



Gale Gatherings

THE MISSION OF GALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO BE A FAMILY OF EMBRACING AND DYNAMIC DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WHO GLORIFY GOD IN THE WORLD THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

May 2020



Psalm 80: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

What's going on? The world of Covid19 is dramatically different than the world we enjoyed and celebrated just a few short months ago. We are in the midst of a pandemic that is reshaping our lives and putting our whole culture, way of life, world out of joint. It's just so unlike anything we are used to. Add to this chaos the worry of what will be next. What will we need to accommodate and accept once Covid19 is vanquished and our lives settle to new normal? I don't have answers. But I do have hope.

You see, I know this is the sort of thing that humans have experienced so often in their pilgrimage toward God. We just haven't needed to address it for so long it's as though it is entirely new and foreign and scary. But we have wisdom and spirit from our ancestors that will empower us to face this day, and the days to come.

God's people have repeatedly moved in and out of exile. It surprises me we do not see our current world as another step along our journey. One of our earliest faith stories tells of the mother and father of all being exiled from the home garden. A later calamity floods the world sending God's people away from home and normalcy – exile. God's people are 400 years in exile and



servitude to the Egyptian superpower. Exile to Babylon is the overarching theme to the prophets and much of the biblical poetry. Persecution of Christ's early church could be seen as a form of exile. The history of God's people is a sequence of exile and rebuilding.

There is good news. All of these periods of exile come to an end. Evil never gets the final world. For this time, while our lives may seem a mess, we are an Easter people and we proclaim that God is with us, even in exile.

I can't do much about the rules of physical distancing, lack of supplies and services in the stores, cancelled trips and visits. I can't do much about the anguish of losing loved ones at a distance. I can only accept these as the conditions of exile and I can pray.

But then I can do something about the return from exile, for be certain; we will return. The home we left to go into exile will be different than the home to which we return after exile. This will be a home, church, society of our making. I can do something about what that will look like. I can envision a kinder place, a more sharing place, a more equitable distribution of resources and services. And I can make promises that I will work toward that vision.

God does not create exile as punishment and retribution. But exile happens. And every time it happens God sees us through and God's people are better for the world they create after.

Shalom
Rev. Scott Sinclair

Clerk's Corner

Well the world, our country, our community has certainly changed since COVID-19 became a pandemic. Although our church for worship, events and meetings is closed at this time as your Clerk please know that meetings, including Session, are taking place using Zoom technology and that we are all doing our best to keep Gale Church functioning, although with limits. Session has changed its meeting time again, and this should be the last change, to the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. As a Session we are fully aware that many of you have various concerns at this time such as health, employment, isolation,

perhaps fear and anxiety and the fact that this virus at the moment is in control of our daily activities. However, this virus is not in control of our spiritual lives. As Christians we can have the assurance that God is with us, guiding and providing as He has always done and will continue to do.

There are many Bible verses that we can lean on at this time. During my devotions I have come to know these verses much better and would like to share them with you. Romans 12:12 "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying" and 1 Chronicles 28:20 "Be strong and of good courage and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God—the Lord God will be with

you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord".

In addition to Session meeting virtually once a month, the Elders have also been contacting the people in their districts just to say hi and to see how everyone is doing. If, at any time, you

wish to contact your Elder, please do not hesitate to do so. As we all continue this journey through COVID-19 be assured that your Session is keeping you in prayer.

Blessings to each of you.

Darlene Vandermey,
Clerk of Session



A Podcast I'd Like Everyone To Hear

RETELLING THE BIBLE

A couple of years ago I asked us all to visit Rev. Scott McAndless' podcast "*Retelling The Bible*." Rev. McAndless is minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Cambridge. I have known him since my teenage years. He posts dramatic interpretations of Bible stories. The podcast is supported with a blog with short commentaries and contemporary references.

I'm re-emphasizing my wish for you to listen because of his recent edition "*Nobody here but us sheep*." It is a powerful insightful message especially vital for

us in our Covid time. It will only take you 20 minutes. And you will find a wonderful archive of his stories to go back to when you want a fresh new way of looking at our familiar faith stories.

The podcast can be ac-

cessed by going to this website: <https://retellingthebible.podbean.com/>

The blog, where you can read the commentaries, is at Retellingthebible.wordpress.com.

And Rev. McAndless is not

far away so you can follow up with him if you have any questions about his entries.

By Rev. Scott



From The Board Of Managers

Covid-19 may have emptied our pews, but Gale continues its ministry and outreach. As Rev. Scott has pointed out, each of us is 'the church' in the community and there is much we can do while we wait for the time we can gather in our building on Barnswallow Drive.

The Board of Managers has taken steps to keep our staff hired and working. A Canada Emergency Business Account loan of \$40,000 has already been deposited to our bank account. This Federal loan can pay for a variety of expenses including payroll, heat, hydro, etc. This money would need to be repaid; however, \$10,000 might be forgiven if we are able to pay back \$30,000 by December 2022.

Our March revenues were down 20% which makes us eligible for the Federal government's Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy. This subsidy will pay 75% of each employee's wages while we are responsible for the remaining 25% so that our employees remain fully compensated. This subsidy must be applied for each month.

Rev. Scott has been providing pastoral care via telephone and Zoom, and as many of you know, he has not missed a Sunday "in Covid", delivering services each Sunday via technology. He has also been an unofficial caretaker as he is in the church most days checking on the facility – and wiping down door handles and surfaces with antiseptic.

Our Music Director, Rick McFadden, has continued to provide music on Sundays and is also experimenting

with technology involving the choir. Stay tuned!

Janice Malloy has been providing both administrative and communications support from home with occasional visits into the office to check on mail.

Mel Dow has been developing resources and support to maintain the coordination of spiritual programs, also from home. She delivered materials to children whose parents are tuning into the Sunday services, and she is supporting an outreach project to collect food for Woolwich Community Services.

Bill McPherson visits the church weekly and checks the grounds and outside perimeter of the building. Our contract cleaners will be called in on an as-needed basis.

The Board is also happy to report that the long-

empty seat of a facilities rep on the board has been filled by three people, John Scheeringa; Peter Fulcher; and Jim Denstedt who will pool their talents to help maintain our building. They have been busy; repairs and checks have been completed to shingles on the roof, the solar hot water system, the roof-top solar system, the water softener tank, and the Fellowship hall baseboard. A maintenance check has been done on the HVAC system with filters replaced. Peter has also completed a new raised area for the choir in the sanctuary.

By Kim Denstedt

♪Noteables—By Rick

I am sitting here in my office at the church beginning to compose this message and...I really find it difficult what to say. Hard to believe I know. Never in our lifetime, have I (we) experienced such a unique and totally uncharted journey. It is so different with no choirs, no children choir and no congregation.

However, I am honoured and excited to be working with Scott, Kim, Glen and David to continue to present a worship service that in itself, is a new learning experience. How special to have a full service with hymns, children's time, minister's message, and as of last

week, with choirs from the past.

We have been trying to meet as choirs together by Zoom on some Thursday nights. Nice to see you. We will continue to do so but not necessarily every Thursday. I have sent out some possible choral and handbell pieces just for enjoyment. Ironically I sent out Christmas music the other day, and low and behold, we had snow. I hope I wasn't responsible for that!

Recently the choir and praise team were offered the challenge to create a virtual choir. A recording of the song "Here I Am to

Worship" was sent to interested members. They made a video of themselves singing or playing their part. My challenge has been to piece together video and sound waves. Virtual choirs that we see on YouTube make this look easy. It's not. I'm looking forward to finishing this project with success.

Everyone stay well; be safe; I am really looking forward to when we can meet again as choirs and congregation.

Keep singing!

"When in Our Music God is Glorified"

*Richard McFadden,
Choir Director*



Update From The Faith Program Facilitator

Well things have been a lot different over these past 2 months for sure. We have closed the church building and I have been looking at different ways of staying connected with the families and members of Gale when we can't be in the building.

I have been busy making up porch drop off treat bags for the families from the Sunday school. They have been given Sunday school lessons and devotions, many activities to colour, craft ideas and some snacks/treats as well! I will be continuing to do these bag porch drops every few weeks to keep us connected and provide activities for the families to do with their kids.

I have begun to support the Children's story time during the Sunday morning worship services from a distance. I will be using the story for most of the weeks

that we would have been using downstairs in Sunday school. I hope that even you adults will take anyway something from hearing these stories again from the bible.

Memory Squares have been handed out to the families as a little project I have come up with to make a memory of this time when we can't be together. They are asked to decorate their fabric square however they would like and have their names on it. Then once we are able to come together again those squares will be collected and make up an art piece to hang to show how we were apart but still together as a Gale family. If you would like a square to add to this project send me an email.

We have Youth/Family Bingo and Kahoot! We are all now getting good at Zoom for meetings, work and church services but we have taken it one step farther. The youth group and

some families have been spending time "together" on zoom and playing bingo and Kahoot!

Even though we physically can't be together we still can see each other and have a good laugh and talk. I will continue to set these up every few weeks. If this is something you would like to do and need help setting up let me know.

I am working on setting up Zoom Coffee Time for adults. I have a few interested people and would like a few more to have a nice group to do this. We will look at a few times to chose when people are free.

The Gale Website has been updated often and I have been working with Janice on getting lots of fun free things online that you can do with your families etc. If you haven't been on there lately go and check it out!

The Gale Fellowship Retreat in May has been postponed at this time since Camp Kintail is closed. We are looking at Oct 30 to Nov 1 to have our weekend up at Camp Kintail. Let me know if you would attend this

weekend so we know if we will have a retreat this year at Kintail.

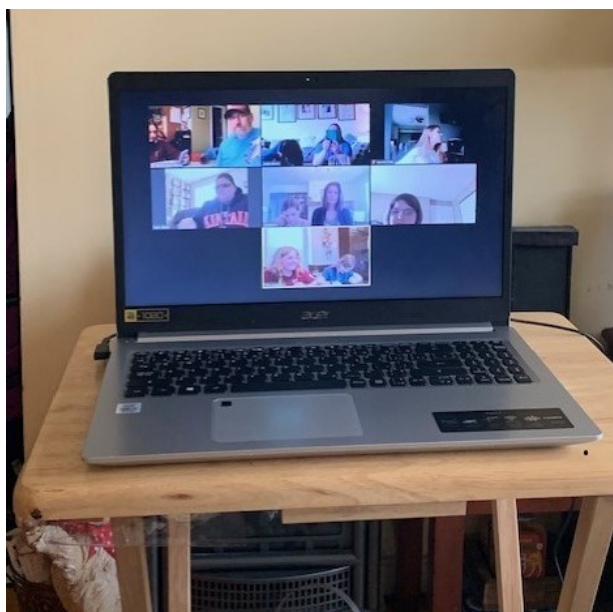
We are really hoping that Summer KOTR will still happen in August. At this time many things are still uncertain. Camp Kintail has not decided yet how their summer will be. Until we know from them, we don't know what will happen with it. We will let everyone know when we hear about their decisions.

I miss being able to do some of our activities that we do in the church building like Messy church, but I know that we will be able to do this all again soon. Until then I will stay connected to you in other ways.

If you have any questions or need any more information about anything please send me an email
melnie.dow@galepresbyterian.com

Hope to see you all again
SOON!

By Melanie Dow



Near the beginning of the COVID-19 quarantine, a neighbour asked if I'd like to assist her in making a "Neighbourhood Directory" to help our neighbours keep connected during the isolation. For more than a decade we have invited our neighbours to an annual "Block Party". We asked these people to join our directory and got a great response! We now have over 30 emails in our directory, plus phone numbers for others who don't have email. We have made good use of the directory to share info, help, encouragement, questions and answers. We have even "met" neighbours whom we had never met before and feel more connected than ever to our neighbourhood. The silver lining!

Barb Smith



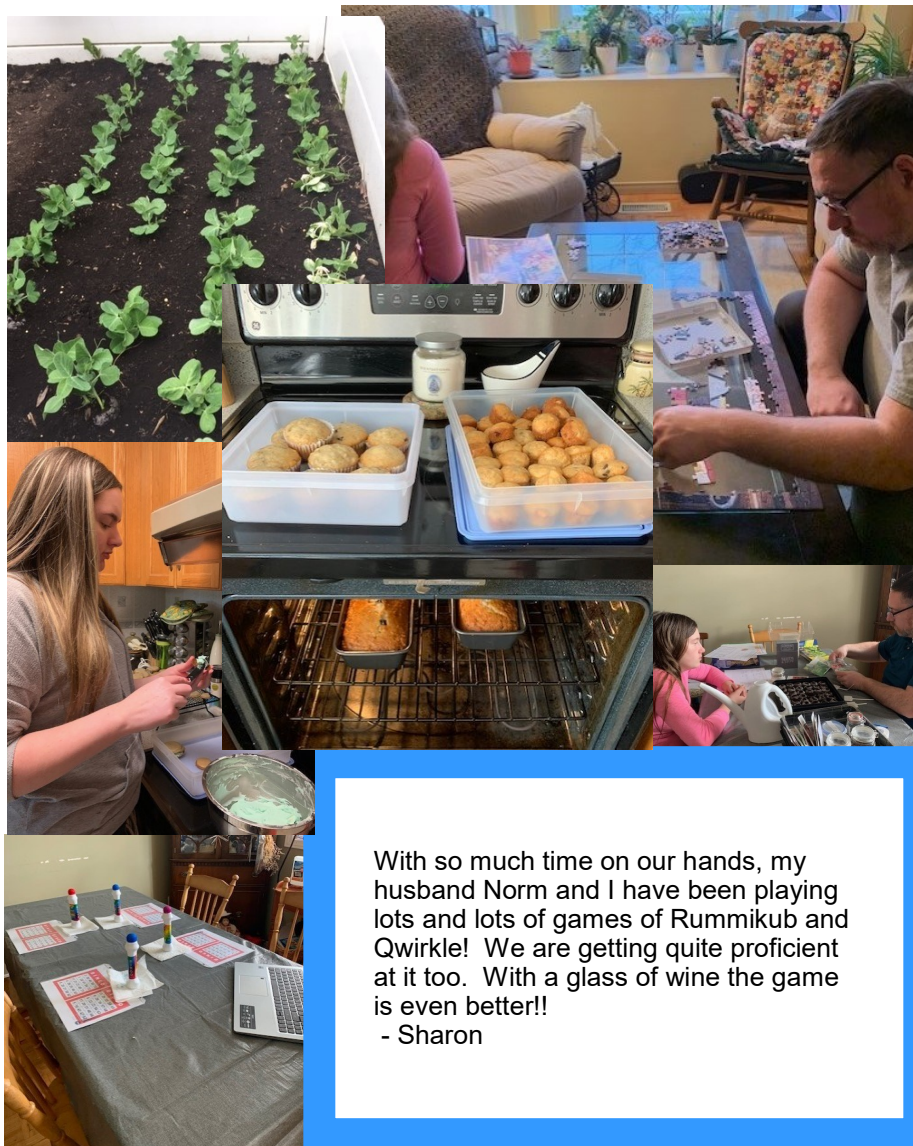
Social Distancing deliveries!

BAUMAN'S ACTIVITIES DURING COVID 19

Both Jim and I have tackled cleaning areas long neglected (the laundry room, workshop, and front closet). We've painted baseboards in the bathroom and kitchen, and thoroughly cleaned the light fixtures in kitchen and dining area. After one of the 5 glass shades shattered on the tile floor we decided that was ENOUGH cleaning. Jim took up walking and I began sewing masks (by the dozens). And now that the weather is warming up we're moving our activities to the flower beds and lawn. I absolutely LOVE the month of May and am looking forward to resuming breakfast and lunch on the front porch.

Many things have changed for us during this time, but one thing we have managed to retain is “coffee hour.” After we listen to the church service on our computer we grab a coffee and snack and visit until lunch and then we eat some more. Oh dear :-)

Miss you all
Marg/Jim



With so much time on our hands, my husband Norm and I have been playing lots and lots of games of Rummikub and Qwirkle! We are getting quite proficient at it too. With a glass of wine the game is even better!!

- Sharon



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

