

Jordan Station United Church

In the Good News . . .

December 2020

A Note from our Minister, Rev. Anita

"A Message of Hope!"

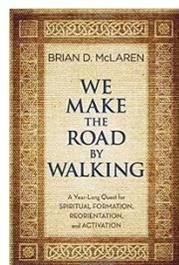
Here we are in yet another season of waiting; waiting for our church to re-open, for a vaccine to be approved and for our Savior to be born. I was reminded that in this season of Advent, the single candle of Hope is the only light that can stand alone in the darkness. Each week *Peace*, *Joy* and *Love* add their light to the world. The question now is how do we DO Christmas in a time when our planet, our Creator and our leaders are screaming out for us to stay home? I encourage you to dig deep this year and find ways to celebrate by creating new traditions. Be the Church in the world by leaning into those that are in need. Open your eyes to the poorest among us and join alongside those that are feeding Christ's flock with food and spiritual nourishment. This year, I pray that we will spend less energy on putting together the perfect Christmas and more on ensuring that everyone has a home to call their own. This Christmas, I hope you with pray with me that together we can be the hope in the world that is so desperately needed. Then it is time for us to take action. If every one of us offers *hope*, *peace*, *joy* and *love* to one person, no one will walk alone. May you not be afraid to pick up the telephone, deliver food, send a card, make a donation in lieu of buying things, walk with a friend and fight for the injustices we see all around us. I wish you a safe and healthy Christmas that is filled with awe and wonder.

Be Well . . . Stay Safe . . .

Together we seek Aliveness!

Blessings, Rev. Anita

P.S. I will be on sabbatical from January 1 to April 30th, 2021 so until then may the peace of Christ be with you!



"We're still here!"

Despite our church being closed due to COVID-19, there are still activities going on.

Sarah Foster, Rev. Anita and many volunteers planned and executed 2 extremely profitable Fundraisers – Apple Crisp take-out and the drive-thru Penne Supper. We are grateful for their hard work and enthusiasm.

We appreciate the dedication of Rev Anita, Joyce, Pete, Charlotte, Carolyn, Sonja and the lay readers who work hard to provide us a service on-line every week. As the service is provided on YouTube we can sit and watch it any time of the day.

Even though the doors may be closed for regular services and meetings, there is still a lot of work happening behind the scenes to keep our church functioning and looking its best. A special thank-you goes out to John, Margaret, Ken, Cathy, and others on the property committee.

If it were not for Edie and Chris taking care of the finances, our church could not keep operating. Just think of what would happen if the pay checks did not get issued and the bills paid.

Committee work is still on going. Just this past week the mission team had a Zoom meeting.

If you feel left out, speak with Rev Anita or Sonja. You can help with the Worship Service or property maintenance. Also consider one of the charities in our community.

Lastly, we are always looking for someone willing to take on leadership roles. Contact me directly if you are willing to share your time and talent with our Church in a leadership capacity.

Best Wishes for a blessed Christmas Season!

Wayne Gibson, Chair of Council



Highlights from Church Council Meeting

A Zoom Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 17. There are still many concerns about re-opening our Church but we are moving forward with creating procedures and purchasing sanitization equipment and other items to keep our Minister and our Congregation safe for when we are able to open our doors. We will continue to update you all on the status of our Church Worship Services.

Worship Committee



As you might well have suspected, we have not met in-person during the months of Covid. We have been working diligently to bring you

services online, and hope that these have been a blessing to you.

We meet every Friday to videotape the service, then it is shown on Facebook and YouTube at service time of 11:00 am.

Worship has agreed with all other committees at our Zoom meeting not to spend money on anything other than necessities.

Carolyn Campbell has been generously leading the music, and we so appreciate her gift of singing. Some of our choir members have been reading scripture as well.

It is difficult to suspend our inhouse services, physically, mentally, and financially.

We hope that you have a quieter, meaningful Christmas even though it will be different.

Perhaps we'll think less about Santa and more about Jesus' birth.

Blessings, Joyce Brown

Mission Committee Update



The Mission Committee has continued to meet a few times throughout 2020 – a little differently through Zoom, but we felt it was very important not to forget our Missions that we support during this extremely difficult year. They too are struggling and the need within our community is more intense.

Here's an update on our Mission Projects:

Cave Springs Camp Camping - received a large donation in honour of Jean McMillian

Cave Springs Legacy Hall Campaign: JSUC had committed to \$10,000 in 3 years - currently have donated \$9000. Jean Foster has agreed to donate all of the profits from her Christmas flower fundraiser to the Legacy Campaign; we thank her for her generosity! The Legacy Hall building is open for rentals now; contact Krystyn Keir, the new Rent Manager.

The Village of Hope has entered their 'Season of Giving': Sponsor a family, senior or child this Christmas. See the 'Givings' page for donation information.

The Upper Deck Youth Centre is open for youth drop-ins again. They are in needs of funds to continue their programming as they are true missionaries.

Caribbean Workers Outreach Program had a very difficult and lonely year as they had to quarantine when they arrived on a farm and throughout their stay they had little or no interaction from host families. We are hopeful that next year we will be able to visit them again.

El Rosalito Projects:

The Water Project is continuing to move forward but slowly; lack of supplies and people going up into the mountain. They have built and installed 27 latrines and the new stove project is ongoing as well.

For 2021 we hope to continue donating significantly to these worthy organizations.

'Tis the season of Giving –

please give generously!

Sonja Saweczko, Secretary, Mission Committee

Fundraising Committee Update



FUNDRAISING

Hello everyone, I would just like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and also those who participated in our Fall fundraisers. They both were a great hit and I am excited to bring more next year! I would also like to apologize for some of the portions that were given at the Penne dinner, we had a little mix up with Antipastos, but Jesus fed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish, so we were able to feed everyone who purchased a dinner!

Just because we can't be in church it's definitely important to keep going with the many things we can do. Stay safe and I hope to be able to see everyone someday soon.

Sarah Foster

Property Committee Update

We hope all of you are well during these trying times and everyone is keeping safe.



Even though our building has been closed for Worship, essential maintenance has never stopped. Cathy and Tim Davies have continued with the weekly upkeep of the Church interior including the monthly checking of the Emergency Lighting System and fire control equipment. John Thompson has continued with biweekly inspections of the Church for insurance purposes. He will be supervising the quarterly inspection of the elevator on December 8th.

A great deal of work has been done outdoors to prepare for winter. Many thanks to Ken Foster, Charlotte Keir, Dave Keir and Ray Dykstra who came to our aid once again, cutting the lawn and bagging dozens of bags of fallen leaves during the month of November. Margaret Thompson has cleared the flower beds of plant debris. The Gibsons and Thompsons have cleaned the vinyl siding at the entranceways to the Church to rid these areas of accumulated grime.

We are in need of more volunteers to help enhance our grounds in caring for the lawn and flower beds. Your help for next year is vital!

You don't need to have a green thumb to help, just willingness to work hard and pride in our Church property. Curbside appeal of our beautiful Church is a definite asset to our Community.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

John & Margaret Thompson

Finance Committee Update



This year has been very unusual as most of you are staying home and out of harm's way. We have lost some wonderful key members of our congregation and have been unable to gather together to worship and socialize as we usually do. As stated in the Annual Appeal letter distributed earlier, we are still worshipping and supporting one another but just in different ways.

In the last three weeks, we have received about 25% of our Fall Financial Appeal goal but there still is a long way to go. This is a reminder to you that we are counting on you for your support in as big or little way as you are able at this time. Every little bit helps.

We owe the Extension Council of the former Niagara Presbytery a big thank you for the \$2,500 grant that we recently received. This will be used for the necessary cleaning, sanitizing and other supply costs required to ensure everyone's safety once we reopen for worship.

Although the Finance Committee has not met as a group since August, members are still communicating with one another as needed. We are optimistic that our financial situation will not be as dismal as originally thought last summer thanks to the support of our members. Preparation for year-end reporting and budget planning will take place over the next couple of months, although that could be challenging considering the uncertainty of when we will return to normal and be able to meet as a group.

We wish everyone a healthy and safe Christmas season and continue to pray that we soon will see everyone in our Church before too long.

Edie Duncan



Ministries

Welcome Back Creative Spirit!

Happy New Year! Here we are, at the end of our Christian year, preparing to embark on a new year that starts with Advent. Has the time gone faster than we ever thought it would, being couped up in our homes thanks to this pandemic? How quickly the last 3 months have gone as we tried to return to some aspects of our life. As much as we at Creative Spirit would have loved to be back in person with each other, sharing our creativity and love of our Creative God “elbow to elbow”, we have continued to meet as a community on Zoom for everyone’s safety.

This fall has seen some wonderful upgrades to Creative Spirit. The sessions are now pre-recorded thanks to the amazing new live streaming camera that Jordan Station United Church purchased for the Sunday services. This has allowed for a much higher quality presentation. Creative Spirit started its own YouTube channel (Creative Spirit Niagara), allowing individuals access to the session videos quickly and easily, without the sign-up issues that the Creative Spirit Ministry Facebook page was causing.

In a continued effort to offer a better faith-art-expression experience while at home, Creative Spirit Boxes went out in September before our first fall session on September 15th. Participants now had art supplies at home to delve into our spiritual practice.

Though our creative expressions of faith have not been able to grace the walls of the sanctuary during this time, Creative Spirit was able to take part in the service and give back to the congregation through a slide show of art for the November 1st All Saints service and again for Reign of Christ on Sunday, November 22nd.

This Advent season we are continuing with Brian D. McLaren’s book “We Make the Road by Walking” and are looking forward to creating mixed media pieces to reflect our own journey in this time of preparation and waiting.

If you are interested in joining us (no experience necessary), we meet at 10:00am Tuesday mornings on Zoom. My contact info for questions or Zoom info is:

creativespiritministry@gmail.com or my cell:
416-427-1586.

Looking forward to a reflective Advent Season,
Carolyn Campbell



Thank you for your continued support of Jordan Station United Church. We look forward to welcoming you back into our Church as soon as we can do so safely.

Join us on-line every Sunday on YouTube (premiering at 6:15am for all those early risers) to watch our weekly Worship Services.

PLEASE Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!

Keep up to date on all our activities by following us on Facebook or Instagram.

Visit our website for information and links on historical services, events, policies and more!

www.JordanStationUnitedChurch.org

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Ministry & Personnel Report

We pray that you and your loved ones are all safe during these Covid-19 pandemic times. Safe distancing, mask wearing and hand washing have become the mantra of the times.

We have much to thank God for! Led by Rev. Anita, God's Church has maintained a presence in our community and indeed the world. A big learning curve and long hours have ensured regular Sunday Worship and Children's Story Time. It has been a blessing to see our children and others as they appeared in Sunday Services on Facebook and YouTube to enhance our lives and bless us. So, to Rev. Anita, Pete Spiller, Marilyn Salmon, Joyce Brown, Carolyn Campbell, Sonja Saweczko, and all the Lay Readers, blessings to you for enabling us to be closer to God.

Children's Story Time, read by Rev. Anita, Pete and Aietch, have been great fun over the many Spring and Summer months giving children and adults a lighter look at life.

Creative Spirit Ministry with Carolyn Campbell enriches our lives weekly by letting our minds relax by breathing in God's love and breathing out His love to the community through the paint brushes in our fingers. Whether the painting is good or bad doesn't matter, the peace of mind the act of doing brings is the reward. New members are always welcome. Contact Carolyn at creativespiritministry@gmail.com.

Carolyn also enables the Zoom meetings of Sing & Chat for the choir - a fun time to get together virtually and enjoy singing and a friendly visit. New members are always welcome!

Hopefully these past few months you have seen the delightful additions to Worship that Sarah Foster adds to Sunday services by filming Sunday School segments on how to make "Smoes" snacks, fuzzy fun time, children in their own homes bringing greetings and so many more children related things which kept us all in touch with our young people - they grow up so quickly!

Sarah has also been busy raising much needed money for our Church. Under the guidance of Rev. Anita, she has organized several new fundraisers. I seem to remember they always contain music and food. A definite win-win for us all and a necessary revenue for the upkeep of our Church.

Behind the scenes, but definitely needed and relied on, is our Bookkeeper Chris Goertz; we thank her for her continued diligence in ensuring our bills are paid and our accounting work is done in a timely fashion.

In the Property Report you will read how our incredible Property Team and volunteers have been keeping our Church clean – inside and out - and preparing for when we can safely reopen in the future.

We are thankful to Pat Kearns for being Chair of M&P. His gentle leadership and problem-solving ability will be greatly missed as he steps down from M&P. We know he will continue to be a valuable participant in the community of our Church.

M&P needs people to participate on this interesting committee. If you feel like you want to contribute in this way, please contact Wayne Gibson (waynegibson2@hotmail.com) or 905-562-5912.

As always, we are so thankful for our many Volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain our Church and ensure we remain visible and an important part of our community. Thank you!

As we remember our many blessings, we wish you all a peaceful, Blessed Christmas Season.

Respectfully submitted by,
Pat Konkle, M&P



Be a joyful giver this Christmas Season!

There are many ways to give and help others:

The Village of Hope

Christmas Hamper Program:

- Support a Child: \$25
- Support a Senior: \$75
- Support a Family: \$250



Village of Hope

*Making a difference today,
for tomorrow.*

Food donations:

School snacks	Jam	Peanut Butter	Flour
Crackers	Tuna	Brown beans	Sugar
Cookies	Soup	Cereal	Coffee/Tea



Upper Deck Youth Centre

Volunteer or donate snacks for their after school program
Make a financial donation; funds greatly needed to support their programming.

United Church Mission & Service or Gifts with Vision

Order gifts or donate on-line: www.giftswithvision.ca

Cave Springs Camp Camping Program

or

Cave Springs Camp Legacy Project

Make a donation through Jordan Station United Church!
We are at \$9500 of our \$10,000 3-year Goal! Wouldn't it be great to reach our goal this year?



Caribbean Workers Outreach Program

2020 was an extremely difficult year for the workers; let's show them we care and get them off to a better start in 2021!



Ways to donate funds:

- Mail or drop off a cheque at the church
- Donate online at www.JordanStationUnitedChurch.org

Thank you! 

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