

Our special edition includes:

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- Upcoming events on page 4, 5 and 6



## Updates from the Beach United Church

### Annual Congregational Meeting of Beach United Church Sunday, February 24, 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the ministry of 2018 and hear about the financial projections and directions for 2019. Your participation is crucial, if BUC is to continue to be a relevant and meaningful presence in the community. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

### Ornamental grass brightens our Winter garden . . . .

Three dense clumps of Maiden Grass grow on the Wineva Ave. slope and brighten our winter garden. Its botanical name is *Miscanthus sinensis*, native to China and Japan, typically growing 3 or more feet tall.

Their flower heads give more than just visual interest, they add motion. When a breeze blows through them, the plants wave with the wind.

In summer they provide a backdrop for colourful perennials; they can also be combined with evergreens or as a privacy screen.

#### How to Plant

They can be obtained from local garden centres, or by division. They like bright hot locations but can tolerate partial shade.

#### Growing Tips

Once established, they are drought tolerant. They can be divided in spring to create more plants.

We leave the flower heads on to be enjoyed through winter. They are cut back almost to ground level in early spring before new growth emerges. Our grasses seed themselves and require thinning in spring.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – the presence of these lovely plants in our garden is thanks to Geoff Vernon who, together with Sally Evans, contributed many of the plants when the garden was first established.

-Contributed by the Beach United Green Thumb brigade!

## Petitions



### Handgun Petition

Beach United Church members have been asked to sign a petition to the House of Commons requesting that the Government of Canada implement a ban on the civilian ownership of handguns and military assault weapons. The petition states that these firearms, which are not used by farmers, hunters or indigenous people, fuel gang violence, domestic violence, suicide and undermine community safety. A paper copy of the petition will be available to sign at the church on Sunday. It can also be signed on-line at

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1923>



### Homelessness and Affordable Housing Petition

Shortly before Christmas, 40 people from Beach United signed letters calling on Mayor Tory to ensure that the City of Toronto's 2019 budget includes funding needed to address homelessness and the need for affordable housing in Toronto. On January 16, folks from Beach United joined with others from St. Aidan's Anglican Church and Danforth Mennonite Congregation, to take the message to our new Councillor Brad Bradford.

Too many people in our city can't afford decent housing

- Our children and grandchildren can't find a place to live in the community where they grew up
- Almost 100,000 households are on the waiting list for subsidized housing
- About 8,000 homeless people relied on shelters, Out of the Cold and respite places last night because they do not have a permanent home.

As people of faith we call on our elected leaders to take immediate action to ensure that everyone has a safe and decent place to live.

-Paul Dowling, Animator, Ministry of Justice Seeking

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# FAMILY SKATE!

**KEW GARDENS ICE RINK**

**1:00 - 2:30 PM SUNDAY FEB. 17**

Beach United Church invites friends & neighbours to join in a free skate with games, shinny (no regular sticks or pucks, plastic sticks provided) and hot drinks shared around the fire pit.  
Helmets Mandatory for children 6 & under & shinny players  
Opportunity for cubs/scouts/ brownies/girl guides to earn Certificate towards winter fitness/skating badges.

**FOR MORE INFO** **HASTINGS@WITHERS.CA**  
**416-691-1657**

www.beachunitedchurch.com

## Family Skate

### Where and when

Kew Gardens Rink (at foot of Kew Gardens park by the lake)  
Reached via Lee Avenue or Waverley Road  
Sunday, February 17, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. For more details, check us out on Eventbrite and Facebook.

### A note from last year

*Last year one of the Syrian refugee families the church has been involved in sponsoring came to skate. They love skating and wanted to have hot chocolate and skate with members of the community who had helped support them since their arrival in Canada. They saw lots of familiar faces. The 3 girls even tried holding a hockey stick. Who knows what is next!*

## Worship Matters

### Vital Signs Sunday Worship 10.30 am

The next worship series has an environmental focus and is entitled "Vital Signs". Each Sunday has a particular plant, animal or insect which will help us to explore what is happening on our earth home. These are called "indicator species" and act as an alert to problems e.g. soil contamination, air or water pollution, habitat fragmentation or climate change.

Indicator species need to be representative of the other organisms in the ecosystem. They can also be a sign of improvement and health of a habitat; a vital sign!

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Feb 3</b>   | Indicator species - monarch butterfly<br>Celebrate Communion |
| <b>Feb 10</b>  | Indicator species - salmon                                   |
| <b>Feb 17</b>  | Indicator species - rabbits                                  |
| <b>Feb 24</b>  | <i>Worship Amplified</i> -details on next page               |
| <b>March 3</b> | Indicator species - lichen & moss<br>Celebrate Communion     |

# Vital Signs

10:30 am Sunday  
Worship Series  
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3

**140 Wineva Ave.**

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## "Worship Amplified" Sunday, February 24, 10.30 a.m.



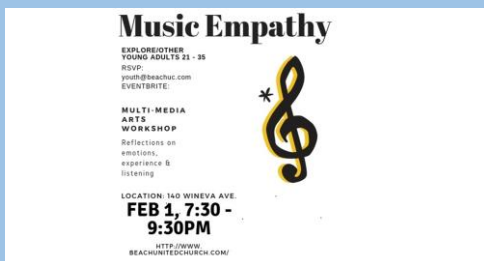
Worship led by a live band, sharing contemporary music, which connects to the environment. The reflections will link with the message of each song, as well as the ancient biblical story.

The songs are - *I'm a stranger here*, Five Man Electrical Band: *New Orleans is Sinking*, Tragically Hip: *Beds are Burning*, Midnight Oil: *I need to wake up*, Melissa Etheridge.

## Upcoming Events

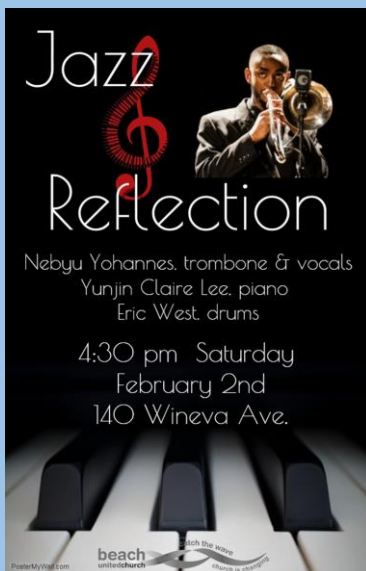
### Music Empathy, Friday, February 1, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Music Empathy-Understanding our role as listeners in sharing compassion and developing understanding through a musical lens. Meditation, song and listening mindfully are our vehicles. Open to all young adults [ 21-35], dinner will be provided. Contact Dayna Browne, Children and Youth Coordinator at [youth@beachuc.com](mailto:youth@beachuc.com) for more details.



### Jazz and Reflection, Saturday, February 2, 4:30 p.m.

Nebyu Yohannes, trombone and vocals, Yunjin Claire Lee, piano and Eric West on drums.



Nebyu is a trombonist, composer, and arranger currently residing in Toronto, ON. He has been playing trombone for 8 years and has the pleasure to play alongside world-class musicians, such as Martha Reeves, Michael McDonald, Joe Lovano and Donny McCaslin, to name a few. He is also a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Music program at Humber College, studying under Canada's top-tier musicians, such as Alastair Kay, Kirk McDonald, Pat Labarbera and Mark Kelso. Nebyu plays frequently within, and outside of Toronto, playing in various styles such as jazz, R&B, funk and pop, and also leads his own group called Nebyu Yohannes Group (NYG). NYG plays in the style of contemporary jazz, drawing inspiration from groups like Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band, and Ambrose Akinmusire, all while containing original compositions and arrangements written by Nebyu.

Organ Stops



Stefani Bedin 2:30 pm  
Sun. Feb. 10

Hear the gorgeous tones of Beach United's Guilbault Therien Organ masterfully played by Toronto organist Stefani Bedin. Admission by donation.


 140 Wineva Ave.  
[www.beachunitedchurch.com](http://www.beachunitedchurch.com)

## Organ Stops, Sunday February 10, 2:30 p.m.

Hear the gorgeous tones of Beach United's Guilbault Therien organ masterfully played by Toronto organist Stefani Bedin. Admission by donation.

Stefani Bedin is a solo and collaborative performer, liturgical musician and pedagogue, active in her hometown of Toronto. In September 2017, Stefani began her pursuit of the Master of Music degree in organ performance at the University of Toronto, where she also obtained the Bachelor of Music degree (Honours) in music history and theory and a minor in historical keyboard.

Stefani studies organ under the tutelage of Dr. Kevin Komisaruk. She is also an accomplished pianist and obtained an A.R.C.T. in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in 2013, the same year in which she was awarded the Royal Canadian College of Organist's Barwell Scholarship and began studying the organ.

Stefani is the recipient of several other scholarships and awards. In July 2018, she won first prize at the Biennial Osborne Organ Competition held at Canada's Summer Institute of Church Music.

Experience a wonderful afternoon of uplifting music; it will truly be "music for the soul"!

# Children's Programming Update

## Self-Compassion Month

This month we will be looking deeper at ourselves, as we grow and learn more about the world around us we can also grow in compassionate actions & thinking.

Some highlights for this month include making reflective art, outdoor engaging activities & walks as well as discussions about risk-taking as it relates to faith.

Please join us every Sunday as we connect to creativity, the source of it, Jesus and ourselves. Contact Dayna Browne, Children and Youth Coordinator at [youth@beachuc.com](mailto:youth@beachuc.com) for more details:

**When:** For 6-12 year olds-Every Sunday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and for 4 and 5 year olds - 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 17.

## A Women's Event: Exploring and Deepening Connections, Saturday, March 2

BUC is sponsoring a half-day women's event, "Exploring and Deepening Connections." All women are invited to come and make connections with other women throughout the community. The program will include music, discussion and a Guided Mindfulness Practice. Advance registration is required through [Eventbrite.ca](http://Eventbrite.ca) or the BUC office ([office@beachuc.com](mailto:office@beachuc.com)) or 416-691-8082. Child care will be provided. There is no admission charge; instead, please bring a donation to the Calvary Baptist Foodbank.

## Fair Trade Fayre, Saturday, March 30

On March 30 we will be hosting a Fair Trade Fayre with guest speaker Samuel Ansell, cofounder of Casa Relief fair trade organization along with several fair trade organizations. We would like to have a table of fair trade goodies like olive oil, coffee and chocolate for sale to fundraise for BUC. I am looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with the event. Please email me at [community@beachuc.com](mailto:community@beachuc.com)

Thank you!

-Nicole Tanti, Community Engagement Coordinator

