

# NEWS from the BRIDGE

***Life @ Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, Ontario  
during COVID-19***

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020**

**AN INITIATIVE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TRANSITION TEAM**



We premier our weekly online worship services on  
**YouTube, Sundays @ 10 a.m.**

**DETAILS ARE PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Sunday, October 18, 2020

*"Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away."*

*Matthew 22:15-22*

## NEWS FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

### ***YOUR RESPONSES TO THE COMMITTEE'S SEPTEMBER UPDATE...***

On September 17, members and adherents of Bridge Street United Church were sent an update from the Strategic Planning Committee regarding progress made in developing a new Strategic Plan for the church. Included in that update was a series of 6 questions that we invited members to respond to so that we could determine whether or not there was support for the overall direction we were proposing. Members were asked to respond by September 30.

In total, we received 34 separate responses. While many were from individuals, it was clear that some of the responses represented more than one person in the household. Overall, the Committee was pleased with the quality and quantity of the responses and the Committee believes it has a good sense of what the Congregation feels in response to our update. Below is a brief overview of responses to the individual questions.

### **Do you concur with our findings that the status quo is not an option?**

There was complete agreement that the status quo is not an option going forward. Many members simply responded with a "yes" but a number expanded on this to provide suggestions on what we could be doing going forward.

**EDGE has identified 5 Marks of the Church (see slide 15). Of these, which should be the top priorities?**

As could be expected the responses to this question varied considerably. Based on our review, it appears that worship, community and service appear to be the most frequently indicated priorities by most. That is not to suggest that this was in any way unanimous.

**Would you support BSUC serving as a community hub for social service agencies wishing to support individuals in precarious financial positions provided it is financially viable to do so?**

There were mixed responses to this question. While a clear majority support a community hub initiative, it appears to be on the proviso that it is financially viable to do so. There are a handful who are opposed to the concept.

**Would you support BSUC converting some of its existing building to provide for affordable housing?**

Responses to this question were even more mixed. While a small majority of respondents supported this option, there was considerably more opposition being voiced for this alternative than the community hub option.

**What other uses would you suggest be considered for the building?**

A number of suggestions were made that were quite varied. Many suggested greater use of the sanctuary for concerts and other public uses. Many suggested various rental opportunities.

**Do you have any other comments that the Committee should consider?**

Again, the responses to this are varied. One theme that comes up many times is the suggestion that we explore more fully the possibility of merger/amalgamation with other United Churches in Belleville. A number also indicated that without dealing with the parking problem it will be difficult to implement other uses for the building as there will be no place for users of the space to park.

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, thank you to those who took the time to respond to the questions. This provides the Committee with great input as we move forward to Phase II of the strategic planning process. We will continue to keep you apprised of further developments as our work progresses.

*Gary Hannaford, FCPA, FCA*  
*Chair – Strategic Planning Committee*

## Bridge Street United Church

60 Bridge St. E.,

Belleville, ON K8N 1L7

613-962-9178

[www.bridgestreetchurch.com](http://www.bridgestreetchurch.com)

[admin@bridgestchurch.com](mailto:admin@bridgestchurch.com)

---

### INTENTIONAL INTERIM LEAD MINISTER

*Rev. G. David King*

[interim.clergy@gmail.com](mailto:interim.clergy@gmail.com)

**1-905-375-7369**

---

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

*Mitchell Cox*

[music@bridgestchurch.com](mailto:music@bridgestchurch.com)

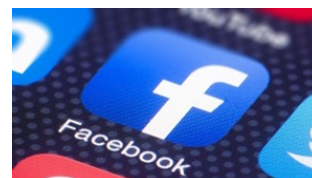
---

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS MANAGER

*Steve van de Hoef*

[svandehoef@bridgestchurch.com](mailto:svandehoef@bridgestchurch.com)

## Connect With Us!



### YOUR SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING

As the congregationally-approved  
2020 operating budget envisions it,  
**\$4,000 in special Thanksgiving offerings  
is needed to meet our financial obligations.**

If you have already made a contribution  
towards that amount, **thank you!**

If you would like to, please drop off a cheque,  
make an e-Transfer via  
[admin@bridgestchurch.com](mailto:admin@bridgestchurch.com), or use the CanadaHelps  
link on B.S.U.C.'s website.

Please contact the Church Office  
to learn about  
any of these options.





**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,  
fear,  
and thanksgiving.*

This week you are invited to pray for the following individuals and their circumstances. As seems right, please pray for their strength, pray for their soul to be comforted, and pray for a different and better future than is their current circumstance.

#### **WE LIFT BEFORE GOD:**

**Those folk who have departed this earthly realm** in the sure and certain hope of eternal life; **especially Leanne M.**, a member of B.S.U.C. and former chorister with our choir.

**Those grievors** who are walking through the valley of the shadow of death, particularly **Leanne M's daughters, husband Kevin, extended family and friends.**

**Those others** whose health is imperiled, or who are experiencing anxiety brought about by the challenges of life in the time of a pandemic.

**Folk** who are poor, hungry, homeless or provisionally housed, as they live with uncertainty and fear.

**COVID-19 doubters and deniers** that they might come to a more fulsome understanding of the challenges that still beset the world, our country, our provinces, and our cities.

**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.*

# online WORSHIP

**... for the week of**

**October 18, 2020**

**Go to the home page of our website,  
[www.bridgestreetchurch.com](http://www.bridgestreetchurch.com), to access a  
permanent link to Rev. G. David King's  
YouTube address.**

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCt8ig2lpQ8ILzRfKjNmcuSw>

**Available  
beginning  
this Sunday,  
October 18, 2020  
@ 10 a.m.**

## the Revised Common LECTIONARY

**READING FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020**

**Matthew 22:15-22**

**OPENING HYMN: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*—VU #375**

*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*

3You 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*

4You 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*

Words: James K. Manley 1975. Copyright © 1978, James K. Manley, CCLI License #1297940

## **OPENING PRAYER**

*Good and gracious God, here and now.*

**HERE AND NOW... MAY THE FAITHFUL FIND SALVATION  
AND THE SEEKERS BE INFORMED.**

*Here and now... may the doubting find courage and the anxious be calmed.*

**HERE AND NOW... MAY THE LOST FIND DIRECTION  
AND THE FOUND BE ENLIGHTENED.**

*Here and now... may the weary find rest and the strong be engaged.*

**HERE AND NOW... MAY THE OLDER FIND COMFORT  
AND THE YOUNGER BE INSPIRED.**

*Here and now... may our acts of thanksgiving for the bounty of God's gracious provision rightfully express our abiding gratitude and absolute dependence.*

**HEAR AND NOW... TO GOD BE THE GLORY, AND CHRIST JESUS, OUR PRAISE.  
AMEN.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*In this time of COVID-19, we pray:*

*When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;  
when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern;  
when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,  
slow us down, God;  
help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands;  
help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant;  
help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."*

*For the doctors, we pray,  
for the nurses, we pray,  
for the technicians and the janitors and the aides and the caregivers, we pray,  
for the researchers and theorists, the epidemiologists and investigators,  
for those who are sick, and those who are grieving, we pray,  
for all who are affected, all around the world...  
we pray  
for safety,  
for health,  
for wholeness.*

*May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,  
clothe the naked and house those without homes;  
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,  
and may we do all that we can to heal the sick—  
in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear.*

*Help us, O God, that we might help each other.*

*In the love of the Creator, in the name of the Healer,  
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,  
we pray.*

*May it be so. Amen.*

The Very Reverend Dr. Richard Bott  
Moderator of The United Church of Canada

## **CONCLUDING HYMN: *Grateful*—MV #182**

### *Refrain:*

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,  
O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

1. You are more than we imagine,  
Ancient, Holy, Living God.  
Even when we doubt your presence  
you are faithful to your Word.

2. May our lives proclaim your justice,  
may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service  
to the glory of your name.

Words: Tom Tomaszek, 2003, Words copyright © 2003, Tom Tomaszek. Published by spiritandsong.com ®.

CCLI License #1297940

*grateful*