

Birchcliff Bluffs United Church – A Welcoming Community

Birchcliff Bluffs United Church is a diverse, open, and inclusive Christian congregation seeking to make a real difference in the world seven days a week and to be a vital presence in our community. It is our hope that you will discover many possibilities here, possibilities for nurturing your own spirituality and enriching your life, as well as opportunities to serve others and the world through acts of caring, justice, and compassion. We welcome your contributions and ideas.

Our Church has a history going back more than 100 years of being actively engaged in the Birch Cliff Village and Birchcliff Heights communities of southwest Scarborough. We offer **Sunday worship services**, normally at 10:30 am, but now broadcast on YouTube on Sunday mornings because of Covid-19. Opportunities for **Coffee and Conversation**, alternative forms of worship and study groups are also offered online. Our drama group, **Shower Curtain Productions**, went virtual this past year, with online drama productions at Christmas and Easter. The **Bluffs Food Bank** is housed in our Church building and is supported by the work of committed volunteers from our congregation and the community and through our annual Christmas Miracles event. Our **Bluffs Boutique** thrift shop sells gently used clothing and household items at very low prices to food bank clients and other community members. It is closed now due to Covid-19 but will reopen when it can do so safely.

Our Church is an **Affirming Community** in The United Church of Canada. This means that we are public, explicit and intentional in our welcome and invitation to all people, whoever they are and however they identify. Both our **Toby's Place** program for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, and our **Dorothy's Place/Rainbow Tea Time** program for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors are new, ground-breaking programs that provide a place where participants feel welcomed, free to be themselves and supported. Both programs are currently being offered virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions. In 2019 we teamed up with another congregation to co-sponsor two **refugees** from the 2SLGBTQ+ community who came to Canada to escape persecution. With our ongoing support they have found stable housing and access to jobs and educational opportunities.

Our congregation is here for our community and we want to continue to be. Covid-19 has made the past year one of the most difficult in our long history. Many people have reached out to us for care and support as they struggle with the isolation and loneliness of the emergency lockdowns. We are doing our best to respond and hope that you will support us and our work in our community.

Please explore **our website** – www.bbuc.ca – for information about all our programs and activities.