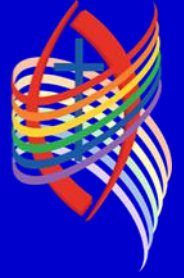




St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

Reaching Out



a weekly online newsletter for members and friends of the
St. Andrews faith community, shared for the purpose of
bringing peace, hope and comfort during these special times.

May 17th - Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Scripture Reading

John 14: 15-21

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.



A PRAYER

God of life,
you have promised to be
with us every day,
also in difficult days,
like in times like these.
Give us clarity in our minds,
strength in our work and discernment,
rest as we sleep,
peace in our minds.
Be with those who need help
more than we do ourselves
help us to see what we can offer
from your love.



e-mail contact: reachingout@standrews-northbay.ca

IF YOU LOVE ME - A REFLECTION BY PETER HADDOW



I wonder how many times you have ever used the words "If you love me," when you want someone to do something for you. I am pretty sure I have on a few occasions. "If you love me you

would scratch my back or massage my feet."

In this week's scripture reading, *John 14:15-21*, it is interesting to note that Jesus begins by saying, "If you love me." We forget sometimes that it's not enough to just say, "I love Jesus." The important part is living that love.

In his book *The Message* author Eugene Peterson writes "If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you."

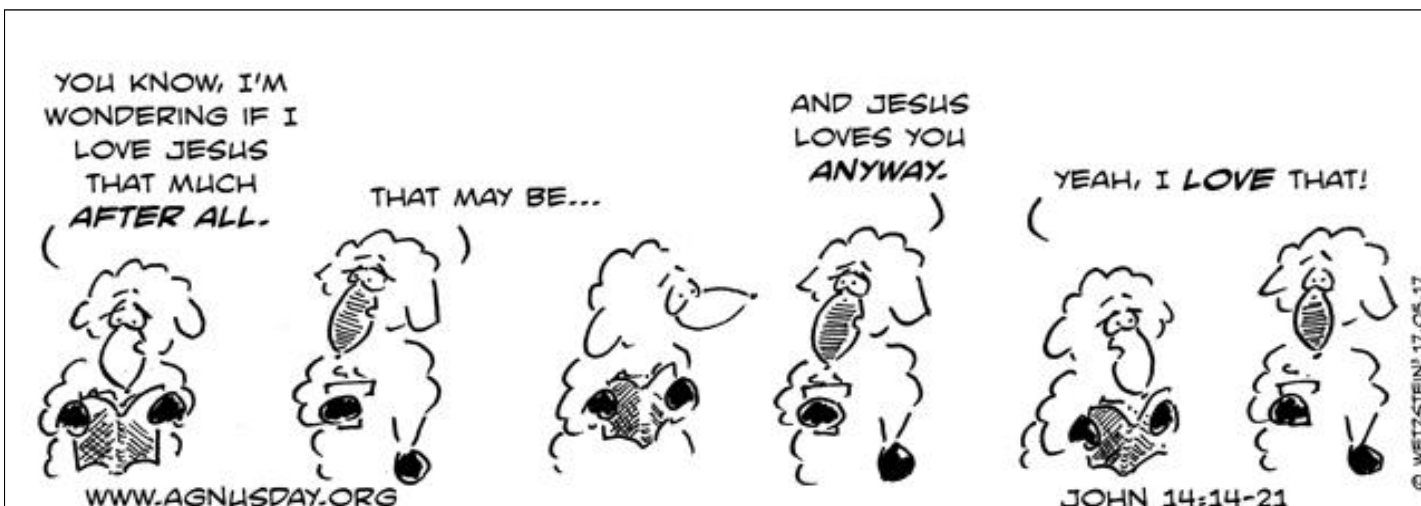
What difference does it make in your life, in the life of those you encounter, or in your own family? It makes a big difference.

When Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments", He was talking about the two most important commandments: *Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.*

Lately I have seen that love in action and in the difference it makes in the world around us: people banging pots to say, "Thank you" to essential workers, calling a friend/ loved one on the phone to open their front door just to wave from the sidewalk to say "I love you", or a card in the mail from our church just to say "we are thinking about you!" These are a few examples of love in action.

Mother Teresa has said, "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."

Peter is a licensed Lay Worship Leader within the Canadian Shield Regional Council. He is also a member of the regional *Support to Communities of Faith Commission* and the *Regional Affirming Committee*.



ONLINE WORSHIP - THIS SUNDAY - A Couple of Options

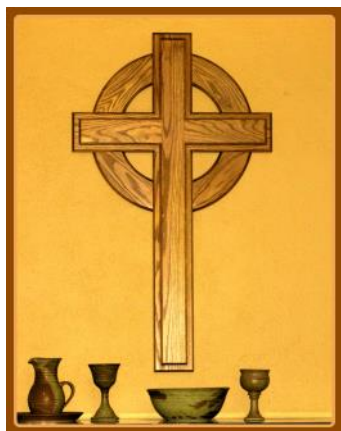
This Sunday's service (May 17, 2020) will be found on the **Trinity YouTube channel**. This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time.

To visit the channel, click on this link: [Trinity United Church YouTube Channel](#). The Sunday service (usually posted by Saturday evening) is a collaborative production by the Trinity United crew, with regular input from St. Andrew's and other united churches in the area.



Click ****HERE**** for a list of links to over 380 United Churches across Canada that are offering online worship services ... either streamed or recorded.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL



Members and Friends of St. Andrew's:

There seem to be signs that things are letting up a bit, but the safety of people must still be in the forefront of our actions. We must take things slowly. The National Church has set out some guidelines for the phases of reopening our churches. <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/phase-1-reopening-building-during-pandemic>. It will be a slow process, but we are working towards it.

We will be holding a Council meeting on Tuesday at which we will be discussing, among other things, the steps towards reopening and what our congregation can do to help us through this time. We hope our committees can start to meet again, using an electronic platform to start with, so our church can get back on steady footing.

We will also be discussing the situation with the Belfry. Because of the COVID-19 situation the architectural firm that is doing the drawings for the project has been delayed, as have any attempts to do fundraising for the project. We are doing the best we can to keep you, as members (and friends) of St. Andrew's, informed.

If anyone wishes to speak to me, I can be contacted through email at pat.kirton.bailey@gmail.com, or phone at (705)-493-4035.

Please be safe and keep the love of Christ in your hearts. May the warmth and love of the spirit be with us all.

Patricia Kirton-Bailey
Council Chairperson



Jennifer Barnett and Star McGregor
with a family food bag

Foodbank Report

A bag full of kindness... one member of the St. Andrew's congregation taken large shopping bags and filled them to the brim with groceries and non-perishable food items. But that's not all! Also included is a beautiful hand-made inspirational card that lets each recipient family know that they are valued members of our community.

There is still a need at the foodbank for:

- plastic grocery bags
- ziploc bags (all sizes)
- canned food of any kind

If you would like to make food donations to the foodbank, please know that the Church Office Administrator, Star, will be in the building on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** from **10 am until 2 pm**. We will safely take your non-perishables .

Cash or cheque donation can also be made through Star - or donations may be mailed to St. Andrew's, or online donations can be made via the "Donate Now" option (see details below).



HOW YOU CAN HELP ST. ANDREW'S DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME

1. Become a monthly **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) member** by downloading a form and mailing it to St. Andrew's. Complete PAR details and forms can be found at: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/give-regularly> . To change your monthly amount, contact the Church Office.

2. Drop off a **cheque** at the Church on **Wednesday** or **Thursday** (from 10 am until 2 pm) - or mail it to St. Andrew's United Church, 399 Cassells Street, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4

3. Give via the "**Donate Now**" button located to the right, or on our website (<https://standrews-northbay.ca/donate/>) Please note choosing this option allows you to use a credit card however the tax receipt will come from *Canada Helps* **directly to you by e-mail** and they take a 3% admin fee.



From: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/reopening-churches-during-covid-19>

Safety Considerations for Reopening during the Pandemic

Guidance for those responsible for making decisions in all parts of the church, and things to consider before moving from one phase to another. **Each council makes decisions on reopening for its areas of responsibility. The governing board of each community of faith should consult with its local public health unit, provincial health ministry, and regional council. The guiding principle is the safety of all who enter the building. As of May 7, 2020.**

Phase 1: Reopening the Building during the Pandemic

Small groups may meet in person in small numbers, with social distancing and masks. Worship will continue to be online only, with some exceptions for outdoor worship.

Phase 2: Reopening In-Person Worship during the Pandemic

Worship and other activities resume in church buildings, with social distancing and other measures.

Phase 3: Full Return during the Pandemic

For worship and other gatherings, you will still need to consider the health and safety regulations of your province.

Phase 1: Reopening the Building during the Pandemic (in more detail)

The Building

- Church boards, committees, or staff groups may meet in person in small numbers, respecting local restrictions, and with social distancing and masks.

Churches need to have an opening plan that spells out the provisions for safe opening. They should require the same of their tenants before allowing them back.

Worship Guidelines

Generally, worship will continue to be held online only, although some exceptions may be made for outdoor worship with social distancing and masks.

Communion

If communion is offered, best practices suggest the following:

- The officiant and servers use hand sanitizer before offering communion.
- Individual pieces of bread and individual cups are offered.
- Servers offer the bread and cup to each person, rather than each person taking them from a communal plate or tray.

Each communicant places their empty cup into a separate receptacle.

Passing the Peace and the Offering Plate

- Social distancing must be maintained. Offering a phrase or pressing hands together in a prayerful bow can convey the message of passing the peace.

Passing the offering plate should be avoided. Place the plate in the church for people to drop their offering into, and have gloves available for staff handling cash or cheques. Now is the time to suggest that people give through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance).

Singing

- There should be no congregational or choir singing.
- Soloists must be at safe distances from each other and from the congregation.

Source: [A Conversation: What Do Science and Data Say About the Near Term Future of Singing](#) webinar recording.

Cleaning

After each gathering, it is important to thoroughly clean bathrooms, door handles, hymnbooks, pew Bibles, backs of pews, microphones, musical instruments, and all other highly used areas.

Over 60 or Otherwise Vulnerable?

- People over 60, those with underlying medical conditions that have weakened immune systems, and those who have family members at home who are vulnerable are encouraged to participate only in online activities.
- Clergy who are in one of these categories should have a conversation with their Ministry and Personnel Committee to develop an alternate option where exposure to groups of people is limited and high-risk activities are avoided altogether.
- Ministry personnel who are at higher risk or who have family members at home who are at higher risk must exercise diligence in limiting their exposure to groups of people and higher-risk activities

Details for **Phases 2 and 3** may be found at:

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/reopening-churches-during-covid-19>

