

Thursday 10th September 2020



Hi everyone:

Once again, I am sending out our weekly update. This past week has been a chaotic one for our young families as well as for students, teachers, professors and all staff working in and for schools. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they work out the complications of returning to school in the midst of this pandemic. Discovery Kids will be starting again with Zoom worship at 9:30 a.m. to just touch base and connect with each other.

The big news for this week is that we have now had three volunteer and staff training sessions, as St. Paul's prepares for **re-opening our building on a limited basis effective Tuesday, September 15th**. Thanks so much to all these volunteers. **Starting next week, the church office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon**. You can call the church office during this time and speak to Louise or Karen at 705-526-6077. Louise Therrien, our church Administrator, will continue working from home in the afternoons on those days, as well as on Mondays.

On these mornings (Tuesday to Thursday), we will have volunteers at the church to welcome back folk who will be coming in for small group meetings or gatherings, with a maximum of 10. All gatherings must be scheduled in advance through the church office. When anyone enters the building, they will be required to wear a mask, sanitize their hands and socially distance. Our volunteers will advise you of our protocols and direct you to complete a health questionnaire. They will help escort you to your assigned room and answer any questions you might have. Furniture in the rooms has been set up to allow for social distancing and we are not permitted to move the furniture around. The Atrium washroom will be available for those who need it. The smaller washroom beside the Parlour is now designated for staff only. Every room as well as the Atrium will be sanitized frequently in order to keep us safe. **A special thanks to our Transition Steering Team who have worked endless hours to get us to this stage** and who are continuing to work on our behalf as we make our way through this.

The good news is that if you would like to come in on any one of those three mornings and just have quiet/prayer time in the sanctuary, that can be arranged. Please call the office during those morning work hours and arrange a time with Louise. The earliest time will be 9:30 a.m. and the latest will be 11:30 a.m. as the church office will close at 12 noon. Also, we are offering an opportunity for people who do not have access to the internet and our online worship service to come in during office hours and watch the service in the small meeting room. Again, please call the church office if you are interested in doing this or know of someone else who might be. Help us get the word out. Once we have had a chance to see how things go, we will be confirming plans for the next stage of our re-opening. For now, our worship services will continue to be online only.

We are excited to be offering the opportunity to get together on Sunday, September 28th after our online worship service. Come join us for a car rally and some fun! We will meet at the church at noon where you will be provided with a box lunch and get a chance to meet the other teams. This will be on the front lawn of the church, weather permitting. Then we will be off on our car rally to explore North Simcoe, with a list of places to find. We will return sometime around 3 p.m. for dessert and a chance to touch base. We are hoping you will bring a phone so that you can take pictures and we might be able to put together a short rally slide show later. This is a fundraiser and the cost is \$15.00 per person. Call or e-mail the church office and let us know if you are joining us!

Welcome back to Colleen Gareau, our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, who will be back to work this coming week after a well-deserved holiday break.

Thanks for continuing to watch our church worship services and getting the word out. We are exploring ways to stay connected and to meet our online worshippers who are new to us. We continue to be the body of Christ. COVID-19 will not stop us!

Blessings, Karen