

Port Dover - Woodhouse Pastoral Charge Newsletter
October/November 2020

From the minister's desk...

Greetings in the name of Christ.

Well, *finally*, our church buildings are open again! I pray that they will remain open. The other exciting news is the installation of our live-streaming video equipment. Now those with internet access who are unable to come to church are able to watch our services in real time. That is, they can "join" us while we worship instead of watching the service a week behind. I'd like to thank those who have volunteered to take turns operating the camera.

We will continue to mail out written copies of the service to those without internet access who are unable to come to church.

These have been trying times:

I have not been able to visit those in Seniors' or Nursing Homes or most private homes.

We have had funerals for our 2 centenarians, for whom the church would have been "packed" if it had been allowed. Sadly, the attendance at the funerals for Elva Broker in April and Marjorie Schneider in September were both restricted to family only.

A baptism and reception of new members at Grace, scheduled for April, had to be postponed.

Services had to be taped in advance from March to August. Due to restrictions, there could only be 4 or 5 of us in the sanctuary. Ever try speaking to a virtually empty room?

Bible Study and meetings had to be held on Zoom.

I would like to thank and commend those who have stayed in touch by phone with members of our churches. Many of those calls are continuing because our most vulnerable cannot yet return to church. Thank you also to members who have helped deliver groceries to those without family support.

Thank you all for the support you have given (and continue to give) to Robyn and I. We would not accomplish what we do without your help.

All of these varied contributions to the ministry of our churches remind me of Paul's letter to the Corinthians: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.... As it is, there are many parts, but one body." (1 Corinthians 12:12-20)

I join you in being disappointed that we are not allowed to sing in church at this time. If we have a hymn that you particularly want to sing, try going on line when you get home and watch the service, fast forwarding to the hymns, and join in there.

I implore you to follow the guidelines that have been set for us during this time. If churches fail to do that, we risk being closed down again.

Many groups have been able to start up again. Check the announcements for more information. Announcement sheets are available at the back of the church. Remember...if you touch it, take it.

I don't know yet what our Advent and Christmas services will be like. I will try to put out a special newsletter for December.

In the meantime, God bless and stay safe.

Together in Faith,

Rev. Kathryn

Covid-19 update

We have been getting a lot of questions about whether or not we can stay open. As you have experienced, government legislation can change from day to day. The most recent information that we have is:

September 19

The new limits on the number of people allowed to attend an **un-monitored private social gathering** is:

10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50) or 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100)

Indoor and outdoor events cannot be merged together

The **new limits** are effective immediately but **do not apply to** events or gatherings held in staffed businesses and facilities, such as bars, restaurants, cinemas, convention centres, banquet halls, gyms, **places of worship**, recreational sporting or performing art events.

Re-opening and start up of groups.

- Masks must be worn at all times when in the church building.
- There is no coffee and fellowship time (social gatherings) available at either church.
- Please respect the need for social distancing in sanctuary seating. Both churches have marked seating. At Woodhouse, you may sit in a pew identified with a flower. At Grace, you may not sit in a pew marked with an X. You may not sit next to someone who is not in your family or social bubble.
- Our office administrator, Robyn, will be available in the office Tuesdays to Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30. Please remember to wear a mask.
- Many of the groups at Grace have re-started. Check our web page or announcements to find out details. Only 2 rooms are available to be booked: The Grace Room and the Growing Place. Rooms must be sanitized after each use. The only washroom available is the one by the Grace Room.



Hidden Books of the Bible

In the paragraph below you will find fifteen books of the Bible. As you find them, underline them:

I once made some remarks about hidden books in the Bible. It was a lulu: kept some people looking so hard for facts, and to others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot; others might require judges to determine. We will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how easy it is. A little lady says that if she brews tea she can concentrate better. (Solution on page 5)

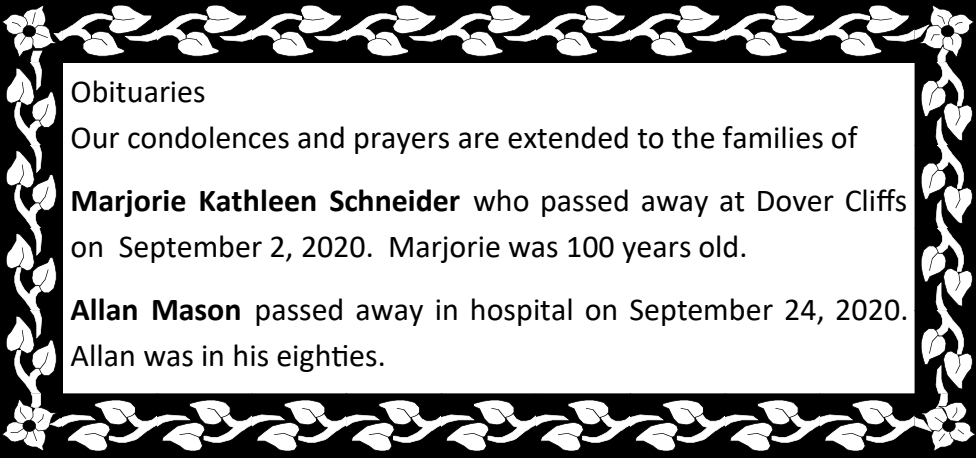
REGARDING MASK USAGE

As of Aug. 3, 2020 masks are required indoors per

Norfolk County by-law.

Face coverings should not be placed on or used by:

- children under the age of two
- anyone who has trouble breathing
- anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- people who have a health condition that makes it difficult to wear a mask



Obituaries

Our condolences and prayers are extended to the families of

Marjorie Kathleen Schneider who passed away at Dover Cliffs on September 2, 2020. Marjorie was 100 years old.

Allan Mason passed away in hospital on September 24, 2020. Allan was in his eighties.

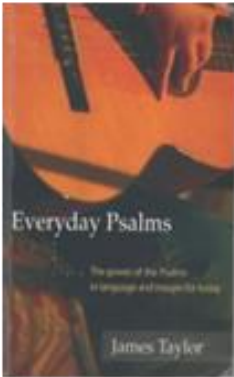
Wanted: People to deliver bulletins and newsletters.

Are you able to deliver every 2 weeks? We are still mailing out about 60 copies of the bulletin. We print out 2 weeks' of services at a time to minimize mailing costs. Having some of them hand-delivered would save the pastoral charge even more of its office expense. Do you visit someone in one of the Seniors' or Nursing Homes? Perhaps you could take the copies for our residents at that location.

Hidden Books of the Bible Solution:

I once made some remarks about hidden books in the Bible. It was a lulu: kept some people looking so hard for facts, and to others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot; others might require judges to determine. We will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how easy it is. A little lady says that if she brews tea she can concentrate better.

Everyday Psalms



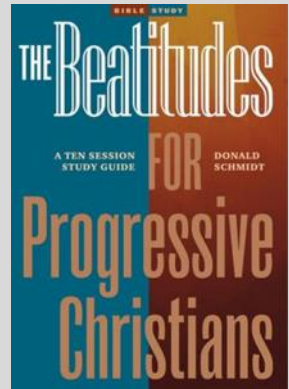
You may have noticed the addition of Psalms to our weekly readings. It is common for churches to have the psalm reading for the day plus 2 of the other 3 readings. The Psalms were songs, the hymnbook of the Israelites, written over several centuries. James Tayler, in *Everyday Psalms*, captures the spirit of the biblical psalm and tells it using contemporary words and images. I have asked for and received permission from Mr. Taylor to use his work in our services.

Fall Study

The Beatitudes for Progressive Christians by Donald Schmidt

Ten sessions: Thursdays, October 15 - December 17. An excellent study of the Beatitudes. Includes contemporary examples and stories.

Price: \$14.95 + HST and shipping



COMING UP IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Sunday October 18—Woodhouse Anniversary, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday October 25—Grace Anniversary guest speaker—Jane Baxter



Grace: Memorial Candlelighting

October 18 - We remember:

Dennis D'hondt, William Bert Dougherty, Harry Gamble,
Wesley Melvin Howden, Sandra McFarland, Jean Riddle,
Terence John Smith, Douglas Albert Smith

November 15 - We remember:

David James Cossar, Donald Dale McCoy, Eugene Bryce Stone

Woodhouse: Memorial Candlelighting

November 15 - We remember:

James Morrison Knox Godfrey, John Cecil Hatch



October 11—Thanksgiving Sunday

November 8—Remembrance Sunday



November 29— First Sunday of Advent—“Advent Walk”

Due to the restrictions of Covid-19, we will not be able to offer the traditional advent walk. However, all 4 church leaders will each take a theme (as usual) and prepare a mini-worship around that theme (as usual). We will then record the 4 segments and offer the Advent service online. The service will be about half an hour in length and will be available for November 29..

Grace Helping to Feed Those in Need in Norfolk County

Many of our congregation will know of our developing interest in the community-support group, Church Out Serving (CoS). Perhaps you may not know that they are actively engaged with County authorities, the Children's Nutrition Network and other local Christian churches, to provide for emergency meal support to the disadvantaged around Norfolk County. This is just one of the many needs they are striving to meet in our neighbourhoods.



Realizing the need, the Grace Outreach committee recently authorized a \$500 donation to CoS in support of the purchasing of fresh and nutritional food products. Seen in the photos is our Rev Kathryn Vance and Lynda Simpson, in one of the walk-in refrigerator units at their developing homesite, Riversyde83 in Simcoe, presenting the donation to the CoS coordinator, Virginia Lucas,

Also shown are Jim and Lynda Simpson loading up some of the food boxes for weekly delivery to those in need in the County. Many thanks go out to our Outreach Committee for this extended hand of generosity and kindness.



If you have an interest in helping us to help CoS with their community support aims, please have a look at their web-sight at www.churchoutserving.org and/or speak with Rev Kathryn, the Dawsons, the Simpsons or anyone on the Grace Board or Outreach Cttee. The CoS need for your involvement is always there, whether you are willing to donate, work, drive, pray or construct!

Church Out Serving

Scripture Readings October 4 —November 22

October 4 - Creation Time 4 in the season of Pentecost, World Communion Sunday

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 The Ten Commandments

Psalm 19 The heavens declare God's glory.

Philippians 3:4b-14 Paul's testimony—his gains were loss.

Matthew 21:33-46 The parable of the landowner and the tenants



October 11 - Creation Time 5 in the season of Pentecost—Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 God will bring you to a bountiful land.

Psalm 65 God provides; the valleys shout and sing.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 God loves a cheerful giver.

Luke 17:11-19 Ten healed; one returns to offer thanks.

October 18 - 20th after Pentecost, Woodhouse Anniversary, World Food Sunday

Exodus 33:12-23 God speaks to Moses face to face as a friend.

Psalm 99 God is a ruler who delights in justice.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 We always give thanks to God for you.

Matthew 22:15-22 Give to God the things that are God's.

October 25 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Grace Anniversary, Peace Sunday

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Moses dies and is buried in Moab.

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 O God, our help in ages past

1 Thess. 2:1-8 We care for you like a nurse cares for her own children.

Matthew 22:34-46 Love God; love your neighbour as yourself.

November 1st - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints Day

Joshua 3:7-17 Joshua leads the people across the Jordan River.

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 God's steadfast love endures forever.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Lead a life worthy of God.

Matthew 23:1-12 The greatest one will be the servant.

November 8th - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Remembrance Sunday

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Joshua challenges the people to choose God.

Psalm 78:1-7 We will teach the next generation.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 God will raise the dead.

Matthew 23:1-12 Parable of the 10 bridesmaids and the lamps

November 15th - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7 The judge Deborah speaks God's word to the general Barak.

Psalm 123 We lift our eyes to you, O God.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 The day of God will come as a thief in the night.

Matt. 25:14-30 The parable of the talents

November 22nd - 25th after Pentecost, Reign of Christ Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 God searches for the sheep; God judges between the fat and the lean

Psalm 100 Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Ephesians 1:15-23 May God give you a spirit of wisdom, revelation, and hope.

Matthew 21:23-32 When you helped the least of these, you helped me.
