



Kanata United Church

March 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

In this time of great uncertainty, I want to assure you that your Community of Faith, Church Council, Ministry Personnel and staff team are continuing to provide worship and pastoral care, and continue to work on the governance and the mission of ministry of the church. To that end, your Chair of Council, Brian Linkletter and I, are providing you with up-to-date information as we navigate creative ways of being the Church.

Worship: Worship will continue to be held **remotely** each Sunday at 10:00 am. With the assistance of Al Quirt and the technology offered through Zoom, all of those with an email address will be able to link into our Sunday morning worship. At 9:45 am you will be able to link in, following the instructions that will be sent along to you each week through the e-brief, and take in a time of musical centering that will be offered by Josh. A modified Worship Service will begin at 10:00 am. Following worship, you will be invited to grab a cup of coffee or tea, stay on-line, click on the chat box, and connect with people you see on the screen. If you want to have a private conversation, click on the box marked 'private'. Private conversation will be seen only by you and those you add to your group. Needless to say this is new for all of us, so if you have any difficulties, please let us know by email at: office@kuc.ca and please put **WORSHIP** in the subject line so your email can be forwarded to the right team.

Pastoral Care: One of the many blessings of KUC is in the strength of our Pastoral Care Teams. If you need anything picked up, would just like to have a friendly chat, or wish to share a concern of yours or a concern for another, please just let us know. Your Pastoral Care Team continues to serve during this time. You are invited to email us at: office@kuc.ca Please put **PASTORAL CARE** in the subject line so your email can be forwarded to Wilma Free, our Pastoral Care Chair who will spring the team into action! If on the other hand, you were wanting to speak with me directly, you can email me directly at: cindycasey@kuc.ca or call my cell 613-697-3541.

Outreach: The quiet strength of our Outreach Team that holds up the life and work of our Community of Faith in the wider community, is uniquely situated to help us identify where additional financial contributions that you may wish to make during this epidemic, would be helpful. In addition to a decision made by Council to increase our Outreach budget by 50% to a total of \$10,500, and an agreement to revisit this should it be required, we encourage you to consider some of the suggestions Outreach will be making in the coming days. If this is something you would like to do, please email us at office@kuc.ca and please put **OUTREACH** in the subject line, and Penny Gelinas, Chair of Outreach or a member of the Outreach Team will be in touch.

Governance: For the duration of the pandemic emergency, KUC Council will meet more frequently, bi-weekly instead of monthly, so it can better support the work of our staff, committees, and volunteers who are helping our congregation and community during this crisis. At the most recent meeting, Council received recommendations from the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada.



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Council also reviewed our financial situation and agreed to use our reserve fund to increase support for local outreach, purchase technology to improve KUC's online worship services, and to cover normal expenses if needed, anticipating gaps that may occur in the originally budgeted envelope donations. Council confirmed that all Ministry Personnel and staff will maintain full employment benefits, including compensation, and will work from home until further notice. While our reserves are sufficient to sustain KUC during a prolonged emergency, Council is asking everyone who is not currently on PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance) to consider doing so – even if only for the duration of the epidemic. Alternatively, you are invited to make your weekly offering or special donation in this time of crisis through www.Canadahelps.org. The link to the CanadaHelps KUC page is <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/kanata-united-church/> and is also available on the our website: www.kuc.ca . If you would like to begin PAR please email at: office@kuc.ca and please put **PAR** in the subject line.

In closing, we want to take this time to thank each of you for your kind acts of support that we are already hearing about; thank you to those of you who have offered to run errands, pick up groceries and make a friendly phone call; and we want to thank each of you for your kind words of encouragement to the entire leadership team. Let us continue to hold each other prayer, reach out to one another by phone so we can engage in conversation, and remember that in this, we are not alone.

In Christ,

Cindy

Reverend Cindy M. Casey, MDiv, B.A, FLE

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian Linkletter, Chair of Council