, serve others, have fun and, best of all, grow closer to God. Enclosed you will find a list of all the programs that Islington United Church has to offer you to participate in. If you see something that interests you I encourage you to get involved. If you do not see the group that calls out to you, let us know that as well, there is always room to develop new groups and ministries. What are your dreams?

Islington United Church is an open, caring, and thriving faith community that invites all people to discover, explore and develop their spirituality, discipleship and stewardship in Christ's name.

Church events are posted on the Church Calendar page on Islington's website www.islingtonunited.org, along with a host of other information. For additional help and to offer your ideas and suggestions please contact our office at office@islingtonunited.org or call 416 239 1131.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mark Aitchison

Senior Minister and Ministry Team Leader



Worship Ministries

Many find taking an active role in our worship services can add significance and meaning to their worship experience. Take some time to review the many groups that create our inspirational worship experiences.

Worship Committee – works in close consultation with the Ministerial Team to develop innovative, inspirational and meaningful forms of worship.

Communion Committee – prepares the elements for monthly communion service.

Reader's Guild – members take turns presenting the scripture at Sunday morning services.

Greeter and Usher Teams – provide a warm welcome and assistance at Sunday morning services.

Arts and Environment Committee – a creative, fun group, who decorate the Sanctuary and other areas of the church for the seasons and other special Sundays.

Sound Crew – responsible for the sound system, mixing and recording of worship services.



Music Ministries

Music is a crucial part of the worship experience. Take some time to review the many opportunities to express your spirituality through God's gift of music.

Senior Choir – practice is on Thursdays at 7:30 pm from September to June.

Youth Choir – for youth, grades 7 and up, practice is on Thursdays at 6:00 pm from September to June.

Junior Choir – for children ages 6 to 12, practice is on Thursdays at 6:00 pm from September to June.

Islington Bell Choir – practice is on Fridays at 7:00 pm from September to June.

Junior Bell Choir – for children ages 6 to 13, practice is on Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Chime Ministry – chimers play the organ chimes before and after worship services on Sunday morning.

Don Banks Music Awards – annual competition that encourages the love of music in young musicians.

Music Committee – oversees and coordinates the large and varied music program at Islington United.

Music at Islington United Events – Concerts and special programs throughout the year.



Spiritual Exploration

Activities and groups to help people discover, explore and develop their spirituality.

Lenten study – weekly study during lent with Islington United staff, lay leaders and other interested learners.

Lunch and Learn – see Christian Fellowship.

Prayer and Meditation – small group ministry that provides an opportunity to explore faith through prayer, scripture and guided meditation, meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm.

Within You! You Groups – peer led women’s groups to promote personal growth and spiritual development, there are three groups held at different times of the week. YOU 1 is on Wednesdays once a month, YOU 2 gathers on the third Monday of the month and YOU 3 connects once a month on a Tuesday evenings.

Connecting the Dots – workshop that helps you identify your spiritual gifts.

Week of Guided Prayer – “a retreat in the midst of daily life” – an opportunity to undertake an intentional program of daily prayer with a trained faith companion, our next theme is “The dance of discipleship”.

Women’s Day Out – held every two years, a day long retreat for women to take some time to grow in spirit in the company and fellowship of other women.

Marriage Preparation – engaged and newlywed couples examine their own expectations in working together in a partnership that is loving, supportive, and happy.

Senior’s Celebration – held twice each year, a joyous occasion for seniors to come together for communion, fellowship, lunch and entertainment.



Care Ministries

Activities and groups helping those in need.

Prayer Link – a network of dedicated Christians who pray in confidence for someone in need.

Stephen Ministry – trained lay persons who provide high quality, confidential, Christ-centred care to people who are hurting.

Visitation Committee – caring visitors who reach out to our elderly homebound friends, through regular visits to their home, retirement facility or a hospital.

Caring Friends – assistance for those experiencing illness, recovering from an operation or accident, or having a difficult time providing meals.

Healing Ministry Committee – coordinates all the activities for the Healing Ministry, including Healing Pathway and Healing Prayer.

Healing Pathway – prayer for individuals by trained practitioners, guided by God, using healing techniques to restore balance and wholeness of body, mind and spirit, first and third Thursday of the month.

Healing Prayer – following Sunday worship on the second and fourth Sundays, anyone is invited to meet with members of the healing prayer team who are available to pray.

Pastoral Care Committee – responsible for coordinating and managing all pastoral care ministries.



Outreach Ministries

Consider each of our Outreach Ministries to see how you can help bring Christ's message of love to the world.

Mabelle Food Program – working in conjunction with the Daily Bread Food Bank, volunteers of all ages help prepare and distribute food packages at 49 Mabelle Ave.

Food Pantry – operating 12 months of the year and available to anyone needing help.

Christmas Ministry – volunteers gather gifts and food for families and individuals in the community.

Out-of-the-Cold Program – volunteers from Islington United provide a hot supper for the homeless in the community, hosted by All Saints Anglican, on two Fridays between November and April.

Refugee Support Ministry – this group coordinates the year-long sponsorship of a family immigrating to Canada, by planning, fundraising, advocacy and hands-on support.

The GO Project – a unique mission for children, youth and young adults from across Canada, grade 9 to age 19, to explore faith and mission by serving in outreach ministries.

Mission and Service – supports a wide range of programs and activities of the United Church of Canada, locally, nationally and around the world.



Christian Fellowship

There are many groups for people at every stage of their life. Come join in for a time of stimulating conversation, friendship and fun.

Faith Family Fridays – a fun family-friendly event held one Friday a month from September to June.

Lunch and Learn – enjoy lunch with friends, followed by an entertaining guest speaker.

God and Guinness – for ages 18 to 35, meeting for fellowship, study and conversation once a month.

Coffee Hour – held after each service on Sunday mornings, a great way to meet other church members and to enjoy some delicious refreshments provided by the Hospitality Committee.

United Church Women (UCW) – two UCW units offer fellowship, exploration of faith for all women of the congregation, Outreach - Jubilee Unit meet the third Monday at 7:30 pm, and the Priscilla - Village Unit meet the third Wednesday at 1:15 pm.

Bridge Club – a friendly game of cards and some great fellowship on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.

Curling – joining with our friends from St. James United, curling at 10:00 on selective Saturday mornings from October to March.

Good Company – join singles and couples at fun events every other month from September to June.

Senior's Celebration – see Spiritual Exploration.



Children, Youth, and Young Adults

Contact our Minister of Youth to learn about our wide variety of programs for young people.

Sunday Morning Toddler Care – toddler room volunteers and paid staff provide supervision during worship. The room is filled with fun toys and activities, and a paging system is also used.

Nursery Space – a quiet room for resting, changing and nursing during Sunday morning worship.

Discovery Quest – Sunday school program for children ages 4 to 11, an opportunity to learn about our faith together.

Living with Christ – program for tweens and teens at Sunday 11:15 am, helping them explore faith and culture in our complex world.

God and Guinness – for ages 18 to 35, meeting for fellowship, study and conversation once a month.

RISE Junior Youth Group – group for Grades 4 to 6, discuss faith, life and enjoy fun activities.

Seekers Youth Group – for youth Grades 7 to Grade 12 meeting Sunday nights, offering age appropriate activities and events, helping youth express their spirituality.

Faith Family Fridays – a fun family event held one Friday a month from September to June.

Youth Retreats – fun-filled weekend of faith and activities for youth in grades 7 to 12.

Scouting Groups – youth programs that promote adventure, outdoor experience and friendship - Beavers (children ages 5 to 7), Cubs (children ages 8 to 10), Scouts (youth ages 10 to 14) and Venturers (youth ages 14 to 17).

The GO Project – a unique mission for children, youth and young adults from across Canada, grade 9 to age 19, to explore faith and mission by serving in outreach ministries.

Baptism Seminar – preparation for infant, child and adult baptism, the sacrament of initiation into the Christian church.

Youth Confirmation – opportunity for youth to explore their faith through an in-depth, year-long program ending in celebration, when confirmands are welcomed into the church as full members.



Services at Islington

A church the size of Islington requires many helping hands to continue to be a vibrant Christian community.

Hospitality Ministry – food, drink, and fun are offered through the ministry of Christian hospitality; from Sunday morning coffee hour to full lunches and dinners, welcoming anyone who would like to help plan, prepare or serve.

Church Elders – join the leaders of our congregation and help us maintain connections, extending the reach to all members and newcomers through the Visiting and Welcoming Teams.

Green Team – a dynamic group with a mission to reduce our environmental footprint in economically and socially responsible ways.

Church Office Volunteers – use your people skills and other talents assisting in the smooth operation of the church office.

Facilities Committee – oversees the planning, maintenance and repair of our church home.

Library Committee – help to acquire, review, and catalogue items for our expanding library ministry.

Rummage Sale Team – organizes the annual “More than a Rummage Sale” with proceeds going to support the work of our church.

Loaves and Fishes Team – explores and develops the themes of stewardship and Christian giving of time, talent, and treasure; it guides the planning, budgeting and financial reporting; group members are actively involved in several annual fundraising activities.

Ministry & Personnel Committee – serves as the human resources department, provides support for all paid church staff, overseeing the relationship between staff and the congregation.

Spiritual Engagement Team – develops and implements initiatives to attract new members to the church, engage visitors, and enhance programs to better meet the spiritual needs of our members.

Website Working Group – responsible for the design, development and maintenance of the church website and strives to make the website a central meeting place for members and visitors.

Presbytery Representative – Islington United is a member of the Toronto Conference South West Presbytery, a United Church court made up of clergy and lay people.

Board of Trustees – elected members of the congregation who faithfully administer all property owned by the church congregation for the benefit of the congregation and the United Church of Canada.

Church Council – elected chairs of various church committees meet at various times throughout the year to serve and provide overall governance of the church; oversee the spiritual and temporal life and work of our church.

Faith Formation Committee – supports the Minister to Children, Youth and Young Adults, and assists in planning of all Christian development programs for all ages.