



Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future
1916 – 2016

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

Easter Message from your Church Council

Easter gives hope for tomorrow,

Easter Greetings and the Peace of our Lord to you from Cochrane Street United Church Council. While we will not be able to gather together face to face as a family to celebrate the Resurrection and Renewal of Life, we are still thankful for sharing the Good News through conversations with family and friends by telephone, social media or virtual gatherings.

What an unprecedented journey we have had over the past several months! Social Distancing, self-isolation, quarantine, pandemic, asymptomatic are a few of the terms we are now hearing on a daily basis as we continue to deal with COVID-19. There are restrictions in place and many buildings and businesses are closed for a temporary period as part of the health and safety response.

The closing of our church building is affecting worship services and all group gatherings. But our church and our Community of Faith continues as a place of refuge, as a place of caring and compassion, as a place to provide support and friendship to all and as a place of love and peace during turbulent times.

Due to the closure of the church building, a number of events which would have also brought us together have been postponed to a later date depending on the length of emergency health restrictions currently in place. The Annual Congregational Meeting and our hosting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Conference have been put on hold until the fall.

Despite these postponements and closures, the Spirit moves the Church Council to continue to meet in new ways to continue to support the life of our congregation, its Outreach Ministries and our participation in the community. Using new technology, the Council is holding virtual meetings and is reaching out to the Community of Faith electronically. We are continuing to operate and sustain our ministries through your support. However, financial obligations continue and your on-going financial support is important to sustain our Ministries.

Rev. Miriam Bowlby, who is currently on unpaid leave, has volunteered to do virtual worship services on-line and will be delivering our Easter Service virtually. More details will be forthcoming how we all can participate in this service. Rev. Miriam has also indicated that she will be resuming her ministerial work with Cochrane Street United Church on April 20th. This is earlier than she had planned, but Rev. Miriam felt compelled to return to provide pastoral care and guidance during this stressful time. We thank Rev. Miriam for her volunteering at this time of need and look forward to welcoming her back – A sign of the coming renewal.

As we celebrate this Easter, let us reflect on all the goodness and joy that life has given us and remember that we will all play our part in responding to this pandemic which will end in time. In our church, we have planted the seeds of hope, compassion and joy. Just like flowers in a garden, we will see the seeds grow into lush and vibrant colours in the celebration of life that God has given us. Easter symbolizes the renewal of life. Celebrate this Easter with a heart filled with love and peace. Have a blessed and wonderful Easter.

Go out safely and spread the good news, for Christ has risen.

Stephen B. Jewczyk
Church Council Chair

Cochrane Street United Church

81 Cochrane Street, St. John's NL, A1C 3L7 Tel : 709-722-3023 Fax : 709-722-2360

Email: info@cochranestreetuc.com
www.cochranestreetuc.com