

March 19, 2020

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus,

The Session of St. Andrew's Church, Fergus met last night, March 18, 2020. There are a number of things we need to communicate to the congregation.

A. The first group of things relate to what is happening at St. Andrew's.

1. Worship gatherings (this includes both 9 am and 11 am Sunday worship services) are suspended until further notice.

Worship will continue in the following manner. A taped service will be available at the www.standrewsfergus.org website. On that page if you move the cursor to "Ministries" and under that click on "Sermon" you will find a file named "March 22, 2020". Click on it and you will have the taped service. In the regular Friday e-mail from the church that includes the bulletin - you will also receive an order of service that you can use to participate in the taped service.

We ask for your patience as we seek to make the taped service participatory and engaging. There is a difference leading worship and preaching to a sanctuary with 70 or 100 people, and doing it virtually for individuals and families in their homes.

This service will also be available on Cogeco and Wightman in the week following.

2. Sunday School is suspended until further notice.

3. Bible studies/small groups (including the Lent Study) are suspended until further notice.

4. Holy Donuts is suspended until further notice.

5. The Spring Bling Thing is postponed to a later date, which will be announced.

6. The April St. Andrew's Kitchen (April 8) is cancelled.

7. Any meetings that may take place in St. Andrew's building must adhere to these rules: a. people must be at least 6 feet apart from each other, and b. gatherings of more than 10 people will not be allowed.

8. Wednesday morning prayer at 8 am will continue for the present time meeting in the sanctuary. The Tuesday evening prayer group will continue to meet at the present time meeting in the parlour. These continue as a context for prayer.

9. For those who are wondering about their offerings - you can mail them to the church (the mail is still functioning), you can call the church and someone will come and pick up your offering. We thank those who are using PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance).

B. The second group of things are about how we will care for each other.

1. If you or people you know of are in need of people to go shopping for them, please contact the church and we will have people pick up the needed supplies and deliver them.

2. If you are feeling lonely and want someone to talk to, you are welcome to call the church. Or call an elder. You can call Peter at 204-298-7120.

3. Please call people from the church to say "Hi", to talk, to laugh together.

4. Please PRAY for those who are ill, for health care professionals, government officials, nursing home and care facility staff, persons in self isolation and their families, and for those who are overwhelmed with anxiety.

5. Wash your hands. A lot. For at least as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday, or the first verse of Amazing Grace, or say the Lord's Prayer.

Jesus said these words to his followers when they were worried and stressed - "Do not be afraid, little flock." (Luke 12:32a)

Yours in Christ,

Peter Bush
Senior Minister
St. Andrew's Church, Fergus