

28 May 2020

Greetings my Friends,

I am writing today to connect and provide further updates.

I wish to remind everyone that the **church building is closed**. The only people to access the building are staff and the Property Team for security and safety.

As the Province begins to ease restrictions in phases, we have established a Re-Opening Team to work on a re-opening plan for the church building taking into consideration all factors and what will need to be in place, most importantly everyone's health and safety.

That being said, it is most likely that church buildings will not be in consideration for re-opening until a Phase 3 is reached. Based on how well Phases 1 and 2 are experienced may mean that Phase 3 may occur in September when it is anticipated that a second wave of infections will happen. If the scenario plays out in this way, the church building will remain closed and in person worship may not be possible until January 2021.

This potential is disconcerting. I am not saying this to alarm you. I am providing this possibility to prepare you for a 'worst case' event and also to address queries that the office has received about being back in the church building.

Heather and I continue to work remotely from home. Telephone and email messages are monitored if you contact us by phone or email and the mail is picked up at the Post Office.

I trust that one of the Spiritual Care Connectors has connected with you by phone as a check in and chat. Please connect with us by phoning the office if there is a need or concern.

A further update regarding finances:

- ✓ Finance and Stewardship Team continues to work with the Leadership Team and the Trustee Team monitoring the financial situation.
- ✓ We have made application for the government's emergency measures providing wage subsidies.
- ✓ We continue to monitor the United Church of Canada's direction concerning finances
- ✓ Monies as available have been transferred to the operating account
- ✓ Trustee Team is ensuring that funds that are held in trust can be available easily when necessary
- ✓ Further steps are being made to transition to a more electronic relationship with our bank including the possibility of e-transfers. Stay tuned!

'How can I continue to support Exeter United Church at this time?'

Thank you to those on the Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR)! If you wish to join, please contact us - we can walk you through the process.

And 'Thank You' to those of you who have mailed in financial contributions. Your loyal support is encouraging!

Other ways to support the ministry of the church:

- post-dated cheques
- 'Canada Helps' button on our website (exeterunitedchurch.ca)
- if your previous pattern was to give quarterly or yearly, maybe you want to consider giving now?
- continue to participate in Sunday 'offering'

Lastly, I must remind you that during this time the needs of the Exeter Community Food Bank, the Community Table and the

Street2Feet initiative continue. If you can, consider supporting them too!

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know!

Many blessings to each and every one of you. Thank you for all that you are doing to be safe and well. I so look forward to our next face to face meeting!

Blessings
Rev. Laurie

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