

Watch this week's service on YouTube here: [Sunday Worship Service Video for July5/20](#)

Dear Friends

A thoughtful email from a member of our church the other day made me recall the wise words of St. Paul in the familiar text that is 1 Corinthians 13. *If I have no love, I am nothing...if I have no love, I gain nothing.*

Our world is aching with a great and growing desire for change. Some long for health and well-being, the proverbial 'return to normal'. Some long for reconciliation. Some long for an end to systemic racism. Everyone longs for an end to fear and anxiety.

In the midst of what some call upheaval and others call an awakening it is important to remember love. Martin Luther King Jr. said *Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.* Love is a powerful tool for transformation. Perhaps it is the only tool. Analysis and protest, outrage and campaigns have their place. But without love the transformation we long for cannot take place. As Paul says *Faith, hope, love abide, but the greatest of these is love.*

Grace and peace,

Michael

As in any year when we come to July things at the church slow down a bit. With that in mind here are some things we would like you to know:

### **Sunday Services**

Sunday worship services will continue to be posted every week on our YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFKme5ppll\\_Ygg94Pk3AmSA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFKme5ppll_Ygg94Pk3AmSA))

For July we will discontinue posting audio reflections on the website and the written worship service with links. An email with a link to each week's service will continue to be sent out on Fridays.

### **Resumption of Services**

A date for resuming services remains unknown. As long as the Manitoba Health recommended limit for indoor gatherings is 50 people we will not be having services. In August we will look towards opportunities for communal gatherings.

### **Council and Committee Work**

You won't be surprised that our leadership teams continue to work during the pandemic. Recently the Mission and Social Action Committee approved donations from Charleswood UC for a few of our mission partners. The most significant donation was \$3500 for 1 Just City, the agency which supports all of the United Church Community Ministries in Winnipeg. Additional support from CUC was given to Agape Table, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Willow Place (women's shelter), Days for Girls, and the Sandy Salteaux Centre (education for indigenous ministry).

Council met and voted to continue our online ministry for an indefinite period. To that end they agreed to the purchase of equipment to make that continuation possible. We also approved Charleswood United Church as a learning site for a second 8 month practicum with Laura Rousseau! Laura will be returning in August to resume her role among us.

### **Financial Support**

The congregation has responded to this unprecedented situation with generosity and grace. Thank you for your ongoing support. At the end of June our offerings were \$10,000 ahead of this time last year (\$189,000 vs. \$179,000). Though our rental and fundraising income remain behind budget as a consequence of the pandemic, we have qualified for \$12,849 in Covid-19 relief grants from the federal government. Mission and Service donations are on pace to match last year.

As in every year, we would ask you to remember the church during the summer months by keeping your pledges and donations up to date. For information on means of giving please visit [www.charleswoodunited.org/donate](http://www.charleswoodunited.org/donate)