

Orleans United Church

Believe Belong Become

.....

Life and Work



by Dot Cooper, Council Chair on July 8th, 2020

Welcome to the July edition of Life and Work. As the sizzling heat wave reminds us that we are well into summer, I pray that we are all taking time to rest and renew. As we ease into more relaxed routines, we rejoice that virtual Church, which can be viewed anytime, continues to be the constant in our lives. Though, while we all need Sabbath, not everyone is resting. Ron Hunt, as incoming Council Chair, Property Chair and now as the Chair of the Reopening Task Force, is working on volunteer overtime. We are immensely grateful for his leadership and the time that he's sharing to guide our Church through the changes and challenges brought on by the coronavirus. As many of you appreciate, Ron is a calming presence in the midst of uncertainty and someone who brings wisdom, technology skills and a vast array of experience to the table. Thank you Ron for your stewardship and for being a blessing.

Reopening Update

Great news! The church building has officially reopened, albeit incrementally, and this past week our Spiritual Direction ministry received the honour of testing the reopening protocols. The Task Force is grateful for their insight and they look

forward to more activities and groups meeting in person on a case by case basis. If your group is interested in gathering at OUC, please email Ron Hunt at re.hunt@symptico.ca for more information.

Recently, Public Health Ottawa introduced the wearing of masks in all indoor public spaces. In addition to implementing the earlier protocols of increased targeted cleaning, providing accessible hand sanitizing stations, distancing controls, signage, etc., this further protocol is being incorporated into OUC's guidelines.

Understandably, providing a safe space for all ministry staff and personnel is a priority and, while the RTF discerns longer term solutions, please be mindful that masks must be worn when you enter the church building and do ask/give notice before entering any staff assigned space. Time spent in any office should be limited to essential business. Meeting in the narthex or a larger space is much more conducive to maintaining physical distancing. Also, WE, and that includes ME, are used to handling our own ministry's business by heading directly into the office, checking our assigned mailbox and making photocopies as needed; however, given the latest protocols please pause at the door and ask Kim for assistance.

Maintaining space and a "don't touch" mentality is the necessary, safe approach and your continuing kindness is appreciated.

Looking Forward

Not to get everyone's hopes too high, but... Our clergy and the RTF are exploring the possibility of returning to some form of informal in-person worship beginning with a soft launch for church leadership on September 10th, and for the congregation on September 17th. Details are being worked out, but I'm marking my calendar just in case, and praying that we keep the virus in check.

HELP Update (HEALTHY END OF LIFE PROJECT)



The HELP Ottawa team hopes everyone is enjoying the good weather and the opportunity to connect with others at a safe distance!

Researchers and community facilitators have taken some time off from conducting interviews and focus groups to concentrate on administrative tasks. For example, the team recently submitted a revised interview guide for community partners (i.e. people or organizations within Orleans who work with

OUC, but are not necessarily active members of the church) to Carleton University's Research Ethics Board. Meanwhile, the lead investigator, Dr. Pam Grassau, presented early learnings to the project sponsor: Compassionate Ottawa. The information was well received and HELP Ottawa looks forward to sharing more insight into these learnings as the research develops. Please stay tuned for regular updates!

In the upcoming weeks, Heather and Emily will be drafting the values and mission statement for HELP Ottawa's new website. They are also in the process of setting up interviews or focus groups with informal leaders within OUC (i.e. people who contribute to the community and show leadership without necessarily having a formal role or assignment in the church) and community partners. If you have any suggestions for people or organizations that they should talk to, please let them know. You can reach either Heather or Emily by email (Heather: heathermcgrath@cunet.carleton.ca; Emily: emilydavison@cmail.carleton.ca).

Emily Davison and Heather McGrath

Community Facilitators, Orleans United Church
Healthy End of Life Project (HELP) Ottawa
Carleton University

Cell: 613-219-9870 (Emily) 613-355-7652 (Heather)

Email: EmilyDavison@cmail.carleton.ca HeatherMcGrath@cunet.carleton.ca

HELP Ottawa in the news:

<https://newsroom.carleton.ca/story/healthy-end-of-life-project/>

OUC Book Club

The OUC book club is pleased to announce that the guest author for this year, Maggie Wheeler, is coming via zoom on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 1 p.m. The Book Club will be discussing *All My Worldly Goods*, a mystery involving the British home children and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Please contact Annemarie Humenuk at kayakforever@gmail.com to get a zoom invite for this or any of the other planned discussions. The other books they will be discussing in the upcoming months are:

July 28	Greenwood	Michael Christie
August 25	Werehunter (the Skitty Stories)	Lackey Mercedes
September 29	All My Worldly Goods	Maggie Wheeler
October 27	Educated	Tara Westover
November 24	A Gentleman in Moscow	Amor Towles

Lessons from a Pandemic

Join our zoom discussion at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29th to discuss what societal gains you think, or hope, might arise as a result of COVID-19. What aspects of our new lives do you want to carry forward to a post-pandemic world? Contact Annemarie Humenuk at kayakforever@gmail.com to obtain your zoom invitation.

Council Executive is prayerfully discerning...

by Dot Cooper, Council Chair



Earlier this week CTV news reporting and social media commentary raised the public's attention towards offensive behaviour by the owner of Connor's Irish Pub. While the Pub owner has made a public apology via Facebook, Council Executive has taken note of the concerns raised and will be discerning OUC's formal relationship with Connor's Pub as a result. At this juncture, your Executive is gathering more information, and we welcome your insights. Any questions and/or perspectives should be directed to Dot Cooper via email at dotcooper@hotmail.com.

Summer Office Hours

Church office hours will continue to be Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - noon. If you have urgent notifications to be sent to the congregation, please send them to Kim in the office and staff will distribute them as expediently as possible. If you have pastoral care needs, please leave a message with the main office and a clergy will be in touch with you. This week, Jean Shaddick will be replacing Kim Gratton in the office, and Rev. Caroline will be off for most of July and Rev. Molly will be off for most of August. We encourage you all to also embrace the summer as a time of sabbath rest and re-creation!

July at (virtual) OUC

Summer Movie Series:

A Beautiful Day – the Mr. Rogers Story featuring Tom Hanks
Tuesday July 14 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Rev. Molly will host this discussion. Please email her at ouc.mollybell@rogers.com to sign up and obtain the Zoom link.

Men's Digital Coffee:

Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – contact Dave Clemis (davidclemis@home.com) for an invitation.

On-Line Java Jive Bible Study:

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. – contact Kim (orleansunited@rogers.com) for an invitation.

"Virtch" Sunday morning on-line worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnOu5yFybhiRZ6fGiMIS_9w)

Surfing Seniors:

David Clemis offers practical help for those wanting to know more about using their devices. For details, please contact David Clemis at davidclemis@home.com.

Book Club:

Held the last Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Annemarie Humenuk at kayakforever@gmail.com for details/Zoom invitation.

Newsletter schedule:

A Note from the Revs. July 30 and August 27

Life and Work Newsletter. July 23 and August 13

(If you have info to share, please get it to the main office by the Monday morning.)