

Christ has Risen!

ST. ANDREW'S TIMES



St. Andrews United Church, Chalk River - Newsletter

Easter Edition 2020

From the Minister's computer to the St. Andrew's Community

Blessings and Peace.

*"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo.
"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times.
But that is not for them to decide.
All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."*

The above is from J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. It is a favorite of mine. When tragedy strikes it is no doubt on everyone's mind - why me, why now? We are indeed in such a time right now. All I can tell you is God is not punishing you or me or the entire world. And love - God - can be seen working through the world in people choosing to self-isolate, in medical facilities and places deemed as essential where workers put themselves at risk every day. Love can be seen in the truck drivers who continue to move products and equipment across this country, in the friend who sends you a message or calls to make sure you are ok and in all the other small acts of kindness you see daily.

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time given us." How often have you wished to have more time? More time with loved ones. More time to spend doing things you love. More time to get organized. More time ... Does this give you that time? I hope it does. I hope you discover during these times, that life-saving physical distancing affords you the time to examine yourself, your life and your priorities.

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A Prayer for Those Who Struggle

We pray for those who struggle. We pray for those who struggle at this time of huge uncertainty; for political leaders faced with unforeseen challenges, uncharted ways, difficult decisions,

Holy One, we will acknowledge wise choices, we will offer words of support.

(time of silent reflection)

We pray for those who struggle. We pray for those in situations never before experienced.

We pray for moms and dads who struggle with having children at home all day.

It is difficult to find new activities; it is hard to stay creative.

Holy One, we will listen carefully to the challenges, we will encourage fresh ways of communication with good friends.

(time of silent reflection)

We pray for those who struggle, We pray for those whose day is radically different.

We pray for those who must leave their usual workspace,
for those breadwinners who must work at home.

Holy One, we will support the new priorities, we will not intrude into the working hours.

(time of silent reflection)

We pray for those who struggle. We pray for those who have lost their jobs.

We pray for those whose financial security has gone, who have anxiety around paying rent or providing for family needs.

Holy One, we will be there in the testing times, we will assure them of their self-worth.

We pray for those who struggle. We pray for those who have been affected by the Covid 19 virus.

Those who are sick at home and those who have been hospitalized, in their suffering, and in their fear.

Holy One, we will hear and respond to their distress, we will be a safe but compassionate presence to their loved ones.

This prayer we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen**



Church Building Closures

On March 23 the Ontario government announced the closure of all but essential workplaces. Church buildings were not named as essential, however the provincial government has clarified that this does not stop creative ways of connecting with members and worshipping together. It was not the province's intent to shut down people's access to worship services that are livestreamed from the church building as long as that can be done safely on a very restricted basis. It is acceptable for a worship leader and one or two other people to record/livestream a worship service in our church building as long as physical distancing protocols are followed. Additionally, [Online worship](#) can still be offered from the homes of worship leaders using technology. Members of the St. Andrews faith community can also stay connected with one another through social media (St. Andrews has a Facebook page), telephone, and the variety of technological options available. For example the Trustees and the Church Council have started meeting virtually using video conferencing.



Our church building is still being entered by the custodian, and other designated volunteers to check heating, water, and so on.

This information relates specifically to the legal requirements now in place in Ontario. We will keep up to date on the directives from our provincial government and the Renfrew County & District Public Health Unit. During the COVID-19 pandemic our worship services, whatever they look like, will include a high priority on the safety of worship leaders and anyone assisting them in person.

While our Church Council considers our future online or other worship options, folks may want to participate in the weekly Moderators online worship service at

<<https://www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table>>

The Moderator's service is recorded live on Zoom. If you would like to participate in the live version of this worship as it is being recorded, please join online on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. EDT, These online services are planned to run at least through Holy Week 2020. Stay tuned for an update soon about our worship option pathway.

Blessed Eastertide, beloved.

Remember

Christ is with us.

Generosity during un-precedented times!

As a community of faith, we are unable to gather in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are challenging but also heartening times as our local and national church have come together to help each other offer new ways of worshipping and reach out to those in need. Our ministry continues, including online, by telephone or video conferencing. When we worship together, we share our gifts by placing them on the offering plate. Now that we can't lean on this traditional way of giving, it's important to promote and use other ways to give. As the church, we need to take seriously the reality that some of our participants are facing new financial hardships due to layoffs, store closures, sickness, and/or caring for family members.

Our first priority is providing pastoral care and maintaining the relationships that exist within our community of faith. If you would like to enquire about pastoral care please give Gayle Barks a call at (613) 401-1465 to make arrangements.

The St. Andrews Church trustees realise that inviting you to consider new ways of giving during this pandemic must take into account your personal situation. Some of us will have to reduce our level of giving. Some will be able to increase their giving. Remember, within the community of Jesus, ALL gifts of time, talents and money are a sign of faith and an act of generosity to be celebrated. The key practices of Inspire, Invite, and Thank continue to underpin all we do regarding our offerings. Giving freely and generously is an important spiritual practice for all people of faith. And we do not invite those who can share more to do so grudgingly in order to "make up" for those who must unwillingly reduce their giving. Indeed, we invite everyone to share cheerfully and generously because this is how we, as the community of Jesus, care for each other and those around us.

To help make giving your offering accessible and easy in these unprecedented times, Church Council recommended the following ways to continue supporting important ministries in our community of faith and the ministry we do together through Mission & Service:

- Provide post-dated cheques in an envelope, sealed with a wet sponge—not licked—and mailed to Nancy Dunham at PO Box 190 Chalk River ON K0J 1J0
- Folks can also call Nancy Dunham at (613) 589-2750 to come and pick up offering cheques in Chalk River/Deep River
- PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). PAR allows you to give through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account. To set up PAR, contact Jim Young at (613) 589-2426. Those already on PAR can also update the amount of their gift by contacting Jim
- Individual [donations to Mission & Service](#) can also continue to be made online through the UCC web site.

In summary, please continue to give generously and cheerfully knowing that we can continue to make a difference in our community while maintaining the viability of our church.

Sincerely;

St. Andrews United Church Trustees
Chalk River ON

Moderator's Easter Message 2020

Grace and peace to you, in Jesus' name. My name is Richard Bott. I'm Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

It's a strange time, isn't it?

As the world continues to be gripped by changes designed to get a handle on what COVID-19 is doing in our lives, we have this moment in the Christian calendar when we're called to celebrate—to celebrate a moment of mystery, a moment of miracle, a moment where God's infinite love caused the incredible—the resurrection of the crucified Jesus, Easter.

There's a part of me that really longs for celebration right now. I want to gather my family and my friends for a huge feast: a little bit of turkey, some stuffing, maybe some dahl roti on the side! I want to hear my daughter laughing and feel her dog rub up against my calf with a look that says, "Me, too!" I want to hear the chatter around the table and all those people I love, safe and here. I want to stand with my community of faith and sing, "Jesus Christ is ris'n today...Alleluia!"

But that can't happen. Not right now. Bringing people together continues to be a danger, and I certainly wouldn't want my desire to celebrate this moment put anyone's health at risk.

It will happen. Just not right now.

But that makes me think about Easter morning—the first one, so very long ago. Each of the gospel narratives tells us of the women rising up that first morning to go to Jesus' tomb. I can imagine them getting up, pulling together everything they needed to prepare Jesus' body properly for burial. Water to wash him, perfumes and oils, grave cloth. There had been no time to do this before the Sabbath had begun. Jesus' body had been placed in a tomb, which had been temporarily sealed up so that everything could be prepared properly later.

Now was that time.

I can imagine these disciples, women who had followed Jesus through his ministry, making their way to the tomb as the sun slowly began to move towards the horizon, the sky beginning to glow. I can imagine their sadness, their grief. The one they had understood was Messiah, a man who had taught and healed and ate and laughed and cried with them, was dead. When I imagine this scene, I imagine them walking quietly, their conversation muted by their sadness.

But here's the thing: Although they didn't know it, Easter had already happened. Before they got to the tomb, they were grieving. When they got to the tomb, they were confused. Jesus' body was gone. The resurrection had already happened, and no one in the world knew about it.

The women were the first evangelists of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They took that story back to the rest of the disciples, and from there on Christ's good news spread throughout the world. But at the time of Easter itself, that moment in human time when the resurrection happened, no one knew except God.

I think that's what I'm going to hold on to this Easter. God is doing things. Mysterious things. Miraculous things. Incredible things. Resurrection things. Whether we know about them or not.

And we will celebrate those things with great joy and wonder-filled alleluias—when the time is right.

But, for now, I'm going to join Mary, and with wonder and hope whisper, "Rabboni! Teacher!" with all of my heart.

Blessed Eastertide, beloved. Be well and remember: Christ is with us.

Alleluia. Alleluia! ALLELUIA! Amen.

Worship Information

Worship Services

Regular Sunday worship services are postponed indefinitely in the church building.

However, you may want to participate in the weekly Moderators online worship service at <<https://www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table>>. The Moderator's service is recorded live on Zoom. If you would like to participate in the live version of this worship, as it is being recorded, join online on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. EDT. These online services are planned to run at least through Holy Week 2020.

Numerous United Church communities are live-streaming Sunday worship services during the pandemic. See the United Church of Canada web site interactive worship map for links to some of them. A few select livestreams are listed below:

Rising Spirit (Bashaw-Ponoka, AB, United Churches)

Hillhurst United Church (Calgary)

Rideau Park United Church (Ottawa)

Trinity United Church (Prince George, BC)

Timothy Eaton Memorial (Toronto)

West Vancouver United (Vancouver)



Have you read
this month's
Broadview?

Pastoral Care Visits

If you desire to have a pastoral care visit, for whatever reason, please contact Gayle Barks (613.401.1465) who will arrange for one of the lay worship team members to call you for a telephone visit. All aspects of a pastoral care visit are held in confidence and are between you and the pastoral care provider only.



Do you remember
the 2018 Quilt
Show?

**St. Andrew's United Church—serving North Renfrew from
Petawawa through to Deux Rivieres.**

Call us at 613.589.2312

St. Andrews United Church PO Box 190 Chalk River ON K0J 1J0

Check out our website at: <http://standrewschalk.ca/>

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From the Minister's computer to the St. Andrew's Community

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A plaque hanging in my kitchen says, "I need a day between Saturday and Sunday." That was my life previous to six months ago. For the last six months my life has been nothing but Saturdays and Sundays. I believe things happen for a reason and not because God wanted it that way but because life happens that way. We can choose to be angry, upset, frustrated or we can choose to learn about ourselves, others and the world around us. Above all now, we need to stay physically isolated as much as possible and do whatever we can to stay active, healthy and content.

I want you all to know I am fine. My final chemotherapy session is scheduled for 8 April and providing my platelets have recovered enough it will go according to plan. I will be "ringing the bell" around 2:00 pm. Your prayers, phone calls, and words of encouragement, food deliveries and rides to Pembroke have meant so much. Thank you.

I wish you all good health and happiness as we journey through Holy Week and beyond in this challenging time.

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Rev. Susan DeHaan, DLM



Song of
Faith—by
Joyce Crosby

Luke 24:6-7 "He is not here; he has risen!"