

Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

150 Robert St.
Napanee, On
K7R 2M7

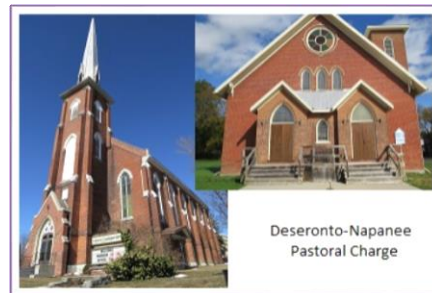
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The summer of 2020 has been a summer unlike any other. Many of the meaningful activities we usually engage in were not possible this year. We went for inordinately long stretches of time without seeing certain people important to us. Grandparents missed crucial months with young grandchildren, and their hearts were yearning to hug those children again. Some of our beloved seniors in nursing homes were confined for health and safety reasons to such a degree they felt like they were in prison. Medical personnel got used to living and working in a new and potentially dangerous environment, and figured out how to do it all. Some people lost their jobs, or their business. Some found they could do their jobs from home. For some families, the stress of being together 24 hours a day increased violence and abusive behaviour. We all got used to wearing face masks; some even came up with beautiful designer masks. We learned how to use zoom.

And now the schools are open again. Parents have had to make the decision about whether they would send their children back to school, or opt for at-home schooling. Teachers and school administrators have had long, convoluted discussions about how to educate our young people in the safest manner. School buses have become a new site for the risk of infection.

It has all been wearying and stressful.

As a church, we have not been together in-person since March 15th, which was the date of our last worship service before the pandemic shut-down. I am extremely grateful that I have felt that we have still been together in spirit. I have been aware of lots of phone calls flying back and forth across our community, of people checking in on one another for groceries or other errands, and of all the informal connections which have remained strong.



Upcoming Events

September 19th

Deseronto will be hosting an **Indoor Yard Sale** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This sale is to help liquidate some of the items within the church as they prepare to close the doors of their building.

September 20th

Return to **regular worship** at Grace beginning at 10:30 a.m.!

September 27th

Please wear the colour orange to church in memory and in honour of those effected by the Residential Schools. A group picture will be taken at the end of our worship service. If you do not have any clothing items that are orange, a heart will be provided with the bulletins that you can pin on.

October 4th

World Wide Communion will be celebrated at *both* churches.

I have learned to get comfortable leading worship while speaking to a video camera, with no actual people in the sanctuary. I am very grateful to the Wednesday evening video-taping crew for their commitment to this ministry – Chris Ingersoll, Ron Murray, Steven Lindsay-Maracle, Boyd Ford, and our singers – Dominique Van der Linden, Rita Steel, Sara Daignault, Siobhan Flynn, Rick Sweet, and Leslie Sweet. I also appreciate the evaluation comments I received from viewers about how to improve these videos.

I am also thankful to treasurer Bert Needham who has gone above and beyond in managing the finances of our church, getting extra financial help that was being offered. Thank you, as well, to all who continued to give your weekly offerings; it proves how much you are committed to your church.

And now we are ready to try worshipping in person again. We are planning to start in-person worship at Grace United Church on Sunday, September 20th at our usual worship time of 10:30 a.m.

There are many pandemic protocols which will be in place. You will find a list of these protocols elsewhere in this newsletter. They have been put together following the Ministry of Health guidelines.

It will not be like a usual worship experience, but the worship team will do our best to make it a meaningful worship time. These worship services will be video-taped for viewing on our YouTube channel, and on Cogeco Cable TV, the same as they are now. If people prefer to stay home and watch worship from their homes, that is fantastic as well. After September 20th, we will no longer be taping worship on Wednesday evenings – the Sunday morning worship service will be that week's service. It will probably be available for viewing on YouTube by the Sunday evening.

As you have probably heard, Deseronto United Church has been sold. The congregation could no longer manage to look after the building, and the pandemic shut-down helped to make this all clearer. The property sale closes at the end of October. On November 1st, 2020, the Deseronto United Church congregation will begin worshipping with Grace United Church, although they intend to keep their identity as members of Deseronto United Church. I trust that you will welcome them with your usual graciousness and enthusiasm.

The sale of Deseronto United Church property, and the general "virtual caring" we have engaged in, has put a spotlight on the often talked about truth that the church is not the building. The word translated "church" in the English Bible is ekklesia. This word is the Greek words kaleo (to call), with the prefix ek (out). Thus, the word means "the called out ones." So, even under these conditions when we have not been able to gather, even when we don't have a building, we are still church.

Upcoming Events

October 11th

Thanksgiving Sunday

October 18th

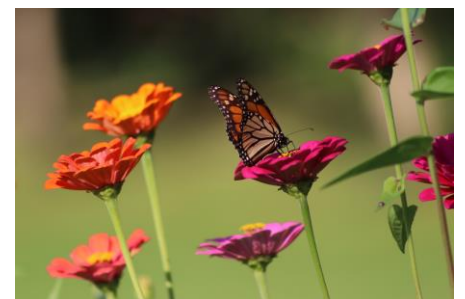
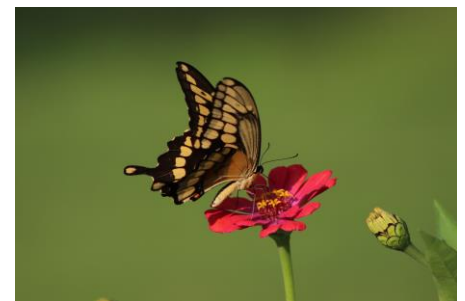
Special Worship Service at Deseronto beginning at 9:00 a.m.

October 25th

Desconsecration Service at Deseronto beginning at 9:00 a.m.

November 1st

All Saints Day with *both churches* beginning worship together at 10:30 a.m.



We are still "the called out ones." We are called out to follow Christ, to care for one another, to serve those in need, to pray for the welfare of one another. We are called out to proclaim Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, no matter what the circumstances. This we can continue to do. Thanks be to God.

Rev. Elaine



Safely Re-Opening of Grace United Church, Napanee, Building for In-person Worship

Physical Distancing

- Prior to the first worship service of re-opening, the administrative assistant will send to every member these protocols, and the self-screening guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Health. People will be asked to self-screen, and if any of the symptoms/conditions apply to them, to stay home.
- Every second pew will be roped off.
- Seating will be assigned in family units, with 2 meters between family unit groups.
- There will be 2 ushers to direct people to their assigned seats. Seating will start at the front of the church and work towards the back as people arrive, so that people are not walking past one another.
- At the end of the worship service, the ushers will usher people from their seats, starting with the people at the back of the sanctuary.
- There will be two points of entry in the church building, the door by the elevator, and the front door. All other doors will be locked.
- There will be an outside monitor to direct people to the door to use.
- There will be physical guides provided – e.g., tape on the floors or walkways, signs on walls, to ensure that staff and congregants remain physically distanced apart while moving in spaces such as hallways.

Disinfection and Sanitizing

- The custodian will disinfect high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, doors, railing on staircase, seating areas, and light switches.
- The only washroom to be used will be the upstairs hallway washroom, and this will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by the custodian.
- The downstairs hall, kitchen and washrooms will be off-limits on Sundays.
- There will be hand sanitizer at entrance and exit points.
- Between weekly worship services, the sanctuary will not be used.
- The minister will be responsible for sanitizing the pulpit and area, and for charting when it is cleaned.
- The organist will be responsible for sanitizing the organ and piano area, and for charting when it is cleaned.
- Disinfecting and sanitizing will be documented on a chart to be kept in the narthex.

For the Worship Service

- The doors of the church will remain closed and locked until 10:00 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. the custodian will unlock the front door and elevator door for attendees to enter.
- Upon entering the building, everyone will use hand sanitizer.
- All people who attend worship will bring their own mask, and will wear it while in the building. The mask must cover the nose and mouth simultaneously. The church will have a supply of masks on hand for those who forget to bring their own.
- The ushers will register all worship attendees on a chart prepared by the administrative assistant, to facilitate contact tracing. These lists will be sealed, and kept in the Church office for three weeks. If not needed, they will be thrown out at the end of three weeks.
- No passing of the peace or handshakes or other types of touch.
- The preacher will remove mask while leading worship, and will stay in one location, not moving around the sanctuary, and use only one microphone.
- The soloist will remove his/her mask while singing, and will stand 4 metres away from any other person, and use only one microphone separate from the minister.
- There will be no congregational singing.
- The offering will be gathered in the offering plate placed at the door when people come in, and there will be no passing the offering plate from hand to hand. Worshipers are encouraged to submit their offerings by e-transfer or sign up for PAR.
- There will be no coffee time following the worship service.
- The elevator will be operated by one attendant with one person being transported at a time.
- There will be a message for the children, but they will remain in their seats, and not come to the front. There will be no Sunday School.
- Hymn Books, Bibles, and other papers will be removed from the pews.
- For using a paper bulletin, worshipers will pick it up on the way in, and will take the bulletin home with them, or place it in the recycling bin at the back of the church.
- For communion, only the minister will receive the elements.
- People are encouraged not to linger outside following the worship, but to proceed home promptly.
- We will support members who choose not to attend in-person worship. The worship service will continue to be taped from the balcony, which will be broadcast on our YouTube channel and Cogeco TV.
- We will make available printed copies of the worship service for those who would like it.

For Other Meetings

- For all in-person committee meetings or church business, all health and safety procedures will be adhered to.
- Upon entrance to the church, hand sanitizer will be used.
- There will be a record kept of attendance at all events, for contact tracing. This record will be kept in the church office for three weeks, and if not needed, will be discarded.

Other Users of the Church Building

- All renters will be made aware of pandemic-related policies, and will have a written agreement to abide by the requirements.
- They will keep a log of everyone who enters the building at other times, for contact tracing. This log will be kept in a sealed envelope for three weeks, and if not needed, will be thrown out.
- They will be supplied with a chart to sign, with a pen that will have sanitizer available to wipe down between each use.
- Upon entrance to the building, hand sanitizer will be used.

We will monitor and assess our protocols, to maintain the health and safety of our church staff, congregants and guests, and will revise as necessary.

Reviewed and Approved the Grace United Church Board, August 18, 2020

Stop! Please DO NOT Come to Church!

We love you, and we want to continue to see you. However, please **do not** come to church if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough (new or worsening)
- Barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies)
- Lost sense of taste or smell
- Pink eye
- Headache that's unusual or long lasting
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain
- Muscle aches
- Extreme fatigue
- Falling down often

OR you have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.

What to do if you have or develop any of the above symptoms:

- Visit a COVID-19 Assessment Centre.
- Visit kflaph.ca or call 613-549-1232 for locations.
- Please let us know how you are doing/feeling, and if you may have attended church prior to developing the symptoms.

Prayer for Masking

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth -
let it be "an outward sign
of an inward grace" -
a tangible and visible way of living
love for my neighbours,
as I love myself.

Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
As the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully -
and full of care -
to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be
shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.

In your Name and
in that love,
I pray.

May it be so.
May it be so.

Prayer written by United Church Moderator, Richard Bott