

Dear Friends

One day last week the doorbell at the church rang. It was two members of our congregation, arriving separately but at the same time. Each of them was holding a loaf of sandwiches in a plastic bag in their hands. I was confused at first. And then I realized what was happening. It was the end of the month and our turn to send sandwiches to St. Matthew's – Maryland Community Ministry. Just because there is a pandemic, why would we do anything else? Ministry continues in good times and bad.

It is the beginning of June and without any trepidation I am writing to you to keep you aware that ministry continues, and with it, our need for your support and donations. Ever since the beginning of the suspension of gatherings we have continued to do much of what we are committed to. The four people who work in the building have continued to work uninterrupted. Our video, audio, and written worship resources are being broadly used and reaching a growing number of people. The musical staff has converted to working from home but contribute to worship services every week. Our children and youth staff are working from home and connecting in new and creative ways. We are reaching out to community ministries like St. Matthew's Maryland and we have initiated the second farming project for the Yazidi refugee community.

And you have responded tremendously! Despite not worshipping for over two months our offerings to the end of May are only \$4,000 behind this time last year (\$131,057 compared to \$135,519). A remarkable display of generosity. Mission and Service donations to the end of May are even closer (\$24,912 in 2019 compared to \$24,004 in 2020). We are approximately \$3000 behind last year in fundraising and \$8000 behind in rentals. On the positive side we have qualified for \$11,979 in Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). And on top of everything else our Food Drive in May for the Yazidi community raised \$9000!!! All together we are only \$2400 in deficit on the year which is actually a better position than this time last year. Thank you so very much.

As it is possible for you, I invite you to continue your support for the ministry of Charleswood United Church. You may wish to send cheques by mail or to visit our website donation page for electronic options: <https://charleswoodunited.org/donate/>

We are moving forward towards wholeness and well-being. A plan for returning to worship will be developed in the next while and you will be kept apprised with each new decision.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness to the church and to one another.

Grace and peace,

Michael