
Easter 2020

Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

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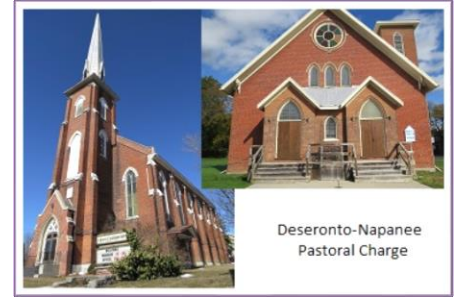
Find us on Facebook at "Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge"

The World Has Changed

The world has changed. A month ago, I would not have believed how much things would be different by now. A nasty virus has gone around the world and everyone in the world is feeling the effects. Many of us are worried and frightened. Here's a Bible passage to keep near to your heart: **"The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 4:6-8) These verses have been meaningful to me in times past, and continue to offer comfort during these days.

I have heard many stories about how people are caring for one another. It does my heart good to know that generosity and ingenuity and kind-heartedness are alive and well in our community, and in our country. People are checking in on neighbours who live alone, or picking up groceries or prescriptions, or offering deliveries of needed supplies, or going above and beyond to be responsive to needs as they arise. Thank you to all of you.

We are all adapting to new circumstances the best way we know how. I don't know how long this pandemic will last, or how soon we will be able to start going out into the world again in a relatively 'normal' way. In the meantime, if there is anything that the church can help you with, please do not hesitate to let me know either through the church phone or at home, 613-354-0757. Grace has a Prayer Team that has been praying overtime, and is eager to receive your requests for prayers. The Grace finance and stewardship committee has set up the possibility of e-transfer donations to keep the church operating. (The letter from the Finance and Stewardship Committee is part of this newsletter.) Deseronto United Church



Upcoming Events

All upcoming events are not cancelled, but postponed until further notice. We look forward to hosting *all* of our events once this health crisis has been contained. We look forward to seeing everyone at our events once we are up and running again. We miss you all!!

We are currently trying to find a way to host our Grace Garden Market, but we will relay that information once we have a better idea of how we may go about it. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and our website!

Tai Chi

Grace has been pleased to be the host site for Tai Chi classes with The Fung Loy Kok Institute out of Kingston. Classes began in February on Thursday mornings with both a beginners class as well as an advanced class. Approximately 40 people have been in attendance each day. If you are looking to improve your strength, flexibility, and/or balance, then come and try out the classes **when they resume!** For more information, visit www.taoist.org, call 613-544-4733, or e-mail kingston@taoist.org.

members are invited to mail their offerings/donations directly to Treasurer Dianna Stuart at P.O. Box 81, Deseronto, Ont., K0K 1X0.

All Grace and Deseronto Church events that had been scheduled to take place in the next month have been canceled or postponed. However, in an attempt to stay in touch as the followers of Jesus Christ, I have been sending out regular emails to everyone for whom I have an email address. Please contact our secretary, Leslie Sweet, through the church e-mail to add your name to our list if you have not already done so. I am doing regular postings to the 'Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge Napanee On' Facebook page. If you are not on Facebook, I invite you to consider signing up, and become part of the conversation there. I did one Sunday morning Facebook live video for everyone, but the techie people among us in the church are encouraging me to use YouTube instead. Please let me know if you want to be part of these broadcasts, and I will try to advise you what we are doing.

For Good Friday, Rev. Mark Arnill of Trinity United Church, Rev. Mike Putman of Selby-Empey Hill Pastoral Charge, Rev. Barbara Mahood of Centreville-Newburgh Pastoral Charge, and myself are collaborating on a joint YouTube video which you are invited to watch.

Things are changing quickly, and by the time you read this, the plans outlined here may already have changed. Please contact me for clarification, if needed.

As a sign-off, let me offer another wonderful piece of scripture to reassure us in challenging times: **'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.'** (Hebrews 13:8)

Rev. Elaine

A Letter From the Grace Finance and Stewardship Committee

Greetings Grace Church Family. I sincerely hope all our church family are staying well during this very stressful time. The Grace Church Board and Finance and Stewardship Committee have been in regular contact by e-mail. We have been discussing how we can keep our Church afloat financially during this difficult time.

I know we are all missing the regular church services. Rev. Elaine recorded a live service/reflection on Sunday, March 29th on Facebook. Since not everyone has Facebook we also e-mailed the video to everyone with e-mails on file with the church. Elaine will continue these online services in some form for as long as we are unable to attend our regular services. We will make sure everyone in the congregation with an e-mail address gets some sort of notification.



On our last Sunday together, March 15th, Grace's Pastoral Care Committee hosted a chili luncheon. Approximately 30 people remained after church to enjoy a sampling of 6 different chilis with and without meat. A freewill offering was accepted, and approximately \$250 was received. A BIG thank you to the members of the committee for organizing the event, and thank you to everyone that joined us!!



In order to keep the bills paid, we still need a regular income stream. Our Church requires approximately \$13,500 every month to meet our expenses. This is a bit more difficult during this time, however there are several options available.

We realize that for some who may be out of work, this may be a difficult time financially and we fully understand that. For those who are able, we are asking you to consider one of the following options to get your donations to the church, and if possible, consider adding a little extra to cover for those who just can't afford to at this time. To avoid unnecessary handling and bank deposits, we would ask that you send your donations on a monthly basis. It would be great if you could send your monthly donation at the first of the month, for the entire month, until this crisis is over. I know many of you do this already and we thank you!

Our treasurer, Bert Needham, has worked diligently to set up online e-transfers. For those who do online banking this is the best way to send money to the church. There is no physical contact with money or cheques required. You set up Grace United Church as one of your contacts and enter the church email. The email address is gracechurch@gmail.com. Don't forget the letter "u" between grace and church and in the "message" area please enter your **envelope number**.

You may also want to consider signing up for PAR (preauthorized remittance) or increasing your PAR. Everyone received a PAR form with their envelopes this year. If you would like to sign up for PAR, contact Bert or Sharon Needham at 613-354-3155 or Leslie at the office for any additional help. Keep in mind it is easy to change your PAR donation amount or to start or stop this type of donation at any time. PAR is an excellent way to keep our cash flow going.

You can also send a monthly cheque to the church "Grace United Church, 150 Robert St, Napanee, K7R 2M7", or drop your cheque off in the mailbox outside the Robert street entrance next to the parking lot.

Another option is to go to our website at www.graceuc.ca and go to the "Donate Now" button and make your donation there.

We are so grateful for all the financial support we receive and on behalf of the Grace United Church Board and the Finance and Stewardship committee, I want to thank you in advance for considering how we all can help to keep our church going during this difficult time. We have a wonderful church family and I know personally I can't wait to be able to meet and greet everyone in person again. Until then, stay safe and pray that God keeps us all safe during this time.

Ron Murray
(Chair of the Grace United Church Finance and Stewardship Committee)



Men of the Steeple performing on Sunday, March 15th at Grace.

Back row left to right: Rodney Rogalsky, Bert Needham, and Rick Sweet.

Front row left to right: Dave Sexsmith, John Sonneveld, and Bill Littlefield.

At the piano: Steven Lindsay-Maracle.

