St. Matthew's Matters!



David's Dialogue

Dear members and friends of St. Matthew's United Church,

As I write this, the wind is blustering outside my office window. Some of the trees have let go of most of their leaves today. I will enjoy riding my joy have all been put on hold. We will have to e-bike back home to Aurora over the amazing carpets of gold and crimson. It is my 37th day as minister of St. Matthew's.

It has been a very unusual start to a ministry. So far I have only seen half of you. Half of your faces I mean. Everything else is behind a mask. Opportunities to visit before or after service have been severely restricted. Nonetheless I have felt your warmth and welcome. And I have had some good conversations over the phone.

I hope you are enjoying worship in person or on YouTube. I'm very proud of the fact that St. Matthew's is one of a few United Church congregations offering both. Your feedback on the

service is welcome and important to me.

We will all be feeling the loss of our usual activities this fall and winter. Suppers, Bazaars, Christmas Carols and other things that bring us work hard to stay connected and positive. I invite your prayers for me and for all your friends at St. Matthew's.

Just as they are outside, the winds of change are blowing hard in our church. Over my time with you we will face those winds together. And in the same way the trees have left a wondrous carpet for me to bike home on, I am confident the Spirit will make a path for us.

I look forward to our ministry together and the unanticipated joys of our walk with Jesus.

Peace like a river.

Rev. David $\triangleleft \cdot || d || \supseteq \Delta \cdot \supseteq wahkohtowin$

Missed a service? Click on the underlined blue words to watch our Services starting Sept. 13th up to Oct.11th 2020

The Rev. David Kim-Cragg will be posting a copy of our service each week. If you've missed some of these, here is a list of the services to date. If you have an email, and do not get updates on things like this, please phone the office and let Melanie know your email address. Click on the link as shown underlined in blue.

- Rev. David Kim-Cragg introduces himself and his family to us. Click here for the video.
- Sept 13th: St. Matthew's United Church (SMUC) worship 13 Sept 2020 Stage 3 reopening service on "Strange Times". Sermon titled "Beginnings" - based on the Scripture of the Hebrews leaving Egypt with lessons on how to cooperate and live together during COVID.
- Sept. 20th: SMUC worship 20 Sept 2020 Sermon titled "Helpers"
- Sept. 27th: SMUC worship 27 Sept 2020 Sermon titled "Water from the Rock". The theme was on water and the stewardship of creation.

Editor: Doreen Coyne

- Oct. 4th: SMUC worship 4 Oct 2020 Sermon titled "Unusual Harvests"
- Oct. 11th: SMUC worship 11 Oct 2020 Sermon titled "Harvest of Joy"

Projects from your Outreach Committee

• Fill a Purse for a Sister Campaign: Deadline Nov. 15th

We invite you to join us to help women who are homeless. Please donate a new or gently used purse and fill it with some of the items listed below. For those who have a purse to donate but don't wish to fill it, or for those who have items for filling purses but no purse, we welcome those donations as well. We have placed a labelled box for your donations in the narthex and we will gladly accept your donations until Nov 15th. The

CEO team will fill empty purses as required and then send all the donations to the local drop off centre in early December. Thanks for your participation!

What to put in the purse:

- · feminine hygiene products
- tissues
- hand sanitizers
- reusable cloth face masks
- shampoo and conditioners
- · toothbrush and toothpaste
- hair brush
- · gloves, a hat, a scarf
- packaged and sealed lip balm and makeup
- · coffee shop gift card
- · notepad and a pen
- · whistle and/or flashlight



Fill a Purse for a Sister Campaign President/Founder Angel Freedman

Mitten Tree

We will be putting up the Mitten tree in early December.

We'll be distributing many of the mittens, scarves, and gloves before Christmas; the rest of the items will be distributed early in the New Year. Help us keep those in need warm this winter.

• Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child: Deadline by Nov. 15th



After much deliberation, and given our focus on the local "fill a purse for a Sister" campaign. we will not be running this Shoebox campaign for kids in 3rd world countries this Christmas. But if you do want to do a shoebox, we do have some available for your use. These can be taken to the drop off centre at the Valley View Alliance Church at 800 Davis Dr., in Newmarket. Contact Lorraine Milne at 905-862-2418 for more details. Drop-off dates: Nov. 16 10am - 4pm, Nov. 20 10am - 9pm, Nov. 21 10am - 2pm and Nov. 23 10am - 4pm. Alternatively drop them at our church on Nov 15th so we can deliver them for you.

Local Donation

We've donated a Loblaw's gift card to a single mother who lost all her belongings during the fire that raged on Weldrick in late July. Despite early assistance from York region's emergency social services and Red Cross, she is struggling to get back on her feet. She is now living with her children in a shelter in Newmarket. We wish her and her children well.

• Salvation Army Winter Coat Drive. Can you help? Deadline: end of October

They are looking for new and gently used winter coats for children, youth and adults. Donations can be dropped off at the Salvation Army at 55 Newkirk Ave until the end of October. For more information please call 905 737-0496 info@rhcconline.ca
Submitted by Doreen Coyne

Important Dates from the Worship Committee

October 25: Helen Smith will be in charge of the service as David will accompany his wife to an out-of-town preaching engagement that day.

November 1: Anniversary Sunday will be celebrated during our worship service.

November 15: Health Ministry Health & Healing service. This will not include the anointing aspect of the service due to COVID.

Christmas Services:

November 29: Advent 1 – Communion December 6: Advent 2 – White Gifts

December 13: Advent 3 December 20: Advent 4

December 24: Christmas Eve service

December 25: Merry Christmas everyone!

Note: No "Carols by Candlelight" service this year. But perhaps some additional music on Dec. 13 and during the Christmas Eve service—still TBD.

Submitted by Naomi Knight

Clinic info from the Health Ministry

The Health Ministry offers:

- Foot Care Clinics on the 2nd Wednesday from 9am to 1pm. Foot care is completed by a trained nurse and by appointment only. Call the church office to book (or cancel) an appointment asap at least 1 week in advance as appointment slots are limited due to COVID. You can also make future appointments at the time of a scheduled treatment.
- Blood Pressure & Therapeutic Touch Clinics are currently on hold.
- A survey will be done to gather information on how Covid has affected you and what you have learned about yourself as a result. This information will be used in summary form (no individual data released) during the Nov. 15th Health and Healing Service.
- Educational and fun activities offered online by retirement homes and our community partners will be posted by the Health Ministry on two Bulletin Boards one on the west side of the hallway leading to the hall and on the Narthex one which is opposite the sanctuary door in the narthex.

Submitted by Linda Alldred-Johnson

Recycling Continues

The plastics recycling program is back up and running again. It has been running for almost 2 years and the response has been great! Each month there is enough recycling to almost fill the back of my van. Thanks to everyone for recycling. BTW: They also take fabric and clothing regardless of its condition for recycling or donation.

Please continue to bring clean, soft, clear plastic and rigid Styrofoam to the church on the first Sunday of each month. Please see the notes, below, to ensure that everything that you bring is acceptable.

Notes:

- For ALL plastics you must use the 'finger test'; you MUST be able to poke your finger through the plastic or it can't be accepted.
- You can recycle Ziploc bags but you MUST cut off the zipper top and the plastic MUST pass the 'finger test'.
- The plastic MUST be clear; if the backing of the plastic is coloured, then it can't be accepted.
- Plastic MUST be soft; if it is 'stiff' or if it 'crackles' it can't be accepted.
- Styrofoam MUST be rigid. There is a newer, smoother, softer type of Styrofoam that is not rigid and it can't be accepted.
- Styrofoam plates and cups MUST have food removed; they can be stained but it must be rinsed clean.

What is soft plastic?

This is plastic that you can poke your finger through relatively easy ('finger test') such as:

- grocery, newspaper and dry cleaning bags
- bread bags turn inside out and shake out crumbs
- fruit and veggie bags that you tear off of a roll
- light plastic tablecloths give it finger test
- NO bubble plastic or plastic food wrap (Saran)

What is Styrofoam?

- Styrofoam cups rinse out
- clam shell hamburger containers
- meat and food trays black or white
- remove meat absorbent pads put these into your green bin
- plates & cups wipe off any food
- rigid Styrofoam packaging material
- NO Styrofoam "noodles" or "peanuts"

Submitted by Bertha Mohl

Please follow St. Matthew's United Church's **COVID Health Safety Guidelines**

Now that we are open again, there are several guidelines in place to ensure your safe return to church services. Seating will be limited based on both social distancing and a percentage of our normal capacity. Seating will be provided on a first come, first served basis. If you are not feeling well or have a new cough, cold, or fever, please stay home to protect yourself and your fellow congregants. If you are healthy and have not traveled outside of Canada, we look forward to seeing you!

You may want to come a bit early as it may take additional time to record attendance and seat everyone.

Upon entry to the church, you will be required to do the following.

- Wear your face mask and/or shield throughout the service and until you leave the building.
- Please keep 6 feet apart as you enter, exit and travel in the building.
- one just before you go to the pews.
- Take your coats with you into the church to avoid a Regards Your Board backup in the narthex

- Please do not sit in taped off areas and pews as these taped areas help to ensure appropriate social distancing. A family sitting together in a pew count as one group. Each group should be at least 6' from the next person or group within a given pew.
- Please place your weekly donation in the collection plate as you enter or leave. A collection plate will not be passed during the service.
- Note that there can be only one person in a washroom at a time. This applies to both multi-cubicle and single person washrooms.
- We are unable to sing our beloved Hymns out loud and cannot offer tea, coffee nor snacks after service.
- Please take some time to acknowledge other members you have not seen for awhile; but maintain appropriate social distancing. You are invited to bring a bottle of water with you to use during the service as needed.

Should the status of Covid-19 change for York Region, we will notify you of any resulting changes to our status. While this is a stressful time in our history, we are • Use the hand sanitizer at the front entrance or the thankful that we are able to worship and pray together once again.

A Covid Prayer: Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Taken in part from a prayer by the Sisters of IHM, Scranton, PA

LEEK SOUP: A Warm Recipe for Winter

Making the leek soup is very easy. You'll need 4 large well washed leeks (white and lighter green parts), 4 large potatoes, and chicken or vegetable stock. First

cook diced leeks in oil. When soft add diced potatoes. Cover with water and cook until soft. Then add 2 cups of stock. Let the soup cool, then put it through the blender. This recipe makes 4 or 5 meals for 2; you can make a less thick soup by adding more stock and thus getting more soup. Now fill plastic freezer containers ¾ full and stick a label with the date on the lid. Put these in the freezer. You can leave them as is or once the soup is frozen, usually the next morning, you can set the containers in hot water for a few minutes to loosen the soup from the container. Slip the frozen soup blocks into a medium sized freezer bag and reuse your containers for the next batch of produce, soups, or side dishes to be frozen. Recipe by Jennifer Pyke, used with her permission.



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