



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

September 2020

How's Your Moss Life?

I remember a passionate discussion with my family many years ago. We got to talking about the adage "*A rolling stone gathers no moss*". I have always taken it to mean that if you keep yourself active and moving about then you won't go stale or mouldy. In other words: being a rolling stone is a good thing.

Other members of the family thought that the proverb meant that if you keep moving about and changing all the time then you won't put down any roots or settle. You won't develop any heritage or tradition and therefore no identity. In their words, being a rolling stone is a bad thing. It brings to mind another proverb; "*every coin has two sides*". So I'm stuck with

trying to determine if I should roll or not.

I suppose deciding if mossiness is good or bad depends upon your outlook on life. I, for one, do not consider being covered with cold green slimy nonvascular plant growth a favourable metaphor for identity or life. It is not my intention to tell people whether they should aspire to mossiness or not. We can all decide for ourselves if we want to be green. Just remember the warning from Kermit the Frog in his chart busting hit song "*It isn't easy being green*".

The proverb is a valuable one for the church, though, no matter which way you take it. For some of us, it's OK to be green. There's no need



to be ashamed of it. We want the stability of the traditions and the comfort of the tried-and-true. For some of us it's OK to roll. There's no need to be ashamed of that either. We want things to be new, vibrant, different and hip.

Have you ever seen a moss ball? This is a phenomenon that occurs at high altitudes on mountains.

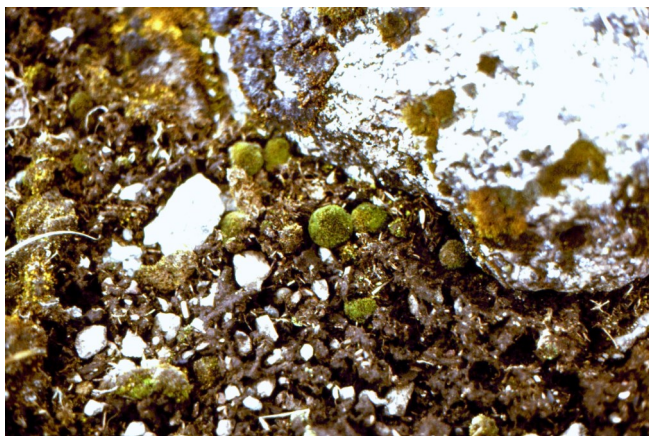
When a clump of moss grows a bit on a muddy place it may get turned over by tiny ice spears that poke up through the ground in the night. The moss just continues to grow on the upside until it gets turned over again as before. Repeated turnings form this moss clump into a ball of moss with no soil to feed it so it

is short lived. You could say that a rolling moss gathers no stones.

The faithful church of Christ will always live on the thin line between the new and the old. We will always need the heritage traditions and history to inform us of who we are. We will always need to look to the new and innovative ways of worship and service so that we can be relevant to a rapidly shifting society. The one reality that bridges this thin line is God.

God inspired his people in the past. God calls his people into the future. God is in his people in the now.

Shalom
Rev. Scott Sinclair



Update From The Faith Program Facilitator

As I sit down on our new deck (this was our big project that we decided to do this summer since we couldn't travel for a vacation this year) I can hear, smell, feel and see all the beauty of creation around me.

Yes, I can hear the birds, I can see the animals, I can smell and feel the crisp morning air, I can hear the sirens and cars but this means that the world is still going on even during a time of unknown.

I have been reflecting on what I have been missing these last 5 months. It is seeing many families and people at the church, it is having the children come down to Sunday school, youth group, movie nights etc. It is

knowing people are meeting at the church to have a bible study, coffee hour after church, the luncheons, meetings, just time being together with others. But I loved how I was still able to stay in touch with many by doing door drops to the families of fun packages, giving out the fabric squares for our memory wall hanging that will be made (will be collecting them soon!), being involved and sharing with the children's time each week during the worship service, coming in and recording one of my favourite praise songs to share with you all.

I missed our Gale Fellowship Retreat at Kintail and that KOTR was cancelled (Amy didn't get to celebrate her birth-

day with 50 + kids!) We both missed this greatly this summer but we had more time to be with our families. I know that the next big thing many parents are deciding and figuring out is school for our children this fall and what it will be for each of them. I know that it could be hard to feel like we make the right decision for our children. Can good things come out of bad things? YES! I know that we will have to adjust and change how we are going to be doing things this fall at Gale but we know that we are slowly heading back to find ways to still do things back TOGETHER again even if still from a distance!

Things you will see this fall at Gale: Individual bags for children to take to use during the church service since at this time we will not have any Sunday school or nursery running

on Sunday mornings. We will be having some youth events outside—watch out for a drive in movie evening! I plan on continuing to try and find ways of having people come back together. If you have an idea let me know how I can help make it happen.

For we are all learning how to adjust and make new ways of doing things in this time of unknown or new normal but if we continue to keep God and our faith at the front of this we will know that things will continue to be good. I hope to see many back at the church on our Rally Sunday September 13 and know that I will be smiling a big smile to you all underneath my mask!

Continue to keep an eye out for emails and watch the website as things are planned or updated. This will be the best way to find it all out.

By Melanie Dow

Clerks Corner by Darlene Vandermey

As we continue to navigate our way through the changes that have come as a result of ongoing issues with COVID-19 we have now come into Stage 3 with more openings.

The Session does not usually meet during the summer but under these circumstances we did meet using Zoom technology on August 11th. As a result of that meeting the Session has agreed to open our church for public worship on Sunday, September 13, 2020. Various safety protocols will be in place and the congregation will be informed by letter which will be delivered by the Elders well in advance of this

date. Some people may return to our church building for worship, others may choose to continue worship by watching YouTube. Whatever decision you make, make it according to your comfort level.

As time goes on we are hopeful that some protocols will be lessened but in the meantime please be assured that Gale Church is doing all that it can to create a safe environment and following health guidelines and recommendations.

God's word is always with us, His promises are forever true and therefore I continue

to lean on Romans 12:12 "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying". It is my hope that this verse will be of comfort to you too.

Our September Session meeting will be held toward the beginning of the month on Thursday, September 3rd prior to the church opening. If you have any questions or concerns please let your Elder know.

Blessings
Darlene Vandermey,
Clerk of Session



Re-Opening Of Gale

The Session and Board of Managers invite you to join us as we resume public worship services in our sanctuary on September 13th, 10:30 a.m.

We are excited about this and we hope you are also. We will continue our YouTube live services as well so you can participate in worship with us either in person, or online.

Our custodians will have completed a thorough cleaning of the whole building. The office will resume regular hours starting on September 9th.

For the next while, worship in the sanctuary will be different than what we know and love. We will institute several practices to ensure the safety and health of all our participants and you can help us all by keeping these things in mind.

We ask you to follow these practices when you join us for worship:

Maintain a 2 meter distance from people who are not in your family bubble.

Always wear a suitable face covering.

Enter and exit only by the main portico doors. As you enter the building a greeter will ensure you have a copy of these procedures and that you have a suitable face mask. If you have forgotten to bring your own mask, **we will have disposable masks available for you. Masks must be worn while you are in the building.**

There will be **hand sanitizer available** at the doors. Please use this.

As you enter the sanctuary a greeter will direct you to suitable seating. **The seating has been arranged to satisfy our need of physical distancing.** Members of family bubbles will sit as a group, of course.

Children will be asked to stay with their family for the whole service. There will not be a special gathering of the children nor any children's programming. The nursery will not be open.

There will be music in our worship, but the **congregation is asked to refrain from singing.**

We will not be able to hold our beloved after-service coffee fellowship at this time. But we hope this will change soon as our community progresses out of the pandemic.

Only the upstairs section will be open.

We ask that only one person be in the washrooms at any time. A signal system is set up to indicate if the washroom is currently occupied. There is spray sanitizer by the sinks. Please give the sinks and taps a spray before you leave.

As we said, it will not be as we remember. It will still be worship, just different for the time being. Please join us at the church if you wish. Please follow us on YouTube if you prefer. In either format, you will be blessed to have participated in worship.

We will see you soon!

Rev. Scott Sinclair

*Darlene Vandermey
Clerk of Session*



♪ Noteables by Rick

It's hard to believe that the summer is passing so quickly. Even more bizarre is that we have been uniquely separated by covid for six months. That hasn't stopped worship at Gale. Thanks to a brilliant team effort, Scott was able to venture outdoors to capture the "Creation Theme". Honestly, it has been an unprecedented endeavour to retell the Genesis story. I have enjoyed every minute of the adventure, even at 4:00 am

to capture a sunrise over Gale Presbyterian.

Thank you to those singers who shared their musical talents on the solo/duet stage. Our services continued as if God said, "Go ahead, rejoice, celebrate My Creation". We did with scripture, message, hymns and special music! As we continue for a while longer with choral distancing, I encourage anyone to make a "virtual song" to praise our Lord.

*Richard McFadden,
Choir Director*



Getting Our Building Ready For Opening

The Board of Managers has remained busy despite the church being closed due to Covid-19. In particular, the three members of the facilities committee have looked after the following:

- Changed the light bulbs in the sanctuary (a task that requires removing chairs, a scissor lift and scaffolding to reach the lights)
- Repaired broken brick around a basement window well
- Repaired loose tread on the front basement stairs
- Repaired loose baseboard in the fellowship hall
- Water softener salt tank replaced with a donated tank (new procedures in place to reduce the amount of salt in the tank)
- Cleaned the gateway connections to the solar panels improving the system
- Replaced sandbags that hold solar panels on the roof
- Corrected the temperature probe for solar hot water (which will give us solar heated water again!)
- Replaced roof shingles missing from wind damage
- Replaced the light cover in the men's washroom
- Replaced a few light

bulbs throughout the building

- Replaced the dehumidifier in the basement choir room to address issues with older units; another dehumidifier may yet be purchased for the storage area
- Built a raised platform for the camera to support live-streaming services
- Arranged for the parking lot line painting
- Installing a sneeze guard at the office counter
- Installing an extra outlet in the storage area for the freezers

The other focus for the Board in the past four months has been enhancing the technology to support live-streaming. The Board, with Session's support, has approached this as an outreach that will continue even after Covid-19. Some software and hardware additions have been required to support the visual and audio components. This includes one camera used for a constant wide-angle shot of the chancel at the front of the church and a second camera for close-up images of the pulpit and the choir. For those who are camera-shy, be assured that the cameras do not include the congregation.

In preparation for reopening, the Board has directed our custodians to clean the church following government advice with regards to sanitizing spaces. Wall-mounted hand sanitizer stations and masks have also been purchased to support Covid-19 protocols.

All of this has been possible due to the congregation's continued financial support during the closure. The congregation's support, plus some assis-

tance from government, has allowed us to continue employing staff. Our music director, Richard McFadden, and the office/communications administrator, Janice Malloy, have stepped up to expand their skills to help Rev. Sinclair with live-streaming efforts. Our faith co-ordinator, Mel Dow, has been preparing children's stories for worship and delivering activities to households with children. Groundskeeper Bill McPherson has continued to keep the lawns maintained.

Plans are underway to return to take-out monthly lunches and our apple pie fundraiser in October and November. Please stay tuned for further details on how this can be accomplished safely.

The Board held its annual long-range planning session in August. Among the many items on the list is the instal-

lation of our stained-glass windows from Cross Street in the glass around the doors into the sanctuary, as well as comfortable furniture in the narthex.

When you return you will see a grandfather clock in the narthex. This was a donation from the Hinbest and Dreisinger families that is a lovely addition to this space.

While the Board has maintained the facility and supported live-streamed services during the closure, we look forward to seeing our building become once more a place for community worship. Children's programming will not be launched at this time, so no Sunday school or nursery. This extends to the youth groups that rent our facility. This will eventually change, but the restriction remains in place for now.

***Respectfully submitted,
Board of Managers***

