



Cochrane Street United Church

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

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



Tidings from the Collection Plate

March, 2023

Hello everyone and welcome to 2023. As we continue to worship without a minister, I would like to thank you with your continuing support to our ministry. Easter is fast approaching and what Easter means to me is new beginnings, a fresh start. Our winter may have been short but seemed ever so long and, with the thought of Spring around the corner, we long for that warm breeze once again.

During Covid we have had to make considerable changes to the way we worship and the way we support our various ministries. We have developed on-line ministries to reach our church family and other members of the public who are looking for support and a way to remain connected to the community. We have continued this process as well as we welcome you to in person worship. During the advent season we held one service for Christmas at Cochrane on our Cochrane Street patio with our friends from First Light and several local musicians. This has become an annual event supporting Christmas, spirituality, the neighbourhood and a sense of community.

Thank-you to all of you that continued to support our ministries throughout this challenging time. Your givings to our collection plate actually went up a little over 2022! Although I say this all the time, it can never be said too often – thank-you, thank-you, thank-you. Your givings help us to continue to adapt and provide the ministries relevant for these challenging times. I was reading over my newsletter for last April when we first entered this unsettled time and I must admit I'm more optimistic now, even with a year under our belts, of our ability to remain relevant to our congregation and community needs.

Please continue to send in your offering through weekly or monthly envelopes. You can **mail in your offering to the church** using Canada Post **or simply drop it off in our mail box on 81 Cochrane Street** which many of you have done. Thanks again to those of you that have used **E-transfers** directly from your bank account. If you are comfortable using this method, this is the safest way to give your donation to the church. Simply go into your account and transfer the funds to the church using the treasurer's email account csuctreasurer@gmail.com.

Not surprisingly, we again saw a drop in our fundraising revenues as we were unable to carry out many of the traditional fundraising activities of our congregation. One of our major fundraisers coming up would be our plant sale – stay tuned for the date. To help compensate for these losses we applied for the grants of which we received \$ 9,800 for the choral scholar program, and \$ 2,000 for Christmas at Cochrane. The council is pleased to have renewed both grants for 2023 and will receive these funds for another year.

For the Lenten season our church council announced a campaign for Bridges to Hope. All the donations made to Bridges To Hope the church council would match up to \$ 2,500. You still have time to contribute to this ministry, for all donations up to Easter would be included in this campaign. If you would like to contribute, make sure the donations are made out to Cochrane Street United Church with the description of "Bridges to Hope". I would like to thank you for all your donations to this campaign.

I have enclosed our annual Easter envelope. Let the Easter message of hope, compassion and renewal shine through.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your church's finances, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 743-1277 or send me an email at csuctreasurer@gmail.com.

Happy Easter, God Bless.

Karen Critch,
Treasurer