

March 27, 2020

Emmanuel United Church

# Emmanuel Newsflash

[www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca](http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca)

## A Message From Rev. Roni

Friends,

I suspect I am not the only one who feels overwhelmed and maybe a sense of grief as directives change daily regarding the co-vid pandemic. With a rise in community spread, we have had to close the church office as we are deemed “a non-essential service” under provincial law. I have been checking on things in the office and we are allowed to have three people present for the taping of online worship on Sunday. I’ve had moments this week when I have felt a little disoriented, I’ve even felt a bit depressed. However the sense of loss I feel, pales in comparison to the sense of isolation that our city’s homeless and other at risk persons face in this community. Individuals in this demographic can only connect with their social workers, by phone calls. In addition, many of the coffee shops and public places where they might congregate for warm and social time are now closed. Also, when they call on the churches for support, the offices are closed. Many are also estranged from family. They are hungry for food, hungry for kindness and hungry for relationship.

Many in this “at risk demographic” also live with physical and often mental health concerns. The current situation can easily trigger a crisis.

It’s understandable why a person in this situation, might experience God as distant. When the world around you seems indifferent, it’s natural, in our lowest moments to project that understanding onto God. God seems far away and because our faith teaches us, that God is supposed to be with us, and is supposed to love us, we respond by feeling angry toward God when God seems distant. It’s understandable because our understanding of God is formed in community. If you are you having a tough time with belief in God right now, it is understandable. Mary and Martha, did not understand why Jesus kept distant from them when their brother Lazarus was sick, Jesus could have saved Lazarus from dying. Even when Jesus calls him out of the tomb it takes a community to unbind the grave clothes. It takes a community, to unbind the life-denying bands of the marginalized in our community. The grave clothes might be the negative scripting and branding of a idealistic society, or the scars of growing up in an abusive home.

This week I learned of a program called a “wellness check”, you can call the North Bay Police and request a well check for an individual if you believe they are in crisis and they will check on the person.

When in distress, you need someone to come alongside you, you need help in order to feel hopeful again.

Jesus came that all of us might have new life, we need to come alongside each other, show up for each other, so that each one of us might thrive. While we need to close our church doors and keep two meters apart, we need more than ever to open up our hearts and love our neighbours. We need to advocate for help for each other. We need to bear the fruit of God’s love. A couple of phone calls can make the difference between death and life. God who chooses life, works through each one of us.

“Turning from physical contact with others must not cause us to turn away from each other, but rather turning to each other in better, deeper, and healthier ways.

(Rev. Kathi Phillips, Erin Mills United Church)”

**Join us on Facebook Live, Sunday 10:30am for online worship.**  
**Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; John 11: 1-45**

### Sunday Service March 22, 2020: A YouTube Video

<https://youtu.be/BTBngR2ru-4>

Please turn up the volume, as the recoding was very quiet.  
*Brought to you by Rev. Roni and Mary Way White with thanks to Lorne Robertson for his technical support.*



The “Are You Ok?” Program is a daily telephone reassurance program provided by the Golden Age Club. Enrolled seniors receive a daily call from a voice-activated computer program to check on their well-being. **Call 705-476-0890 to sign up.**

*The Ontario government announced the closure of all but essential workplaces. Church buildings were not named as essential, and therefore church buildings need to be closed.*

#### **CANCELLED**

- \* Beef Supper
- \* All meetings-Church and Community
- \* West Ferris Brunch for March and April

#### **CLOSED**

- \* EUC Food Bank
- \* Church Office- *the secretary is working from home and phone and email messages are checked regularly.*

#### **POSTPONED**

- \* Council Meeting (March 25)
- \* Annual Congregational Meeting (March 29)

### **HOW TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC:**

- PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) a set amount is taken from your bank account monthly (can be changed at any time by you) Contact Sherri Pinder.
- Drop off envelope at church in finance mail slot.
- Regular Mail to the church.
- **A NEW OPTION** is to contribute electronically through [CanadaHelps.org](https://CanadaHelps.org) which is now available and will continue after the pandemic is over. The church can now accept these donations. There is a link ("**Donate Now**" button) on the EUC website on the Home Page as well as the in the new Donations page.

#### **How Canada Helps donations work:**

- Canada Helps takes a 4% administration fee from your donation (\$40 donation results in \$38.40 to the church)
- You will receive a tax receipt from Canada Helps immediately at time of donation. You **will not** receive a tax receipt for this donation from EUC. The tax receipt will be for 100% of your donation.
- Donations can be made with Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Visa Debit or PayPal.
- You can direct your donation to the General Fund, Legacy Fund, Memorial Fund, Supper Fund, Non-Supper Supper Fund.
- You can name the person your are contributing in memory of.
- You can make notes to EUC Treasurer with your contribution.
- Donations are deposited directly to the church bank account.

**If you have any questions please contact Brenda Cote or Greg Wilcox.**

**“NON-SUPPER/SUPPER”** Your support of this fund-raising opportunity is greatly appreciated.

### **“Known by Our Love”**

**Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring, welcoming faith community, nurturing spiritual life and sharing God's love and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.**

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