



Trinitopics & Church Announcements



To Grow in Faith, Fellowship & Service Through Christ Jesus
10 ~ Thursday, May 21st, 2020

Rev. Doug Neufeld
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News from the Board

We wanted to take the opportunity to let everyone know that as a Board we are still meeting each month by Zoom, which is an online meeting platform. We have had some meetings in between in order to deal with the COVID-19 crisis.

We wanted to let everyone know that we are doing our best in managing changes as they present themselves. Some of these changes have included rentals, finances, and staffing.

Rentals - Our rentals and the income generated from them have been reduced, with the only group renting and using the church at this time is Prairie Group. As of May 1st, the Board voted to reduce the rent to \$400.00 for the RRCG congregation, which is half of what they have been paying.

Finances - revenues are down as of April 30 but expenses are down even more so the financial position is stable so far. However, there are some tough months ahead. Notable reasons for the changes in income are the decrease in envelope and regular donations as well as the decline in rental revenues. Fortunately, about 56% of the regular revenues are from PAR which adds stability.

Staffing – Davis & Holly were laid off at the end of March. We have reduced the remainder of staff, excluding Doug, to zero hours to help with the loss of revenue that we are generating at this time. Without having an in-person service we are not in need of this staff at current time.

We have a sign in sheet that is required for anyone that goes into the Church so we know where people have been for cleaning purposes.

We are going to be under some strict guidelines once we can resume service, which I think will be some time yet. The services will look different once we are able to resume.

Many of the actions that we were doing, previously to COVID-19, we are still participating in but just in a different way. Doug continues to host a virtual worship service for about 20 minutes each week and posting online. The numbers on the online services have been very well received with most of our services having had over 180 views (Palm Sunday – 254), which is incredible.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any specific questions.

Looking out for the best interests of our Church, our congregation and our community.

Jason Splett – Board Chair



Brandon Bear Clan Muffin Makers
I am willing to deliver to The Bear Clan if church members wish to bring to my home or I am willing to pick up at their homes as well.
Call Linda Friesen @ 728-2305.



Hate has no place here.

Standing with our siblings at
St. Andrew's College,
Grosvenor Park
United Church
and
McClure United
Church
in Saskatoon.



(Image: Shining Waters Regional Council, United Church of Canada)

Vandal Strikes Affirming United Churches

Early Sunday morning, on May 11, Grosvenor Park United Church, McClure United Church, and St. Andrew's College at the University of Saskatchewan, all in Saskatoon, were vandalized with homophobic graffiti. All three are part of the national Affirming Ministries Program, a network made up largely of United churches that "strive to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities." A joint statement by the three institutions said, "These acts have shocked our communities and leave us determined to continue our commitment to solidarity with the LBTQIA+ community."

Only minutes after a request, on social media, for help to remove the graffiti, Rev. Laura Fohse of McClure United had enough volunteers to clean the church doors and windows. Within four hours the team had cleaned up all three sites.

Rev. Doug Neufeld, who is Chair of the St. Andrew's College Board of Regents, reported that "words and letters of support keep pouring in". The most heartfelt and moving response was from The Islamic Association of Saskatchewan which read in part "Please know that we, your Muslim friends and neighbours, stand in solidarity with you, our Christian brothers and sisters, against any and all acts of hatred."

Rev. Neufeld added that "Sometimes hate will unveil love that people didn't realize was present. The Bible tells us that love/God will always prevail over evil".

Hate has no place here.

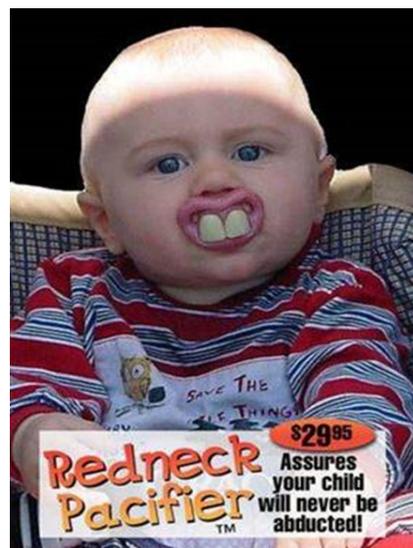


I was on a long line at 7:45 am today at the grocery store that opened at 8 for seniors only. A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane.

He returned and tried to cut in again but an old man punched him in the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away.

As he approached the line for the 3rd time he said, "If you don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there."

What do you call a flock of sheep tumbling down a hill?
A LAMBSLIDE



Samaritan House Food Bank Programme

COVID – 19 safety protocols have necessitated some changes in the food hamper programme at Samaritan House. In order to protect the families and the volunteers, social distancing has been put in place. Families register to receive hampers which are available for pick up at the door. Currently the food bank is supplying about 1300 hampers per month to families. The food supply chain has changed since the pandemic with churches no longer donating food, however monetary donations from churches have been received. Samaritan House personnel are very grateful for the donations from churches. Support from faith groups is always needed. The food bank at present has been ordering and purchasing food for the hampers however the staff have concerns about the inconsistency of the supply of the needed foods. Donations have been generous at this time but churches were reminded that the needs are ongoing and Samaritan House will have to be very careful with using donations in order to meet the needs in the future.

Samaritan House Safe & Warm Shelter Programme

A great deal has happened since this pandemic emergency first began to impact our community and province. The Safe & Warm Shelter has received additional Federal Government funding in April and Provincial government funding in May which will allow the shelter to remain open till the end of July. The Shelter was originally scheduled to close at the end of April 2020. Manitoba Public Health protocols are in place to ensure the health of clients using the shelter and to provide food security to the adjacent food bank. The number of beds available has been reduced from 24 to 12 beds (with 8 for men and 4 for women). The Government of Canada is providing funding through the “Reaching Home Homelessness Strategy” to support people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The newly appointed Executive Director Barb McNish reported that Samaritan House Safe & Warm Shelter Programme is hoping to remain open into the fall should more funding become available.

It is evident that the needs of families in financial crisis and of the homeless in our community are complicated and on-going. The Coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated these already serious problems. I feel that our church community is called to help our sisters and brothers with our on-going prayers, volunteer efforts, food donations and financial support.

Linda Friesen ... Trinity Outreach Chair

Trinity Messy Church/Sunday School



Gail Thickett came up with a wonderful & fun idea for Trinity’s children. She has put together a ‘scarlet runner’ bean growing activity which the kids will have fun watching it sprout and then plant, if they wish.

She made up a lovely card  and has been distributing them.



Thanks Gail!! A fun activity!!!!



From the Board ~ Reopening Our Church during COVID-19

As some businesses in Manitoba are slowly starting to open under strict guidelines, many of you may be thinking when will Trinity open for worship. The official board has been discussing this very issue and in making any decisions on reopening, we will be following Manitoba Health regulations as well as the recommendations/guidelines from the United Church of Canada and Prairie to Pine Regional Council. The Board strongly encourages everyone to visit the United Church of Canada (UCC) and Prairie to Pine Regional Council websites to learn more about reopening churches. The UCC website outlines phases for reopening. Information is continually being updated so check on a regular basis.

Ultimately the safety of staff, volunteers, church members, and all those we serve needs to guide our decisions about reopening any activities. It is likely that COVID-19 will continue to affect the ways we behave and the activities we take part in for at least the next year. In the various government plans being released across the country, moving to the next step depends on continued assessment of the progress of containing COVID-19. If a levelling off of new cases is followed by another wave, the movement toward reopening will be slowed down. The church needs to pay attention to these same considerations. (UCC Website).

Rev. Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister, Northern Spirit, Living Skies, & Prairie to Pine Regional Councils indicated the following in a letter on reopening: "At this time in the early phases of reopening the Regional Council is recommending that you not begin worshipping face to face any time soon. We urge you to move slowly, consult widely and exercise caution as we continue to live in these unprecedented times. Please remember that many of our members are in the vulnerable categories and their health and wellbeing needs to be a priority in our considerations."

(The full letter can be found on the Prairie to Pine website.)

Who at Trinity would be considered to be in these vulnerable categories? People over 60, those with underlying medical conditions that have weakened immune systems, and those who have family members at home who are vulnerable are encouraged to participate only in online activities. Each Community of Faith is asked to look at our members when we make decisions to re-open. We must move cautiously and always abide by public health regulations.

What will things be like when we reopen? Some possibilities might be:

Social distancing at all times

No choir/congregational singing

No responsive readings

No passing of collection plate

No serving of food/beverages

Will we all wear masks?

No sharing microphone

Will we need hand sanitizing station on entering and leaving church?

Thorough cleaning of areas after each gathering.

Things are changing but we know God's love is constant!

This article was written by Alan Silvius



Our visit to The Green Spot December 2018

*Another memory from the fun files of
Trinity 55 Plus*

Ruth & Glenn Sawyer, Gail Thickett, Shirley O'Driscoll

SAME STORM -- DIFFERENT BOATS

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

Realize that and be kind.

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If you know someone, or yourself, who would like a care call from Rev. Neufeld; call 204-441-8140

Please be sure to call or e-mail Marlane Wilson, with any reports of folks in hospital or needing some contact. 204 729-8574 or marlane.w@yahoo.com



God loves us and is always near.



Our thoughts and prayers to our folks who are spending time in hospital:

- Bernice Erskine: Assiniboine 3rd floor
- Margaret Izzard: Assiniboine 2nd floor
- Ken Nairne: Assiniboine 2nd floor
- Beryl Truscott: Assiniboine 2nd floor
- Shirley O'Driscoll: Assiniboine 2nd floor
- Bill Hutchings: Assiniboine 2nd floor



Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Lorne & Lois Riley
On May 23rd
'Living the 'Life of Riley'

Life is Short
Forgive quickly... Love truly
Laugh uncontrollably
And never regret anything
that made you smile!



Our Friends in Personal Care and Senior Homes

Dinsdale Home	Lois Aube
Fairview Home	Audrey Campbell, Lillian Atchison, Frank Basiuk, Linda Garson, Jim & Louise Hodge, Ina Slimmon, Keith Vrooman, Alma Yule
Hillcrest Home	Verna Kieper
Rideau Home	Don Chambers, Murray Hicks, Robert Jarvie,
Valleyview Home	Laura Cliffe
Riverheights Terrace	Margaret Burnett, Judy Diswinka, Vera Skayman
Rotary Villas	Beatrice Lee, Marg Lovstrom, Frank Rabe
Victoria Landing	Moneta Firth, Pat Rathwell, Alice Wesley



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The newsletter is prepared every 2nd week

The next issue will be June 4th, 2020

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May God hold you in the palm of His hands