



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 19, 2020



A PASTORAL LETTER

Friends of Bridge Street United Church,

Peace be with you!

A week ago, I wrote with a request that you assist me in my decision making specific to a return to in-person worship. You have responded with emails, telephone calls, and even a note stuck under my car's windshield wiper blade! Thank you.

I truly appreciate your assistance.

Suffice it to say that for the vast majority of you now (and for at least the next 2-3 months) is not the time to return to the sanctuary (or any other space within the church building) for worship. This opinion is predicated on

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concerns about limitations imposed by available space in accommodating the Ontario government's rules about social distancing and the challenge/inconvenience of other disease mitigation measures (masks, gloves, no singing, etc.).

I have heard you!

With respect to when we might imagine gathering in physical proximity one to the other, your opinions range from this early-late fall, the time when a vaccine is available, to no earlier than 2021.

In order to avoid disappointment, and possibly a number of false starts, I will forgo, for the time being, identifying specifically when 'in sanctuary' worship will happen again.

Instead what I am doing is to announce the date by which I will next assess the risks related to the pandemic (as being experienced in the Hastings – Prince Edward County) and their possible impact (either positively or negatively) on our community of faith. This, in turn, will allow me to update you about the outcome that we are all hopeful of – the occasion when we can reasonably and safely share in one another's physical company.

To that end, my next communication about this matter (all things being equal) will happen on, or about, August 21, 2020.

Between now and then, be assured that I will continue to monitor the local state of affairs, keep abreast of what both the regional and national offices of The United Church of Canada are advising, listen to counsel provided by the provincial (and county) Medical Officer of Health, and to be in prayer seeking after the Spirit's guidance.

As such, for now, and until at least the 1st Sunday in September, we will continue to gather for e-worship via our weekly YouTube meetup.

Please note that as of July 5th and until September 6th, each Sunday's worship service will premier at 10 a.m., in keeping with our usual summer time start. Should you be unable to participate then, you may do so anytime after the original airing concludes.

Again, my gratitude to those who added their opinions to the mix.

As a leader who is led.

David +

G. David King (The Rev.)



BSUC is now INTERAC e-Transfer compatible!

Simply add admin@bridgestchurch.com to your INTERAC e-Transfer contact list and your donation will be automatically deposited into the church's operating bank account (no security questions/answers to worry about).

If you're already registered in the church office to receive charitable donation tax receipts, your INTERAC e-Transfer donations will be recorded and receipted at the end of the year. If you're not yet registered with the church office, please send a separate e-mail to admin@bridgestchurch.com to provide us with your mailing or e-mail address.

Of course, you can also continue to use our other methods of donating...

Cheque – Please mail to 60 Bridge St. E., Belleville, ON, K8N 1L7.
PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance, monthly, administered by the United Church of Canada) – Please contact the church office @ admin@bridgestchurch.com to arrange for this method of contributing.

Credit Card – Visit the homepage of our website www.bridgestreetchurch.com and click the "Donate Now" button to contribute through "CanadaHelps".

Many thanks for your commitment to the work and witness of BSUC.

Without YOU the good news of Jesus couldn't be shared in word and deed.



SUNDAY SERVICES

With more than 2 months of online worship under our collective belt, Rev. David has been fielding thoughtful questions and suggestions about how to enhance our Sunday services.

By far, one of the most common inquiries regards why hymn lyrics are not provided within the video presentation.

The answer is simple. Copyright laws prohibit us from doing so, unless we own, or lease, the “right to copy”.

Now while it’s true that our congregation does have 2 broadcast licenses, neither of them covers the online provision of the lyrics for all of the hymns that we sing.

Consequently, if lyrics within a video were to be provided, we would either have to significantly restrict the hymns we sing, or to seek out each hymn owner (that we don’t have a license for) and get their specific permission.

To do either is too cumbersome.

As we are currently fully licensed to transmit the words to hymn via static means for in-house, or in limited audience situations, we will continue to use this newsletter to provide them. Thank you for your understanding.



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 closer to home and further afield.

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 soul 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 in process of being a liver recipient, and her husband, **Jim**, as he supports her.
- 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** who continue to work at restricting the spread of COVID-19.
- **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 21, 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6JHI9_qnD0

PARTICIPANT PARTS –

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 #562 Jesus Calls Us

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'

- 2 Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'
- 5 Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1852 alt. Music: William Herbert Jude 1874
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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 10 selected verses

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

VU #567 Will You Come and Follow Me

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Words: The Iona Community 1987 Music: Scottish traditional, arr. The Iona Community 1987
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Prayers of the People:

O God,
Lover of the world, you hold all that
you have created within your compassionate embrace,
ultimately involved and intimately concerned
for the well-being of each and all.

**As you hold our lives, torn by sorrow, anguish,
or hatred within your aching heart, we cry out for
relief and release – for ourselves, for those we love,
and for our world.**

May your healing presence gently transform the places
of our lives where we hold disappointment and pain.
May your loving presence be a comforting reality for all
who find themselves in despair, lost or alone,
especially during this time of Covid-19.
May your transforming presence create generosity
where there is greed, harmony where there is
violence and chaos, everlasting justice where evil
now reigns– particularly where racism exists or any form
of discrimination denies a person or people their dignity,
their integrity, their freedom of assembly, expression,
or choice of life companion.

**O God, lover of the world, from the silence of our own hearts,
we remember before you these people and places that need
your healing, loving, and transforming presence.**

Pausing for silent, private prayer...

**O God, lover of the world, hear our prayers and in your love answer,
tomorrow as today, then as now, always and forever. Amen.**

VU #120 O Jesus, I Have Promised

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.
- 3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode ca 1866 alt. Music: James William Elliott 1874
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Enjoy the week ahead...

***The next edition of
News from the Bridge
becomes available
Friday, June 26, 2020***

WATCH FOR IT!