



# Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future

1916 – 2016

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



## Tidings from the Collection Plate

April 2020

Hello everyone and welcome to 2020. This edition of Tidings marks our fourth year of publication and, as we all know, we are living in a very challenging time. The Covid 19 pandemic is far reaching with significant impacts on our society and way of life. Our church is grappling with this situation; trying to find new ways to sustain our ministries and comfort our members during these trying and highly uncertain times.

As many of you probably appreciate, we did not enter this period of physical distancing in a good financial position. The fact that our Christmas Eve services were cancelled impacted our revenue at year end. Then several of our services during January and February were also cancelled due to snowmageddon and individual storms that kept many of you home safe and sound. I'm glad of that but it has impacted our revenue significantly, and I need each and everyone one of you to find a way to continue to support your church and congregation during these times.

There are several options available:

- For those of you who give your offering through weekly or monthly envelopes you can **mail in your offering to the church**, perhaps on a monthly basis, using Canada Post. Post dated cheques work, too. We will deposit them in the month listed and you only need to send your letter once. Please, though, don't mail cash. This option is really only good if you can write a cheque.
- If you are comfortable using **E-transfers** from your bank account, the church now accepts these. Simply go into your account and transfer the funds to [csuctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:csuctreasurer@gmail.com). This is my email account and the funds go directly into a church account set up at the bank for this purpose. There is a place on the transfer where you can identify the purpose of your donation (local fund, M & S, Cochrane Centre, etc) and Harold Grandy and I have no difficulty incorporating this info into your tax receipt information. This is an excellent way for you to continue to support the church with monthly givings. This is also a good way for members to give one time donations for memorials and or **Easter** or any other specific ministries such as Bridges to Hope, Cemetery fund, etc.
- For those of you who wish to give using your credit card, you can go on-line through **Canada Helps** ([www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)). Canada Helps is a Canadian registered charity which exists purely to enable other charities to receive on-line gifts. Our church is listed on Canada Helps – simply go on line to their website, find our church and make your donation. Canada Helps is a registered charity and they will send you a tax receipt for your donation. Each month we receive a report from Canada Helps listing the donations that we have received, and the funds are directly deposited into our account.
- As I have mentioned in previous editions, **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)** still remains an effective option for those who wish to give monthly. PAR allows you to give to what matters most to you, through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account. I have discussed

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this option with several of you and if you would like to pursue it further please get in touch with me at the email above or by phone and we can set it up.

To those of you already on PAR, now is a very good time for you to review your monthly givings. It's easy to update the amount of your gift. Simply give me a call and we can implement the change. I know that I have discussed increasing your gift with several of you and that this was under consideration. Now is the time to act to help our church and its ministries.

I started this newsletter with a plea for each of you to find a way to continue and increase your support for our church and its ministries. I know that some of you will be facing new financial hardships and that rather than increasing your givings you are going to have to cut them back. I fully understand this and appreciate your reality as you go forward in these uncertain times making these difficult decisions. Hopefully we can help you whether the storm. Others can continue their givings and perhaps give a little more to help our congregation through these challenging times. To those of you in this situation, please give me a call at **(902) 325-4661** and let me know how you can help.

All gifts are a sign of faith and an act of generosity, and on behalf of the church I sincerely thank you for all you give. Although this Easter will be very different from anything yet experienced, the basic message of hope, compassion and renewal will still shine through.

God Bless and stay safe.

Tim Reynolds,  
Treasurer