



## Dear ESG church family:

ESG is a pathway to growth, invested in caring for our own and the wider community. We look forward to creating community with you this year.

We maintain and build new connections with our online worship and social media presence. Many people enjoy live-streamed services and posts from near and far. However, we know the value and strength of a church community gathered. We encourage you to join us in person as often as possible for worship, concerts, and our many amazing programs and events. Discover your individual path to growth with the ESG community.

Being here in person helps us engage, encourage and do life together in very meaningful ways. It makes a difference when you are here!

This Program Guide describes many opportunities to connect with others at worship, programs and special events at ESG. Please add them to your calendars and share this resource with people that might be interested, and invite them to join you!

## Blessings from the ESG Staff & Leadership!

## Learn more online

### [Esgunity.org/events/list](https://esgunity.org/events/list)

Visit our website regularly to find out about scheduled services and events.

### Add events to your Google Calendar

The online Events Listing allows you to add events directly to your online calendar.

### Join the ESG email list

Subscribe at [esgunity.org/newsletters](https://esgunity.org/newsletters) for weekly emails with details about upcoming services, events, online gatherings and outreach initiatives at ESG.

## UPCOMING DATES

- Sept 10 Welcome Back BBQ, Funday Sunday
- Sept 17 Alex MacLeod & Glenn McCullough for New Expressions; Labyrinth Dedication
- Sept 24 Orange Shirt Day, Forget Me art exhibit
- Sept 30 Water Walk (North Toronto Cluster)
- Oct 1 World Communion
- Oct 8 Thanksgiving Sunday
- Oct 14 Rummage Sale
- Oct 27 Trivia Pub Night
- Oct 29 Annual Congregational Meeting
- Oct 29 All Saints
- Nov 5 Remembrance Sunday
- Nov 12 Messy Church
- Dec 1 Family Christmas & Carolling Party
- Dec 3 Advent 1 Communion
- Dec 3 Advent Gifts, Fair Trade Fair, Almond Bark & Cookies in a Jar
- Dec 10 Carolling Service & Choir Concert
- Dec 17 Pageant
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve at 5 & 9 pm
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service (online)
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Service
- Feb 4 Black History Sunday
- Feb 11 Pancake Sunday
- Feb 23 Pink Shirt Day
- Mar 29 Good Friday Service (tbc where)
- Mar 31 Easter Sunday; Family Activities
- April 21 Forest Church
- Apr 27 Rummage Sale
- May 5 Confirmation Class; Choir Concert
- May 19 Pentecost Communion
- June 2 Pride Sunday
- June 9 Picnic Sunday

## SUMMER

### Community Garden

Four summer Grow Staff are tending our 12 garden plots onsite, and supporting 9 remote garden plots, financially supported by Canada Summer Jobs and the Mens Jameson Fund. Six workshops are focusing on food growth and sustainability.

### Summer Worship

Each Sunday from June 23 – September 1, LIVE in the sanctuary and ONLINE at 10:30 a.m.

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ESG is an inclusive and welcoming congregation. Persons of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnic background, or economic circumstances are welcome to take part in every aspect of church life.

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## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### Sunday Morning Worship (10:30 a.m.)

The CENTRE of our worshipping community of faith –  
**It makes a difference when you are here!**

### Evensong Services (6 p.m.)

A meditative service of prayer and song

- Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 14 (Christmas in a Minor Key)
- Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 28, May 16

### Love aLIVE events (5 p.m.)

Everyone is welcome to Love aLIVE! This year Love aLIVE will include a number of in person events and also a few online. Love aLIVE is a **dinner church series for all ages**. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

In Person Love aLIVE with dinner and activities for all ages included:

- Oct 22, Nov 26, March 24, May 26

Solely Online Love aLIVE gatherings with a special breakout room for children:

- Jan 28, Feb 25, April 28

### New Expressions Sundays

Explore new styles of music and faith expression involving a new generation.

- Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19
- Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 17, April 21, May 19

### NEW! Labyrinth

Enter into your individual spiritual practice on our own front lawn. (See Adult Ed for more info)

### Choir Resumes in September!

## COFFEE & NAMETAGS

Connect with self-serve coffee available before AND after the service, with easy access to coffee, tea and snacks from a new coffee trolley at the base of the stairs to the balcony. From 10 a.m. on – An excellent opportunity to renew and form new friendships! Come early, come often, coffee's on!

Our Sunday hosts can help you find or create your name tag with our updated ESG branding, large, easy-to-read print and a magnetized clasp to protect your clothing as you securely hold your name tag.

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*Share this resource and help others  
find community at ESG.*

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## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### Family Christmas & Carolling Party

Mark your calendar for the Dec 1 fun and festive event for all ages. Children can enjoy food and crafts downstairs. Youth will decorate the sanctuary tree and enjoy food and drinks. Adults can celebrate with wine, savoury food and carol singing.

### Theme – How does a Weary World Rejoice?

- Dec 3 Advent 1 Communion  
Advent Gifts & Almond Bark  
Fair Trade Fair & Cookies in a Jar
- Dec 10 Advent 2  
ESG Choir Christmas Concert
- Dec 14 Christmas in a Minor Key
- Dec 17 Advent 3 Pageant
- Dec 24 Advent 4 10:30 a.m. Carol service  
5 p.m. Glow sticks and stars  
9 p.m. Candles and Communion
- Dec 25 Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. Recorded  
Service online
- Dec 31 Auld Lang Syne Communion

## LENT & EASTER

### Seeking Lent:

*Where are you seeking connection, answers,  
wonder or justice right now?*

- Feb 18 Lent 1 Communion
- Mar 24 Palm Sunday Service  
Children's Neighbourhood Parade
- Mar 28 Maundy Thursday (6 p.m.)
- Mar 29 Good Friday (10:30 a.m.)
- Mar 31 Easter Sunday

## FAMILY MINISTRY

### Family Ministry Programs

Our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Kate Littler, teaches Sunday School with Lita, offering nursery care each week during worship with creative crafts, activities, interactive programming, games, science experiments, and creative crafts.

ESG is an Affirming congregation. Our curriculum, toys, and books reflect the diverse families we serve.

We plan special events for children and families throughout the year, including a very special Christmas pageant and Easter Sunday.

## Youth Program

The Youth will attend Church at 10:30 and leave around 10:45 for their program. Led by Rowena Hetherington-Wilson, this program allows Youth to explore life and faith through activities, outreach and volunteer opportunities, as well as participating in ESG's food and justice ministry. In addition, we have special evening just for fun and friendship events.

To learn more please don't hesitate to reach out:  
[childrensministry@esgunitied.org](mailto:childrensministry@esgunitied.org) or  
[youth@esgunitied.org](mailto:youth@esgunitied.org)

## ADULT EDUCATION

**Engage with others, and explore questions about life and faith.**

**Labyrinth:** Come and experience ESG's new front lawn labyrinth this fall. Cathie Stewart will be offering workshops to learn how to walk towards your quiet centre.

**Spiritual Discovery:** Enjoy our series starting this fall. It starts with a faith discussion group "So what do you think about God?" on **October 1st** after church led by Jim Black and Janet Hardy. Other opportunities include a book study, podcast group, and a planned forest bathing experience.

**Interfaith Panel Discussion:** Join Peter Wilkins for an interfaith panel discussion in the winter, 2024.

**Becoming a Healing Presence in a Traumatized World:** Mary Thomson and Patti Thompson will be offering a two-evening program for those thirsting for a dose of optimism. Learn strategies for healing ourselves, creating a culture of connection, and operating from a place of hope.

**We are not Alone:** Jim Black will continue this monthly newsletter of reflection and inspiration. Want to discuss your insights? Join the monthly Community of Care discussion & prayer group.

**Meditation:** Cathie Stewart will be leading a Soul Sync meditation group starting in the fall.

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*Help spread the word about the opportunities for discovery at ESG.*

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## COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE

The Compassionate Justice speaker series returns for its 12th year from Oct 2023 – April 2024.

Over the years, the principal focus of the series has been all aspects of our criminal justice system and selected other topics such as the Truth and Reconciliation experience.

Join us for another season of unique public speaking events with renowned and inspiring speakers. All events are at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays following the service.

- Oct 15 Phillip Crawley
- Nov 12 Benjamin Perrin
- Jan 21 Erin Dann
- April 7 Rosalie Abella

## FOOD MINISTRY

**Interconnected programs, ministries and events that focus on personal, community and creative growth while being deeply linked to the theme of food & food justice.**

**Community kitchen:** ESG's Community Kitchen includes activities that explores the importance of food security through sharing in the process of cooking food with others and sharing that food in community. One expression of the Community Kitchen is the Food Justice Cooking series, where participants make a meal together and explore a specific Food Justice topic as they eat together. Hope to see you there!

**Cultural Kitchen Parties:** Cultural Kitchen Parties are a great chance to make a meal online with a host's guidance. Each host guides participants through a recipe and shares why this food is important to them, their family and culture. Cultural Kitchen Parties happen a few times throughout the year. Stay tuned for the date for our next one!

**Flourish House Weekly Meal:** Gather at Flourish House Wednesday evenings for a time of community, connection and dinner prepared by the Flourish House residents.

All are welcome and, if you are able, please email [jamievgibson@gmail.com](mailto:jamievgibson@gmail.com) to let them know you are coming.

**IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU ARE HERE**

## OUTREACH

**There are several opportunities to donate or volunteer to support those who live in and around our community.**

### ESG Little Free Pantry

“Take what you need: give what you are able.”

Our little Free Pantry helps those experiencing food insecurity. It is a small step towards alleviating the pressing need for food or personal care items. Community participation helps keep it stocked. ESG Food Drive the weekend before Thanksgiving.

### Drop In Support Program: Second Tuesday

This Fall Outreach will be launching a pilot program that hopes to continue to extend our reach to those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. A light breakfast, access to a mini food bank, fresh produce, and a caring presence are featured.

### Welcome Baskets (Nov and May)

ESG Outreach and the North Toronto Cluster of churches create Welcome Baskets for homeless people who have been living in local shelters but are transitioning to permanent housing.

### Winter Coats and Clothing for Children

In November, ESG will collect gently used winter clothing and new winter coats and/or snow suits for school aged children.

### WE Care: Survival Kits

A project initiated by one of our members provides survival kits for the many people in Toronto who are either homeless or living in precarious housing situations. We need volunteers for this worthwhile endeavour. All donations are gratefully received.

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AT ESG

**Opportunities to gather with others socially and to provide outreach support. Discover a group for you!**

- **New Perspectives**
- **The ‘Last Minutes’**
- **Unit 12**
- **Wise Women in Training (WWIT)**

## STAFFING & ACCESS

### Building Hours of Operation

Our caretaking staff will be onsite during regular church hours of operation, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. as well as for special evening events.

### Staff Contact Information

#### Rev Dr Paul Hutchison

Team Lead  
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416-481-1141 x 320

#### Rev Sarah Chapman

Next Generation & Growth  
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#### Rev Don Parsons

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#### Rowena Hetherington-Wilson

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