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Mailing Address Space

Canada Post



Virtual Church Service - 2020



This screenshot of the virtual church service was taken on Sunday April 26, 2020. More than 20,000 people have watched our services during Lent and Easter. Viewers have participated from around Ontario, across Canada and around the world.

Photo Gallery

Virtual Worship Team



"Darn, forgot what I was going to say."

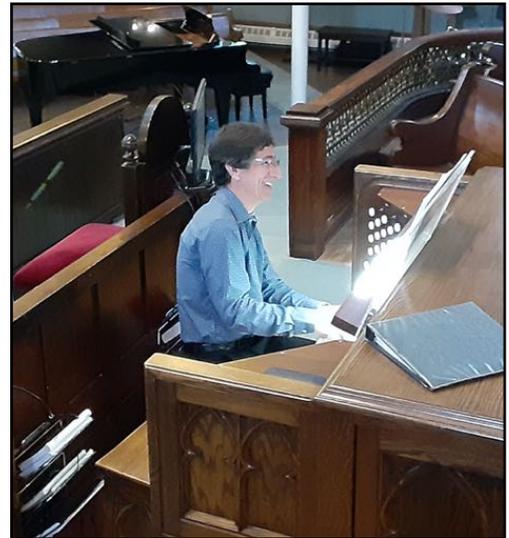


"This isn't my 'Prayer For Grace'...this is my grocery list!"



"Wait...this book is in Russian!"

Photo Credits and Captions:
Walt Radda



"Whoops, that was supposed to be F sharp. Oh well, no one will notice."



"How's my hair look?"



"Anyone know what our computer password is?"

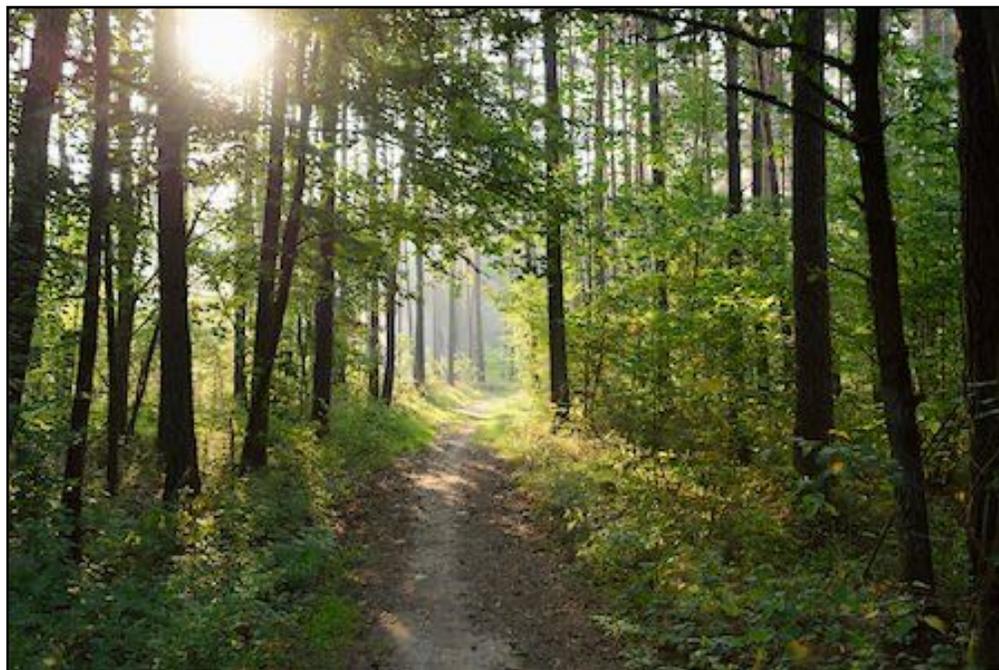
I have had many important and meaningful conversations over the past month. You might assume that most pastoral encounters with people would take place here in church. That certainly has not been the case since COVID-19. Our doors are closed to the public right now, and worship services are limited to only the Worship Team, adhering to strict physical distancing guidelines.



I have been listening to many people's stories over the phone. It is always encouraging when someone shares with you how they felt God has been, and still is with them, during the more challenging moments of life. For many, that is part of our spiritual story: that when we thought we could not carry on any longer, we drew strength from our family and friends and faith!

Human beings are always exposed to the possibility of pandemic and great peril, and never more so than at this very moment. This should be a reminder to us to stay compassionate to the heartaches that afflict every one of us so easily: aren't we all hoping that COVID-19 would have run its course already and we could be done with it; or don't we all wish we could turn back the hands of time and prevent the senseless slaying of 22 people in Nova Scotia.

Someone we love may be on their last days. Maybe they have recently passed away. We can't imagine life without them. It seems they have been a part of us forever. In their passing, a part of us dies with them. Yet, their presence also remains with us forever. This is one of the great mysteries of life.





Imagine this has been a very different Easter season for you, and perhaps even a lonely one. But we can rejoice, because Resurrection means that out of death comes life. And that is God's eternal promise to us all.

You are in my prayers, and I give thanks for all of you. I hope that you are staying well, coping with isolation, and finding joy in the coming of Spring! There is hope — God continually renews the earth, and brings life in barren places.

It is a comfort to be travelling this road with you. I so appreciate your thoughtful emails, your phone calls and messages, your care of one another, your faithfulness in prayer at home. We will get through this together, with God's help!

I hope you have been able to join us Sunday mornings for the livestream services at Cambridge Street United Church. Thank you for your thoughtful messages regarding the Good Friday service which was Queen Street's contribution to the Holy Week services. What a blessing it is to see so many gather for our services! It lifts our spirits during this time. So stay tuned everyone!

Lately I have heard from a number of people that exhaustion or fatigue has set in. That is understandable. Isolation is an unfamiliar experience and we are learning to cope with radically changed circumstances, which takes a lot of mental, physical and emotional energy.

The indications are that this is going to go on for a while. I've been doing some reading about why we're so exhausted and what can help us, and I want to share some thoughts about that with you.

It is important to recognize that even if we do not feel stressed, we are under enormous stress. This means our bodies and our minds are on high alert most of the time which is exhausting! It's apparently like being in fight or flight mode all the time. We may be experiencing emotional fatigue as well as feelings of sorrow, helplessness, frustration, loneliness and even grief⁴⁴.

There are things that can help us manage and I am thinking about these as the three Rs of isolation: routine, relationships and record. A daily routine can help us stay grounded. The experts are saying a steady daily routine can be helpful in these times. Relationships really matter. Our relationship to God in prayer, our connections to family and friends and our connectedness to creation are spiritually and emotionally sustaining. Record your feelings. For some people this will be in a journal. But the point is to take note of how you are feeling.

Finally, if you are overwhelmed by isolation, or by emotional stress, we are here. You are not alone. Give us a call.

On April 26, we heard the Easter gospel where Jesus comes among his disciples and says "Peace be with you". That is my prayer for all of you today, that you are finding God in the midst of this time, giving you rest. May the deep peace of God be with you and those you love.



TOTAL DEVICE VIEWS
LENT and EASTER
20,000 +

We were so pleased to feel part of the service yesterday. Thank you Craig, Robin, Erwin, Angelique, and Walt. It truly was an uplifting service, but also quite thought provoking. When I heard the introduction for my favourite hymn, Spirit of Gentleness, it brought tears. Again thank you for participating in this for all of us.

Every day is now a bad hair day. It won't be long before I start looking like my high school pictures, maybe just a little more "mature" looking. I'm trying to decide if I should do a man bun, pony tail, cut it myself or let Angelique have a go at it (okay not this one). Being on satellite, our internet is very slow during the day, typically between 8 in the morning to 10 in the evening. It's amazing how mesmerizing it can be watching the spooling (round and round and round...), then snapping out of it and moving on to something else. A lot more phone calls, a lot longer phone calls, emails and more emails (at least this continues to work throughout the day).



Life certainly has changed. I have been keeping quite busy. We quickly realized cancelling events is also a lot of work, from rehearsals, concerts, to the Voices of Victory musical and tour; how quickly everything ground to a halt. I'm still going into the shop to work on gazebos, although I am now almost completely out of lumber and space. And with a lot of installs up north in the past, we know that black fly season is the time to avoid. Unfortunately that may be the time the government starts to relax restrictions for small companies. I'll never forget a few years ago, arriving at a job site, where the mosquitoes, black flies, deer flies, horse flies, moose flies were swarming right outside the truck windows looking at us with that look of "we dare you!" I threw out my lunch to distract them.

We are so thankful that our church has the ability to livestream. As you know, Walt has been doing an amazing job, and we couldn't do this without him. There should probably be three people up in the sound/video booth, but he does his magic on his own. Noon Hour Concerts are up and running again. We're not sure how long we will carry these on, but likely to the end of May. May 6 we will be rebroadcasting one of Voices of Victory's musicals, as we typically present a musical on Mother's Day. This is the best we can do this year. And I am very excited that we will be presenting a Comedy Variety Show for our May 13 Noon Hour Concert, with some special guests and hilarious clips from previous shows. They say laughter is great medicine and we probably all need a good laugh.

We are thrilled with the number of folks tuning in to the services and the Noon Hour Concerts.



It's a strange feeling playing to an empty church. I miss having the choir in the loft with me and covering up my mistakes! We have such a wonderful staff, who have worked so hard trying to keep a sense of normalcy in our worship services. Cambridge Street United is like a second home to many people, so it's amazing to still be able to invite you "home" each Sunday. Stay healthy, stay positive, stay connected and we look forward to the day we can all come back together as a church family.

Photo Gallery

Noon Hour Concerts, March - April 2020



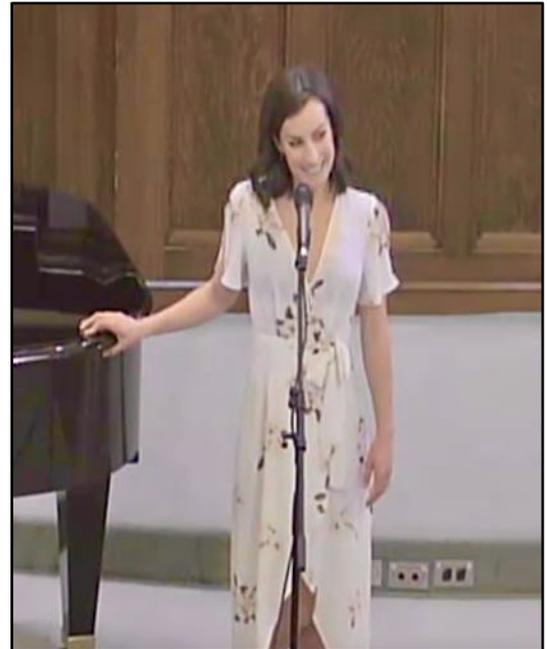
Ken Baldwin and Martin Neuland - March 4, 2020



Ev Brooks and Sarah Stone - March 11, 2020



Liana Cooper and Gael Morrison - March 11, 2020



Shannon McCracken - April 29, 2020
(via livestream)



Hunter and Nick Peeters - April 22, 2020 (via livestream)

Photo Credits: Dennis Eaton

I would like to begin by hoping everyone is safe and healthy in your family.

What is happening in the world, in the church, and in our own personal lives is something that none of us has ever encountered before. We work to keep our daily lives as normal as possible, and that is what will help us through this trying time. How do we do this?

We get up in the morning, get dressed, have breakfast and try to keep ourselves busy throughout the day. My husband Louis and I try to get out every day for a walk and some fresh air. Board games that have sat in the drawer for a few years have been pulled out and tackled again. My biggest adjustment is getting up in the morning and not heading out for my first cup of coffee at Tim Hortons, because I need that strong caffeine fix to get me rolling.

COVID-19 has caused an interruption in the Children and Youth programs at Cambridge Street United Church. The government of Canada is currently offering wage compensation for those who are laid off due to COVID-19. Therefore, it is with great care and compassion that we lay off Gabby Simpson, dated retroactively to April 1, 2020, due to COVID-19, at her request, so she can take full advantage of government assistance programs. This decision will be reassessed monthly, as the conditions of the COVID-19 crisis change, and in consultation with Gabby, for her safe return to work duties.

Rev. Robin moved over some of her office material on April 17 and Queen Street United Church moved over their furniture to Cambridge Street United Church on April 23. What a time for our churches to be involved with this move! But we can also look at this another way. Our church is growing and becoming a bigger presence in our community. More people will be coming through our doors for worship. In addition, another church has inquired about renting space at our facility.

Many members of our congregation and people across Canada tune in on Sunday mornings for our livestreaming service." I look forward to this every Sunday, again to help me keep things in perspective. This would not be possible without our very talented staff. On behalf of every member of our congregation, I would like to thank the staff for all the hard work they are doing at our church to keep it up and running, and taking care of all church business that does not necessarily stop because of the lockdown. THANK YOU! And thank you to Bill and Yvonne Walden for donating our livestreaming equipment.

In closing, I would like to leave you with these words:

"One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn't pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself." Lucille Ball

If you require any further information at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Email: brenda.dekoker@sympatico.ca – Res. (705) 324-9410 Cell (705) 340-1274

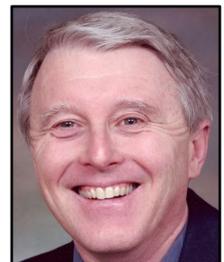


As we continue to livestream our services from the empty sanctuary, Reverend Craig has become increasingly comfortable with the concept...



Thank You

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many contributors, photographers (especially Mert Davis) and reviewers (especially Nancy Payne and my wife Helen) who have made this issue of the *Chronicle* possible. *Dennis Eaton**



*I*t's hard to write about this time without sounding glib. Our own congregation has been touched by COVID-19, and we're just down the highway from the tragedy at Pinecrest in Bobcaygeon. As we wait to exhale after holding our collective breath for weeks on end, it can be hard to see beyond our immediate needs. It's easy to get stuck on all the things that aren't there, or that we can't do.

My birthday — which I share with the awesome Frank Robinson — fell on Easter this year. I took the dog for our usual morning walk down the nearby cedar-lined road allowance. The skies were grey, and there was little green amid the drab, muddy browns of early spring.

Although I tend to listen to podcasts rather than music on these walks, that morning I wanted something different — the last part of Handel's *Messiah*, starting with the glorious "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates." As that incredible music flooded me, I looked around, and instead of focusing on the leaves and flowers and grasses that weren't yet there, I suddenly saw the beauty and potential in everything that was right in front of me. All I could do was grin.

When I got back to the house, I logged in to watch the Easter service. Seeing video of last year's congregation and choir singing was bittersweet; it was wonderful to see all those friendly faces even as it felt wrong that there were no hugs to receive or flowers to deliver.

The day after Easter, my cousin texted the other seven in our generation to say that our aunt didn't have long to live. After my brother confirmed that the COVID-free home would allow visitors (and that I wouldn't be depleting its supply of personal protective equipment) I headed to Haliburton to say goodbye and thank-you. Afterward, I walked out into the April snow pellets, giving thanks for her remarkable life.

We're learning the hard way about what matters most. We're learning that regardless of what we humans are going through, nature endures, and spring comes again. Handel wrote *Messiah* more than 275 years ago, and yet it can still move us to tears of joy. Music endures. Even as our congregation is separated, members care for each other through phone calls and grocery-shopping and prayer. Faith endures. My aunt was an example of someone who lived independently and faithfully, who loved books and theatre, who never stopped learning, and whose brusque manner belied her kindness. My memories of her will endure.

The things that seem so overwhelming right now — the fear and uncertainty and loneliness — those things don't last. But the blessings all around us? Those do.



Farewell to Our High School Grads

Patricia Jane Teskey

*Hopefully, the COVID-19 pandemic will be over by September and our graduates will be able to leave home to pursue their dreams. However, may each graduate be assured that if your plans must be postponed for now, your church family is thinking of you and rooting for you! Home or away, *God be with you!**



Grace Caffin: Graduating from I. E. Weldon Secondary School, Grace plans to attend Carleton University in Ottawa to study neuroscience, eventually hoping to work in pediatrics or possibly research. “As a little kid,” Grace remembers, “I loved taking part in the Cherub Choir, singing on Mother’s Day and in the Christmas Eve pageant.” She also enjoyed youth group. Favorite memories include helping decorate the church for Christmas and “growing up with my cousin Tess Morasse through our years in Sunday School.” She adds, “It has now come full circle as we will both be at Carleton.” You may reach Grace at gracecaffin@gmail.com



Sam Henry: Graduating from Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Sam’s goal is university and later, dentistry or teachers’ college. Sam enjoyed participating in the Voices of Victory choir and all its shows and concerts, especially the Desserts concerts and Mother’s Day plays. He also played a valued role helping in the Sunday School and day camps. “It was all a very special time,” he says. “I have many great memories, but some of my best are from the Christmas Eve pageants, seeing the church so full, all the people there, some in costume and others just to watch, with all the animals and music.” You may reach Sam at samhenry10@live.ca



Sage Kitchen: Graduating from I. E. Weldon Secondary School, Sage looks forward to studying business administration at Georgian College in Barrie, playing on the Georgian women’s basketball team (Go Grizzlies!), and someday owning her own business. “Cambridge Street United has always been part of my life,” she says. The many activities she enjoyed include Vacation Bible School, youth group, choir and working as a night supervisor. Christmas Eve holds special memories: “Our family went to the nativity pageant every year. I loved seeing all the animals and everyone at the church together.” Sage thanks Cambridge Street United “for all you do. I will miss everyone!” You may reach Sage at sagekitchen2@gmail.com

My journey with religion began at Cambridge Street United Church. As a young child and throughout young adulthood I was an active member in the church: youth group, choir, summer camp, Sunday school teaching, and I attended or facilitated countless events. My very first job was night supervisor at Cambridge Street and as a young adult, I was married in our church. I was raised at Cambridge Street and it became a part of me.



A couple of years after getting married I moved some distance from Lindsay. I made new friends easily, but I felt disconnected from everyone. I reflected on this disconnectedness and after considering then negating, many possibilities, I was left with only one answer that I didn't want to face. I had known from a young age that I was transgender and queer, even before I had words to describe it. It had always been there. I didn't want to be either of these things.

I began attending a church of a different denomination than ours. I viewed myself as a person whose soul needed to be fixed and I thought they could fix me. They were kind and happy to help even though I never fully disclosed what my troubles were. After a few months of this not working, I felt like I was being torn apart from the inside out. I began compartmentalizing my life and eventually all the different aspects of myself that made up who I was. When the feelings urging me to live as my true self wouldn't stop, I stopped feeling altogether.

A few years later my child was born and as I held that tiny newborn in my arms, I couldn't help but feel again. I eventually came to terms with the fact that I was transgender and queer, but I still kept all the parts of myself fragmented and I didn't tell anyone at that time. It felt safer that way. When my child was a toddler, we returned to Lindsay. 171 walked past Cambridge Street often, but I felt as if this place that was once a part of me, wasn't a place where I belonged any longer.



Some years later, Cambridge Street held the pride service with a rainbow pride flag raising. After all that was said at the service and during the flag raising, and also having my family by my side, I could feel all the parts of me coming together. This was when my healing could begin. Cambridge Street United Church's actions to become Affirming have changed my life and have made me strong enough to help others as well.

This world is suffering now
With such dreadful loss,
The joy of the Lord is our strength
Let's all look at the cross.

And just as Jesus rose again
To save us all from sin,
From this appalling virus
God's people shall toil to win.

So many essential workers
Are helping with care and love,
And we shall never, ever forget
God watches us all from above!

Our faith shall always keep us strong
Whatever it may, we face—
Hoping that all people on this earth
Live to receive God's saving grace!

Here is a prayer from the service that has come to mean much to me in this time. This makes a wonderful bedtime prayer.

Lord it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done, has not been done. Let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Condolences to family and friends of **Marion Hill**, who died on February 22, 2020. Her husband of 70 years, Stan Hill, died on February 8, 2020.
- Condolences to Katherine Beevor and family on the death of **Art Beevor** on February 26, 2020.
- Condolences to family and friends of **Andy Skilling**, who died on March 1, 2020 and **Florence Skilling**, who died on March 30, 2020. Andy had been recognized in December 2019 for his 33 years of service as our envelope steward.
- Condolences to family and friends of **Shirley Wiltshire**, who died on April 5, 2020. Shirley was the church secretary at Cambridge Street United from 1976-1993.
- Condolences to family and friends of **Irene Bell**, who died on April 6, 2020.
- Condolences to Rev. Craig Donnelly, Dawn and the family on the death of Craig’s father **Wayne Donnelly** on April 28, 2020.

Photo Gallery

Cambridge Moments

Photo Credits: Mert Davis and Dennis Eaton



Celebration of Scouts and Girl Guides on February 23, 2020



Members of the cherub choir sing during the church service on March 8, 2020

More Walt to Enjoy!

At Cambridge Street, we know how talented Walt Radda is—from playing piano and drums to painting scenery to acting to fixing and cleaning whatever needs to be fixed and cleaned. And of course we see his talents as a cartoonist in every issue of the *Cambridge Chronicle*. Now you can catch his new cartoon, “Kawartha Lakes Lite” in every print edition of the local monthly newsmagazine *The Lindsay Advocate*.

Photo Gallery

Voices of Victory Spaghetti Dinner and Auction - March 7, 2020



Photo Credits: Mert Davis

A Small Matter of Sponsorship

Thank you to all the sponsors who have contributed to the Cambridge Chronicle newsletter. We are looking for businesses to join our sponsorship program. Please call Pam at 705-324-3547 for details. For this issue, our generous sponsors have paid for the coloured pages in the print edition.



Sam Henry gave a presentation on his trip to France at the Walter Auld luncheon on February 25, 2020.

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