



Friends, to say this Spring has been one for the record books might be the understatement of the century. In many ways it feels like we've just rolled from one calamity to another from forest fires in Australia, to a global pandemic lockdown, to shootings in Nova Scotia, to CAF training accidents, to murder hornets, and demonstrations as Black people and anti-racist people say "enough is enough" – it's all a lot to take in and process. I've used the visual and metaphor of a teeter totter several times to describe the past few months: one moment you're up and you're thinking "this is pretty good" and then the next moment you're crashing down and wondering "when will I hit the bottom?" I don't know if that's how it's been for you, yet it's certainly been my experience. The other thing I've been saying to people is that, "I used to plan out at least 6 months. Now I plan 6 hours and even then, I've had to adjust." That seems to be the time we're in - pivot, assess, pivot, assess – repeat

Through it all I've honestly been in awe of our community. When we ceased congregational activities and moved everything online, you rolled with it. You joined worship by livestream only – even with its hiccups as churches crashed servers, you stayed with it. You welcomed a different format for worship with different voices and faces. You gathered in appropriate social bubbles to worship together. You even had me over for coffee...well minus me physically being there, but I was at the table. You offered words, emails, texts, and comments of encouragement as we adapted. You joined us online to check-in with one another and discovered how to use Zoom and not just with church, with family and friends too. You joined on Wednesdays for a different style of contemplative worship. You gathered most evenings for a time of reflection and prayer. You ensured your stewardship never wavered and have done an exceptional job making sure Trinity United has been able to pay our bills, maintain our staffing commitments, and assist our community partners. You embraced online giving through CanadaHelps and then e-transfers. You've sent prayers to churches in Nova Scotia, gathered food for A.C.E. and Phoenix House, provided grocery cards, dropped off food to members of our community, sent notes to people, called everyone who is part of our community, delivered Easter and Pentecost bags, and spent hours planning how to care for one another as we re-enter our buildings and re-start our programs. You've spent hours preparing our spaces for people to re-enter undertaking deep cleaning and sanitizing and painting doors to make our spaces more inviting. Even as I write, there's a huge smile on my face...we really are an inclusive fellowship with a living faith embodied in joyful service. Even in the midst of a pandemic we've done all three.

It's part of what makes Trinity United so unique. This definitely isn't the story many united churches are telling. Our circle for worship has greatly expanded and regularly includes people from all over BC and across Canada. Our Wednesday Worship experience has been picked up by others who use it too. Evening Prayer has people from Newfoundland and Labrador to British Columbia. Our stewardship has been noticed and over the last couple of months I've been leading a writing team for the 2021 Call to Be the Church national stewardship program of The United Church of Canada. This is Trinity United and we're the community we are because of the people who are part of our community. Our ministry is only possible because of all of you. From Board members, to staff, to our oldest member, and the youngest it's the passion to be disciples of Jesus that drives us and our shared sense of mission that activates us. What I'm trying to say is thank you. For everything you've done over the past few months to flatten the curve by being physically distanced yet increasing our social connection. Thank you for your dedication to our community and the difference Trinity United makes in PG and, quite literally, around the world.

I can't think of a better example of this than the statement our Board passed on Tuesday evening June 16, 2020. After a lot of storytelling and sharing the Board unanimously approved stating, that at Trinity United Church Black Lives Matter and we will actively work towards being an anti-racist church. It's a bold affirmation of Jesus' gospel of love and the call to love our neighbour and move beyond the artificial divisions we impose upon one another to create difference. It's a bold statement that commits us to discerning how we will turn our words into actions.

As summer begins please keep in mind that our revenue budget will be hard to meet from our user groups, community partners, and other income. It is one of the realities that we are facing. The Board is looking at how we can share opportunities to give and support our ministry when we can't get together for larger events. The COVID-19 restrictions mean we haven't been able to do things like the spring silent auction, spring dinner, soup and sandwich Sundays, and muffin sales. Some groups have cancelled, and others have needed assistance to bridge things until the fall. It all means that we continue to be in a very fluid financial context. We are doing ok, yet it wouldn't take much to change that situation. The Board, Finance, and Worship Committees have all agreed to keep meeting during the summer so that we can keep a close eye on things. It is a strange time we are in, yet I'm confident we can meet the challenges as they present themselves.

And so, let me say thank you once again. I am reminded daily of why I have so much gratitude for our community and the ministry we share together. See you on-line, wherever the summer months take you.

Shalom
Rev. Bob

Message from the Official Board

“Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air” Ralph Waldo Emerson

What an unusual time we find ourselves in. The new board took their seats in late February, and within the first month we were into this pandemic, called Covid 19.

For our first meeting, we already had to practice social distancing, and we had our first attendee via zoom. There was a lot of information coming in, and the rules and protocols seemed to be ever in a state of flux. We wanted to ensure we made safe, sound choices, and that they were not made in haste. I would like to say a big thank you to my fellow board members for their wisdom, calm rationale, and yes, sense of humour in this time of crisis.

We watched as we went from full, in-person services, to an empty sanctuary. From a full schedule of events from various user groups, committees, teams and groups, to empty building(s). How were we going to look going forward?

The move from in-person to fully on-line was a job that befell IT, and that could not have been done without the expertise of Rebecca Fillier. She, hands down, is the hero of this chapter in our church life. She has ensured that the on-line experience is something that we can all recognize and participate in, in a manner that seems, and sounds, familiar. Making the inability to 'go to church' less painful. *Thank you Rebecca for all that you do.*

Here we are now, almost four months later, and we have reopened our sanctuary to in-person worship. Albeit a limited number to start with, but a start none the less. We have had to learn what to change, to meet the new protocols, for all those concerned, and we want to get it right. We appreciate the work being done, both the obvious, and the not so. All is appreciated. We are, after all, the church.

Now as we move into summer and we begin to move about more, may you find joy in the simpler things and perhaps see more family or reconnect with friends we haven't seen in a while, but do it safely. Enjoy our beautiful province, and in Dr. Bonnie Henry's words.....**Be kind, be calm, be safe!**

Gabriele Slater
Board Chair



Ministry and Personnel Committee

As I write this report, we are still amid the unknown outcome of the Covid virus. Perhaps, we can imagine more clearly the confusion and lack of understanding that the followers of Jesus might have had. As Easter was about to unfold, Jesus was giving strange messages that did not make sense. The disciples might have had an uneasy sense that something was about to unfold. Perhaps they could sense impending angst. It is not unlike what we are experiencing as we go through this isolation and uncertainty with the COVID-19 virus unfoldment. We have a sense that there is more disaster to unfold, have no idea when, and cannot see the full picture or an end in sight. Even with the easement of restrictions there is the constant looming of a second wave.

It might be well for us to remember the resurrection story with the new picture and jubilation that we came to understand with the end result of the Easter journey. Perhaps for us, there will be a new world picture at the end of this journey with COVID-19 that will see more harmony and peace.

It has been exciting to see the digital presence of Trinity United strengthen and grow during this time. Thanks to Rev Bob, Rebecca and all those who have enhanced this ministry so that we might experience Trinity United right in our homes... Zoom meetings and gatherings have been a boon for all who need to connect. It is a learning experience for those of us that do not engage with digital technology, but Rev. Bob and crew have made it easy. It has never been truer that Trinity United Church is more than a building where we meet for an hour on Sunday morning, but a community of kindred souls.

Thanks also to the pastoral care team who are calling our members to visit, update our digital presence, and offer any care that might be needed. If you did not get a call let the office know your contact number, many have gone to cell service and numbers are no longer in service. As an M&P Committee we are proud to see the ministry of Trinity United shared by all and able to continue throughout this difficult time.



I paraphrase a comment I found on facebook -

" Sometimes I just want it to stop ! The talk of Covid, protests, social distancing, face masks, the new normal. Then, I met a an 87 year old who had been through many years of pandemics, wars and protests but was still enchanted with life.. When I asked if he found 2020 challenging he looked me straight in the eyes and said " I learned a long time ago not to see the world through the printed headlines. I see the world through the people that surround me, I see the world with the realization that we love big therefore, I write my own headlines. - Husband loves wife today. - Family/ church calls and checks on me - Neighbours are caring and friendly. He patted my hand "Old man makes new friend" His words released my worries and let them float free. Free to write my own headlines . "Woman overwhelmed by spirit of kindness and the reminder that the capacity of love is never ending. "

The Headline for Trinity United is : We are thankful that many at Trinity United have managed to stay connected and share our love with others in our community and congregation.. I am aware that many have reached out to others by phone or distant visits in order to keep our connections strong and caring. Thank You !! We notice that the soup kitchen has continued, - donations for ACE have been plentiful - gardening, pruning and lawn cutting keep our property cared for - inside cleaning and painting brighten our building - many have contributed to our worship service experience and our paid staff have continued their work. Again our many hands contribute to keep our Trinity United community together.

It is with great appreciation that we note how blessed we are to have Rev. Bob as our leader. His competence in the digital technology along with the skills and dedication of Rebecca, have produced many wonderful hours of ministry. We are grateful for their diligence in keeping us connected through technology as well as encouraging and lifting our spirits with hope and caring through the message. I know they have spent many extra hours to present meaningful, faith full, spiritual experiences and ministry to us. Bob also has engaged the Pastoral Care team and staff to reach out to those who are at home or less digitally involved.

If you have any concerns about our ministry at Trinity feel free to be in touch with any of our committee for confidential conversation.

Marilyn Blair, Keith Taite, Les Waldie, Vicki Brown, Shannon Carson, Don Homan.

Outreach Committee



Outreach during a pandemic comes with its own set of challenges and opportunities. With so many businesses closed there may be many more people faced with the distressing circumstances of being homeless or unable to afford the necessities of daily living, searching for regular assistance. Feelings of helplessness, fear, depression, facing an unknown future, loneliness and isolation all contribute to increased anxiety, physical and mental illness in the community at a time of depleted resources. Guests at the Soup Kitchen are faced with having to social distance themselves from others outside on the street, while receiving food in paper bags instead of resting and enjoying a meal in a warm centre. Even the act of making sandwiches requires social distancing and masks. Thank you to everyone who has been able to help prepare, deliver and serve the food at St. Vincent's in these unusual circumstances.

During these stressful times, we all need to make extra effort to reach out with smiles and words of encouragement, a telephone call to those living on their own, help with picking up groceries or prescriptions, and checking on people to make sure they don't fall through the cracks. One thing the pandemic has accomplished is an increased awareness of the needs and benefits of outreach in all aspects of community. We all depend on each other. God Bless and safe keeping!

Vickie Brown
On Behalf of Outreach

Healing Pathway



To help with the stress of these times, the need to relax more, trouble falling asleep and the need of 'balance', check out the Healing Pathway (Trinity website under ministries) guided videos.

Tom

Wonderhosts



As Team Leader I, Beth Quesnel, wondered “What was quarantine like for a couple of Wonderhosts who travelled back to Canada recently?” Were they welcomed? Megan Homan and Elizabeth MacRitchie graciously agreed to share some of their thoughts.

Megan

When Don and I returned from Boston on March 18th, we were greeted with a text from Rev. Bob and an email from Beth. Beth hoped we were enjoying our trip, even if the Bruins hockey games were cancelled. Yes, we were doing our best!

Rev. Bob’s text said if we needed anything while self-isolating, he had a list of people willing to run light errands. Trinity United was already stepping up to help others! We spent the following day reacquainting ourselves with the downstairs freezer and planning meals for the next two weeks. I emailed Beth to see if she could do a small grocery shop and was quickly introduced to this brave new world of Covid-19. We put some money and a grocery list in an envelope and left it in our mailbox. Beth arrived early the next morning (7a.m) and came back with two bags of groceries (put on the back step) and our change inside the envelope. I stood at the window, waved as she backed out of the driveway and she waved back. Thank you, Beth, for both times you shopped. And thank you to Jack Blair, who made a special trip to P.G.I. Market for bread and Don’s favourite cookies. It was humbling for me to make known that Don prefers the P.G.I. homemade cookies over anything his wife could make :)

We are very grateful to our Trinity family for all your support and care in keeping us safe.

Megan and Don Homan

Elizabeth

Here are our memories about our return from vacation this past March from Mexico as the Covid War was evolving.

Donald and I were enjoying our planned vacation in the sun this past February and March. It started off with a bit of a bump in the road as Donald needed urgent surgery for an ankle fracture which was not healing. Prior to our departure, Donald had 5 screws and a plate put in his left ankle after his stress fracture from November became mobile. With that done, we headed to Mexico two days after surgery. Beth & Bob Quesnel and Betty and Bud Burbee came and visited us a week after we arrived.

Donald and I were looking forward to the arrival of our 6 grandchildren and their 4 parents for a spring break visit. Needless to say, the Covid virus story was making everyone very anxious and they all stayed home as per Justin Trudeau’s guidelines. Our kids were wanting us to come home ASAP as WE were the demographic at risk. In the meantime we were waiting for West Jet to offer us a way home. Finally at 8:30 pm , 10 days before we were due to leave, we were given notice that the last flights on Westjet would be a mere 5 days away on Sunday March 22, 2020. . . which was a week before we were due to leave for home. We were virtually self isolating at our resort, eating in our rooms as if we were on quarantine.

Our flight brought us direct to PG with many others from all over BC. People were from all over the Western provinces. When they arrived, they rented cars to drive to their homes in the Okanagan, Vancouver Island, Calgary, etc.

Once home we resumed our quarantine routine which we had partially established in our resort where we swam every morning then walked for 2 or 3 kms. for exercise before we headed back to our room for breakfast and emails and the remainder of the day. At home we lacked the luxury of our daily swim but we could still walk everyday and our daughter and son made sure we had adequate food in our fridge. We were thrilled to remain in touch with Trinity via the internet, the evening prayer services by Rev Bob, provided a needed reattachment to our Trinity family. We are so very grateful to our friends here at Trinity and to our secret Easter bunny from Trinity! It has helped us to feel less isolated.

Wishing every one well in this interesting time. See you when we are able to return to the new “normal”! Blessings to all. Elizabeth and Donald

Mission and Service Committee



MISSION AND
SERVICE FUND

This year, the theme for Mission and Service is “loving our neighbours” based on Mark 12: 30-31 and we are asked to reflect on the question, “who is my neighbour?” Some may think of neighbours as the people you check up on and care about. Perhaps, you remember growing up on a street where the neighbours were more like family than simply people who lived next door or down the street. There may have been community gatherings with lots of love and laughter. Jesus also calls us to love our neighbours in the world, a world often fractured and filled with suspicion of others who may not look like us, talk like us or believe like us. Loving our neighbours is at the core of who we are as a people of faith and the world needs our example of what it means to be part of this family of faith.

Today, in these times of self-isolation and physical distancing, we must yet again reflect on the question, “who is my neighbour?” There are opportunities to serve neighbours in our immediate circle, within the community of Prince George and through The United Church of Canada’s global response to COVID-19. In all the different ways in which we define our neighbours and serve our neighbours, the common denominator is LOVE, the love we have for one another and the love God has for the world.

Summer Blessings from the Trinity Mission and Service Team

Finance Committee

I hope and pray that you are all doing well, while you are physically distancing and spending more time at home.

Prior to mid-March the financial outlook for our church was in line with what we usually expect for that time of year. Unfortunately as you all know, since mid-March nothing has been “usual”. I'd first like to say that as a congregation we are currently meeting all our financial commitments. However, the full financial implication will likely not fully present itself for a while and maybe not until late in the fall. The Finance Committee has met regularly to review programs and options offered by The United Church of Canada and The Federal Government. We have already received support from the Temporary Wage Subsidy (TWS) for 10% of the source deductions for salaried staff. We continue to monitor if we meet the criteria for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) that has been extended to August 29, 2020.



I would like to thank all those congregational members that have been able to continue to financially contribute to our ministry. If you are able to assist there are a few convenient way to do so.

- There is always the tried and true way of dropping off envelopes or postdated cheques at the main office through the mail slot at the front main entrance. (We've added a covered box inside) You can also mail your offering envelopes to: Trinity United Church 3555 5th Ave. Prince George, BC V2M 1K8.
- You can also sign up for PAR (Pre –authorized remittance). Just go to www.trinitypg.ca/covid-19 and you'll find the link to the form at the bottom of the page under Downloads. We've already filled out some of the information for you. The form cannot be e-mailed and the fax number is no longer current on the form with the COVID-19 shutdown. Simply drop off the completed form with a void cheque at the Church Main Office and we will ensure it is submitted.
- Donate on the church's website. This will take you to a customized donation page provided by CanadaHelps who will send you a tax receipt and send your gift to us electronically minus a 3.5% processing fee. Just click on Donate Now on our website or go to www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47747.
- Lastly, we are now set up to also accept electronic transfers or e-transfers. Just follow the regular process for your financial institution and email the donation (transfer) to bookkeeper@trinitypg.ca. If you have any instructions you'd like us to be aware of, please write those in the information box as part of the transfer. You don't need to know your envelope number...we'll add those. Your e-transfer will be automatically deposited into the church account.

Also, please be aware that there are people out there that are trying to take financial advantage of the situation (scams). Please be careful of these, we will not be asking you one-on-one for any kind of financial support or gifts cards. If you are uncomfortable with anything or have any questions please contact Rev. Bob.

The final way that you can contribute is to continue to pray for our ministry, congregation and those in need whether it be financial, spiritual, health or mental wellness.

Doug Hofstede

Treasurer, Trinity United Church PG



Worship Committee

“How do you plan and make a movie from all the bits and pieces”?

Also known as

“How do you prepare a service during Covid19?”

So - “How **do** you plan and make a movie from all the bits and pieces”?

- First – you find or create a script;
- Second – You find
 - people to play the parts,
 - someone to direct the cast,
 - a post-production and editor enthusiast
- Third – You film your production – sometimes with all parties on set, sometimes you shoot one actor performing his scene, the next day you shoot the actress doing her parts.
- When the entire production has been planned, shot, and compiled, the post-production and editor fits all the scenes together, adds in music and effects, and fits in appropriate background scenes throughout the entire movie.

And 2 or 3 years later, the movie is finally ready for a pre-screening before feeding it out to the general public.

Now enter the world of:

“How do you prepare for Sunday service during Covid19?”

- ✓ First – you decide on the theme of the Sunday Service
- ✓ Second – You script all the pieces so that you have a cohesive message or messages throughout.
- ✓ Third – you find a Worship Assistant, you hear from other people from far and wide that would like to be an active part in the service delivery.
- ✓ Fourth - Decide of all the people who would like a share, who will be where and what.
- ✓ Fifth – pre-film and record the majority of parts and pieces
- ✓ Sixth – together with the production editor (Rebecca), create the projection layout including:
 - Creating the individual slides
 - Fitting all the pre-filmed pieces together to create a cohesive view during projection.
 - There is no choir – so – search through previously recorded services to locate 3 or 4 hymns that may be within the projection files. For each hymn located, remove just that song piece from the online video. Check it for sound quality, and if ok, peel down the layers of that video portion to clean up any issues, remove the background image and force in a replacement background to create a look that fits with the new service. Now do the same thing with the next 2 or 3 hymns.
 - Fit the newly created hymn videos into the designated area of the projection file
 - Add in any other videos that may be used as part of the service.
 - Do a double check that all the pieces that
 - have fit in properly,
 - are all in the right order,
 - the sound and photo clarity is at its best,
 - nothing has been missed.

And do all of that in a matter of just a few days. So – as you see – we are VERY fortunate to have these wonderful techy people who continue to create a magical service in spite of some difficult circumstances and short timelines. HATS OFF TO Reverend Bob Fillier and the talented projection artist, Rebecca Fillier.

For the most part, the live streaming has worked like a charm, however there have been a few hiccups along the way, almost all totally out of our control. On any given Sunday, Trinity had upwards of 500 to 600 people tuning in for service pretty much from the beginning we had to expand from feeding out only via Trinity Live Stream, to adding in feeding out direct to Connect North and also feeding out through Trinity Facebook. But while providing multiple paths fixed that issue, the internet paths our service fed through probably saw added activity from other users as well. This, or other issues, caused some problems with the external parties that are the engines providing the final feed onto the internet. These glitches were bothersome for sure, but totally out of our control. All we could do was continue to advise them of the issues in hopes they could smooth out the delivery. For the most part, I think things have been running smoother lately.

Thank-you to Katherine Tuck for continuing to arrange Worship Assistants for each Sunday. And to all of you that have stepped up and said YES to being a Worship Assistant, thank-you so much. During these interesting times, I am sure first reaction could be no, so it is wonderful to have so

many that understand what an important role this and how key it is to providing a full and meaningful service. And don't get thrown by the "Newfoundland" phone number (prefix 709) – it really is our very own Katherine Tuck calling in hopes of you saying "Yes – I would love to be Worship Assistant" one Sunday.

The Worship Committee recognizes these are difficult times for most, if not for all of our parishioners. The wonderful congregation of Trinity United Church is used to hands on, face to face and often hug to hug time at least weekly at our service. We take pride in being close to each other. We want to see the people, have a coffee with them, get in a short or a long chat to catch up on how someone's week went, or what they have planned for the upcoming week. But overnight, Covid19 changed all of that interaction to virtual feed and telephone.

We understood that our congregation would need to continue to feel united, and hopefully the various little goodie packages (like at Easter), helped people continue to feel connected. And hats off to the Pastoral Care committee for keeping in touch with everyone via telephone.

As you all probably are aware, with the easing off of some of the restrictions, we have now had a couple of VERY small services with a handful of people in attendance. Given the 6' social distancing requirements still in place, seating space is limited, with established maximum attendance being currently set at between 10 to 15 people who have phoned in ahead to book a seat. These numbers will continue throughout the summer. For the most part, we are favoring the people who have been either unable to sign in to attend service electronically, or those that have a difficult time with the technology, which in turn impacts on their ability to fully enjoy the service. The few that have attended have been so pleased, as most have not been able to view a service since the middle of March.

The steps for attending service are:

- Phone into the office by Thursday Noon to book your seat.
- Arrive at the church – enter through the main entrance.
- Put on a face mask just before entering (one will be supplied if you don't have your own)
- Hand sanitize immediately on entering
- Place your offering (if you have one) in the offering plate at the entrance
- Sign in verifying that you accept the risk, agree to remain masked, and have not in the last 21 days been feeling or been in contact with anyone that has covid symptoms
- Move to the designated seat
- Do not sing (but you can hum) or move around the sanctuary.

So if you fit within the criteria, please feel free to call the office and book your seat.

Thank-you to Betty Belado for making the masks that will be supplied. So appreciated Betty.

Where do we go from here? The Worship Committee is following the direction of the Board in determining continued opening, size of congregation and other factors. Together the Board and Worship Committee are striving to continue to provide everyone with meaningful services while ensuring optimum safety procedures at all times.

Two events that had been scheduled for June, 2020 have had cancelled/postponed. The first – the Sunday at the Lake has been cancelled for this year. In reviewing the distancing requirements, the space simply would not work, but it will be back on the agenda for sure for next year. The other item is the 110th Anniversary service scheduled for June 21, 2020 at Trinity Downtown. There was no way to keep the numbers under the "max 50", and no way to ensure proper distancing even at that number. As such, we have postponed this event to next year, and we will celebrate the 111th Anniversary instead. We have notified the dignitaries and other groups that had been invited. And it gives us a year to truly make this a great event.

In closing – here is the biggest and longest hug to each and every one of you. I must say, that is probably the thing I miss the most – handshakes and hugs, and seeing all the wonderful smiling faces every Sunday. And here is to us hopefully being back together as a whole very soon.

Marion Bartlett

On behalf of the Worship Committee



Hello from your Fellowship Team

Hello to all from your Fellowship Team. Spring 2020 has been very different for us, as fellowship and fundraising in the traditional sense contravenes all of the COVID-19 protocols. We pride ourselves in being an active group, but have not been able to be active in our usual ways. So we do not have anything to report!

Instead, we thought we would share some of the ways we have been coping with the “New Normal”.

There’s been a lot of walking. Some walk with a family member, some walk the dog, others “distance walk” with someone outside of their “bubble”. One member has been walking while listening to audio books downloaded from the library, she reports that when the book is really interesting she has difficulty stopping. Many members report enjoying being out in nature and watching the seasons change. We are blessed to live in a place with so many choices of places to exercise and so much to see and enjoy.

Some are getting around to things they needed or wanted to do. Quilting projects have been completed and new ones started. The knitting and crochet projects that were stalled are finished. The fence that ought to have been seen to last year is now sporting a fresh coat of paint.

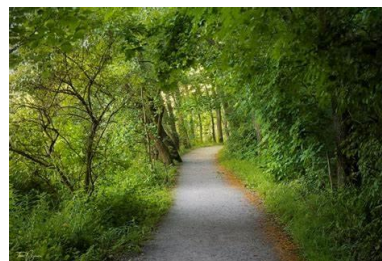
There has been cooking, of course. One member just loves to bake and to share with others – including me! Others have put their hand to bread and cinnamon rolls, and eventually to walking to burn off those calories. Asparagus and rhubarb are now available, those really say spring to me and I am enjoying as much as I can.

One of our former members is working from home, and is trying new things. Knitting and crocheting were already hobbies, she has been sewing clothes and is going to try quilting.

We will carry on over the summer. Perhaps by Fall we will have figured out how to fulfill our mandate to promote fellowship and raise funds in these new times. In the meantime, continue to enjoy time with family and friends in a safe manner, and celebrate all that God has given us to enjoy in our little bit of heaven.

God’s blessings on all of you.

Judy Wilson on behalf of the Trinity Fellowship Team.



Harmony House Update

It’s hard to believe that it’s been a year since we approved the 60-year land lease to BCHC for the construction of a new Harmony House site in partnership with Phoenix Transition Society. Even back then we knew it would be a long process with a combination of low and high activity.

On June 23, Gabriele and Rev. Bob met with Hillary Morgan of dy-nam-ic Community Planning who has been sub-contracted as the local agent (they’re located here in PG) by M’Akola Development Services (Olivia McMahon is the lead contact person). The project has been fast tracked by BCHC and the funding has been released to start the next step of the process: re-zoning and design. Hillary will now proceed with the re-zoning application and award the contracts for the next 3 pieces of work: geographical soil testing, phase 1 environmental assessment, and legal and topographical survey. Over the next couple of weeks, you will see some folks undertaking this work around the main church building at 3555 5th Ave. The re-zoning process can take anywhere from 4-6 months. The earliest construction is likely to start in spring 2021.

Gabriele and Rev. Bob confirmed that Trinity United will be part of the design phase and the consultations with the architect. One of the unique aspects of this project is that Trinity United has a seat at the table all the way through the development, planning, design, and building phases.

So, we’ve arrived at next step and hurdle. Please hold the re-zoning process and people leading it in prayer. The Board is committed to sharing information with our community and you will be kept up-to-date on developments as they happen.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Bob

COVID-19 Safety Plan

As you might have heard, we've re-entered the buildings and started some small group activities, including a very limited number of people attending in-person worship. At its June 16th meeting, The Board approved staying at step 1 – up to 15 people for in-person worship until after Labour Day. This allows us to develop a group of Worship Hosts who are trained and comfortable with the safety plan and creates time for us to plan for the fall. A copy of the full COVID-19 Safety Plan is available on our website at: www.trinitypg.ca/pages/covid-19-response . Just scroll all the way to the bottom of the page to find the document. We're also mailing a hardcopy of the safety plan out to people who can't access our website.

Starting on July 5th anyone who'd like to join us for worship can do so, however you must reserve one of the 15 seats each week by Thursday at 12 noon. To do so you can call or email the main office. If you do attend worship in July or August, you will be required to:

- Maintain physical distancing coming in, while in, and when leaving the building;
- Sign-in and reply 'yes' to three questions:
 - Have you, to the best of your knowledge, been symptom free and not been around someone with symptoms for 21 days?
 - Are you willing to follow the COVID-19 Safety Plan?
 - Are you willing to accept the risk of being indoors with a group of people?

Please remember our Worship Hosts are there to help you and ensure that we're all following the Safety Plan. If you can't say 'yes' to these three questions, please stay at home for your safety and that of those attending worship. The goal is to keep everyone safe and gather for worship in limited numbers, however, if we have to choose, safety wins.

- There is an offering plate for your offering at the sign-in desk.
- You'll be given a mask that you must wear while inside the building.

We have some great masks (thanks to Betty Belado) that you can wear during worship and turn in to be sterilized. You might choose to bring your own mask. If you opt to bring your own, please make sure it is a fresh mask that you haven't worn before or was laundered in the last 24 hours. Repeated use of disposable or cloth masks renders them ineffective. Again, safety for you and others is the goal.

- You'll sanitize your hands.
- You'll be shown to your seat.

After worship you'll have a choice: say hello to people on the Coffee and Friends check-in using the computer at the AV/Digital Ministry booth and leaving by the emergency exit; or leaving via the main entrance. One of the Worship Hosts will check with you and ensure we keep the proper physical distancing.

If we're having Communion, you'll find an extra chair next to you with a covered plate on it. Each plate will have the juice and bread elements that you'll need to take part in Communion.

We know this feels like a lot and it changes how we experience worship. We're all encourage to join together for worship using one of the digital portals on our website, connectnorth.ca, Facebook @TrinityUCPG or on YouTube.

Some user groups are re-entering the buildings too. In each case they are required to follow a similar Safety Plan. As more people enter the building and move around in general, we need to ensure we're doing everything we can to keep one another safe and healthy. Together, as the last 3 months have shown, we are a resilient community that supports one another. Together we will create a different normal.

If you have any questions please contact the Main Office, Gabriele Slater, or Rev. Bob.

Towards an Anti-Racist Community



Over the last number of weeks, the degree to which racism has infected our society has become increasingly apparent to those not directly affected by it. The knee on George Floyd's neck and the words "I can't breathe" and "Black lives matter" have served as rallying cries for everyone who believes that racism is an evil that must be confronted, challenged, and eliminated. This fact is one of the reasons that The United Church of Canada in 2000 declared racism and its impact on people and society to be a sin that separates us from God and from one another.

As people have gathered together around the world to challenge racism another painful truth has emerged: it isn't enough to be non-racist, or to label racism a sin. The Christian community needs to be anti-racist.

When the Board met on June 16 it unanimously approved a statement which says that Trinity United Church will actively work towards being a safer community for everyone regardless of race and being an anti-racist church.

The full statement reads:

Recent events have reminded us how far we must go to truly enter into the call of loving our neighbour. It has exposed some very disturbing truths about our society and who we are as disciples of Jesus.

We, the Board of Trinity United Church, PG, acknowledge that anti-Black racism and racism, in general, has existed and exists in our institutions, systems and community. We acknowledge that The United Church of Canada is actively working toward being an anti-racist church and that, unfortunately, progress is slow.

We lament that we have not lived into our identity of being a community that truly loves its neighbours.

As an expression of solidarity with Black, Indigenous, People of Colour and a commitment to engage in developing processes that facilitate real change, we state that at Trinity United Church, PG: Black Lives Matter; and, that anti-Black racism and racism, in general, will not be tolerated.

We commit ourselves to listening, praying and acting in ways that embody this statement and will take action to repent our white privilege and return to the hard work of truly loving our neighbours, becoming allies and eliminating racism in all its forms, wherever it is found.

Everyone is encouraged to think about how we can challenge racism in all its forms, wherever we encounter it. Let's think about the words we use, the assumptions we make, and how we act. Maybe consider shopping at business owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour. Maybe you'd like to join one of our study groups starting in September. Maybe you're part of a book club that would like to tackle issues related to racism, white privilege, and how to be anti-racist in our daily lives.

Together we state that we're a church that values being an inclusive community. Doing the work of being anti-racist is one more way we embody what that means and ensure to the best of our abilities that when people join with us they know it is safer space for everyone.



Want to be Part of the Anti-Racist Movement? Some Resources that Can Help

- YouTube.com – search for “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”
- YouTube.com – search for “United Against Racism” It’s a worship service prepared and shared by the Black Clergy Network of The United Church of Canada.
- United-Church.ca – search for “anti-racism” for a full listing of denominational resources and statements.
- Pacificmountain.ca – our Regional Council website has lots of resources.
- pmrfirstthird.ca – our Regional Council team’s website dedicated to ministry for those in the first third of life. Check out their resources link for age appropriate materials.
- Broadview.org – The United Church of Canada monthly publication. You can also find articles on the Broadview website.
- Convergenceus.org – search “resource library on whiteness & racism” It list a number of great resources including books, podcasts, and movies/television.
- Netflix.com – 13th the documentary by Ava Du
- Movie – Just Mercy Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton. Starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Fox, and Brie Larson.
- Books:
 - How to be an antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi
 - White Fragility by Robin Diangelo
 - Me and White Supremacy by Lalya F. Saad
 - Anxious to Talk About It by Carolyn B. Helset