



# Cochrane Street United Church

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

## 2023 Easter Message from your Church Council

*“Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,  
what is good and acceptable and perfect”*

*Romans 12:2*

Easter Greetings to you and your family from Cochrane Street United Church Council.

During the Lenten Season, we share a time of reflection as we approach Easter Sunday. I was out in the backyard the other day and I noticed that our pussy willow tree is in bloom – a good sign that Easter is indeed on its way. In the Ukrainian tradition, pussy willow branches are used instead of our familiar palm branches for Palm Sunday. I also noticed on one of our recent warm days that our honey bees were out and about exercising from their winter restrictions in the hive and beginning to gather nectar where ever they can find it in our snow clad gardens. We are also beginning to talk about what seeds to buy and plant for the upcoming growing season. Further signs of the transformation we can anticipate that Spring brings to our planet and to us all.

Easter is a time of hope and renewal of life and faith. The Lenten Season prepares us for the journey that leads to the Cross and then in the resurrection of Jesus, the promise of hope fulfilled.

On our journey at Cochrane Street United Church, we have completed our Mission Articulation Plan in consultation with our congregation. Our engagement team consisting of David Peters, Stephen Jewczyk and Tim Reynolds have been in conversations with other churches in the St. John's area about embarking on a new innovative approach to Ministry through a “collaborative partnership”. It is hoped that these conversations will conclude shortly and that a map for the Way Forward can be presented to the congregation for discussion and decision.

Throughout this engagement process, we have worshiped together with a number of visiting Ministers and lay persons leading our services. We are very fortunate to have Rev. Karen Bursey, a Cochrane Street family member, to come out of retirement and lead us on our journey during the Lenten Season until Easter Sunday. A big thank you to Paula Reynolds and the Worship and Pastoral Care Committee for their continued commitment to providing us with a diverse and interesting worship program.

As many of you know, we have run into furnace and chimney problems in the sanctuary which has resulted in worship services and activities relocating to the community space. Through the efforts of First Light, the community space has been newly renovated and has provided a warm and friendly place for gathering and worship service. We have also reintroduced the fellowship time after the worship service which provides a time of fellowship and catching up among family and friends of Cochrane Street while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee together.

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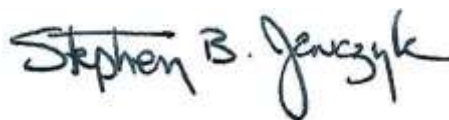
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The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 23, 2023, immediately after the worship service. As this time of year is a time of renewal, so it is with the Church Council. A number of members who have served us all faithfully over the past number of years and have provided stability over our rocky journey are stepping down. This provides an opportunity for new leadership, and new energy as we venture forth on our collaborative partnership and the Path Forward. We are seeking new members. If you have a desire to be part of this leadership team, please contact Stephen B. Jewczyk ([sjewczyk@gmail.com](mailto:sjewczyk@gmail.com); telephone 763-3213) or Brian Johnston ([kjohnston@nl.rogers.com](mailto:kjohnston@nl.rogers.com)).

As a caring and compassionate congregation we extend a hand of friendship to those who seek support, love and peace. We continue to operate and sustain our ministries through your support. For these supports we are forever grateful. Together we make a difference. Our obligations continue and your on-going financial and spiritual support of friendship is important to sustain our Ministries and deeply appreciated.

As we approach Easter, let us reflect on this opportunity to move forward and to be part of a transforming ministry for Christ has risen indeed! Hallelujah!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen B. Jewczyk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J'.

Stephen B. Jewczyk  
Church CSUC Council