



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, NS
www.christchurchdartmouth.com

December 10, 2020

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” -Matthew 11:28

“We are not all in the same boat. We are in the same storm. Some have yachts, some canoes, and some are drowning. Just be kind and help whoever you can.” -Damian Leighton Barr

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the virus has increased its presence among us here in Dartmouth, we wonder how much longer things will be as they are? Residents of the United Kingdom have been the first to receive a vaccination for COVID-19, and there seems to be “light at the end of the tunnel.” However, we are still affected by our isolation, changed by not seeing or sensing others around us in the usual way. This is a time where we need to take care of ourselves and family. As a community of Christians, we must be encouraged to reach out to each other. Speak and listen when we are feeling low, when things are upsetting. This Sunday we light the candle of Joy. Perhaps this year we can experience Joy in new ways, perhaps joy in the little things, and not big celebrations. Joy in the phone call to a loved one as you say “how are you doing? Is there anything I can do to help? Can I listen?”

A few updates regarding the mission and work of the church:

- **Lights for Love:** A special thank you to all who participated in the Lights of Love event. It truly was a success! A thank you to the Downey family for providing the Christmas Star, John Gallant, Christine Hoehne, and Andrew Smith for preparing the tree, Gail Teixeira for technology, John MacDonald, Joey Dowell and Tessa Short for music. Our tree is now aglow, so please take some time to notice as you walk or drive by! It is lovely to see!
- **Visioning 2020: Campus Subgroup:** As part of the Visioning 2020 process the Campus Visioning Sub-Committee has recommended the evaluation of our buildings for capital planning purposes for a time horizon of 10 years for projects over \$5,000. Parish Council approved the engagement of WSP, an international engineering and service company with an office in Halifax to carry out the evaluation. A report is expected by January’s parish council meeting. Because we are being good stewards of the resources we have, particularly so during these pandemic times, members of the visioning committee and Parish Council looked at ways of funding this feasibility study from various sources. I want to thank the property committee and its members for graciously allowing council to tap into resources from the Mosley Fund, which is designated for structural projects.

- **Partnerships “Have a Heart”:** At Christ Church we are all about partnerships! We are so happy to be working with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission on a great project! Over the next few weeks, you will see temporary art installations that showcase inspirational, uplifting and thought-provoking words and phrases on various buildings around Dartmouth. The campaign is meant to create surprise and curiosity amongst visitors to the district and inspire them to capture the pieces on social media. At Christ Church we have a temporary sign that reads "Have a Heart" Please note, the words are well crafted decals and are not temporary!
- **Social Justice:** At parish council’s direction the Parish Executive and I are engaging community organizations that are looking for space for housing, on a short-term, temporary basis.
- **Your Mental Health:** it is such a tough time for many this Christmas season, and particular so as we fight back against the virus. If you need to speak to myself or Rev. Bonnie, please do not hesitate. Below are resources that you can also use: <https://novascotia.ca/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>
 - o 811 For non-emergency advice and information about mental health and addictions, call [811](https://811.ca).
 - o Crisis Text Line [Crisis Text Line](https://crisistextline.ca) is available for adults who are going through a difficult time and need someone to text with. This service is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Special support is available for frontline workers Text NSSTRONG to 741741. Frontline workers: text FRONTLINE to 741741
 - o Good2Talk Nova Scotia [Good2Talk Nova Scotia](https://good2talk.ca) provides support for university and college students. Call toll-free: 1-833-292-3698 Text GOOD2TALKNS to 686868
 - o Provincial Mental Health Crisis Line If you’re experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis, or are concerned about someone who is, the Provincial Mental Health Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call toll-free: 1-888-429-8167
- **Christmas Worship:** This week I will be meeting with our COVID-19 Task Group as reflect on what the reality of Christmas Services will be at Christ Church. I want to prepare you for the possibility that there will be no in person services this year. Churches around HRM have already made such announcements, including Anglican Churches in Dartmouth. Please stay tuned for full details next week. I know this is difficult news, but we will be guided by God’s love, and we will celebrate the birth of our Lord in a new way if that is required. At this point, we are still scheduled for in person worship, but a decision is going to be made shortly so we are all well informed as a community.

Yours Faithfully in Christ and in Joy,



The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Rector, Christ Church, Dartmouth