

Trinity United Church 111 McIntyre St. E. North Bay, ON P1B 1C5
Phone 705.474.3310 Fax 705.474.3311 Email: trinitynorthbay@gmail.com
Website: www.trinitynorthbay.ca Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinity north bay

A COVID-19 Pandemic Update (August)

Greetings to all

I trust that everyone is making the most of this wonderful summer - a bright spot in what has otherwise been a challenging 2020.

In my last update, I shared that the church would be slowly commencing it's reopening during August with our staff members returning to the office. For those that are not aware, this plan changed on July 3 when the ceiling in the Fireside Room collapsed. The good news was that the room (and building) were unoccupied at the time. While we may not ever fully determine the cause, it is thought that it was improperly constructed when the Cochrane Hall was added to the church.

We are fortunate that our insurance will cover many of the costs for the clean-up and restoration. However, the Board feels that rooms with similar construction should also be remediated (nursery, Rev Ted and Lisa's offices and the hallway). These costs will not be covered by insurance. As the hallway leads to the washrooms, we will have to delay the reopening of the building until it is safe to transit this space.

The reopening committee has met over the summer and is focused on a safe return to church. If all goes well, we are hopeful that the church will be able to re-open on September 20th. A few things will change of course including: limits on the number of persons attending (80); the wearing of masks; the use of projection screens in place of bulletins and hymnals; and assigned seating. A significant change, of course, will be that the names of all persons entering the church, whether this be on Sunday or during the week, will be recorded. This will enable us to efficiently perform contact tracing should this be necessary. Sadly, we will have to postpone our after service social time until such time as we have permission for their resumption.

For those still not comfortable with "in person" church services, we will continue to offer on-line services. The look of these may change as well as we include some live videography.

Stay tuned into our upcoming services as we will be sharing with you the changes being made to make your worship experience safe.

I hope you will be able to continue to enjoy the rest of your summer.

Bob Cook, Board Chair

Fireside Room Ceiling Collapse

As many of you may already have heard, sometime on the 3rd of July the ceiling in the Fireside Room collapsed. Although we have not been able to determine a definitive cause, it appears that the ceiling's support system installed during the original construction of Cochrane Hall in the 1950's failed. The engineer we have hired to help us with the reconstruction estimates the weight of the ceiling, and subsequent upgrades, at between nine and ten thousand pounds. We can be so thankful that no one was in the room when the ceiling fell. Replacing the contents is pretty easy when you imagine how disastrous this could have been.

We do have insurance that is covering most of the cost of the collapse. At the present time the debris and contents have all been removed and the room is currently ready for reconstruction. Fortunately there wasn't any asbestos in the ceiling material, or lead paint of any concern, however asbestos was present in the flooring tiles under the carpet. These have been safely removed.

We do require a building permit to replace the ceiling. That application will go to the city later this week. As with any project there are some administrative details that need to be worked out. I hope to have most, if not all of that, completed with the insurance company later this week. Our insurance policy will cover the cost of restoring the room. At the Board meeting held earlier this week there was discussion of establishing a group to help with the necessary decorating decisions that will need to be made. If you, or anyone that you may suggest, is interested in contributing your time and talents to the challenge of decorating this essential room please contact Bob Cook.

The ceilings in the nursery, Rev. Ted's and Lisa's offices, and the hallway by the washrooms were all part of the 1950's construction and after inspection it has been determined that the same method of supporting the ceilings, as used in the Fireside Room, was used in these areas as well. Determining the probability of these

ceilings collapsing doesn't require a math degree. The Board has agreed that replacing those ceilings is necessary to ensure the safety of our valued staff, irreplaceable children, and members of the congregation. This cost is not covered by our insurance and will be the responsibility of the congregation. We are currently getting estimates for the removal of the existing ceilings. Although those ceilings may not be replaced by the time we are anticipating reopening, the existing ones have to be removed by then so that we can safely use those areas.

It appears that most of the contents of the Fireside Room will be replaced, however the collection in the library may have been lost. You can imagine the incredible amount of dust this collapse generated. Most if not all of the books are full of dust and cleaning them, page by page, is not practical. It is my understanding that the insurance company has a method of determining the value of the books and we will be talking with them further about this loss.

I'll do my best to keep everyone updated. It's been a busy summer!

Kirk Elliott

Chair of the Board of Trustees

The Church Finances

As of July 31st, our year-to-date (YTD) income of approximately \$204,000 was less than expenses by about \$13,000. Last year for the same time period we were showing an YTD surplus of about \$1,500. While YTD expenses this year are actually 4% lower than in 2019, this year's YTD income is 11% less due in large part to lower offerings and Trinity group donations. Thank you to all the folks who continue to donate financially during this time of such economic hardship and uncertainty

Donations to the Roof Restoration Fund continued in July, bringing the fund total to \$148,200, 81% of the project cost. Big notes of appreciation go to the people who have donated financially and to those involved in implementing the fundraising initiative entitled "Ted's Secret Book Club", which has raised over \$3,200 to help pay off our roof restoration debts. GOOD JOB GUYS!!

Looking ahead to the next few months, we continue to have a healthy bank balance but still have \$64,000 in Roof Restoration Loans to pay off and are now faced with significant costs related to work on various ceilings because of the collapse in the Fireside Room and uncertainty on whether the Apple Pie Fundraiser can proceed this year. Applications to government assistance programs will be made as appropriate, with a recent Board decision authorizing the Treasurer to apply for an interest-free loan of up to \$40,000, which is part of a Federal Government Program to help small businesses and not for profit organizations during the Pandemic.

During this challenging time, Trinity continues to be an open, welcoming and inclusive community of faith. Your contributions towards this community are much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by John Hafliadson

The Christian Education and Outreach Committee has been very busy making plans for when we re-open. There are a few things that we would like to pass along:

Sunday School - Currently it has been determined that we will not have "in-person" Sunday School when we start back, however Lisa, Carling and Marcel are busy putting plans together to resume for later in the fall.

Nursery - This will be closed for the time being, and we will be reviewing opening it back up at a later date.

Rally Back September 20th- Physical Distance Style - We are planning a rally back event to take place at the Waterfront. Come for a ½ hour or a couple of hours, whatever you are comfortable with. Bring your own lunch, lawn chair and conversation as we have not seen each other for a very long time.

Food Shelf - We know there are many of you that bring in donations for the food shelf. As we cannot accept any food donations, we still need your help. For this newsletter we are asking that instead of food that you purchase **new** winter socks. Mark's Work Wearhouse has great **Below Zero Socks** that are perfect for our Food Shelf clients, and they will fit through the mail slot at the church.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Submitted by Sue Miller

Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope".

From Rev. Ted's (Home) Desk: "**A Christianity Shaped By Pandemic**"

Before he died in 2017, the Christian scholar Alan Kreider worked to understand the rise and popularity of early Christianity. Christianity's early centuries of explosive growth somehow took place even while the faith was viciously persecuted, when Christian worship was closed to outsiders, and when there was virtually nothing in the way of public evangelism. *Then however did Christianity grow?*

The answer will surprise you - because it has to do with pandemics!

The early Christians were remarkably confident about both this world, and the next world. When others would flee at signs of sickness, Christians exercised a fearless compassion - even for those who persecuted them. In the third century during a plague, the Bishop of Alexandria commented that priests, deacons, and lay-people often laid down their lives to heal the sick, care for the dying, and bury the dead. This behavior was a powerful and compelling argument on behalf of the church, the family of Jesus.

As we plan to cautiously re-open our own church, we too will be quietly communicating a message about who we are. As we begin to re-gather, we show the world around us how much we value our sense of family. As we continue to serve and feed the community around us, we demonstrate our dedication to compassionate outreach. As we embrace a changed worship that nonetheless nourishes and renews us. As we cooperate more deeply with other United Churches, we express our oneness of faith. As we work to conscientiously protect one another, we embody how we cherish this fragile and beautiful life together.

On-line, on the phone, or in person - I look forward to seeing everyone. We miss you terribly!

Yours in Hope,



P.S. As we plan for a careful re-opening of the church building, please know that all visits to the church and appointments with staff will have to be scheduled. Call or e-mail and we will happily schedule a telephone conversation or a socially distanced face-to-face!

DIAL FOR HOPE

Dial for Hope continues it's ministry! The schedule is already prepared for August and will continue through September. I believe this is a wonderful service to members of Trinity's faith community and the many others who dial in. It has been a delight to hear the messages that are left on the line from grateful listeners.

But it couldn't happen without the support of our many volunteers who faithfully write and deliver their messages. So my deep gratitude and thanks go to those who have worked so hard on this project from the beginning, and to those who continue to share their faith in this way. Thanks go to Lisa Blais, Karen Brophey, Rod Carley, Rob Farris, Ted Harrison, Sandra Rozicki, John Sheridan and Richard Smith. And thanks as well to Lillian and Gord Roberts who have agreed to join our roster for September.

As I have written and delivered my own 'messages', I realize that this has been a spiritual discipline for me through these months.

May the God of hope continue to be our companion and guide, as we walk on our faith journey - together.

Yours in Christ,
Kathy McCallum



Some musical notes . . .

As we move toward the fall season, we look forward to the return of “live” worship services, and the chance to “meet and greet” in person, but following the social distancing requirements mandated by the United Church of Canada, and our governments. The Trinity Reopening Committee has met several times (by Zoom) to plan for our fall reopening, which will occur on September 20. I have been privileged to serve on the committee, chaired by Bob Cook.

Since March, many of our Senior Choir members have been part of the weekly “virtual choir”. Thank you for their contributions of musical parts, solos and instrumental selections - all digitally blended to be four part harmony! We especially thank John Roberts, who worked magic with our individual recordings to make this possible! John spent many hours on his computer to get it “just right”. (I outlined the process in our previous newsletter). And, thank you to all the members of the digital team, which produced our weekly services, posted to our Trinity You-Tube channel!

When we return in September, we will be following government music protocol during our services. It will be a “hybrid” musical approach! There will be live instrumental music (preludes, offertories, postludes) on the organ and piano. Our virtual choir will continue, as group singing by choirs and congregations during services is deemed unsafe at the present time. Choir music for hymns, solos and anthems will be projected on the screen during worship.

Our services - live, and live-streamed on the internet on Sunday morning, and on You-Tube or DVD, will all have music! I plan to include some favourite hymns as part of the organ preludes for each service! These can be chosen from Voices United, More Voices, or former United Church hymnbooks. We will try to include lyrics so that you may sing along at home, and follow along in church.

If you have a favourite hymn that you would love to hear, please contact me by e-mail or phone. Some of you already submitted hymn-sing favourites, and I will use these at first. Email - bettyfarris@hotmail.com
Phone - 705-493-3143 (cell) and 705-497-0499 (voicemail)

Thanks again to everyone who has helped musically during these past months, so that we may continue our praise to God through music!

Betty Farris, Minister of Music

TRINITY'S TOP TEN TIPS

TO KNOW ABOUT RETURNING TO IN PERSON WORSHIP THIS FALL

1 MASKS
Masks will be mandatory – Please bring your own.
A limited number will be available if you forget yours at home.

2 ENTRANCE
Enter the church through the Front Door only – Ferguson Street

3 TIME
Doors open at 10:00 am – No early entrance permitted

4 CLEAN HANDS
Wash hands before leaving home and hand sanitize
upon entering the church

5 RECORD KEEPING
Attendance records will be kept for contact tracing purposes only

6 CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
There will not be Sunday School or Nursery available
We would love you to bring your kids, but please be prepared
to keep them with you and seated for the entire service.

7 WASHROOMS
Washrooms will have limited access.

8 GUIDANCE
Greeter and Ushers will provide guidance and direction.
Please follow their instructions.

9 VISITING
No social gatherings, visiting or coffee time will be permitted before
or after church

10 SICK
If you are sick or feeling unwell, please stay home.



Church is still available online.