



Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future
1916 – 2021

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

2021 06 21

Summer Message from your Church Council

*“Summer breeze, makes me feel fine,
Blowing through the jasmine in my mind’.*
Seals and Croft (1972)

Summer Greetings and Blessings to you from Cochrane Street United Church Council.

A new sense of energy and positivity is in the air. After the past year with the pandemic and public health restrictions, there is a definite breeze of change in the air; the breeze of summer surrounds us all. In this time of first and second vaccinations, restrictions are relaxing in many provinces, travel is being promoted and we are able to do more while respecting health measures. In support of this view, I note in our garden that the flowers are blooming earlier this year and appear more radiant and fragrant in the warm breeze as the days go by. Our bee colony survived the winter and the honey bees are very busy collecting honey and pollinating flowers in the garden.

Likewise, the Church Council feels the breeze of summer and a renewed sense of energy and purpose. Over the past number of months, Council has continued to meet on a regular basis to reach out to our Community of Faith and ensure that our Ministries stay active and relevant in these ever changing times. Financially, we are continuing to sustain our Ministries through sound financial management and COVID related support by the federal and provincial governments. However, congregational fundraising initiatives have fallen dramatically due to public health restrictions on public gatherings which affects how the UCW and Men’s Service Club are able to fundraise. It is through the ongoing support by the individual congregational members and families that we have weathered this storm.

To address this situation, Council has appointed a fundraising committee. The congregation has already seen their springtime efforts through the flower service, pancake supper, plant sale and on-line auction. Thank you to Tim Reynolds, Bill Evans and Rev. Miriam Bowlby for their coordination of these activities and to the volunteers who assisted to make these events a success. There is still much more fundamental work that needs to be done to ensure the sustainability of our Ministries.

During the past months, Council has been reflecting and pondering about the “Path Forward”. Commencing in September, Council wishes to engage the congregation in a discussion about the path we wish to follow. A series of information sessions and meetings will be held to review the present state of our congregation and ministries and what we can do to reach out to our Community of Faith and the community at large with care and compassion.

Through the efforts of our Worship and Pastoral Care Committee – Rev. Miriam Bowlby, Evan Smith and John Williams – our worship services, both in-person and virtually, continue to provide inspiration, reflection and spiritual renewal to all who participate. Our choir and music program continue to celebrate the joy and happiness of coming together as a caring congregation and offering their gifts and talents to the community. Throughout the summer, we will continue to offer an exciting array of worship services, at times in-person and virtually or just virtually. We are planning to include times of fellowship after Worship on the Cochrane Street entrance and patio. Please check your congregational emails and our website for our schedule of services.

Efforts continue through First Light to reactivate our Casavant pipe organ. The organ has been inspected and the dust and construction debris that accumulated in the organ blower room has been cleaned up. We are waiting for the installation of vents for the blower room prior to restarting the organ. It is anticipated that the pipe organ will be reactivated during the fall worship services.

Our congregation is also active in our Outreach Ministries. We continue to participate and provide contributions and support to Cochrane Centre, Bridges To Hope and the General Protestant Cemetery Committee. We are actively involved in the United Community of Faith which has representatives from all United Churches in the St. John's Region. More recently, Council has supported the efforts of the United Church of Canada by writing letters of support for a Guaranteed Livable Income program to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of the Province and our local MP and MHA. Council also wrote on behalf of the congregation, a letter to First Light expressing our sadness and dismay over the recent announcement of the 215 children's remains found at the residential school in Kamloops, BC. They are in our hearts and prayers at this most difficult time. At the request of Cochrane Centre, we have taken over the rental cost of the Archives as we search for ways to bring the Archives back into the building.

As we enjoy the summer breeze, Council is already planning many activities in the fall in anticipation of the continuation and improvement to our public health protocols. Let us enjoy the warmth, colour and fragrances of summer as we celebrate '*all things bright and beautiful*'. Like the summer breeze, the Spirit touches and moves us in many ways. Celebrate the summer season with heartfelt love and peace.

Yours in Christ



Stephen B. Jewczyk
Church Council Chair
Cochrane Street United Church