



NEWS from the BRIDGE

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

An initiative brought to you by the Transition Team.

Submitted articles are subject to editing for length and readability.

Friday, May 29, 2020



A REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TEAM

Knitters United (KU)

This much appreciated group continues to produce knitted objects of many uses and for many destinations and for many persons.

During COVID-19, knitters access wool supplies while appropriately distanced in Elizabeth Ewashkiw's driveway.

Although some finished products are stored at knitters' homes now, two projects in pandemic time have become offered to those who are in some degree of need.

In partnership with the Belleville & Quinte West Community Health Centre, a CHC staffer puts together care packages for seniors in need, which contain knitted necessities.

For the comfort of Hastings Manor residence, KU is knitting individual Izzy Dolls for residents' comfort. (The dolls are named after MCpl Mark Isfeld of the Canadian Forces [killed peacekeeping in 1994], who first gave them to war-distressed children). See the photo below of the Izzy Dolls created by KU.

A pattern of "caring for the other" within KU is a frequent, valued, and, on occasion, indispensable, offering outside "needle hours".

We are so fortunate to have such dedicated knitters and leadership.



Photo credit: Elizabeth Ewashkiw

United Syrian Family Support of Belleville

The four families and grandparents who arrived in Canada between 2015 and 2017 with the United Syrian Family Support (Belleville) support group remain well.

The first family is awaiting the date of its Canadian Citizenship ceremony; the other 3 families and grandparents have all submitted assessment requests for entrance to their citizenship exam.

All families and grandparents are financially self-sufficient, with employment continuing to date in the pandemic.

The children all continue to advance annually in school; the two oldest have led the way to academic success; one has successfully completed first year biotechnology at Loyalist College; the other will be graduating from high school this spring.



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Meal Programs

On March 27th, all existing no cost/low cost lunch offerings in Belleville were suspended given concern over COVID-19.

The BSUC Meal Program responded by developing a daily noon hour meal for the duration of the acute pandemic response.

As at May 22nd, 3693 takeaway lunches with hot soup, a freshly-made sandwich, hand-held homemade dessert, milk or water or fruit juice, and a piece of fruit have been distributed to those with need of meal support; the team has also given out 688 additional lunches through Grace Inn and the Not Alone Team.

A total of **4,381** lunches have been distributed in the 54 days since March 27th.



Homeless Project

The federal grant-funded project continues to be active (funded to 31 March 2024), as Community Connections Team personnel plan inter-agency coordination and integration among organizations working in the homeless sector in Belleville and in Hastings County.

Because of pandemic social distancing requirements, we (and our Calgary-based partners) have become dependent upon technology for convening meetings and for offering awareness sessions.



On behalf of the Community Connections Team

Ian Sutherland

Prayers of the People:



Of the many activities that contribute to the life of the Church, surely prayer is a prominent one.

Praying for one and another has long been a practice that communities of faith engage in at times of celebration, sorrow, uncertainty, and fear.

It is our privilege to pray for the well-being of our sisters and brothers the world over.

Sometimes the local church becomes aware of life-events that call for our prayers in support of fellow parishioners. And so we do!

We pray for their strength; we pray for their souls' to be comforted; we pray for a better future than is the current reality.

This week you are invited to add to your prayers:

- Carolyn M. (and family) as she mourns the passing of her beloved husband, Ted one week ago this Sunday.
- Rev. Vicki and Martha as they continue on the road to renewing health.
- Almost 4 year-old, Delaney (great granddaughter of Judy Mck.), as she prepares for pediatric open heart surgery.
- Marilyn B. as she receives care at a Kingston hospital in advance of a needed liver transplant.
- John A. as he continues to address blood and kidney issues.
- Karen C. as she carries on following the death of her mother, Carmen.
- Ruth M. as she remembers her late her sister, Jill.
- The Late Bob Cruickshank's wife Gail, and family, as they grieve his passing.
- Those whose challenges have yet to be conveyed to us and yet are so very real.

Rev. David welcomes news of others for whom we can pray. *Please reach out and advise.*



FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 31, 2020

AVAILABLE ONLINE beginning THIS Sunday @ 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/bD42soJg2gQ>

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!

The Call to Gather (responsively):

Through a prophet of old, God declared...

'I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.

**Your sons and daughters shall prophecy,
the young shall see visions, the old dream dreams.'**

And so we open ourselves to that spirit.

**For we want to see, hear, and feel, all that the Spirit can do, all that
it has done, and surely all that it will do yet again.**

So come, Holy Spirit.

Come and bring us life.

The Gathering Prayer:

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come into the places from where we worship.
Come into each heart, each prayer, each song,
each life here today so that we may live and love
with purpose, courage, and enthusiasm as you infuse
us with your awesome power and divine grace.
Amen.**

VU #385 – ‘Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers’

- 1 Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
and make this house your home;
descend with all your gracious powers:
O come, great Spirit, come!
- 2 Come as the light: to us reveal
our emptiness and woe;
and lead us in those paths of life
where all the righteous go.
- 3 Come as the wind: sweep clean away
what dead within us lies,
and search and freshen all our souls
with living energies.
- 4 Come as the fire and purge our hearts
like sacrificial flame;
let our whole life an offering be
to our Redeemer's name.
- 5 Spirit divine, attend our prayers:
make a lost world your home;
descend with all your gracious powers:
O come, great Spirit, come!

Words: Andrew Reed 1829 alt | CCLI License #1297940

Seven Gifts of the Spirit; Seven Candles of Acknowledgement:

Gift # 1 ~ Spirit of Joy –
come like the wind, swirling around us; fill us with enthusiasm

and energize us to do your work and your will.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Joy!

Gift # 2 ~ Spirit of Truth –
come as the flame of Christ's light among us,
illuminating our hearts, our minds, our lives.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Truth!

Gift # 3 ~ Spirit of Life –
come as the breath of the universe, pouring energy
and power into our dry bones, rekindling all who are weary,
that they may have life and know God.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Life!

Gift # 4 ~ Spirit of Hope –
come from the four winds, O breath, O restless searcher;
breathe into your people that creation may be renewed with hope.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Hope!

Gift # 5 ~ Spirit of Love –
come as our Comforter and Consoler,
that all who are broken or wounded may be healed,
that all who grieve may be consoled by the power of your love and grace.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Love!

Gift # 6 ~ Spirit of Wisdom –
come as the light of understanding, that diversity in all its forms may be
respected and may be understood as gifts to cherish.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Wisdom!

Gift # 7 ~ Spirit of Peace –
come as the winds of a calm mind and a commitment to nonviolence
that our hearts may be light ablaze by a passion for justice and for peace –
peace within and peace around.
Thank you, God, for the Spirit of Peace!

As we celebrate the birthday of the church on this day of Pentecost, may we
– Jesus' followers in this time and place – use these gifts and all the gifts of
the Spirit to bring relief and release to those who need our support, our
solace, our solidarity, our strength, now and always.
Thank you, God, for the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

VU #315 v. 1 – ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty’

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber ca. 1820 alt.
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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.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
For these, and other transgressions, we are truly sorry.
By your immeasurable grace,
watch for us to try anew to live and love as Jesus,
such that we may walk in his ways and honour your will.**

As your people this we are confident to pray. Amen.

The Affirmation:

Hear this and believe!
The past is behind us; the future is before us;
the moment of new beginnings is now!

Having acknowledged our humanity, with contrite heart and humility,
let us lean into the Holy Spirit pledging to live differently than was our way
before.

For it is by this that we are made right with God.

Hallelujah! Amen.

A Musical Interlude: “Angels On The Roof”
Kathryn Humphries, Fabian Arciniegas, Mitchell Cox

A Reading from Scripture – Acts 2: 1 – 21
Steve van de Hoef

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Thoughts Along The Way:
The Rev. G. David King

VU #375 – 'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness'

Refrain:

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. *R*
- 2 You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. *R*
- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *R*
- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. *R*

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Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

VU #382 – 'Breathe on Me, Breath of God.'

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
- 4 Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch 1878
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Enjoy the week ahead...

***The next edition of
News from the Bridge
becomes available
Friday, June 5, 2020***

WATCH FOR IT!

