

NEWS from the BRIDGE

Life at Bridge Street United Church (Belleville, ON) during COVID-19

An initiative brought to you by the Transition Team.

Friday, May 8, 2020



FROM OUR INTENTIONAL INTERIM LEAD MINISTER...

Across different media platforms, the buzz is all about how the Province of Ontario is preparing to open certain previously designated non-essential businesses.

While some people and organizations herald this as good news, not everyone concurs. This divergence of opinion also exists within discussions about what other parts of public life will be opened next and when.

Although it may not be what anyone of us wants to hear, I believe that it's reasonable to believe that places of worship will not be given the OK to resume their common life activities for some time yet.

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And even when the 'all clear' is given, communities of faith will need a reasonable period to effect an orderly transition to a new standard – a new norm that continues to mitigate against the Covid-19 virus and also allows for a return to some degree of social interaction. This is so because behavioral limitations have, to date, been aimed at 'flattening the curve', not totally quashing the Coronavirus. Without doubt, continued vigilance will be the order of the day for months to come.

Whatever that future environment looks like, I am confident that BSUC will rise to the occasion brilliantly!

To lessen the time between receiving permission to return to church and causing it to happen, I will be drawing on the knowledge and expertise of others (including fellow staff) to develop a detailed and concise plan for the Governance Board's consideration.

Updates on this initiative will be forthcoming!

-Rev. David

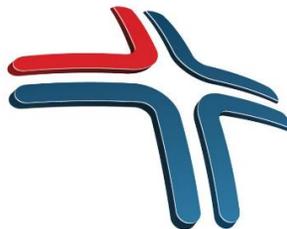


ONLINE WORSHIP... Sunday, May 10 @ 10:30 a.m.

Our congregation gathers electronically again this Sunday.

Join US at 10:30 a.m. for the premiere, or at a later time of your choosing.

Order of Worship details follow in the latter pages of this publication.



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A BRIEF UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Our congregation is fortunate to have so many within our community who use PAR (pre-authorized remittances) in making their financial contribution. Likewise, we are very thankful for those folks who are donating online or dropping off cheques via the church's mailbox (Bridge Street entrance).

Because of your commitment, we are happy to report that income in support of operations, as compared to last year at this time, is down just 7%.

We would also note that, in a similar way, expenses are tracking in a downward pattern.

While this is good news indeed, we are reminded of the need for all of us to continue to be generous to the degree that each of us is able.

Thank you!

WORSHIP WITH US *Online* THIS SUNDAY.

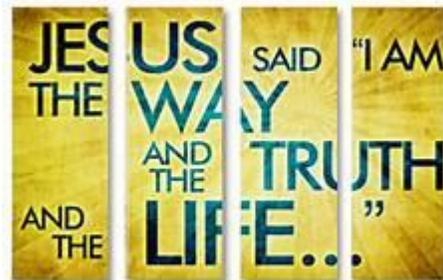
Sunday, May 10th @ 10:30 a.m.

LOGIN IN DETAILS:

Please copy (ctrl c) and paste (ctrl v), or otherwise place this link into your browser and press enter:

<https://youtu.be/N7IZ6zapYGc>

On being redirected to YouTube hit 'play' and join us!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Greeting (responsively):

The compassion of Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
AND ALSO WITH YOU

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The Opening Prayer (responsively):

O come let us speak & sing to God;

let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyously shout to God with words and songs of praise.

Hymn: # 661 (VU) "Come to My Heart"

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
come to my heart today.

Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
fill me with love today.

Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
Answer my prayer today.

Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

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The Payer of Reconciliation:

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have erred against you,
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with all our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry.
In your mercy forgive how we have been,
help us to amend how we are,
and direct how we shall be;
that we may delight in your will and
walk in your ways;
through Jesus, our Christ. Amen.**

Assurance:

Hear this and believe!

The past is behind us; the future is before us;
the moment of new beginnings is now!

As we have acknowledged our humanity,
so we are committed to live in new and renewing ways.

It is by this that we are made right with God,
as revealed to us in the teaching of Jesus.

Amen.

Scripture - John 14:1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Hymn: # 356 (VU) "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

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Pastoral Prayer (responsively):

We thank you, God, that we have lived
in this great world and known its many joys.
For all of life,
we give you thanks.

Remembering the song of birds,
the strong, sweet scent of hay,
and cooling breezes in the secret dusk,
the flaming sunset at the close of day.
For all of life,
we give you thanks.

Remembering the lonely hills,
music at night and moonlight on the sea,
the beat of waves on the rocky shore,
and wild, white spray flung high.
For all of life,
we give you thanks.

Remembering the love of kin and the support of friends,
and all that makes life dear and beautiful;
remembering that there has been
a little sorrow, and sometime defeat,
a little heartache, and the loneliness
that comes with parting, and the word "Goodbye."
For all of life,
we give you thanks.

Remembering the breaking dawn after dreary hours of pain,
the discovery that night's gloom yields,
and morning light breaks through again.
For all of life,
we give you thanks.

Because of these and other blessings
poured unasked upon our heads;
because there waits an even richer
and more glorious life;
and most of all, because your only Son
once forfeited life's loveliness for us,
we thank you, God, that we have lived
in this great world and known its many joys.
For all of life,
we give you thanks.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn: # 176 (MV) "Three Things I Promise"

Three things I promise, Holy God,
in age and youth, in life and death:
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

Your love unfolded time and space,
and life, and all that life became,
and so, with thankful heart and voice,
through good and ill, I bless your Name.

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I follow, serve, and cling to Christ
amid out culture's tides and trends,
for here your Name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.

Enlivened as the Spirit moves
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,
may seed and grow in all I do.

If I should live when vigour fades,
and family and friends are gone,
three acts of loving faith remain
when days are slow, and work is done.

Revive and guide me, Living God,
as day by day, until my death,
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

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Have a blessed week... join us again next Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

