

September 2020

THE  **Britannian**
BRITANNIA UNITED CHURCH

985 Pinecrest Rd., Ottawa, ON K2B 6B4

Telephone: 613-828-6018

Web site, Facebook, and Twitter links:

<http://www.britanniaunitedchurch.ca/>

Peter Bain, Editor newsletter@brituc.ca

Leigh Bain, Assistant Editor

Editorial

Welcome back, sort of

You may be wondering why the newsletter is coming out so soon. We are putting out a special issue because we have good news: Britannia United is planning to re-open on September 27, but cautiously. A friend sent me this:

People keep asking: "Is coronavirus REALLY all that serious?" Well, the churches and casinos are closed. When Heaven and Hell agree on the same thing, it's probably pretty serious.

We don't know when in-person services will start again, but the COVID-19 Response Committee has been working on how we will keep the congregation safe when we do. In the meantime I have been enjoying the video services available on the [church website](#); I hope you have been too.

Peter Bain
Editor

p.s. We are having trouble with the newsletter e-mail address, so I apologize if I didn't include your contribution.

Minister's Message

Wow, what do I say? It's been six months since we have worshipped together in our beloved, Britannia United Church. I simply can't put into words how much I have missed everyone; the worship, the communion, the coffee time conversations, the handshakes and hugs at the door, and I can't yet imagine what it will be like when we head back to church on the 27th (we hope!), only 30 people, no hugs or handshakes, no coffee time, no conversations*, no communion.

What are we left with? We're left with worship. There will be no singing, but there will be music. There will be no sharing our joys and concerns out loud, but there will be prayer. There will be no physical interaction, but there will be the presence of the Spirit. It will feel very different, but there will be some elements that will remain the same.

Most of the congregation will still be worshipping from home, and even that will change: instead of recording the services ahead of time, from home, the services will be recorded live and uploaded once they are done. For those who have been watching at the same time as our regular worship each Sunday, it will mean a delay but you will still be able to see them on Sunday.

Change is hard. It is one of the most challenging things that we face and in the midst of so many changes, we depend on the church to remain the same: our place of refuge and our strength.

But when you think about it, the church has always been in the midst of some sort of change. From Jesus redefining how the Word of God is interpreted, to the vast array of Bibles, prayer books and hymnaries, through all the changing fashions: dresses, hats, gloves, three-piece suits, robes, stoles, choir gowns; t-shirts, jeans, and even shorts on the minister! Our notions of who can be married, who can be a minister, and how membership is defined, all in the context of our evolving understanding of theology, have all changed. But one thing has remained the same.

Our God is truly eternal and unchanging. All the things that surround God in worship...the clothes, the prayers, the hymns, the ideas about theology, membership, inclusion: these are all created as we try our best to honour and worship God, and they change as the movement of the Holy Spirit nudges us ever closer to God's heart and mind. So yes, there will be changes as we return to church, but I don't doubt for a moment that God will be with us and that these changes will open us up to new roads on our journey of faith, that will lead us ever closer to God's presence and God's grace. So let us embrace that Spirit and get started! I look forward to being on this journey with you!

Lots of love and virtual hugs!

Rev. Jim

** No problem! We're a quiet and shy bunch anyway :-)* ed.

From the Music Director

These past 6 months have been full of change and adaptation!

We have also been offered an opportunity to find new ways to worship and connect.

Our online services have become a unique opportunity for choir members to share their talents. Those who have recording capabilities have provided lovely offerings which have contributed not only to the life of our congregation but to the experience of anyone listening in on a Sunday morning.

I am looking forward to seeing some of you in person with the reopening on the horizon. Since we are not able to sing in person yet, I welcome contributions of recorded songs from congregation members. Please let me know if you are interested in participating by recording a musical offering! Do you play a non-wind instrument? We'd love to incorporate your talents to our in-person services!

Despite that we are experiencing music in different formats, I am grateful that we are still able to find ways to use music to enrich our spiritual experience. May you all find that music is healing and encouraging to you during this time.

Britannia Woods Community House (BWCH) Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who placed donations of food in the collection box at the entrance to the church. They were appreciated. It is no longer practical to accept them and deliver them to BWCH.

Food for the Pantry arrives on Mondays from the Ottawa Food Bank. As many of the programs of the house have been cancelled, permanent staff help sort the food. Clients using the food pantry phone to make an appointment to arrive and pick-up food Tuesday- Friday. People arrive one at a time.

Given how close together people live in the Britannia Woods Community and other low income areas close to the church, they have done a great job of not having a COVID-19 outbreak.

The Ottawa Food Bank is seeing an increasing demand. When schools closed in March, many children were left without school breakfast, lunch, or after school programs.

No paycheque means many of Ottawa's most vulnerable family simply don't have the money to buy groceries and meet other needs.

Cash gifts contribute to the \$1.6 million dollars' worth of food the OFB would choose to purchase this year – items that cannot be donated such as eggs milk, other proteins like fish, fresh fruit and vegetables. Please consider your hungry neighbours!

The web page for the Ottawa Food Bank (OFB) has the option to donate cash. The address to mail a cheque is: 1317 Michael St., Gloucester ON K1B 3M9. Tax receipts are issued.

Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

Since Britannia United Church closed its doors to the Congregation on March 16, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, much activity has occurred in and around the building to care for the Church property.

The Committee of Stewards is mandated by the Council of Britannia United Church to ensure that all property is maintained. To fulfill this responsibility, the Committee relies on a number of loyal, hard-working volunteers for their contributions of time and effort. It wishes to express its appreciation to all of those individuals: Don Jackson, Verne Bruce, Dianne Tupper, Roelie Jackson, Heather Wallace, Kelvin Stanke, Norm Toone, Mary Lou Farrell, Daniel Moisan and Melissa McEwen.

As a member of Stewards, Don is the Church's Property Manager. In this role, he ensures the upkeep and repair of the Church buildings and land, all related systems (electrical, water, sewer and heating), equipment and appliances, and the parking lot. Everything that Don tackles, he does so with business acumen, a critical eye for getting a good deal, a strong desire to save the Church money and a focus on value for money.

In addition to completing day-to-day tasks (e.g. overseeing snow and ice removal, dealing with a leaky roof, adjusting and reinstalling doors, replacing windows), this spring and summer, Don researched and directed the installation of new flooring in the large room in the basement. Verne organized a volunteer team to remove and replace all the furniture and articles. It was a huge job which greatly enhanced the professional appearance of the Mindware Academy classrooms located there.

In addition, when the Church's two boilers and hot water tank were red-tagged in June indicating that they had critical issues requiring immediate servicing to ensure their continued safe operation, Don managed a project to replace the boiler system, as well as the hot water tank. This project was concluded below budget and ahead of schedule. It had to be completed in August before Mindware Academy reopened its doors in September.

When the COVID-19 Response Committee decided to transform the emergency door to the west of the Church's main door into an entryway when the Church reopens, Don was tasked with making it safe. He built a new step, installed a railing and laid patio stones for a walkway.

Future projects include repairing a section of the roof and the steps by the flower beds leading to the Church.

While Don was very busy with several major building improvement projects, others were working to improve the overall appearance of the Church. Kelvin is heading a project to replace the faded Church sign at the roadside.

In order to create floral beauty outside the Church, Dianne and Roelie planted geraniums and grasses in the front and side flower beds. Heather and Norm did the weeding, while Norm watered the plants.

Norm is an invaluable volunteer in and around the Church. He mows the lawn, weeds the play area, fills parking-lot potholes, brings in and sorts the mail, takes out the garbage, moves furniture and does many other jobs, too numerous to enumerate.

And the interior of the Church has never looked better! Mary Lou steam cleaned the carpets and fabric chairs, as well as the furniture in the Minister's office. The Custodian, Daniel, stripped, cleaned and waxed all of the floors on the main level and in the basement. As well, he deep cleaned all rooms, including the Administrator's office and kitchen.

Throughout all of these activities, Verne manages and monitors the security of the Church property. He ensures that the security system is working and that the alarm is correctly armed and disarmed. He is also the "keeper of the keys." If you want to get into a locked room in the Church, Verne has the key to do it! He is a dedicated and committed volunteer who carries out all of his activities conscientiously.

And our Office Administrator, Melissa McEwen, monitors all the comings and goings into and out of the Church. To limit the number of people at any one time and to track contact data for those present in the Church, she maintains a calendar of this information.

The Church, inside and out, has never looked more tidy and spotless. The proverb "cleanliness is next to godliness" expresses the idea that those who are pure and wholesome are close to God. As the Church prepares to reopen during these uncertain times, let us feel that God is near.

Helen Hutcheson, on behalf of the Committee of Stewards

Our Sympathies

Our thoughts are with Marilyn Bruce on the death of her sister Verla Levere on August 20, 2020.

Secretary of Council

As Chair of Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wendy Gallant for her tireless and faithful recording of our Council minutes during our often-lengthy Council meetings, in addition to everything else that you threw yourself into. Wendy, you were always a cheerful presence and you will be missed at our meetings!

With that, I would like to put out the call for a volunteer to be our Council secretary. We meet 5 times a year, plus are involved in the Annual General Meeting.

Barry Meredith
Chair of Council



If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend whom you hate.

Nikka (age 6)

Transplant

Transplant is a TV medical drama which was featured on CTV in the spring of 2020. The story is about two young Syrian refugees, a brother and a sister, transplanted to Toronto. He is a trauma surgeon in his homeland and is responsible for his young sister, Amira, of about 13. They arrive in Canada with nothing. Both their parents were doctors and died working in a hospital that was bombed. Both children often experience episodes of PTSD (post-traumatic stress syndrome). Bashir, the oldest, is working in a middle-eastern restaurant when a truck comes crashing into the place, severely injuring patrons and staff.

This is where Bashir's training kicks in, as people are almost dying around him and he is also injured. He rescues many victims, including a person with a severe brain injury using a power drill to release pressure on the brain! Needless to say, a series of events eventually lead to Bashir encountering the same person again, and the person turns out to be one of the head doctors at a nearby hospital.

The doctor, Dr Bishop, decides to review Bashir's qualifications and hire him on trial, against much official objection, as a trauma resident. The series then follows the lives of Bashir and his sister and the doctors and nurses within the hospital.

Interestingly enough, the star of the show is played by a young Canadian actor, Hamza Haq, of Pakistani descent from Saudi Arabia who grew up in Ottawa and attended D.A. Moodie high school and Carleton University in Ottawa. As well, the show is set in Toronto and filmed in Montreal. It has been renewed for a second season and will appear on CTV and NBC.

The show's story reminds us of the Syrian family that Britannia United helped settle in Canada starting in 2016, and of their journey for survival here. Rim, the mother, was a gynecologist-obstetrician in Syria, but has now managed to retrain as a midwife and find employment in Kingston. Her husband Abboud and sons Jack and Christian, who had stayed behind in the Ottawa area, joined her again in Kingston in July 2019. It is a joy to have been a part of her and her family's success in Canada.

Don Cullen

How to deal with squirrels

A band of squirrels had become a problem in a neighbourhood.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The church put a water-slide on the baptistry hoping the squirrels would drown. Unfortunately the squirrels knew how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So they trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

But the Catholic church baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Putting the “Team” into the “Work” to Safely Reopen our Church

“If you take out the team in teamwork, it’s just work. Now who wants that?” This quote by Matthew Woodring Stover, an American fantasy and science fiction novelist, best known for his four Star Wars novels, applies to Britannia United Church’s COVID-19 Response Committee.

This Committee was created in June by the Church Council. Over the summer, the Committee “worked” very hard putting in long hours conducting research, discussing options and solutions in online meetings, and creating plans and communication tools. However, it added “team” to this “work” to create success.

Key to this success was a common understanding of the group’s vision: to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among members and adherents of the congregation, staff, contractors, volunteers, and the public, while safely reopening the Church. Our mission was to develop measures to mitigate many of the risks associated with the virus. We accomplished this through a strong focus on certain core values:

- Compliance: We followed the requirements the United Church of Canada, public health and government authorities in a disciplined fashion.
- Integrity: We were consistent in what we said we would do and what we accomplished.
- Collaboration: We worked together towards a shared vision.
- Excellence: Every product and service we produced was created with quality in mind.
- Stakeholder Focus: We worked to understand and meet the needs of the congregation, staff, contractors and volunteers, to communicate with them, and to consider their feedback.

Our team consisted of a group of individuals representing various committees of the Church, the support and participation of which was needed if the Committee was to achieve its vision and mission.

The COVID-19 Response Committee consisted of:

- Mary Lou Farrell (Ministry and Personnel, Christian Development)
- Helen Hutcheson (Stewards, Sunday School)
- Diane Houston (Pastoral Care)
- Melissa McEwen (Office Administrator)
- Barry Meredith (Church Council)
- Heather Wallace (Worship and Music, Ministry and Personnel, Stewards)

Each of the members brought a unique set of competencies to the Committee.

Mary Lou chaired all of the Committee meetings. She projected confidence, understood the priorities of the team and encouraged fresh, innovative ideas. She ensured that every aspect of a topic was thoroughly examined. She was knowledgeable about the work to be done and contributed her in-depth knowledge of COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting protocols. She connected with the Custodian and the volunteer who is in the facility daily to ensure that their needs were met and that the Custodian clearly understood the important role that he plays in

the current environment. To everything that she undertakes, Mary Lou brings the ability to collaborate, network and consult.

Helen acted as the Committee secretary. With her strong organizational skills, she coordinated all the online meetings, and drafted detailed agendas and minutes which captured the essence of each discussion. She also contributed her writing skills to the team, holding the pen on the Plan for Reopening Britannia United Church and the Plan for Reopening Britannia United Church to Tenants, Renters and Community Groups.

Diane, with her analytical skills, developed a demographic profile of the Church's population. She was instrumental in ensuring communications with the congregation by proposing, designing and drafting a reopening fact sheet, making telephone calls to regular attendees without email and recruiting volunteers. Her fresh points of view and her critical eye brought quality to the Committee's work.

Melissa was an invaluable member of the team. With her ability to analyze and synthesize information, she clarified many issues for the group. She contributed graphic depictions of the Church's demographic profile, drafted email communications to the Congregation, liaised with the Eastern Ontario and Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC), provided financial information when needed, revised documents and assisted with the production of a training video and reference cards. Melissa was responsible for producing the one-page reopening fact sheet, complete with graphics. Always ready to collaborate and assist others, she developed the EventBrite registration, self-assessment and contact tracing process which is essential to the reopening plan. Melissa is also the first point of contact for the Church's tenant, renters and community groups. In support of the Rental Steward, she redrafted the terms and conditions for renters, and finalized the lease agreement with the tenant. We could not have gotten along without her!

As Chair of the Church Council, **Barry** was the linchpin between the Council and the COVID-19 Response Committee. With Mary Lou, he presented the plans for approval to the Council, and clarified other issues. He headed up research on disinfecting sprayers and services, interacting in-person and by email with a number of sales representatives. As well, with his experience on the sound system, he was essential in working with the audio-visual crew to determine how the in-person service would be video-recorded and posted on You Tube for later viewing by those who do not wish to come to Church.

With her inquiring mind, **Heather** always critically reviewed and questioned the Committee's decisions to ensure that they were the best that they could be. She liaised with the Music and Worship Committee on a number of worship and music-related issues. In particular, she took into consideration the needs of the Minister and Music Director in the proposed scenario since their roles are so important in the delivery of the Sunday service. Heather also communicated with the Chief Duty Steward, Duty Steward and Counters to determine how the offering would best be collected and counted. Heather is always responsive to the concerns of others and conscientious about getting back to them.

The workload was heavy, the deadlines short, the obstacles and issues encountered many, and

Official COVID Mascot

Canada has adopted the racoon as the official mascot for the pandemic because:

- It always wears a mask
- It washes its hands regularly, and
- "Racoon" is an anagram of "Corona"

the hours spent on Zoom meetings long. But we were an action-oriented and motivated “team,” with a well-defined vision, mission and action plan. We “worked” together competently and efficiently to produce the plans and communication tools needed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 among the members and adherents of the congregation, staff, contractors and volunteers. The Committee members combined “team” with “work” to create “teamwork” to develop plans to reopen the Church in the new reality in which we are living.

Helen Hutcheson, on behalf of the COVID-19 Response Committee

Notice of 2019 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 1:00 pm

Congregational meetings are the means by which Church members guide the work and mission of the Congregation. An annual general meeting is to be held each calendar year.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting, originally scheduled for Sunday, March 29, 2020, was postponed by the closure of the Church due to COVID-19. The meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 1:00 pm, by Zoom.

As you may know, Zoom is a popular video-conferencing platform. Please register for the Annual General Meeting, from September 15 to October 15, 2020, on EventBrite, at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/buc-annual-general-meeting-tickets-120234162617>. Once you have completed registration for your "ticket" to the AGM, you will be provided with the Zoom link and access information. If you have never used Zoom before, we encourage you to get set up (by following the link) prior to October 18, 2020.

If you do not have email, access to a computer or the Internet, you can participate in the meeting by telephone. Contact the Office Administrator between October 6 and 15, 2020 to register, and Melissa will provide you with a telephone number and access code to connect to the meeting.

The 2019 Annual Report was printed and circulated in March 2020. Before the meeting, you will want to review your copy, or consult it on the Britannia United Church website at <https://britanniaunitedchurch.ca/annual-report-2019/>.

People may meet together at the same time through technology. This allows for the Spirit to move in the way that happens when “two or more are gathered.” (United Church of Canada, The Manual, 2019, A.4, p. 50, at https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/the-manual-2019_0.pdf).

Helen Hutcheson and Melissa McEwen

re-Source Thrift Shop Ottawa

It's official!! The Board of the re-Source Thrift Shop Ottawa is excited to announce that the home of our new store is 1400 Clyde, in the Bleeker mall! re-Source Thrift Shop Ottawa is a volunteer-run thrift store that will support local Christian schools, including Community Christian School in Metcalfe, Ottawa Christian School in Barrhaven, and Redeemer Christian High School in Ottawa. For up-to-date announcements and details regarding volunteering and donations, please visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/resourcethriftottawa>) or contact info@re-sourceottawa.ca for more information.

Accommodating Children at Church during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In order to protect the congregation, staff and volunteers and to respect the Ottawa Public Health COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship, parents, grandparents and guardians are welcome to bring their children to the worship service, but the Sunday School program will be suspended at this time.

Spaces will be configured in the sanctuary, with chairs, a little table and child-sized chairs to accommodate family units. Parents, grandparents and guardians will be asked to keep their children and youth with them during the service, in their designated space, and to hold their babies. The Nursery will be locked during the worship service. Should a Mother need a place to nurse, a volunteer will unlock the Nursery for her. A baby change table is available in one of the washrooms. The washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected after every use. Rev Jim will include a children's time and children's music in the worship service and invite the children to stay in their prescribed space. Activity packets will be available and placed on each of the little tables. Following their use, they will be placed in quarantine for 72 hours.

Since the Church closed, a weekly service has been posted on the Britannia United Church (BUC) website. BUC will continue to offer on-line weekly Church services for families after the Church opens. As well, the Sunday School Coordinator will, at regular intervals, email learning resources for the children and youth.

Be assured that the safety of the congregation, staff and volunteers, and all those we serve is at the heart of the Church's decisions regarding its in-person services at this time.

Helen Hutcheson, Sunday School Coordinator

Church Re-Opening

Dear friends and family of Britannia United Church,

The Britannia United Church (BUC) COVID-19 Response Committee has prepared a Re-Opening Fact Sheet, attached to the end of the newsletter, to help you plan your return to church.

The objective of the attached documents is to provide you with information on how the church service will be changed to ensure the safety and well-being of you, our church family, staff, volunteers, renters and the public. The Church Council and its Committees have duty of care responsibilities to keep everyone safe and mitigate the risks associated with contracting COVID-19.

At this time, BUC Council has confirmed that the church will re-open September 27, 2020, though that is subject to change depending on the severity of the pandemic.

We have a detailed description of the procedures on the next page and a summary at the end of the newsletter for you to tear off or print and pin up so you have it handy to refer to at any time. Reading them will educate you about the revised "look and feel" of BUC's Sunday service.

As you aware, the federal and provincial governments and public health authorities are monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, so protocols are in flux. Our church re-opening plan could be revised at any time. You will be advised accordingly should the situation regarding church services change.

You will be notified as soon as the church opening date is announced so you can plan accordingly.

If you have immediate questions, please leave a message at the church office at 613-828-6018 and a member of the COVID-19 Response Committee will call you.

Yours faithfully,

COVID-19 Response Committee: Mary Lou Farrell, Diane Houston, Helen Hutcheson, Melissa McEwen, Barry Meredith, and Heather Wallace

Find the Differences

Can you find 10 differences between these pictures?



BRITANNIA UNITED CHURCH RE-OPENING FACT SHEET

The following information has been prepared by the COVID-19 Response Committee of Britannia United Church (BUC) to assist you with planning your return to Sunday services.

In early June, the Ontario Government announced that all places of worship in Ontario would be permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more that 30 % of the building capacity to ensure the safety of worshippers.

On August 12, 2020, the BUC Council approved the re-opening plan prepared by the COVID-19 Response Committee. The committee is made up of representatives from various church committees. The decision was made to re-open the church September 27, 2020 (date tentative).

During the period when the church was not open for services, the weekly service was available on the BUC website (www.britanniaunitedchurch.ca). BUC will continue to offer on-line weekly church services for the congregation after the church is open.

Church's Revised Look and Feel

Tremendous research was done, along with due diligence for the care of the congregation, to create the re-opening plan for the church. The church committees have duty of care responsibilities for the church's congregation, staff and volunteers, and the public, renters and

community groups using the facility. To keep you safe, changes have been made to mitigate the risks associated with contracting COVID-19.

- If you are feeling unwell, do not attend; a self-assessment is done when you register. - Physical distancing must be maintained at all times (2m/6ft).
- You are asked to sanitize your hands when you enter and exit the building; rubbing them for a minimum of 15 sec. is required; you are encouraged not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Wearing a mask is mandatory while in the church. If you arrive without a mask, you will be provided with one. (You are encouraged to bring your own mask.) If you have a medical condition or a disability that prevents you from wearing a mask, a face shield will be provided, but it must be returned to the volunteer following the service. If you do not accept to wear a mask or shield, you will be refused entry to the church.
- Children under two are exempt from wearing a mask.
- You are encouraged not to congregate on the way into and out of the church.
- Coffee service has been suspended; the kitchen will be closed except for exiting.
- The cloakroom will be closed off; during the winter season, you will be asked to keep your personal items with you (including gloves, hat, coat, boots).
- The ride service for members will not be provided by the church. You are discouraged from offering rides to individuals who are not in your family circle/bubble.

Church Service Changes

- Hymnaries and Bibles were removed from the Sanctuary; no bulletins will be supplied, and the overhead projector will provide the order of service.
- Singing by the choir and congregation will be suspended, but music (non-wind instruments) will be provided; taped music may be added to the service.
- Sunday School has been suspended during this period. Families are welcome to bring their children, but they must be kept within their seating space for the entire service. Activities packs will be available.
- The collection plate will not be passed during the service, but will be available for your offering at the registration table; the congregation is encouraged to give by pre-authorized remittance (PAR) or e- transfer to bookkeeper@brituc.ca.
- If you do not wish to attend in person, the services will be recorded and available soon after the service; they will not be live streamed.

Your donations count! Due to COVID-19, the church's revenue has seen a significant drop. The church, more than ever, requires your weekly donation so that operations can be maintained.

Registration for Church Service

With physical distancing, it was determined that approximately 30 members can attend the weekly service. To confirm your worship seat, pre-registration is required. It will be open between Monday and Thursday at noon. Sign up your family and guests on-line at the BUC website (www.britanniaunitedchurch.ca). First come first served. A waitlist will be created. Should someone cancel, the wait-listed individuals will be notified immediately.

If you need help to register on-line or do not have access to a computer, call Melissa McEwen, BUC Office Administrator, at 613-828-6018.

Church Sanitization

- The church will be deep cleaned (disinfected) after each time the Sanctuary is used (chairs, door handles, hand railings, light switches).
- Washrooms will be deep cleaned (disinfected) every day. During Sunday service, the washrooms will be sanitized by a volunteer after each use (toilet seat, sink, taps, counter and door handles) with the disinfectant wipes provided.

Church Service: What to Expect

BUC will inform you as to when the church will reopen: the current, though tentative, date is September 27, 2020.

Arrival

- You are encouraged not to arrive before 10 am.
- Please enter the church through the door located to the left of the main entrance doors. A volunteer will greet you and confirm you are wearing a mask and ask you to sanitize.
- A volunteer will direct you to the registration desk and you will be required to line up maintaining physical distancing (2m/6ft).
- Another volunteer will check you in and complete a secondary health assessment at the registration table.
- Then a volunteer will lead you to your seat.

Once seated, please do not change seats due to the sanitization that is required between each seating.

Departure

- A volunteer will dismiss attendees row by row, beginning with the back row. Exiting will be done via the kitchen to support physical distancing.
- Attendees requiring assistance (mobility issues) or those who are wearing a face shield only will be seated at the back of the Sanctuary and will leave via the stained-glass doors.
- Post-service greetings by the Minister will be discontinued until further notice.

Contacts

Depending on your age, immunocompromised situation, and your personal comfort level, you may decide not to attend and that is understandable. Remember that the weekly on-line service will still be available on the BUC website, at www.britanniaunitedchurch.ca.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak at BUC, contact tracing information (gathered during registration) will be provided to Ottawa Public Health. Ottawa Public Health will contact everyone that may have been in contact with the individual identified. The church will provide details of the outbreak on our website. BUC will close for a period of at least 14 days after the outbreak.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-828-6018 with your concerns which will be shared with the Church's COVID-19 Response Committee.

Useful References

<https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/masks.aspx>

<https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/novel-coronavirus.aspx>

Cache Lake Country

This is a story of life in the north woods written by John J Rowlands (born in 1892, died in 1972) and illustrated by Henry B Kane (born in 1902, died 1971). My copy of the book, "Cache Lake" (consisting of articles written from 1945 to 1947) was published in 1959. It is a classic story of survival in the wilderness of northern Ontario and Quebec in all seasons. The author and the illustrator and their Indian friend chief Tibeash (born 1841, died 1917) are featured as their lives intertwine.



The author, John J Rowlands, spent time as a prospector and surveyor in the Cobalt and Porcupine regions of northern Ontario in the early 1900s. In 1916, Rowlands returned to the USA and became a journalist. From 1925 to 1957, he was the director of MIT News Service.

Chief Tibeash lived at Larger Lake and was Rowlands guide to the Cree way of living in the wilderness and travelling through lakes and rivers by canoe.

A cache is usually a reserve or storage of supplies hidden away and very precious and valuable for sustenance and survival. The tales in the book unfold within the hidden gem of the northern woods, a place of wilderness, beauty and serenity. The lakes are like caches in these stories.

My wife and I recently spent time in such a place with a very small group of friends, due to Covid 19. We closely observed the scenery, birds, animals and weather every day, breathing in the peace and quiet and the beauty everywhere. We were spoiled in a large log cottage with electricity and plumbing, but were still able to enjoy a sense of wilderness and God's marvellous creation nevertheless. We felt like we had found sanctuary.

We were near a long lake with no motor boats, where only passage by canoe is allowed. It was our cache lake.

The moon, stars, clouds, rain, thunder and lightning storms connect us to the universe. Climbing a mountain with views of more than 30 km takes our breath away. Observing a deer family at dusk, loons on the lake, water snakes, dock spiders and frogs taking the sun reminds us of our responsibility to protect our fellow creatures.

In a time of COVID-19 it is more important than ever to take time in nature and experience the rejuvenation of the spirit that it provides. Our Cache Lake country is very nearby and we are very thankful for it.

Don Cullen

Living Thanksgiving

Sermon from October 2104

I was reminiscing this week. I was speaking with a man about the importance of gratitude as a tool for building an abundant life and I remembered a woman who taught me a lot about grateful living. She was a simple woman, with simple wisdom, but that is often the very best kind.

Lottie was small and slender. She was 90 years of age, hard of hearing and lived in a little apartment addition on the main floor of an old house in Carleton Place. She called it her “witch’s hut by the river”.

She was a lovely woman, with a great sense of humour and a generous heart. Right up until she moved into Carleton Place she would make all of the dinner rolls for the fall supper in Ashton – more than 300 at a time. She didn’t want to stop, but with a small kitchenette and at 90 years of age, it was time.

I learned from some of our church members that Lottie’s life had been challenging at best. She grew up in the depression, in a home with too many mouths to feed, so at the age of 17, when a much older man offered her a proposal of marriage, she accepted. He was widowed, with three children who were only a few years younger than she was at the time, but she embraced the challenge of moving to the farm, caring for his home and raising his children.

It was “a marriage of convenience”, but she made the best of her situation. She never had children of her own, but she was a good wife, a devoted step-mother and she had grown to love the farm that once seemed so isolated and remote.

I wondered what my visit with Lottie would be like. Lottie always seemed to have a smile on her face but one of the women of the church told me that the move had been hard on her. She didn’t want to leave the farm, but her step-children were concerned about her living alone and had found her the apartment in town. It wasn’t exactly the witch’s hut she described, but it was a long way from the farm.

It was the lower level of a two-story addition, on the back of a century old house. It was small and dark, but it did have a window that looked out over the river. I would soon discover that the apartment wasn’t very soundproof, because a young couple with three children lived upstairs, and the whole time we had our tea, there was a constant drumming of little feet running back and forth overheard.

At one point there was a break in our conversation when the sound level reached its peak and that’s when Lottie looked at me and said “People always ask me ‘How can you stand the noise?’ And I say to them ‘I love the noise! It reminds me that I’m alive!’”

That was Lottie’s wisdom. She had the ability to see something positive in every situation. She could have lamented over her life, she could have complained about the hardships she faced. She could have been sad or even angry about her circumstances. But she chose instead to be positive and to give thanks. She greeted every challenge with faith, and a little bit of humour, and in the process touched many lives and inspired many hearts. I’m sure Lottie

would be shocked to know that I'm telling her story 30 years after we met, but I've never forgotten her.

Lottie passed quietly away a few months after our first visit. The little church at Ashton was full, there were home made dinner rolls at the reception. Her step-children spoke highly of her at the service, and a young couple showed up with three small children.

On Thanksgiving Sunday we talk of gratitude. It is one of my favourite themes and it is inspired by people like Lottie – people who are able to make the best of every situation and live abundant, thankful lives, even in the most challenging situations.

Some people come by that attitude naturally. They are naturally optimistic; the glass-half-full kind of people. But it can also be learned. It is as simple as taking time every day to express our gratitude. It is letting go of disappointments and heartaches, and developing the kind of vision that enables us to see the blessings in every situation.

As I read over the scriptures for today, I was reminded that this is an age-old theme.

Our passage from chapter 8 of Deuteronomy takes place while Moses is leading the people of Israel through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

Their life has been hard but they have persevered because of their faith. Moses's concern is that once they get to the Promised Land, they will soon forget the hardship, and they will lose sight of their dependence on God.

Essentially, he is telling them that remembering how God was present in the difficult times, will help them to manage their lives in the good times. He warns them that a comparatively easy life will tempt them to forget about God, and if they take their blessings for granted, and could end up in trouble once again.

Moses advises them that the faithful observance of God's commandments will foster a strong relationship with God, and help them to make the most of their new life. So, the proper response to God's faithfulness is a spirit of thanksgiving.

Joel Osteen, in his book "Your Best Life Now" says that "One of the main reasons that we lose our enthusiasm in life is because we become ungrateful. We let what was once a miracle become common to us. We get so accustomed to God's goodness that it becomes routine."

At Thanksgiving, we are invited to consider what we are grateful for in life, and to bring our offering of thanks to the table. This is what inspired the very first Thanksgiving – not in North America or even in England, where we typically trace the tradition, but in the Promised Land as recorded in chapter 26 of the book of Deuteronomy.

When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the

land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.

When the people of Israel entered the Promised Land, they were to bring the first fruits of the land to God and to give thanks for all of their blessings. But their response doesn't end there. Because they are further instructed bring an offering every three years, which will be used to help "the Levites, foreigners, orphans, widows and people less fortunate than they have been." So the people who have been blessed by God are to be a blessing to others.

So that very first thanksgiving outlines how we should celebrate. It starts with remembering our blessings. It is followed by entering into worship and giving thanks to God. And then it goes one step further, encouraging us to show our gratitude by helping others.

That brings me back to Lottie. She exemplified a life of thanksgiving. She had a remarkable ability to see blessing in every situation. She gave thanks to God always, she was always ready to help others with whatever she had to give, and she was not only happy, she was an inspiration.

May we do the same. May we live with thanksgiving every day. And may we be a blessing in Christ's name. Amen.

"The Legend of 5 Kernels".

This story recalls the hardships the Pilgrims faced and the fact that they all would have died if not for the help they received from the Native Americans. But it speaks of how the second winter was also very difficult.

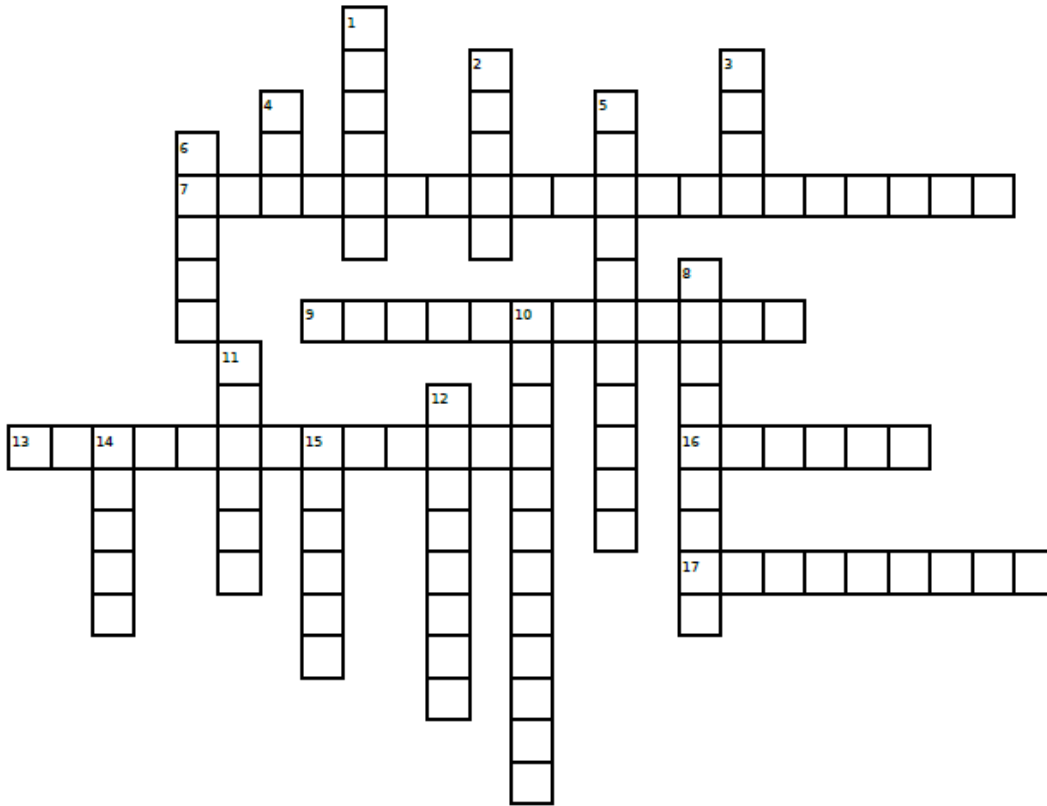
Again, the Pilgrims did not have enough food and there came a point when each member of the colony was rationed to only 5 kernels of corn to eat for an entire day. It was a difficult time indeed, but the people maintained their faith in God and believed that God would take care of them, no matter what. Nobody died that second winter, and the next fall the harvest was huge.

Again the Pilgrims hosted a meal to celebrate. This time they were joined by several chiefs and 120 braves. They pooled their resources and sat down to a feast of 12 venison, 6 goats, 50 hogs, numerous turkeys, vegetables, grapes, nuts, plums, puddings and pies. But before they ate, they sat down to empty plates and each person was given 5 kernels of corn.

The 5 kernels of corn reminded the Pilgrims of all they had suffered and all they had to be thankful for. Today, there are people who recall "The Legend of 5 Kernels" by starting their Thanksgiving meal with 5 kernels of corn on each plate. Then each person shares five things that they are thankful for. It is a reminder that God is with us in difficult times and a trust that when difficult times come again, God will see us through.

It's easy to be thankful in times of abundance, but the secret of abundant living is to be thankful when times are tough.

Ready for return?

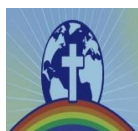


Down:

1. seventh day of the week
2. Ministers first name
3. platform for video and audio conferencing
4. time you should arrive for service
5. present pandemic
6. required to wear
8. street
10. fall holiday
11. number of visitors allowed
12. school operating at the church
14. regional council abbrev.
15. arrival of a notable person, thing, or event

Across:

7. yearly meeting
9. get your seat!
13. newsletter
16. our "little ___"
17. place of worship






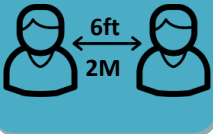





BRITANNIA UNITED CHURCH RE-OPENING FACT SHEET

Church Office 613-828-6018 office@brituc.ca



www.britanniaunitedchurch.ca <https://www.facebook.com/britanniaunitedchurch/>

 <p>REGISTRATION</p> <p>To register visit www.britanniaunitedchurch.ca</p>	<p>Pre-Registration Required Opens: Monday @ 9am Closes: Thursday @ noon Screening for COVID-19 is completed during registration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	 <p>MASKS</p> <p>Masks are Mandatory You will be required to wear a mask at all times while in the church. Disposable masks will be provided if necessary</p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Children under 2 & those with medical conditions. Adults with exemptions will be provided a face shield to wear for the service.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	<p>Hand Washing & Sanitizing Everyone must use provided hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the building.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>
 <p>ARRIVAL</p> <p>*Those with accessibility requirements may enter through the main doors.</p>	<p>New Entrance Enter the church through the newly marked entrance (to left of the main doors)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	 <p>HAND SANITIZER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	<p>Social Distancing Physical distancing must be maintained at all times unless from the same household or social circle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>
 <p>CHECK-IN</p>	<p>Check-in & Seating Volunteers will assist you with check-in and direct you to a seat. Once seated, please do not change seats. Cloakroom will be closed off</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	<p>Changes to Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No bulletin - No singing - No passing of Communion - No passing of Collection plate - No Meet & Greet w/ Minister - No Sunday School - No Fellowship following service - No shaking hands, hugging or touching <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>
 <p>WASHROOM</p>	<p>Washrooms Volunteers will be assigned to clean and disinfect washrooms between each use. Proper handwashing signage will be posted</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	 <p>SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>	<p>Important Information In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the Church, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will be provided Contact Tracing info (acquired at registration). Individuals that may have been exposed will be contacted by OPH. Info will also be posted on our website. <i>BUC will close for a period of at least 14 days after the outbreak.</i></p>
 <p>EXITING</p> <p>*Those with mobility issues, or those wearing only a face shield will leave via the stained-glass doors.</p>	<p>After Service Volunteers will dismiss attendees row-by-row, beginning with the back row. You will leave the Sanctuary via the kitchen, and exit the Church through the main door.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➔</p>		

Depending on your age, immunocompromised situation, and your personal comfort level, you may decide not to attend and that is understandable. Video and audio recordings of Service will continue to be available on BUC website. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Church office. Your concerns will be shared with the COVID-19 Response Committee.