

# 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, June 12, 2020***



### A PASTORAL LETTER

Friends of Bridge Street United Church,

Grace and Peace be yours!

According to BSUC's Governance Manual, oversight of, and decisions respecting, the day-to-day operations of the church is the assigned responsibility of the Lead Minister.

As it was I who effected the church building's closure (to all but essential staff and key volunteers) on March 18th, it likewise befalls me to ascertain when and how we will re-open.

Notwithstanding Premier Ford's announcement that faith communities *may* resume both worship gatherings (as a percentage of maximum occupant capacity) and other general meetings (to a maximum of 10

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12 June 2020

socially distanced participants) as at this Friday, there are a number of issues to settle before I can and will (in all good conscience) declare the church's physical plant ready and able to accommodate in-person assembling.

Related to re-opening the church building is consideration of what the mechanics of worship will look like given the need for a clean and sanitized sanctuary (or Sills Auditorium) after every gathering, the need for socially distanced seating, the absence of singing, the suspended social time after the service, the possible necessity for worship participants to wear face masks and gloves, etc.

To assist me in my decision making, I invite you to forward your thoughts about when we should return to in-person worship, along with any other considerations that you believe I would do well to be mindful of. Please email me at [interim.clergy@gmail.com](mailto:interim.clergy@gmail.com).

I truly hope that you will add your voice to those others who will offer me their counsel.

The deadline for your submission is: June 17, 2020 at noon.

To allow for your input to reach me, and to provide time for its careful consideration before any action is taken, **the church building will remain closed** to all but essential staff and key volunteers (working on our meal programme) **until at least July 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Between now and then worship will continue to be offered via the internet.

I appreciate that this news may not be satisfactory to some, while for others it will seem prudent. Unfortunately, such is an inevitability whenever problem solving is attempted.

Regardless of your position, please remember the often repeated phrase "We're all in this together", and couple it, if you will, with this hope filled sentiment 'Let's all get out of this together... and well!'

Sincerely

David +

G. David King (The Rev.)  
Intentional Interim Lead Minister  
(905-375-7369)



# **BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**The United Church of Canada**

## **PRAYER VIGIL**

**Denominational Service of Prayer and Reflection**

**United Against Racism:**

**Black Lives Matter to The United Church of Canada**

**Sunday June 14th, 2020**

**7:00 – 8:00 pm**

**[www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada:](http://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada)**

*The Black Clergy of The United Church of Canada  
invites the whole church to join for a time of worship,  
prayer and reflection in the face of the issues of anti-Black  
racism in our country and in the church.*

*In worship we will lament, we will hope and we will be  
reminded of the need to act against racism.*

*Life at Bridge Street United Church (Belleville, ON) during COVID-19  
12 June 2020*



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.

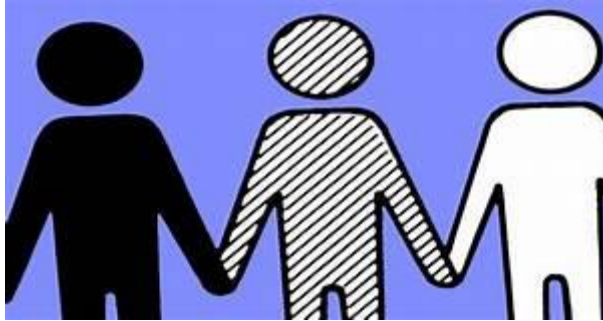
And so we do!

We pray for their strength; we pray for their souls' to be comforted; we pray for a different and better future than is their current circumstance.

This week you are invited to add to your prayers:

- **John A.** as he recovers from having his spleen removed; **Ella May**, for strength, as she continues to be caregiver and advocate.
- **Carolyn M.** (and family) as she mourns the passing of her beloved husband, Ted.
- **Rev. Vicki and Martha** as they continue on the road to renewing health.
- **Marilyn B.** as she is recipient of a transplanted liver.
- The Late Bob Cruickshank's wife **Gail**, and family, as they grieve his passing.
- **Those** who experience racism in its many, insidious, and debilitating forms.
- **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 JUNE 14, 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/EpYja6eju5o>

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#### COMPONENTS FOR 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!**

VU #691 - Though Ancient Walls

- 1     Though ancient walls may still stand proud  
      and racial strife be fact,  
      though boundaries may be lines of hate,  
      proclaim God's saving act!

*Refrain:*

*Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!*

- 2 When vested power stands firm entrenched  
and breaks another's back,  
when waste and want live side by side,  
it's Gospel that we lack. *R*
- 3 The truth we seek in varied scheme,  
the life that we pursue,  
unites us in a common quest  
for self and world made new. *R*
- 4 The church divided seeks that grace,  
that newness we proclaim;  
a unity of serving love  
that lives praise to God's name! *R*
- 5 This broken world seeks lasting health  
and vital unity.  
God's people by God's Word renewed,  
cast off all slavery! *R*

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Our Payer of Reconciliation:

**Understanding God,  
we admit 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 neglected opportunities  
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 regret for wrongs done,  
we commit to doing better.

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

Hallelujah! Amen.

## A Reading from Scripture – Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8

### Thoughts Along The Way:

The Very Rev. Dr. Gary Patterson

### MV #79 - Spirit, Open My Heart

#### *Refrain*

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love me I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender. *R*
2. Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory. *R*
3. May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another. *R*

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994. Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997  
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***Enjoy the week ahead...***

***The next edition of  
News from the Bridge  
becomes available  
Friday, June 19, 2020***

**WATCH FOR IT!**