



Thursday 15th October 2020

Hi everyone:

As I've spoken to many people this past week, I've heard several stories of how Thanksgiving was so different from previous years. For some, Thanksgiving was still good and they were still able to have grateful hearts for the goodness of life. I learned of family Zoom calls, small gatherings of two or three, walks taken and a couple of us went sailing. Families found ways to connect. I also learned that several turkeys were thankful that because of small numbers, some were cooking a chicken instead.

This week, the U.C.W. (United Church Women) met for the first time since March 10th, 2020. They had two sessions - one in the morning and another in the afternoon, in order to keep to the maximum number of ten per group. It was good to see folk and have a sense of being connected. They have some great ideas about future events during this pandemic, so stay tuned as I'm sure we'll be hearing more from them soon.

Our Pastoral Care Visitor's team also met this week. They have continued to work hard to find ways to stay in touch with members of the congregation who live alone or are in retirement or nursing facilities. Colleen is working through the directory and reaching out to these folks. I try to keep in touch with those who are ill and struggling. We are both delighted when we learn that some of you are reaching out and connecting with each other. Truly, this is the work of Christ whenever we reach out to others, whether in our congregation or elsewhere. Thank you.

Since the reopening of our building, our St. Paul's Bell 'A' Peal choir continues to meet to rehearse their music. Victoria is working on a video recording of their music to be used sometime in our future worship services. We are so happy to have them back as well.

Today, as we send out this e-mail, we will have finished pre-recording the worship service for October 18th. In the afternoon, we are recording a virtual memorial service for Ruth Sutherland. Ruth, as you may recall, passed away on April 30th, 2020. She was a member of St. Paul's and was active in her previous United Church congregation before moving to Midland. I have fond memories of her participation in the Theological Studies Group. As it takes time to put all the various pieces of the service together, at this time I am not sure when it will be up and running and available to view, but we will let you know.

I have expressed our condolences to Julianna Shaw on the loss of her sister-in-law earlier in October. I also have expressed our condolences to Mary Vaillancourt on the loss of her nephew this past week. Please keep both Julianna and Mary and their extended families in your thoughts and prayers.

Unfortunately, our annual Auction of Talent and Beautiful Things, a very successful fundraiser for the church, has been cancelled once again due to COVID-19 until further notice.

Do take care. Please continue to get the word out that we are still worshipping on-line. If you find it valuable, please let others know. With the second wave of COVID-19 upon us this fall, we have not set a date for coming back to worship in the sanctuary.

Attached is our bulletin for this Sunday. Blessings,

Karen