



Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future
1916 – 2020

Minister: Rev. Miriam Bowlby, BA (hons), M.Div

2020 Harvest Message from your Church Council

Blessings to you all!

*“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”
Matthew 9:38*

The fall season is now upon us and it is harvest time in Newfoundland and Labrador. There is so much to be thankful for. As a Community of Faith, we continue to share in the love, compassion and caring of our Lord throughout these times and shine a light in times of uncertainty.

During the past months of being physically away from Cochrane Centre, Council has had the time to reflect on our priorities as a ministry and to our congregation. As a result, Council has sought new ways to reach out not only to our faith community but to the community at large. Through advances in technology and as the Spirit has guided us during these times, Council has continued to communicate through our website and email, meet on a regular basis through virtual conferencing, respond to our financial commitments through e-transfers, and hold worship services on a number of social media platforms including YouTube and Facebook. Through these means of communication, we have continued to be connected, to meet our financial obligations, to support our many outreach ministries including our ministry at Cochrane Centre and to be a beacon of light to the community during these times of social distancing.

We have just re-entered our Sanctuary for In-Person Worship Service, albeit in a new way in line with health and church protocols for a safe and healthy return to Cochrane Centre. Council, through the efforts of Rev. Miriam and our Worship Committee and in conjunction with First Light, has developed a re-entry plan which puts the health and safety first for all within the Sanctuary and throughout Cochrane Centre. While still encouraging wherever possible meetings and gatherings to be held virtually, there is an acknowledgement that we have a need to come together as a family and to share in the Word, celebrate the Spirit and acknowledge collectively those personal events which are important to our church family. Council acknowledges that not all members may wish to return to in-person services but wish to be part of the weekly worship services. To this end, Worship Services are live streamed for those individuals and families who wish to participate in the service at home.

It was very uplifting to say hello and see members of our faith community coming together in worship over the past number of weeks. Yes, there is much to be thankful about at this time of year. The Spirit does move us in interesting ways to respond to the needs and challenges of life.

Council thanks you deeply for your support throughout these challenging times. But as we embark on this journey of new normalcy, there is much to do to support the ongoing ministry of Cochrane Street United Church. Your voluntary and financial support is vital to continue to serve and revitalize the work and ministry of our church. Fundraising efforts over the past months have not been possible. Over the next number of months, we need to think of new ways and means to raise funds to carry out our ministry. Your ideas and assistance is greatly appreciated.

As we move towards Thanksgiving, let us celebrate what we have achieved and be thankful that as a church family we have met the challenges of COVID-19 in a positive and proactive manner. While we are still in this pandemic, there is much we can do to support and engage our community in a caring and compassionate way. As a Community of Faith, let us go out into the harvest field to reap our harvest.

Go out safely and spread the good news.

Stephen B. Jewczyk
Church Council Chair
Cochrane Street United Church

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