



St. John's United Church, 75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
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F: St. John's United Church, United Church of Canada

A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

April 9, 2021

Happy Easter!

I have to admit I was feeling nervous walking into worship on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Having many from the congregation back in person for these services was both exciting and different. Different in the sense that things aren't exactly the same as they used to be yet exciting in the sense that there was an energy in the sanctuary. The sacred music we heard at these services, the readings, and the Lord's Supper are all at the heart of what we are about as Christians. So whether you took part in person or online, I am grateful for the warmth of spirit we all shared.

For Easter Sunday we had ninety-six people present after a few sent regrets due to the stormy weather. Our threshold for seating with distancing is about one hundred people. We welcomed nine new members to St. John's (we made a cross with our fingers to say yes to the promises we make at such times). We handed out three Bibles to children who didn't get them in the fall (parents took photos as always!) We had communion with kits that kept us distant yet connected. (Mine didn't open quite the way it did when I used one to record the communion service for YouTube the night before BUT there is grace at the table and Jesus understood, I'm certain!)

It was EASTER! There was lots of applause, laughter, smiling, and we said the Lord's Prayer (albeit quietly) together for the first time in over a year. Also, we broadcast the service live on Facebook, which was watched 207 times. The recorded service posted on Youtube was viewed 205 times. Say what you will about this era: we have been able to reach more and more people. I'm not sure how that translates, yet; however, I'm grateful that people are able to be part of the worship life of the church in ways like never before.

I would like to let you know of a change in our approach to our worship life here. Beginning this Sunday, the service won't be "posted" as usual. It will be broadcast live on Facebook at 11am, where you will be able to watch it. To get to the church's Facebook page, go to www.StJohnsMoncton.ca and on the bottom left side of the screen you'll see, "Follow us on Facebook". Click the word "Facebook" and whether or not you have a Facebook account you will be able to see the page. (The video stays there too so you can watch it later.) Also, we will be uploading the service onto YouTube on Sunday afternoon if you prefer to watch it there. Each week with the Pastoral Letter we will be attaching a bulletin so you can follow along with the prayers and hymns. If you have any questions, call me!

I want to thank everyone who made the Good Friday and Easter services happen, from our music makers and readers to our volunteers. Thank you all for understanding that we are open within the limits of our WorkSafeNB operating plan meant to keep us all safe. That being said, I would like to

remind you all that mask wearing is a must. Masks cannot be worn around your neck, or under your nose. They have to be worn properly. Also, we ask people to remain in their seats, like at a restaurant. When it is your turn to exit the building an usher will let you know, so as to prevent a line up and crowding at the door. Remember: it's about keeping each other safe whether or not the numbers in our region are low or if you have been vaccinated, which I am happy to report over half of those attending on Easter Sunday morning have been!

God bless you all and thank you for your continued patience, support, and understanding.

The Rev. Aaron Billard
Minister



Announcements:

SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY IS ARRIVING IN MONCTON ON APRIL 16th, 2021!!

The United Codiac Refugee Committee will be welcoming a new refugee family to Moncton. Najah and her 4 daughters (7 to 14 years old) are Syrians who have been living in Lebanon for the past several years. They will arrive in Moncton on April 16th and will go straight into quarantine in their apartment for 14 days.

A small team has been working to prepare for the family's arrival. So far, the UCRC has a fully furnished apartment ready for the family and sufficient funds to support the family for their first year. Also, Najah has a brother-in-law and family who live in Moncton, who will be playing a key role helping her family settle in. However, we still need a few more volunteers to help support the family.

The following team has been in place for the past few months:

- Bob Adsett (Co-settlement chair),
- Claudia Schaerer (government liaison & forms... Note: Claudia has procedures in place to reflect Covid-19 public health recommendations for volunteers working with the family as well as translated versions for the family)
- Najah's Brother-in-law & family (support for daily living such as orientation to Moncton, shopping, transportation, translation, etc.)
- Penny Steeves (Financial support such as budgeting, banking, etc.),

We are looking for another Co-settlement chair to: help register the children in school and the mother into MAGMA English language training, teach the family about what community services are available and how to access them (i.e. medical, dental, pharmacy, etc.), schedule family members for appointments and coordinate with other volunteers to transport and accompany the family, coordinate with volunteers to arrange some outings and/or recreational activities for the family, etc.

We are also looking for volunteers to; transport family members to appointments; spend time socializing with Najah and her daughters to help them feel welcome in Moncton; help them practice their English and French (the girls will enroll in the French school system); and to organize outings and/or recreational activities for the family once a quarter.

If you know someone who might be interested in helping support Najah's family, please contact Bob Adsett (email: robertadsett@gmail.com, phone: 384-8266), co-chair of the Post-Settlement Team.

UCW GATHERING

All UCW members from all districts are invited to a Spring ZOOM gathering. We have had to put our Biennial on hold for two years now and we miss the connection. There will be a ZOOM gathering on April 19, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and you are invited. Check in at 9:30 a.m. to have a time of chatting and reconnecting before the real gathering starts. Invite your UCW bubble of friends. We hope you will be able to attend.

Meet our new MUCW President, co-vice Presidents, and second vice. We will have worship, a presentation on our UCW special project "Women for Change Zambia" by Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu, the 60th Anniversary celebration in Sydney, NS and more. No business just facts, fellowship and fun. If you wish to attend, please send a request for the Zoom details to: ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com

"See" you on the 19th!!!

THE "BAKELESS BAKE SALE" has become an annual event of the St. John's UCW. This is a very popular and highly successful project. Our little rhyme explains how it works, and we hope you will give it your support.

We appreciate any amount you may wish to donate. Please have all donations in by the end of June. Envelopes are located at the church entrance. If you use SJUC box offering envelopes, an envelope is in your box. If you use PAR, an envelope is in your PAR envelope packet. Place your donation in the offering box on a Sunday morning, mail or drop off in the mail slot.

*A lot of news we have to-day
A Bakeless Bake Sale is on the way.
In these busy days, who wants to bake
Pies and cookies - or even a cake?
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of materials, heat and time you have lost.
Cooking for a sale is extra work
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.
So we've thought of a plan that's really grand
And feel quite sure you will understand.
In this little envelope - just for our sake -
Please place the donation that you wish to make
Without fuss or bother, you've done your part
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart.
This is the end of our little tale -
Please wish us success with our
Bakeless Bake Sale.*



SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are available to students who have been active, and are currently participating, within the congregational life of St. John's United Church.

Applications are available by contacting the church office via email at sjuc@nb.aibn.com

Applications are to be returned by May 17, 2021 to the church by: email, dropping the submission into the mail slot in the door or by bringing it along with you on Sunday morning.

Henrietta Potter Scholarship is available to students currently in high school and pursuing first-year studies at a post-secondary educational institution in the upcoming year.

Robb Scholarship is awarded to students (children included) to further his/her studies in music. He/she is to be actively participating in formal music programs or music performances (i.e. choirs).

Charles E. Woodrow Memorial Music Scholarship is available to students currently in high school and pursuing first-year music studies at a post-secondary educational institution in the upcoming year.

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE at sjuc@nb.aibn.com if your email, mailing address, residence or telephone number changes.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH CARES... To notify the Minister of personal concerns, anxieties, illnesses, hospitalizations or deaths, or to pass along a prayer request, contact Rev. Aaron Billard at 858-8289 or sjucrev@gmail.com



In-person Worship – April 11, 2021

Registration is now open and closes on Saturday, April 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Here is the link to register to attend:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/april-11th-second-sunday-of-easter-tickets-148443475431>

(The link changes every week.)

In-person Worship – April 18, 2021

Registration opens Sunday, April 11th at 12:00 p.m. and closes on Saturday, April 17th at 5:00 p.m.

Here is the link to register to attend:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/april-18th-third-sunday-of-easter-tickets-148916229451>

(The link changes every week.)

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Have you watched our **online Worship**? If not, join us every week online using one of the links below:

via our Church website - <http://www.stjohnsmoncton.ca>

via our Church Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>

via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNHB60ajQtwsf7-vCfXGHBw>