



The Voice of Saint Andrew's

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Onsite Worship Starts on Thanksgiving!

Details Inside

A Word from Shannon....

Don't forget to count your blessings, they say. Wise advice indeed! I have so many things to be grateful for. At the top of that list is the blessing I feel in being your minister. Starting this ministry together, even if during these unprecedented times, has been wonderful. I want to say a HUGE thank you for the lovely worship where we covenanted together to work for God's mission in this world. A special thanks to the Search committee for putting it all together with the support of Fay Smith. It felt very special to be "official" now. It was deeply meaningful.

As we attempt to find ways to be Church during a world-wide pandemic, we must be patient with each other. None of us have done this before... we are in uncharted waters. Please know that your various leadership teams are working hard to meet the needs of our whole diverse community of faith. We are open to your suggestions and feedback as we forge ahead! We are excited to offer an in-person worship on Oct 11th: Thanksgiving in addition to our online worship (which is going to continue at this time).

For our Thanksgiving service I would like to focus our prayer on things that YOU, the congregation, are grateful for.

Please email me a little write up on what you are grateful for and an accompanying photo if you have it

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the diverse ministries. I believe when we share what we have (time, talent, treasure) we will have enough to continue doing the important things for our community and world.

I have been slowly getting to meet StA folks! Thank you to all of you who have welcomed me onto your deck. I will continue to make visitation a priority. I have also connected with the young people who wait for the school bus outside our doors. We had a heated trivia contest one morning. I will try to come in early to hang out with them once a week! I also we very thrilled to meet several of our young families at a Spirit Quest "reunion" Pizza party at the park! Hopefully restrictions will continue to loosen and we will have more opportunities to gather in person.

If you would like to text, chat, or have a visit please do not hesitate to be in touch with me:

revshannonmaclean@gmail.com, cell 902-221-6449 and my office 902-893-3911

Blessings, Shannon

.and From Fay

"As Easter people full of faith and hope, we must be open to new ways because nothing stays the same"....part of a prayer I used at a Council meeting. With 2020 events, there were some challenges and but looking at the glass half full, there were may blessings and opportunities as we were able to create and adjust to the big changes from Covid-19. Bless those that know technology and share that gift!!

Welcome to Shannon and her family as they begin a new journey with St Andrew's.

I wish to thank St Andrew's for the privilege of serving and working with you folks this past 4+ years. Thank you so much for the gift and to Deanna for her kind words. I will keep many memories from St Andrew's.



Relaunching Services at Saint Andrew's

Enter via the **Duke St.** entrance.
A greeter will meet you



Forms, clean pencils. masks and hand sanitizer



**Single file!
Social Distance!**



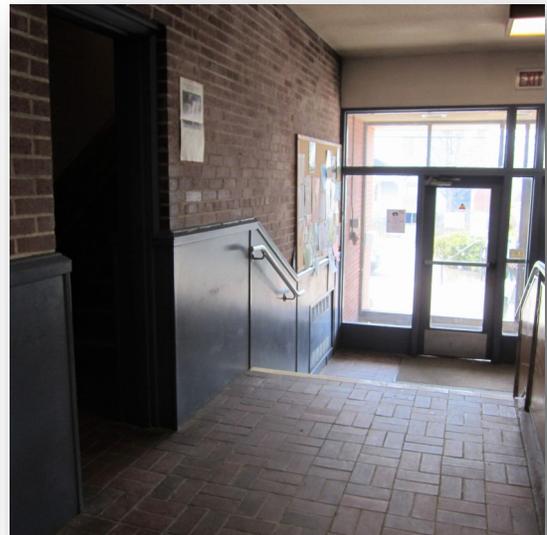
Ushers assist you to find seat...



.and show you to it



Masks to be worn throughout



All Exit via King Street

Re—Entering Our Worship Space....

As a community of faith we continue to try and balance our mission to be inclusive, while meeting the needs of our diverse community during this time of a world-wide pandemic.

Our congregational survey demonstrated that about ½ of our congregation is anxious to return to our sanctuary for worship and ½ are more comfortable continuing to be the Church outside of the building.

So we have decided to offer both in-person and online worship opportunities, and also to welcome back the Spirit Quest group beginning **Oct 11th!**

We need to follow NS directives, which will evolve, in order to ensure we keep everyone safe. People of all ages must fill out an individual form to ensure no one enters with any Covid-19 symptoms. The form is also for contact tracing, thus meeting the government directive. These forms will be emailed and can be printed and filled out in advance or alternatively, we invite you to take a number for future weeks.

The following are the regulations we will follow at St Andrew's:

1) **School aged Spirit Quest (SQ)** young people will go immediately downstairs to Fullerton Hall for their Christian education program, entering in through the **King Street** door.

SQ members are to wear **masks**, **sanitize** their hands upon arrival and present the SQ leaders with a filled out form.

2) All coming to worship in the **sanctuary** are asked to enter through the **Duke Street Entrance**. Please wear **masks** and **social distance** when waiting to enter the building.

3) Inside the Duke Street door, each person is asked to use **hand sanitizer** and fill out a **form**.

4) People are asked to **wait**, in their **family bubbles**, on the **yellow tape** markers until it is their turn to meet with the **usher**. **Please keep your outside coat with you**.

5) **Inside the Sanctuary** doors, each person gives the usher their form, and receives a bulletin. They are then free to find a seat. Please only sit next to people in your bubble.

6) **Masks** and **social distance** are required **throughout** the service.

7) Once worship is over, people are asked to **exit** through the **King St Exit**.

8) **Spirit Quest** members will also exit this way.

We thank you in advance for following these regulations so that we can be safe and start to worship in-person again! See you soon!

SHORT SNAPPERS....

St. Andrew’s in Action

Kudos to Shannon and Ken Henderson who extended St. Andrew’s hospitality to Truro Junior High School students on September 8th, their first day back at their school since March 13th.

As students arrived to wait for their bus near our Duke St. entrance, Shannon greeted each student with a huge smile and reassuring words as she offered a small snack treat from the basket of goodies on her arm.

Ken also welcomed the students and a few accompanying parents. (As of this school year, TJHS students are in Grades Five to Eight, and CEC students are in Grades Nine to Twelve.) Ken outlined expectations for sharing our space responsibly and also wished the students a great year.

Ed note: Shannon has met with them a few times since—even had a trivia contest!
She hopes to spend time with them regularly



Thanksgiving Decorations & Food Bank.....



It has always been our practice to decorate the front of our Sanctuary with food from the harvest. If you have something to donate, please drop it off to the church 8-12 M-F and Sigrid will make our space a feast for the eyes! Some suggestions are fall vegetables, fruit such as apples, squash, pumpkins, preserves, pickles etc.

All donations will be shared to the food bank following our service!

The food bank is accepting donations and can be dropped off on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays between 9:00 AM & 4:00 PM.

Since we are beginning our live services here at St. Andrew’s we are once again going to do our Food Bank Sunday the third Sunday of each week.

Affirm United - Open Hearts and Minds Committee

Greetings from the Committee and thank you for what you do every day in your life to advance the important elements of inclusion.

I am pleased to let you know that **Joanna Burris** has agreed to become chair of the “Affirm United - Open Hearts and Minds Committee” and to thank her for the energy and expertise she will bring to this part of our Church. and everyday lives.

Trinkie Coffin



Christian Development

We are excited to get back to St. Andrew's and discover our new 'normal'!

Spirit Quest

SQ held a Pizza Picnic Party at Riverfront Park on Friday, September 18th. It was a super event! There were 30 people and two well-behaved dogs in attendance.

It was a great chance to meet Shannon and her family, to catch up on friendships, and to think about getting back to St. Andrew's.

Spirit Quest will be meeting in person on Sunday, October 11th...more details will be on our SQ Facebook page and through emails, so stay tuned!

There are also discussions about starting a ***Youth Group!***

Scouts, Cubs & Beavers (3rd Truro)

Scouts is outdoors only, meeting in two cohorts so they are limited to the number of kids they can accept. Their first meeting was on September 23rd, outdoors, and they will alternate being outdoors and being online.

Cubs and Beavers will no doubt be doing the same thing, but at the time of printing, they had not had their first meeting.

Brownies and Sparks

Both of these groups must meet outdoors until at least after New Year, 2021. Here is a lovely letter from the Sparks:

Hello St. Andrews United,

Greetings from the 1st Truro Sparks. At our first gathering, the Sparks talked about missing the comfortable setting of the church. This fall we have had our first two meetings outside, and will continue to do so until the New Year. So far, the weather has been cooperating and we have had a lovely time getting to know each other.

Our unit is full! We have six girls, all at the second year Spark age. This means that next year they could all jump up to Brownies! We have done experiments to learn about germs and the best way to get rid of them from our hands. We have learned more about Orange Shirt Day (orangeshirt.org) and discussed what their slogan "Every Child Matters" means to us. We have read books, practiced our promise, I Promise to Share and Be A Friend, and have essentially continued on in Guiding.

Thank you for your support and keeping us in your thoughts. We hope things work out to meet you again at the church. 1st Truro Sparks will keep you posted about upcoming outdoor Chocolatey Mint Cookie selling events. Keep \$5 in cash handy!

***Sending you our biggest Spark thanks,
1st Truro Sparks***

LOGC Congregational Conservation Contest

The Local Outreach & Global Concerns (LOGC) committee is interested in what the members of our congregation, as individuals, are doing to help the environment. We want your help in passing the things you do (or don't do) on to others, so they can do (or not do) them as well. Be it: sorting of your trash for recycling; picking up your groceries in reusable bags; maintaining your own compost; turning off your car engine rather than idling when stopped for a train or parked; turning your furnace down in winter and/or air conditioner up in summer; or leaving your car in the yard and walking or biking. Or maybe it is something bigger like installing solar panels to reduce the use of fossil fuel generated power or purchasing an electric car.

Tell us your story (we will keep it anonymous if you like). We want to create an information package to help others "help the environment". And we are willing to reward you for your help (although in our opinion, there is no greater reward for the things you do than the knowledge that you are helping future generations). We will be selecting the winning entries by random draw and awarding prizes of driftwood candle holders.

To enter the contest, send your submissions by e-mail to the LOGC through Janice at the Church Office

officestandrews@eastlink.ca or drop off a paper copy.



Moderator's Letter to the Prime Minister & Opposition Party Leaders

If you saw our September 27 service, you heard Shannon reference this document in relation for the scripture that day. Matthew 20: 1-16

May 22, 2020

Dear Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Morneau:

Subject: COVID-19 Pandemic and a Universal Basic Income program

Greetings from The United Church of Canada.

As the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, I want to thank your government for the pandemic relief programs it has announced over the past months, including the CERB. Some of these programs are scheduled to end in July but the ongoing effects of the pandemic will be felt by many Canadians, especially vulnerable Canadians, for a long time.

On behalf of the United Church, I write to encourage you to seize this moment, which has included encouraging examples of cross-party and jurisdictional cooperation and build on the positive experience of the CERB. Now is the time to roll out a Universal Basic Income program in collaboration with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous leadership. It is my belief that our collective experience as Canadians during COVID-19 presents a vital opportunity. Drawing on Canadians' realization that poverty can happen very quickly to anyone, together we can take important steps to protect the health and safety of all Canadians going forward.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized our interconnectedness to one another across this country. As

a church we seek to care for and uplift human dignity and spirit from birth through death. Across the country, United Church faith communities and social justice and community outreach ministries are involved in supporting people living in poverty every day through a variety of programs. Since 1972, The United Church of Canada has advocated for Guaranteed Annual Income as a method of insuring economic security for all persons in Canada that is more equitable and less expensive and complicated to administer than the numerous government support programs presently available. Since then, national and international studies and programs have shown that Universal Basic Income is both affordable and has beneficial effects in the areas of health, justice, education, and social welfare, among others.

I encourage you now to move forward and work with provinces, territories, and Indigenous leadership to develop and implement a Universal Basic Income program that provides an adequate living level for everyone and addresses the persistent inequities that exist within the present wage and social benefit structures of our country. Indigenous members of the United Church have reminded us of how structural inequities continue to particularly disadvantage Indigenous peoples. They have reported barriers to accessing programs designed to help Canadians through the pandemic crisis. Accordingly, it is critical that a Universal Basic Income program be designed to ensure both the application and payment processes facilitate participation by all Indigenous peoples, particularly those living in remote communities. I urge you to build a program that is universal, preserves human dignity rather than creates stigma, removes discriminatory barriers, does not penalize people for the work that they do, and is available with a minimum of bureaucracy.

The people of the United Church of Canada look for your leadership in this area and see this as part of the national fabric of services that preserve and protect Canadians, or, as Jesus put it, to help all of us to "love your neighbour as yourself."

Wishing you grace and peace in your daily duties during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely yours,



The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

Response from Garth...

I asked Dr. Coffin to respond to the Moderator's message from his point of view as an economist:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Moderator's letter to the federal Government supporting and asking for leadership on the creation of a guaranteed basic income for all Canadians

Generally speaking, I am not a fan of the church prescribing or pronouncing on economic policy of government, but this is a policy which has such broad economic and social implications that it is quite appropriate for the Church to have and communicate a position on it.

Moreover, it is something the church has supported for some time, so it should be made public as you are doing.

I believe that the concept of a guaranteed basic income is not well understood and does not mean the same to everyone so it should be publicised and discussed to achieve a broader understanding.

To conclude, I must confess that I find the concept of a guaranteed basic income a promising approach to addressing the growing disparity of income and persistence of poverty in Canada. The moderator's letter informs government and the public of where the leadership of the Church stands on turning the current Covid 19 income measures into something more permanent.
Respectfully, Garth Coffin

Affirm United, Open Hearts & Minds

Greetings from the Committee and thank you for what you do every day in your life to advance the important elements of inclusion.

I am pleased to let you know that Joanna Burriss has agreed to become chair of the "Affirm United - Open Hearts and Minds Committee" and to thank her for the energy and expertise she will bring to this part of our Church and everyday lives.
Trinkie Coffin