

NEWS from the BRIDGE

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

AN INITIATIVE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TRANSITION TEAM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2021



JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP

THIS WEEK—IN-PERSON & VIA ZOOM

Sundays @ 10 a.m.

DETAILS ARE PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

Sunday, November 28, 2021



ADVENT 1

Think on this...

"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

- Carl Bard

ADVENT IS THE PERFECT TIME TO START SINGING!

The Governance Board is pleased to announce that masked congregational singing and speaking will be introduced to our in-person worship beginning this Sunday—Advent 1.

COME LET US SING TO THE LORD...



LETTER FROM THE GOVERNANCE BOARD ...

Fellow Congregants:

It has been a long time since we've been able to meet together in common cause; to engage with one another in trust and honesty and to seek out a future together that is both hopeful and faithful. We must embrace this future with a willingness to accept our emerging reality over the scant months and years to come.

In order for us to emerge from this period of intentional interim ministry with success, we must take steps to restore our self-governing capacities and to instill confidence that Bridge Street United Church has its house in order as a vital community of faith and a reliable partner with whom the UCC and other community partners can work, with both confidence and assurance.

Over the past few years, considerable time and effort have been devoted to developing both a strategic plan, as well as a behavioural covenant. It is the responsibility of the Governance Board to ensure that we hold ourselves accountable in accordance with the precepts that are embodied in those documents. Therefore, a number of consequences will ensue.

Firstly, we can no longer expect to enjoy unfettered access to all of our space in this church building, as we have grown accustomed to enjoy over the years. We cannot afford to sustain the costs of operating our church in this space without receiving the financial compensation from partners who are willing to share some of our space, and are prepared to pay for using it. We need to remain open to new opportunities to share our space with a variety of community partners.

Secondly, we cannot take a view of ourselves that imagines only a worshipping community of faith. We must live out our faith in meaningful ways that find resonance in our downtown core location. We must seek equilibrium; a state of balance that meets both the outreach and inreach needs of our entire community.

Thirdly, a new way of being church needs to be explored. We cannot persist in confining our identity and our scope of activity solely within the bounds of what has come to be known as Bridge Street United Church. We must recall the wisdom of Jesus' admonishment about putting "new wine" into "old wineskins".

Lastly, we must be vigilant about living into our "Commitment for Respectful Living", a behavioural covenant adopted by the congregation. However, we must move beyond merely establishing this framework. We must actively create safe space and brave space that provides an equity of voice to everyone; to be able to express ourselves in a respectful and non-intimidating manner, without fear of recrimination or judgment. In short, we must provide 'space for grace'. We must create very specific mechanisms and processes that enable us to resolve conflict within our church, to call out inappropriate behaviours, and to allow reconciliation and healing to take place. Consequently, the board has authorized the Transition Team to pursue a facilitated process of restorative conversation from an external service provider with expertise in this area. This is necessary to be completed before difficult issues can be resolved within our church whenever they might arise.

As we enter into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, may we do so with the joyful knowledge that worship is returning to a more satisfying, rewarding and, above all, safe state.

On behalf of the Board, please accept our fondest wishes for an enriching time of reconnection with family and friends after the depths of this Covid pandemic.

Respectfully in Christ,

Frank Hiebert

Vice-Chair, Governance Board

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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Report Approved by Governance Board
November 18, 2021
Date Available to the Congregation
November 26, 2021

60 Bridge Street East, Belleville, ON, K8N 1L7
613-962-9178
www.bridgestreetchurch.com

To access a copy of our 2020 Annual Report, please visit our website www.bridgestreetchurch.com under the "about us" icon.

To request a hard-copy and arrange a time to pick up, please call the church office at 613-962-9178 or e-mail admin@bridgestchurch.com.

NOVEMBER IS ANNIVERSARY MONTH AT BRIDGE ST. UNITED CHURCH ...

206 YEARS OF WORSHIP & SERVICE!!

Our 2021 budget target for special "Anniversary" offerings is **\$3,000.**

Anniversary Offerings Received to Date:

\$900

Please consider making an Anniversary gift ...

Think 206!

206 nickels (\$10.30)

206 dimes (\$20.60)

206 quarters (\$51.50)

206 loonies (\$206.00)

or any amount in between.



JOIN US FOR 10 a.m. SUNDAY WORSHIP ...

IN PERSON *(for members and adherents) ...*

To attend in-person worship, call or email the church office to register your intention **BY FRIDAY NOON OF EACH WEEK'S SERVICE.**

613-962-9178 admin@bridgestchurch.com

ON-LINE VIA ZOOM...

If you'd like to attend worship this Sunday via ZOOM, here are the log-in details:

You are invited to attend a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bridge St. United Church - Nov.7 Church Service

Time: **This is a recurring meeting, 10 a.m. Sundays**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88090347511?pwd=SGIzK1ZXdWE2SC9oT2NsMmR3MDJoUT09>



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ...

Those who are grieving the loss of loved ones; particularly the family of Dorothy Brown, who died this past week. We remember Dorothy's children, Judy Cruxton and Randy Brown.

Those from our congregation whose health is imperiled.

Please remember that we have a dedicated Prayer Team who offer daily prayers, as requested by way of the Prayer Box, which is located in the Narthex, or relayed messages.

Rev. David welcomes news of those for whom we can pray.

Please reach out and advise.

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