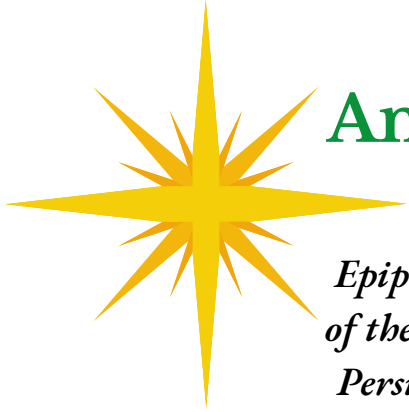


THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



Epiphany 2023



An Epiphanytide Message

By Rev. Michael Perry



Epiphany is the season of the stars. Epiphany tells the story of the Magi, traditionally represented as Kings but possibly Persian priests, magicians or even astrologers. While their background is still debated, what is more certain is that they study the night sky. And one night, as they looked up, and something caught their attention and set them off on a journey that would change their lives.

I quite love the Magi. They are earnest seekers who seem only to have eyes for the star that shines above them. They are determined to go to whatever length necessary to follow the star to the newborn King.

But it is the Magi's joy that is most remarkable. Jesus is their joy. When they find him, they bow down and offer him gifts. I have often wondered if Jesus was what they were expecting. You could forgive them for thinking perhaps the star got lost or maybe they got misdirected or miscalculated.

But if we see at a deeper level, I think the Gospel encourages us to understand that the true gift is Jesus. Jesus is a joy beyond imagination, who can be sought and found by all, for he is present now in our midst.

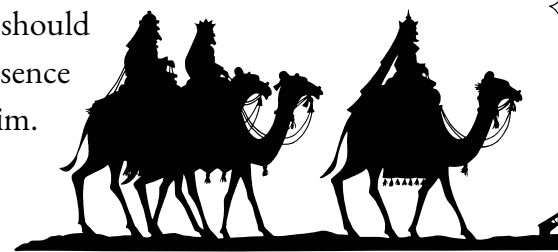
In December, we launched our 5-year vision to Transfig the Hill. It is our way to transform our Hill to be connected to our Church, characterized by our Church, and equipped to grow our Church. These three pillars are aimed at making the Hill a place where Jesus can be sought and found by all, because we want our Hill to be a place where he is present in our midst.

The response to our first year of fundraising has reminded me of the Magi who brought their gifts. Thirty people gave and helped us to surpass our goal and raise \$43,275. Thank you for your generosity. Like the Magi, I am overwhelmed with joy that we have already secured the first year of funding.

These gifts are like thirty stars that shine above our Hill, thirty beams of light that illuminate the ways in which we want to make Jesus present in our midst and on our Hill, thirty specks of radiance that will shed light on the joy that enlightens our hearts, Jesus.

Joyfully, Transfig the Hill can move forward due to your financial support and we have already begun to work on our 2023 objectives. We have two quotes for the sign above the Garden Doors. We've held preliminary conversations with a potential candidate to step into some children's ministry roles. After Vestry, we will be reaching out to members of the parish to form our Connection Project Management team.

A five-year vision can feel like setting off on a journey like the Magi's. We want to keep our eyes open and look to the skies above for guidance. But Epiphany should remind us that we have already received the greatest gift: Jesus. May, his presence always comfort, strengthen, and fill our hearts with gladness as we follow him.





CAROLLING ON THE HILL

December 2022



JEOPARDY NIGHT

January 2023



Christmas Pageant

THE BIG INTERVIEW

A key element of the well attended Children's Christmas Eve service was the popular pageant. The Transcript talked to members of the cast and crew to learn all about it from their unique perspective.

What was your role in the pageant?

Juliet: I was Gabriel, an innkeeper and Herod.

Finn: I had three different roles well sort of four. I was one of the kings, I was someone who helped the kids get to the stage when they were animals. I was also the herald and an innkeeper.

Audrey: I had multiple roles. I was Caesar, I was a shepherd, I was an innkeeper and one of the three kings. My favourite role was Caesar. I was the basically the main character in my scene and I had a whole presentation to give and everyone had to listen to me.

Henry: I was stage crew and the star.

Who is your favourite pageant character?

Finn: Caesar. He had very funny lines.

Henry: Joseph. He was pretty funny.

Juliet: Probably Herod and the herald.



What did you enjoy most about working on the pageant?

Juliet: I got to act in front of everybody and it was fun! I got to try something new.

Henry: Being the star was fun because I got to be up there and watch everything happen close up.

Finn: I don't know ... it was fun!



Did you face any challenges in your role?

Juliet: Someone from my school was in the audience.

Henry: As stage crew we had a short amount of time to change all the scenes.

Finn: When switching roles we had to run down and around, through the basement so no one would see us.

Audrey: The performance with the kids was a tiny bit difficult because we had some kids who ran into random scenes. They came into scenes they weren't supposed to be in so it was very hard improv for Juliet, I have to say. In her King Herod role Bobby came in and decided to be the king too. It was interesting but I thought she played it off well.



Can you share any behind the scenes stories for our readers?

Juliet: When Audrey and Finn were Caesar and the herald they had to run really far to get their costumes.

Henry: Before practicing for the show we played this energy game where we had to pass the energy around. That was pretty fun!

Finn: We had to stand in this circle. You passed the energy by going “whoosh”. You could also “ping it” which was deflecting it.

Audrey: It (the game) was quite something. I don't think many people enjoyed it but it was interesting.



Do you have any advice for young actors who might want to participate in future pageants?

Audrey: They are a long ways away ... but I think they'll do a pretty good job.

You rely on the other people in the play. No one starred in the play ... except The Star! It was a very “team thing”. I think it was great team building for everyone.

I don't think they have anything to worry about ... apart from just their lines.

Finn: Just try it and see if you like it!

Henry: All you need to do is keep showing up and practice and you'll be good.

Juliet: Try new things and don't be scared!



From the Director's Chair

The success of the Christmas pageant would not have been possible without the vision, planning and dedication of director Yvonne Verlinden and her trusted assistant, Jenn Bolender King.



Yvonne, why were you interested in directing the pageant?

Yvonne: My mom always directed the pageant at our church growing up. I guess it is in my bones!

Can you tell us about the highlights of the production and the challenges you faced?

Yvonne: I loved seeing people get into their roles ... seeing Finn be the herald, Audrey embodying Caesar... It was really neat to see people step out of their comfort zones and make the magic happen!

A big challenge was sourcing the jingle bells. I visited a lot of thrift stores looking for bell Christmas ornaments. If anyone has some jingle bells they can donate towards future Christmas pageants, that would be appreciated!

What was going through your mind during and immediately after the pageant?

Jenn: I hoped I would remember everyone's costumes for the right scene.

It went by very quickly compared to all the rehearsal time. It went by in a flash!

It looked like everyone was having a good time; both in the play and those experiencing the play.

Yvonne: Happiness; seeing all the joy and smiles. Relief and also amazement ... a little bit of shock that it actually worked! We met at the end of November, got the scripts out there and made some initial casting decisions but really put it all together in only a week so. We were a good team!



Transfiguration Christmas Reflections

By Olive Bensley

Our Christmas services were a gathering of friends and families coming together in prayerful reflection, special music and rejoicing in God's ultimate love in the sending of His Son into the world to bring us to salvation. We recaptured the time when God became man in the form of a baby named Jesus, born to Mary and Joseph, in a "lowly manger" in Bethlehem. Shepherds and kings, listening to the angels or following a star, travelled from near and far, to adore Him and spread the word of "our dear Saviour's birth."

For those whom Christmas was a time when we needed reassurance and comfort, due to the loss of a loved one, loneliness, broken relationships, suffering or other struggles, the Blue Christmas Service gave us comfort and consolation, as well as the hope that God's light would shine through and overcome the darkness in our lives.

I was caught up in the moments of love, hope, peace and joy that Christians, around the world, have been celebrating for over two thousand years.



Roehampton Gift Bags 2022

By Deb Whalen Blaize



Delivering gift bags to the Roehampton Shelter is becoming quite a tradition here at Transfig. For the third year in a row, the parish has gathered resources to assemble gift bags for each resident at the shelter on Christmas morning. While the bags contain little stocking stuffers like chapstick and socks and Tim Horton's gift cards, our goal was to deliver 150 bags, and so the project is actually quite an undertaking. Approximately \$1300 in financial donations was raised, as well as a number of bulk items and completed bags from parishioners and neighbours to the church. A special shout out of thanks to our friends in the local Scout Troup who contributed 33 ready-to-go gift bags!

On December 18th after the Sunday service, volunteers gathered in the Donald Duncan room and got quite the workshop going, organizing the donations and strategizing how to divide them among the bags. We broke down multi-packs of socks and tied pairs together with strings and ribbons; we signed Christmas cards to wish our neighbours hope and peace for the season; we shook out bags and folded tissue; and then got to work sorting the items into each bag, and topped them all off with treats. Thanks so much to our workshop volunteers: Philip and Judy Wooten, Olive Bensley, William Prest, Linda Wright, and Ainsley Munroe. Your many hands made the ample work so light, and the generosity of your time and spirit added a little something extra to those bags, I think.



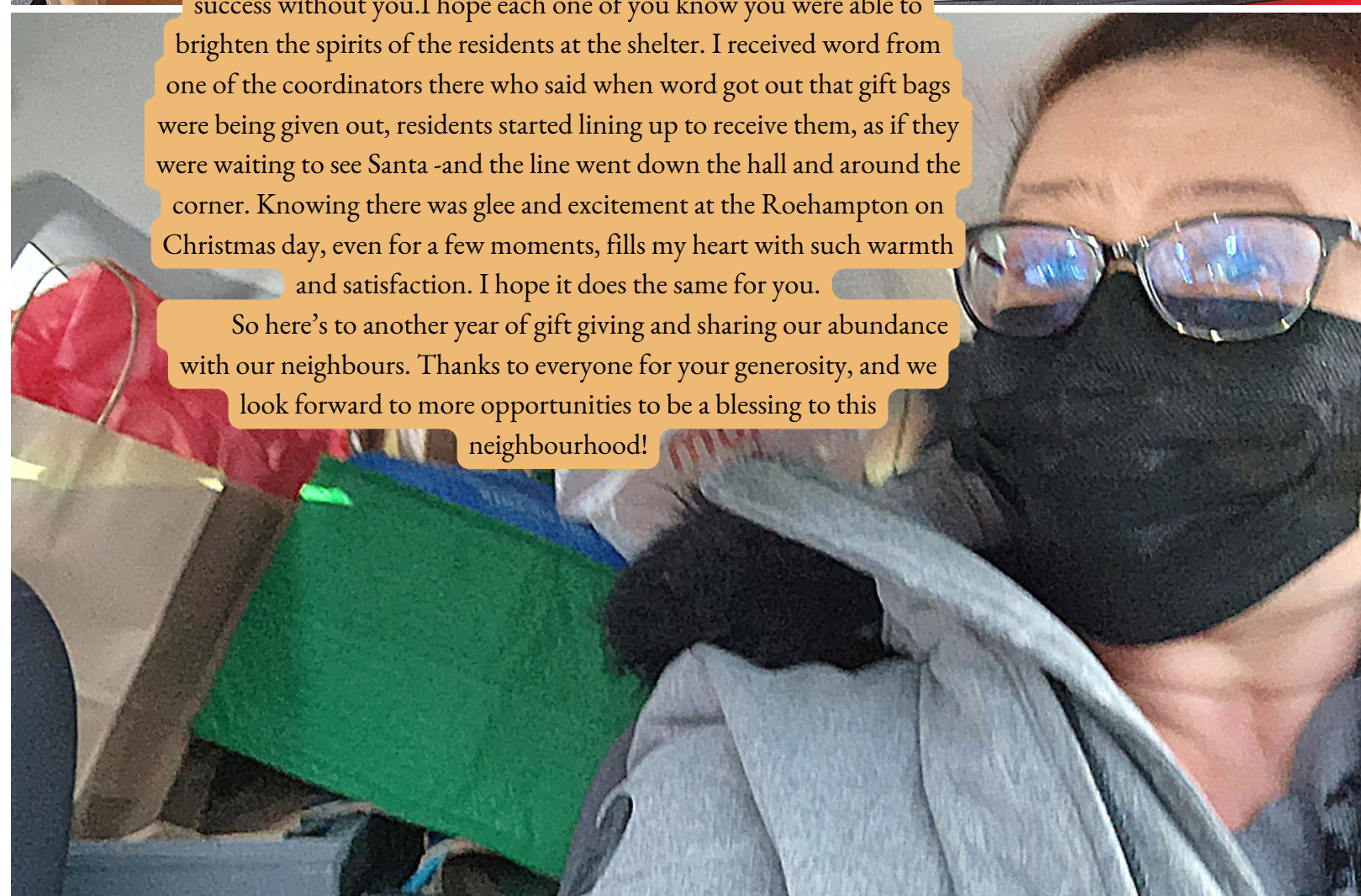
I was especially blessed this year for some extra help, as I ended up coming down a nasty (thankfully non-COVID) cold the day before I was meant to head to Costco and shop for the bulk of the items with which to stuff the bags. I am so grateful to Kamalini Dugan, who graciously agreed to not only go and pick up the items, but to take on the precarious work of decision making and strategizing based on availability and cost of items. It is no small feat!

Finally, a big thank you to Susan Lloyd and her trusty, hatch-back car which we filled to the brim with each and every gift bag. Once everything was loaded up, Susan carefully drove us over to the Roehampton. It took Susan, myself and 3 of the on-site staff to get all the bags inside!



Not everyone who contributed to the drive can be named, or this report would go on forever. But to each of you who gave of your time, your finances, your enthusiasm and your kindness, know that your efforts are so gratefully appreciated and this project would not have been any kind of success without you. I hope each one of you know you were able to brighten the spirits of the residents at the shelter. I received word from one of the coordinators there who said when word got out that gift bags were being given out, residents started lining up to receive them, as if they were waiting to see Santa -and the line went down the hall and around the corner. Knowing there was glee and excitement at the Roehampton on Christmas day, even for a few moments, fills my heart with such warmth and satisfaction. I hope it does the same for you.

So here's to another year of gift giving and sharing our abundance with our neighbours. Thanks to everyone for your generosity, and we look forward to more opportunities to be a blessing to this neighbourhood!



Kamalini Receives the ODT!

Sunday, January 1st was a day full of celebrations. Of course most people were celebrating the beginning of 2023, but for the Transfiguration community, most importantly we celebrated Kamalini Dugan as she received the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (ODT) ... plus it was also her birthday!



The Diocesan website describes recipients of the ODT as people who have "given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry."

A perfect description of Kamalini!

The ODT presentations were made at a beautiful service of evensong at St. James Cathedral. As Kamalini received her award from Bishop Andrew Asbil, the following was read out in the cathedral:

Mrs. Dugan has been nominated by Transfiguration for her tireless dedication to seeing and supporting every person, cleric, and visitor that walks through the doors, as well as the gardens outside the doors. Kamalini is around every corner, ready to roll up her sleeves to beautify the church, and the one who mobilizes volunteers into action. Head of the refugee committee, member of advisory board, stewardship chair, lay member to Synod, former warden and weekly volunteer for Meals on Wheels, she is inspiring to us all.



Kamalini is joined by husband Patrick (also ODT) alongside Bishop Andrew

*Congratulations
Kamalini !*





MORE GOOD NEWS!!

An Update from Prossy and Ivan

It has been sixteen months since Prossy and Ivan arrived in Canada from Uganda and found their way to the Transfiguration community. In that time, they have faced many difficult situations and while there are still many challenges ahead, they are both entering the new year with gratitude to God for the blessings they have been given. Indeed, there is much Good News to share from 2022.

Over the summer, Prossy completed her studies in the Personal Support Worker (PSW) program. In addition to getting excellent grades and consistent praise from her instructors, Prossy received not one but two awards at her graduation in August! Circle of support members Kamalini and Patrick were able to attend the ceremony to witness this incredible milestone. September brought even more Good News: the arrival of her work permit! After a very long and frustrating wait, Prossy was finally able to put her training and skills to good use. She is now working with an PSW agency and her current full time position is at the Ina Grafton Gage Home, a long-term care facility in Scarborough. She finds the work challenging but rewarding and is especially happy that the commute is very manageable. She is able to get to work on public transit in less than 30 minutes!

Ivan is also celebrating a significant milestone as this year begins: a brand new job in his field! In early December, Ivan began a new full time position as an Apprentice Technician at Don Valley North Toyota. Describing himself as a “car doctor,” Ivan is working with a large team of mechanic technicians and is learning all there is to know about fixing and maintaining Toyotas. This new position is much closer to home (about 45 minutes on public transit), and he is enjoying learning many new skills and working with a large and friendly team. He is grateful for the great work experience he had at the Flomax shop in Mississauga earlier in 2022, and is happy to be applying his knowledge and learning new skills in this new role.

Prossy and Ivan are very grateful for the support of the Transfiguration community and in particular, for the Circle of Support members who faithfully supported them through the many ups and downs of their first full year in Canada. They continue to ask for your prayers and support in their continuing journey, and look forward to the Good News that God has in store for them in 2023.



Faith WORKS Check-In

In 2022, our parish gave \$5,465 to the FaithWorks campaign. Thank you everyone! This is a wonderful achievement and is just shy of our goal to raise \$6,000.

In addition, we gave \$2 for every concert goer from our On the Hill series towards the Spirit Garden, which totalled \$1,000. Supporting the Spirit Garden is our diocesan response to the TRC's call for the installation of Residential School Monuments in each provincial capital. The Spirit Garden at Toronto City Hall will be a place for teaching, learning, sharing and healing.

FaithWorks has an important role in enabling us to live our Gospel call to care for the marginalized in our community. Its ministry partners work with the homeless, the hungry, at-risk women, children & youth, the HIV/AIDS impacted, newcomers to Canada, and the Indigenous population.

The genius of FaithWorks is that it allows parishes across our diocese to collaborate in pooling their financial resources to support a few key ministry partners. This collective approach enables even the smallest parish to make a meaningful impact in caring for the most vulnerable in society. The pooling of resources allowed our diocese to raise over \$1.5 million last year and over \$35 million in the past 25 years.

You might be asking, how did Transfig set the goal of raising \$6,000 last year. Every year, the Bishop encourages each parish to set the goal of raising 3% of total community givings from the previous year.

So the math was $193,000 \times 0.03 = 5,790$. We rounded up get our final figure of \$6,000. We will announce the new goal for 2023 at our upcoming Vestry meeting.

The other great part about FaithWorks is that each parish keeps a 15% retainer for parish level social justice initiatives. This means that in 2022 we raised \$819.75 for us to use in our own community in the year ahead.

If you would like to know how to give to FaithWorks, the simplest answer is make a donation to Transfig and put on the memo line of a cheque, or in the message box of an e-transfer, or indicate right on our PAR form that you would like portion set aside for FaithWorks.

Getting to know Liudmyla

By Ann Blennerhassett

On January 3rd, our new property assistant, Liudmyla had her first day of work at Transfig. Liudmyla came to Canada as a refugee from Ukraine with her mother-in-law and two children. She was connected to us through the larger church network. Upon arriving she and her family stayed with a family from St. Paul's Bloor Street before being moved into their own apartment at Yonge and Davisville. As she is still learning English, this interview was conducted entirely via Google Translate. We are particularly fortunate to live in a time where the technology exists to make this kind of communication possible.

Liudmyla, tell us a bit about your life in Ukraine, and about your family.

I worked in accounting for over 10 years, which is where I met my husband, Taras. We have been married for 10 years and we have two children. Our 8 year old daughter, Valery and 2 year old son, Maxim.

Where did you live in Ukraine?

We lived in Romny, a small city in Sumy Oblast. My husband, brother and parents are still there, but they are safe. (Sumy Oblast is a province in northeastern Ukraine. It was captured and held by Russia from Feb 24, 2022-April 6th, 2022. Ukraine has regained control of the region and held it since then, though it is still unsafe due to rigged explosives and structural damage.)

When did you arrive in Canada?

I arrived with my children and mother-in-law, Valentina on November 29th. We arrived via Poland.

How did you become connected with Transfig?

Through the Ukrainian church. Now there are many new Ukrainians who are being helped by the local Ukrainians. After the service there is always information sharing. Before the war there were only five families at this church. Now there are so many.

What were your first impressions of Toronto?

I liked how the houses were decorated for Christmas. We do not have anything like that. It was very beautiful. When we first arrived my daughter and I went out in the evenings to look. We have also enjoyed ice skating here. It is my daughter's new hobby, she learned very quickly. In Ukraine she was fond of tobogganing and tubing.

Canadians love to talk about the weather. What do you think about your first Canadian winter?

I don't think it's cold here. It is cold for a few days and then it gets warm again. But I find it unusual that there are very strong winds.

What has it been like working at Transfig so far?

I like everything. Thank you especially for your help in my first few days.

Do you have any hobbies?

In the summers we used to swim in the rivers and lakes. We would do weekend trips along the river close to our city. I like calm, relaxing music and to read with my daughter.



ACKNOWLEDGING OUR PAST

BY REV. MICHAEL PERRY

In 2021, we celebrated our 100th year as a parish. A significant milestone, and one that is the result of both God's grace and the hard work and dedication of a long chain of clergy and volunteers who have passed the stewardship of this parish hand to hand, from one generation to the next. We are lucky to have a compelling historical record of the clergy of this parish going back to its very beginning in the form of portraits. However, that is only part of the story. As I've experienced in my first year and a half here, the work of the church is much more than one person, and clergy rely on lay leaders to serve in a myriad of different ways.

In recognition of these strong contributions to Transfiguration, past, present and future, we have created a space to acknowledge those who have served in a leadership capacity as churchwardens and bring them together with the portraits of past Rectors.

In January, we moved the portraits to the Office Hallway, where they now hang above a large elegant wooden piece that will record the names of the Rectors Wardens and Peoples Wardens. With the help of Kamalini Dugan and Peter Fischer, we have already made a good start. Can you identify a name that is missing from our list? We are hoping that a trip to the Diocesan archives will provide us with the names of lay leaders from the earlier decades.

You will have noticed that one portrait has been removed. When David Giffin's licence to practice ministry in the Anglican Church was revoked, it was a painful moment for our parish. Under David's leadership, Transfig flourished. An important chapter in our history unfolded as David passionately preached the Gospel and with deft skill assembled a dynamic ministry team.

David's portrait will be replaced by a written description of his ministry.



CHURCH WARDENS

Jack Beer
Joe McBride
Alan Peters
David Finnamore
Glen Wheeler
Phil Delfosse
Hazel Perkins
Colin Harvey
Norm MacDonald
Bryson Boright
Donald Duncan
Pat Ferns
Ken Loach
Pat Dugan
Bruce Fair
Jean Anderson
Bill Wright
Peter Fischer
Bob Lightfoot
Sue Hyatt
Scott Holladay
Bill Owen
Heather Hancock
Brian Jardine
Kathleen Bailie
Jayne Hanna
Helen Wright
Steve Klose
Tanja Futter
Kamalini Dugan
Andrew Marshall
Benjamin Gillard
Stephen Coates
Patti Ryan
Susan Lloyd
David Rounthwaite

FIRST FRIDAYS



5:30-9:30pm

Feb 3rd - **Skating**

March 3rd - **Video Games**

April 14th - **Easter Event**

May 5th - **Garden Activity**

June 2nd - **Games On the Hill**



Dinner included



compline online

THURSDAYS AT 7:30PM ON ZOOM

Come and enter into the stillness and
silence of Night Prayer.



THE WATER'S EDGE

Sundays in 2023

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 4th

July 9th

August 13th

September 10th

October 1st

November 5th

December 10th

