

NEWS from the BRIDGE

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

AN INITIATIVE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TRANSITION TEAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021



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

DETAILS ARE PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

LENT 5



Sunday, March 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT



Jeremiah 31: 31-34
John 12: 20-33

NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION...

Friends of Bridge Street United Church,

On recommendation of the Transition Team, and with our enthusiastic support, your Governance Board has been successful in securing the leadership of our Intentional Interim Lead Minister, The Rev. G. David King, for an additional 2-year term (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023).

In effecting this appointment, the Governance Board, the Transition Team, along with the East Central Ontario Region of The United Church of Canada, recognize that work remains to be done in order to position B.S.U.C. for its best possible future.

I know that you will join me, and the Governance Board, in thanking Rev. David for agreeing to continue to equip, support, and guide the Interim Ministry experience, especially when the demand for highly trained, denominationally accredited, and skilled Interim Ministry practitioners is at an all-time high.

I pray him and you every success.

The Rev. Steve Spicer
Chair – Governance Board
BRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE—MARCH 2021

We are pleased to provide an update on the work of the Strategic Planning Committee. We last reported to the Congregation early last fall when we provided a copy of the Phase I Executive Report of EDGE, along with a cover memo, a PowerPoint presentation and a series of six questions inviting feedback.

We received 34 separate responses to our invitation for feedback and included a summary of the feedback in NEWS from the BRIDGE in mid-October. The highlights of the feedback were:

- Complete agreement that status quo was not an option
- 5 marks of the church – worship, community and service indicated as priorities
- Fairly good support for exploring a Community Hub if financially viable
- Less support but still some interest for implementing affordable housing initiative
- Number of suggestions for other rental opportunities for the church
- Suggestions to explore merger/amalgamation with other UC
- Major drawback to some of these is lack of parking

In October we began Phase II Stage 1 in earnest with support of EDGE and have held 7 meetings since then.

We became aware of the fact that Habitat for Humanity was pursuing an affordable housing initiative in the former police headquarters on Dundas St. E. and held a chat with some of their senior representatives regarding its initiative to determine how we might collaborate with them.

A community workshop was held in November with members of the Transition Team and the Strategic Planning Committee along with representatives from various components of the wider United Church with experience and expertise in these areas.

Following the workshop we received a report which noted a number of suggestions:.

- Critical to get handle a on building costs – important for Community Hub and other rental opportunities
- BSUC should consider opportunities to amalgamate with other United Churches in Belleville as well as partnership opportunities with other faith organizations in Belleville
- Need to consider long-term as well as short-term property options including a community hub, affordable housing and other rental opportunities.

In December we began to develop work plans for a community hub initiative, an affordable housing project, how we might work collaboratively with other congregations, as well as financial issues

In February we began to consider what our primary focus should be i.e. Community Hub, affordable housing or both. There was general agreement that we needed to focus on community hub as #1 priority with affordable housing not being entirely off the table.

As a result, we surveyed some 39 agencies about the Community Hub. We received 22 responses with a handful expressing interest in pursuing a Community Hub at this time. The agencies noted they could not provide any capital investment as they are funded by operating not capital grants.

Over the next month or two we plan to follow up with those who have expressed some interest but most seem only interested in renting on a part-time basis – ½ day to 2 days per week. We need to determine what their space and other needs might be should we move forward with the initiative.

Broadview magazine brings subscribers news of issues within the national church, insights into the workings of other congregations and thought-provoking articles on timely issues.

It's time to renew or become a new subscriber!

\$25 (tax included) for **8 issues**.

DEADLINE for 2021 – 2022 SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS IS TUESDAY, APRIL 6.

Orders/Payment can be made by cheque or via Interac e-Transfer ...

- **Cheque** - make payable to "Bridge Street United Church" with "Broadview" on memo line and drop off in mail slot or mail to 60 Bridge St. E., Belleville, K8N 1L7.
- **Interac e-Transfer** to admin@bridgestchurch.com with "Broadview" in the message field.

Please do not include payment for this subscription with your offering, as this is not a donation to be recorded with your offerings.

Questions? Call church office @ 613-962-9178



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.

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.

WE LIFT BEFORE GOD:

Those whose health is imperiled.

Those who are experiencing anxiety brought about by the challenges of life in the time of a pandemic.

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.

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

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.

interim.clergy@gmail.com or 1-905-375-7369



***... for the week of
March 21, 2021***

**Click below to access Rev. G. David King's
YouTube address ...**

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCt8ig2lpQ8lLzRfKjNmcuSw>

or go to the home page of our church website for a
link, **www.bridgestreetchurch.com**.

Available

Beginning

this Sunday,

March 21 @ 10 a.m.

HYMN: In the Bulb There is a Flower—VU #703

- 1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
- 2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
- 3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

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HYMN— Come Touch Our Hearts—MV #12

1. Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.
2. Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.
3. Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.
4. Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.
5. Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,
our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

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the Revised Common LECTIONARY

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12: 20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--' Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

