

This Week in the Life & Work of our Church

KINCARDINE UNITED CHURCH

721 Princes St. N., Kincardine ON N2Z 2A3

Web site: www.kincardineunitedchurch.org Office Hours: Tues –Fri. 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Envelope Steward: kucesteward@bmts.com ♦ Gord's email: gord.kuc@bmts.com

Office e-mail: kuchurch@bmts.com ♦ Phone: 519-396-2391

The Congregation of Kincardine United Church seeks to foster a journey of spiritual growth through hospitality, service, fellowship and study, and, in community, to build up the ministry of every person and together experience God's abundant love and grace.

FIRESIDE CHATS

Friday, March 27th, Gord began providing "Fireside Chats" at least twice each week. The intention is to help "fill the gap" when we are unable to gather for worship, for study and for conversation in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this manner we can be connected virtually – although at a distance. There are invitations sent out to those on our e-mail list with the link to each new chat (if you wish to get on that e-mail list, please make the request to Sarah MacKenzie at kuchurch@bmts.com). Gord's chat's can be found on our website (under menu option "Gord's Reflections & Fireside Chats").



PROJECT PEN PALS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kincardine, in response to COVID-19, has started a new program called "Project Pan Pals" (pandemic pen pals). The concept is to connect their Littles, Bigs, Volunteers, Board members and staff with seniors during this time through letter writing. Social isolation - albeit necessary for all us - is difficult, and this project is a great way to keep people connected at a distance.

If you are interested, you would simply need to supply Big Brothers and Big Sisters with your name and mailing address and they will take care of matching them you with a Pan Pal.

Contact Yolanda Email: bbrosis@bmts.com Telephone: 519-396-3565

For more information, please visit:

<https://kincardine.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/what-we-do/project-pan-pal/>

DONATIONS

During these difficult times, making donations to the church is severely hampered!

We have added E-Transfers as a “New” donation method and instructions are now available on our church web site <http://www.kincardineunitedchurch.org>

E-Transfer:

- From the web-site additional instructions will guide you through the new process using your bank software!
- With E-Transfer you can make a contribution directly from your bank account to the church bank account.
- The church receives the full amount as there are “no” fees on our end, unlike many other donation methods that charge us a service fee.

PayPal:

- The second option is PayPal. From the website, a pop-up will link to the secure PayPal web site, where you can use your PayPal account or use your credit card.

These contributions will be administered by the Envelope Steward and get added to your yearly contribution totals. Please provide donor contact info as needed.

The screenshot shows the Kincardine United Church website. A central yellow banner reads: "KINCARDINE UNITED CHURCH IS CURRENTLY CLOSED. Due to the recommendation from the Provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health and under order of the Ontario State of Emergency, Kincardine United Church has closed to protect the most vulnerable in our community. Worship will be broadcast as usual on local TV the week after. We are looking into options for live-streaming worship on Sunday mornings." To the left, a "Make A Donation" section is highlighted with a red box and contains a "Click Here" button. Below the banner, a red-bordered box contains the text: "Welcome to our spiritual community. Experience God's abundant love and grace." The right side of the page features sections for "Office Coordinator", "This Week's Worship", "Announcements", "Search Website", and "Site Map".

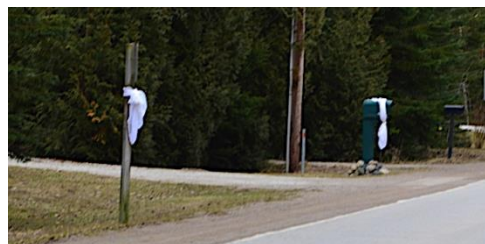
WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

This was recently promoted & encouraged during a Bruce Power Virtual Town Hall with Dr. Arra of Grey-Bruce Public Health.



Our health care providers and first responders are working above and beyond the call of duty these days, and one way to show them we care is to participate in the "White Ribbon" campaign. If everyone went out and tied a white ribbon outside, it would show our health care providers and first responders, who are also our neighbours, that we truly appreciate what they are doing. No white ribbon? How about a white scarf, or a strip of a white pillowcase.

This movement in Grey Bruce is being spearheaded by Rev. Joan Silcox-Smith of the Spiritual Care Department (Chaplaincy program) in Owen Sound, after learning of it from a colleague in Markham.



THANK YOU MARCH HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who helped with March House. The members of March House and the non members who helped willingly. Our time was cut short by the terrible virus. – John and Joan Gillespie

PROGRAMME CALENDAR

Services will continue to air on Rogers Cable Channel 6 a week later and at least once more during the week. View the schedule here:

<https://www.rogerstv.com/schedule?lid=1&rid=75>

You can also view some past services online at

<https://www.rogerstv.com/media?lid=237&rid=75> under Access Programming
(no cable tv necessary)

SUNDAY, April 19th

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship: Gord Dunbar

Meditation: Scarred and Refined

COVID-19

We are CLOSED until further notice, following the orders from Premier Doug Ford and the recommendations of the Provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The Council of Kincardine United Church will continuously monitor the evolving circumstances around COVID-19, keeping the congregation informed regularly about any changes to our practices. Our highest priority is for the safety of everyone – staff, volunteers, congregants and the public – especially the most vulnerable among us.

- Worship will be broadcast as usual on local TV the week after.
- We are looking into options for live-streaming worship on Sunday mornings.
- Gord's reflections will continue to be sent out with links to the bulletin & any announcements
- Please contact the church office by phone or by e-mail.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (dry cough, fever, cold or difficulty breathing), isolate yourself from others as quickly as possible and immediately contact either

Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000, OR

Grey Bruce Health Unit at 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456

to report your symptoms and to receive triage over the phone.

Do not call 911 unless it is an emergency.

More information about the local response to COVID-19 is available at

<https://www.sbghc.on.ca/important-information-for-patients-and-visitors/~344-COVID-19-Response>

As a family of faith, many of us rely upon one another for mutual support and for companionship. The Membership and Mission Committee is putting into place remote ways of pastoral care. May God bless us as we love one another from a distance.

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY IS COMING!



Our community's refugee family is coming. However, because of the travel restrictions for those entering from outside of Canada, their arrival has been delayed. In the meantime, the Steering Committee is seeking donations for the family – especially in monetary donations. While we have rented a house for them which is fully furnished (thanks to many generous donations from the community), we still need money to pay for the rent as well as to purchase those new items that the government requires while preparing for future costs such as healthcare, medications, dental care, eye care, vehicle insurance, etc.

Cheques can be made out to Kincardine United Church with a memo line “Refugee Family.”

We will remit the money to the Refugee Steering Committee and your donation will be added to your income tax receipt from us. If you are wanting to help purchase other supplies for the family, go to the Refugee Committee's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Kincardine-Refugee-Committee-2019-430791440990559/>) where there is a link to a lengthy list of items with instructions on how to access the list.

Thank you to all of you making donations, for you are making a difference in the community and in the world. Indeed, our amazing, generous family of faith has raised almost \$3,000.00 for *their* family once they arrive. WOW!

TELL GORD THE PREACHING TOPIC



Have you ever wanted to hear a worship service addressing a topic that interests you, something you wished Gord would explore, something you've never heard before? Now is your chance. While there is a suggestion box at the back of the worship space for your topic or theme suggestions, because the church building closed, that is no longer an option. Therefore, to make a suggestion to Gord electronically, just send an e-mail to Gord at gord.kuc@bmts.com and he will place it into the box on your behalf. On the Sunday immediately before, a topic or theme will be blindly picked from the box for Gord to use the following Sunday. The draws will be held to provide the focus for the Sundays of April 26th, May 3rd and May 10th. Maybe you'll tie Gord in knots as he takes only a week to figure it out.

FOR ROOM BOOKINGS, CHANGES & CANCELLATIONS

FOR ALL MEETINGS & EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

1. For **new bookings** visit:

<http://www.kincardineunitedchurch.org/content/booking-room>

2. For **changes or cancellations** to current bookings contact Judy Zarubick and Liz Dillman (our new Booking Facilitators)

via this link

<http://www.kincardineunitedchurch.org/contact/Booking-Facilitators>

3. Remember to **email Sarah** at kuchurch@bmts.com if you want **announcement about the event/group**, and send her the text you would like to be included

A Prayer During Times of COVID-19

*In this time of COVID-19, we pray:
When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;
when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."*

*For the doctors, we pray,
for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the
aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists,
the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick,
and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected,
all around the world...
we pray for safety, for health, for wholeness.*

*May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal the sick—
in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear.*

Help us, O God, that we might help each other.

*In the love of the Creator, in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,
we pray. May it be so.*

—A prayer during times of COVID-19 by the Right Rev. Richard Bott, originally posted on Facebook. Moderator Bott encourages the sharing of prayers he posts throughout his term.

COVID-19 and Anxiety



If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed or in crisis, there are supports available. Canadian Mental Health Association of Grey Bruce has lots of information on their social media sites and website at <http://cmhagb.org/>

Mental Health Crisis Line of Grey & Bruce (24 hours)
For ages 16 and up Phone: 1-877-470-5200

Grey Bruce Health Services Crisis Team (24 hours)
Phone: 519-376-2121 (Ask for Crisis Team)

Kids Help Phone is a free, anonymous and confidential phone and on-line professional counselling service for children and youth. Big or small concerns! Open 24/7 365 days/yr.
Website: www.kidshelpphone.ca – for on-line chat as well as resources and information
Phone: 1-800-668-6868 By Text – Text “TALK” to 686868 Download the “Always There” app to Chat

Information below is from <https://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/infosheet/covid-19-and-anxiety>.

More information is found on the site.

Anxiety is a normal reaction to uncertainty and things that may harm us. For many of us, the coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness make for a very uncertain future.

What can I do about coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness?

When you feel anxious and uncertain about the future, it's easy to feel hopeless. Coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness may seem out of your control, but that isn't entirely true.

Take action

Taking reasonable action can help you take back control and reduce anxiety. Look to trusted organizations and agencies like the Government of Canada, and World Health Organization for information about steps you can take to reduce your risk of getting sick or passing the illness on to others. If you are more vulnerable to the coronavirus or are in contact with others who may be vulnerable, talk to your doctor or care team about any additional measures to take based on your own situation. The coronavirus and COVID-19 illness situation changes often, so see the following links for up-to-date information on protecting yourself and staying safe:

- Government of Canada—www.canada.ca/coronavirus and the COVID-19 Information Line at 1-833-784-4397
- World Health Organization—www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus
- [Ontario Public Health](#) Fact Sheets: [How to self-monitor - COVID-19](#)
[Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings - COVID-19](#)
[How to self-isolate - COVID-19](#)
[Self-isolation: Guide for caregivers, household members and close contacts - COVID-19](#)

Explore self-management strategies

Explore self-management strategies like mindfulness, yoga, meditation, art, or exercise to manage anxious thoughts. You can find self-management strategies for anxiety from Anxiety Canada at www.anxietycanada.com.

You can also take the Bounce Back Online, a self-directed course from the Canadian Mental Health Association to help people manage low mood, stress, and anxiety.

The online version is available for free, no referral needed. Visit online.bouncebackonline.ca.

COVID-19: United Church Statement



Last modified on [March 13, 2020](#)

Discussion about COVID-19 is growing as confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) continue to spread. As a church, we have prepared the [Emergency Plan](#) to help communities of faith plan ahead for contingencies that may or may not arise, realizing that planning ahead is a way to reduce anxiety. We urge communities of faith to respond to COVID-19 with compassion, prevention, and prayer.

Compassion

Overwhelming statistics outlining the number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 make it easy to disassociate the numbers from the people and communities involved.

As a church, we seek a compassionate response that acknowledges the personhood attached to each statistic. We know that the people affected include not only those infected by the COVID-19 virus but also their families, friends, co-workers, and community members. We mourn with people whose loved ones have died, who have lost their livelihood through the growing economic impact, who have lost community through self-isolation and limited travel, and, who have lost a sense of security through fear of contamination or racial discrimination.

We also offer our prayers of thanksgiving for the professionals who are providing leadership in the treatment and containment of the virus, and our prayers of concern for those who put at risk their personal health to serve and support others, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Prevention

We hope the most vulnerable people in our society will be able to rely on us—communities of faith—to do all that we can to prevent the spread of both the virus and of the fears surrounding it. As faith leaders, we can familiarize ourselves with the guidelines outlined in the [Emergency Plan](#) to ensure that people are able to seek comfort in our places of worship. We can ensure that our gathering places promote good preventive practices, and when necessary, we can provide alternative programming—like online worship or Bible study, or bagged lunches for meal programs—for those who are most at risk in large group gatherings or are isolated due to vulnerability. By mirroring the compassionate presence of Christ and providing clear and specific information, faith leaders can help to mitigate the spreading fear around COVID-19. We encourage communities of faith to

- seek and share stories from those most affected by the virus, praying with our kin around the world
- repudiate and dispel all comments about COVID-19 that are prejudiced or racist, or that attach COVID-19 to a race or ethnicity
- practise and model good personal hygiene by washing our hands often, coughing or sneezing into our sleeves, and avoiding touching our face or the faces of those who are most vulnerable
- educate community members on how they can prevent the spread of viruses

Prayer

Our faithful response of compassion and prevention needs to be surrounded and guided by our continual prayer for the well-being of all people. May we continue to collaborate and learn from health care professionals as we seek ways to honor and respect all people at all times.

For more information, see [Faith Communities and COVID-19](#).

WINDSOR DOWNTOWN MISSION

The Downtown Mission of Windsor, Ontario, provides food for the body, nurture for the spirit, shelter for the homeless, advocacy for the impoverished, and opportunity for human growth—all through its outreach program.

This faith-based, not-for-profit organization focuses on serving and advocating for men, women, and children who struggle with poverty and homelessness. Whether it's providing emergency shelter, a hot meal, or a food pack for an individual or a family, the Downtown Mission is there with faith and caring.

Thanks to a grant from Mission & Service, The Downtown Mission opened its doors in 1972 when a group of forward-thinking individuals at Central United Church started a coffee program for the area's homeless men. Called the Open Door Lounge, it had a maximum capacity of 28 and served coffee and donuts.

More than 40 years later, the Mission continues to give thanks for the support of the community and of Mission & Service that has enabled it to grow and meet the needs of those it serves by offering a wide and diverse range of services. Many people's lives have been changed as a result of the love, care, and respect they received from The Downtown Mission during difficult periods they faced. A little help made a great deal of difference.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.