



ST. ANDREW'S TIMES

St. Andrew's United Church, Chalk River - Newsletter Summer Edition 2021

From the Minister's Desk

Blessings everyone. Here are some words of wisdom from the prophet Isaiah 43: 18, 19.

*"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

Ontario is relaxing pandemic restrictions. We are coming out of what seems like a long winter of seclusion. The thought has been that we want to get back to the life we had before the pandemic. I am inclined to think there is a benefit to remembering the former things but not getting held in one place or situation by them. I am more in favour of moving on from what has happened, looking at life and dare I say living life in a new way. What exactly that way is I am not sure. But one thing is for sure, I would encourage each and every one of us to not take anything for granted especially the ability to spend time with family and friends. Another thing I pray we not take for granted is Mother Earth.

We will be having our Annual General Meeting on August 1 during the worship service. It will be a time to look back and reflect on what has happened for sure, but more importantly it is a time to look forward. To look forward to working together, of being engaged and supportive of one another to see what new things God has in store for St. Andrew's in the community of North Renfrew in the near future.

I am happy to say my appointment to St. Andrew's as your minister has been renewed for the next three years by the governing church council. I am excited to see what new things will spring forth for and from our community of faith.

Yours in Christian fellowship,

Susan DeHaan DLM

In This Issue

- A message from Susan DeHaan
- Moderator's Statement on Residential School Burial Sites
- Message from Church Council
- Vaccine justice
- An editorial about the future of St. Andrew's
- A pandemic prayer



Photo credit : Doug Tennant

Moderator's Statement on Residential School Burial Sites (Published 19 July, 2021)

To Residential School Survivors, Families, and Communities:

I want to acknowledge the pain that you, as survivors of residential schools, families, and communities, are experiencing. We understand that the pain endured at these schools went far beyond their walls and grounds into community and through generations.

The United Church of Canada operated [15 residential schools](#): Alberni, Ahousaht, Coqualeetza, Kitimaat (Elizabeth Long Memorial Home), and Port Simpson (Crosby Boys' and Girls' Home) in BC; Edmonton, McDougall Orphanage/Morley, and Red Deer in Alberta; Cote (formerly Crowstand), File Hills, and Round Lake in Saskatchewan; Brandon, Norway House, and Portage la Prairie in Manitoba; and Mount Elgin in Ontario.

We are aware of cemeteries on some of these sites, and we know that there are also unmarked and likely undocumented graves of children. We acknowledge that our role in the residential school system and colonization is an abuse of power through our Christian faith. We hope that our ongoing work for reconciliation, which has been guided by United Church residential school survivors, more truly reflects what our faith calls us to be and do. We are committed to the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), especially those directed to us as perpetrators. These include those related to burial sites and missing children.

In the spirit of truth telling and transparency, we want to share the work that we have done, in consultation with community, on identifying and restoring graveyards. The United Church in southwestern Manitoba has actively supported ongoing work on the identification and preservation of gravesites related to the residential school in Brandon; this includes the 104 graves identified off-site in 2018. In Saskatchewan, we supported the community of Okanese in preserving its graveyard and honouring the children buried there. The United Church of Canada has also been a partner in the preservation of the Regina Industrial School cemetery. (Regina was operated by the Presbyterian church, but the United Church shares responsibility.) United Churches in Red Deer, Alberta, worked to preserve the residential school cemetery in cooperation with the communities whose children were sent to Red Deer. There has also been research into possible graves at the Edmonton Residential School.

This work is just a beginning, and we understand that it must continue. Steps are required to properly locate, identify, and honour these children, and for the truth that Indigenous people have always known to finally be heard. Any work we do to help search grounds of and surrounding United Church residential schools must be done with respect for, the consent of, and with the guidance of Indigenous leadership, communities, survivors, and families. We know that we are not the experts in this work. We will continue to share all the documents and knowledge we have. If anyone in community wishes to share information and expertise with us, we will gratefully accept it and be committed to transparency.

We are committed to meeting with leadership to hear how they wish to proceed, and whether they would like our assistance at any stage. This includes financial assistance for what community leadership deems appropriate.

The United Church of Canada is committed to reconciliation and to transparency in our efforts to support Indigenous leadership, communities, survivors, and families in bringing these children the honour we denied them in life.

With respect,

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott
Moderator



Church Building Reopening

Weekly
in-person
worship services
have resumed on
Sundays at 10:30
am

Live streaming
of worship
services
continues on
our Facebook
page.



Then Let Us Sing!

God has given us a song to sing. Singing and worshipping together are foundational ways we have lived out our faith for almost 100 years. It has been 25 years since the publication of *Voices United*, and it is time for a new resource to help all of us sing our faith into the next century.



Photo from UCC

We have been called to develop new resources to support the changing landscape, addressing and anticipating the needs of our evolving church for the years to come. *Then Let Us Sing!* is a new online musical portal which will be available in the fall of 2024. *Then Let Us Sing!* is being developed by United Church Publishing House and GIA Publications. The producers are currently seeking submissions.

It will contain most of the pieces you've come to love from *Voices United*, *More Voices*, and *Nos voix unies*, plus a growing collection of NEW music. This digital platform will provide copyright clearance of all available hymns for print, projection, and streaming.

Then Let Us Sing! is an investment in the faith formation and spiritual health of our United Church. It will provide adaptable tools for worship and music leaders, strengthen our ecumenical relationships, and introduce new music regularly to make this a living resource.

2021 Annual General Meeting

St. Andrew's United Church

10:30 am August 1, 2021

at the church on Joseph Street, Chalk River ON

Vaccine Justice: Advocate and Donate

We know the COVID-19 crisis won't end for anyone until it ends for *everyone*. [Make a gift today](#) to support communities gripped by the pandemic in the Global South. Working with Mission & Service partners, together we are contributing food and relief items to those in need, enabling the distribution of PPE, and supporting programs to prevent and control the spread of the disease.

With the goal of ending COVID-19 for all, the United Church joins in the worldwide call for a just and equitable global distribution of vaccines.

Our call to love our neighbours and leave no one behind has become more challenging in the face of the pandemic. While COVID immunization campaigns roll out in Canada and elsewhere, a humanitarian catastrophe is building where variants of the disease have taken hold. [Swift action is needed](#) for access for vaccines for everyone around the globe. As COVID-19 cases rise and health systems face enormous pressure, local and national economies strain under the burden. People in many communities are experiencing mounting challenges to maintain a stable income, provide basic necessities, and ensure safe shelter for themselves and their families.



Together we can make a difference. Your gifts are needed now more than ever. Your donation to the United Church of Canada Emergency Fund in support of vaccine justice will help those most affected receive basic necessities and access to vaccines. Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—COVID-19" on the face of your cheque.

Join partners around the world in a prayer journey from lament for lives lost to intercession in the collected prayers, [Voices of Lament, Hope, and Courage](#). Pray for hurting and suffering communities; for global leaders; for health carers on the front lines of the struggle; for a fair distribution of vaccines, especially in low-income countries; and finally, for those—especially children and the most vulnerable—who become encouraging signs of hope for us as they get up and recover.

A Pandemic Prayer

Loving and caring God,
We have done everything we've been told:
Worn masks, stayed home, gotten our shots—
Isn't it about time all this is over?
Let us remember always that no, it's not over;
It's not over for people in so many places we never think about:
People whose lives were already a struggle—Now overflowing with illness and loss and grief,
And often with no masks, no shots, no way to stay safe at home.
Remind us, God of the whole world,
That the whole world is our family.
That this won't be all over until it is over for all.
And let us do all we can to give our whole-world family what we take for granted:
Hope for a future. Amen



God has a plan for us!

Are you in?

Credit: The United Church of Canada

The road ahead for St. Andrew's United Church—Chalk River

An editorial by Doug Tennant

As with most mainline faith traditions, the road ahead for us as a congregation into the next five to ten years is not well marked out. The path is looking dim and there may be pitfalls and snares along the road that we are not aware of and prepared to deal with. An older and not accessible building combined with an aging dwindling congregation is staring us in our collective faces. If we continue to saunter into the future relying on the status quo regarding our life and work as a community of faith, our congregation is surely bound to diminish toward closure within 4—7 years.

The median age of our current 32 active congregants is 70. About 18-25 are attending regularly. With the passage of time, it is reasonable to suggest that there may be 7 years until the number of active congregants will be about 10, meaning about 5-7 worshipers each Sunday. Indeed, in about 4 years, there could be as few as 20 active congregants with perhaps about half of them attending on a regular basis. It is unknown, of course, if that number of congregants would be physically and financially able to literally 'keep the doors open' and employ even a ½ time minister.

The question is thus raised about the financial and spiritual viability in 4-7 years of maintaining our worship centre that can seat approximately 200 persons in which there are less than 10 worshipers along with the associated decline in donations. What will we do? Who can we seek help from for a strategy going forward as a healthy and vibrant faith tradition within a demographically unique community? What will be our worship needs in 4-7 years? How will we utilise our current financial reserves to address our future? What can we do in the meantime? We don't have a crystal ball but we have a vast and unique array of resources upon which we can call upon to guide us forward.

It is my vision that we need to brand and yes, market ourselves, as the vibrant and engaged community partner that we can be. Implementing that vision will take a couple years, along with significant effort and funds to realise it. Our faith tradition future means **everyone** must pitch in and have a hand in a 'new' St. Andrew's United Church. We don't have the luxury of anymore time to squander on metaphorically gnashing our teeth and hand wringing while muttering 'oh woe is us'. We need to act now!

I know we can do it and with guidance and reliance on the Great Mystery, we will succeed! We are in this together, and we have many resources and other folks that can assist us along our road to renewal of spiritual vitality and outreach and engagement within our broader secular community. We only have to believe we can do and then do it!

Let us know if you are up for the challenge. 613.281.6967 or dougietennant@gmail.com



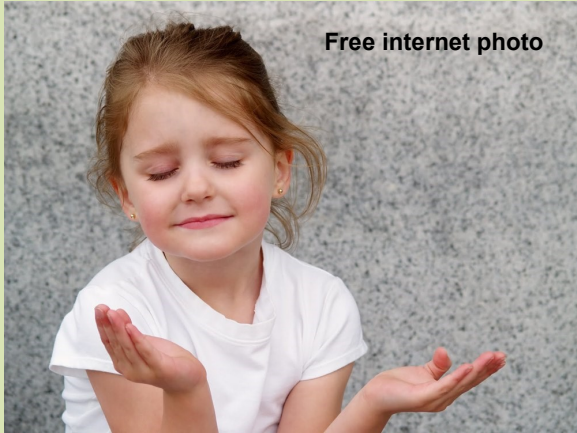
Photo credit: Doug Tennant

Serendipity

The story of how the model Chalk River Railway Station built by the late John Moore, found itself a home at the School House Museum is a unique one. John left his estate of over \$300K to the Deep River & District Community Foundation. Little did he know at the time that an earlier grant from the Foundation to the School House Museum to renovate a room would result in his model railway station finding a home at the museum. If you have an opportunity, check out the museum and perhaps even become a member (\$10 annual fee). There is an amazing collection of local history at the museum. If you have not been there you need to book it into your busy social calendar and go see all that it has to offer including the set up of the hand made model Chalk River CPR Rail yard and buildings. Some photos of the model from a power point created by museum staff are below.



Prayer Requests



Cancer may not be a four letter word, but it is definitely a word no one likes to hear. Our dear friend Harriette Davies heard that word from her doctor a couple months ago in regards to an issue she had been experiencing.

Near the end of June she was going to Ottawa for a consultation, but the cancer had spread, and she was kept in hospital. She has been receiving radiation treatments 5 days a week and chemotherapy treatments once a week until recently when her white blood cell count required that the chemotherapy be halted.

Please keep Harriette in your prayers. Send good thoughts her way. At this time she is due home at the end of July. If you are aware of anyone else in the community who we could pray for or if you would like to join our prayer group please feel free to get in touch with Susan DeHaan at 613-589-2312.

Soup and Sandwich News

Discussions have been happening around the possibility of Soup and Sandwich moving to the Lion's Hall in the fall. The Lions Hall has a full suite of accessible washrooms, a RCDHU inspected kitchen, lots of space to social distance, plenty of parking, and an entrance way that allows wheelchair and stroller/scooter access. Keep your eyes and ears open for more announcements as we approach the fall. There would even be opportunities to 'walk the hall' during the winter months



Greetings from the Church Council of St. Andrew's

It is so hard to believe that we are well into the summer of 2021 and have entered Step 3 of the re-opening of Ontario which will continue to allow us to have our church services indoors with Covid restrictions in place.

This coming Sunday (July 24) we will have the pleasure of once again hearing our organ played by the accomplished Katie Alexander who accompanies Kurt on the piano. Such beautiful music to our ears. We are truly fortunate and blessed by both of these extremely talented musicians.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Sunday August 1 during the 10:30 church service. It will include information about the Listening Campaign and the future of our church and the Reopening Committee. Our Council continues to meet either by Zoom or in the church obeying all restrictions. Even though we have worshipped during a mixture of in-person and online services, we are in good stead financially. Thank you to all who continue to tithe.

The Ministry of Health has advised that after 21 days and continued success of fewer and fewer cases of COVID, we soon might be able to return to some type of normalcy and resume our Soup and Sandwich luncheons in September and other programming. It will be so great to see everyone once again.

Blessings to everyone!

Gayle Barks—Chair

Worship Information

Weekly Worship Services - at 10:30 on Sunday morning

Regular in-person Sunday worship services are held in the church building at 10:30 on Sunday. Covid-19 related safety measures and social distancing are in place. The church is located at 40 Joseph St. in Chalk River ON. You can also participate in the weekly worship services via live streaming on Facebook at:

< <https://www.facebook.com/standrewschalkriver/>>

Our weekly services are also accessible on the church website at: <http://standrewschalk.ca/>



Make your mark on the world
through your generous giving
to Mission and Service



Have you
read this
month's
Broadview?

Pastoral Care Visits

If you desire to have a pastoral care visit, for whatever reason, please contact Susan DeHaan DLM (613.589.2312) who will arrange for a telephone or video visit. All aspects of a pastoral care visit are held in confidence and are between you and the pastoral care provider only.

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

We are located at 40 Joseph St. in Chalk River
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/>

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/standrewschalkriver/>

Contact Us

Church Council Chair

Gayle Barks

barksgayle@gmail.com

613.401.1465

Our Minister

Susan DeHaan DLM

susandehaanana@gmail.com

613.589.2312

Newsletter

Doug Tennant

dougi Tennant@gmail.com

613.281.6967