

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

To the People of God at Trinity United Church, Huntsville



Greetings in the name of our Creator from Murray Rounding. Grace and Peace to you.

It is very strange being at the church and not having the usual steady parade of friends and church family members wandering past my office door and popping their heads in to say "Hi." I don't always think about how important your kind smiles and greetings are until they are no longer there. And it was very strange preaching to an empty Sanctuary, except for Will Gibson, to create the YouTube video which is now available for you to watch if you wish.

I want you to know that Trinity Church is still here and that, in a very modified and limited way we are continuing to do Christian Ministry the best way we can under the circumstances. As you know, your Council made the wise decision to close the church about 10 days ago. This closure will remain in place until we can be sure that it is safe for us to re-open.

Your Council met on Monday, March 23rd, using the internet, to discuss matters at hand. We are committed, at present, to continue functioning as best we can. Although Suzy will not be working in the church office, she will continue to pick up emails and phone messages which come to the church, and she will continue to manage the administrative tasks that require her time and attention.

Your Pastoral Care Team, with the guidance of Karen Hamra, will continue to do pastoral care on behalf of Trinity using telephone and other appropriate means of electronic communication. The team has also accepted the task of relaying any emailed communications from the church, to those who do not have email. I encourage everyone to be mindful of those people who live alone or who may have issues that make it difficult, inadvisable or impossible to get the food or drugs they require for living. And remember, a short phone call, just to say, "I'm thinking of you and is there anything you need", can be life-saving.

Your Transition team continues to work on your behalf as well. We will be having an electronic meeting this week to produce an initial draft of a Vision Statement for Trinity. That statement will then be distributed to the entire Council for their input. Using that input the Transition Team will then distribute the revised draft statement to you for your input. The team hopes that you will give the statement very careful consideration, that you will offer your input freely, thoughtfully and constructively so that we can make this Vision Statement a true representation of where Trinity is going and why we are going there. It will be this statement that guides our decisions for future goals and objectives.

I continue to work from my office at the church. I will be preparing a weekly worship service for you with the help of Will Gibson and Johnny Langille. This service will be videoed and then uploaded to YouTube. A link to these videos is on the homepage of Trinity's website. The plan is to do the taping on Fridays and then have it available by Saturday.

Of course, the expenses of doing ministry continue which means we need your thoughtful financial support to continue. Giving through PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance) is a very good way of making a donation and a call to Suzy can set that up. During this time of closure, you can also make a donation using an E-transfer. Again, a call to Suzy, on the church phone number can set that up. You can also use Canada Post to mail your offering to the church and Suzy will pick it up. Please see Trinity's website 'Support Us' for all these options and more. Thank you for your continued support.

Remember, you are all in my prayers as we journey together through this highly unusual and difficult time. A friend of mine gave me a plaque as an ordination gift. I read it every day. It says: "The Will of God will not take you where the Grace of God cannot keep you". I believe that and try to keep it in front of me all the time, especially when we are in the midst of this great unknown. God has us on the GPS: God Positioning System; we are there together. Please keep all of your Trinity Family in your prayers.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

The Rev. Murray Rounding