



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

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

December 1st 2020

“Peace begins with a smile.” —Mother Teresa

Dear Friends in Christ,

We continue to live in a different world, but we remain faithful to God. At this time, I would encourage us to pray for all those who support the church. For our beloved parish volunteers, members of the parish council, our visioning committees, staff, and clergy. We also give thanks that the Rev. Sandra Fyfe is now our new Bishop. Together we pray for her as she begins new ministry as she leads us into the future as a church.

Please see the following updates regarding the mission and work of the church:

- **Social Justice Ministry:** As you may be aware, over the last few months, our parish has been approached by social justice organizations, inquiring about space and the availability of our parish hall. As the winter draws close, non-profit agencies are looking to provide shelter for the homeless and those transitioning from certain housing situations. Our conversations with these groups have been fruitful, and relationships have been formed. One organization that we had been in discussions with was [Out of the Cold Community Association](#). At this point, this group has decided to use a space in Halifax because it is more conducive to their needs. At its last meeting of November 26th, parish council made it clear that it wishes to further conversations with shelter groups to see if we can support our community. It was expressed that council believes social justice is very much a part of our identity and that we need to model this ministry in our community as we seek to love our neighbour. As things develop, council will communicate with the parish about what such a relationship might look like.
- **Visioning Committee:** Our parish survey was conducted in October, and council had been presented with the study from Holy Cow! Consulting on November 1st. At November's Parish Council meeting, Don Murray, Warden and chair of the meeting, discussed the survey and how it was a hopeful document. It was determined that parish council wished to review the survey together. It was also determined that a conversation in person would help council members understand the survey as a whole. In the meantime, the Ministry Visioning committee is reviewing the study as parish council looks forward to getting together in January (subject to COVID-19 guidelines). Please stay tuned for communications from the Visioning Committee and Parish Council.

I am pleased with the survey, and I believe it will provide the parish with material that will allow us to discuss our strengths and limitations as a parish. As we look forward to our time together, we can remember that God is leading us.

- **Sunday Worship in person (COVID-19):** no in-person worship. Services will be live-streamed. We are looking at a Zoom option that allows the parish to gather together in zoom as the service is live-streamed. Please stay tuned!
- **Pastoral Care:** All hospitals, are now closed to visitors. This includes clergy. Please continue to reach out to the office if you have questions or need to speak with a priest.
- **Christmas Home Communions:** After consulting with the Archdeacon and Regional Dean, Rev. Bonnie and myself feel that for the safety of all, we are unable to offer home communions during the Christmas season. Our pastoral visitor group and pastoral ministry team are still planning to reach out to all those who are at home (including care homes) and folks who are traditionally unable to come to worship. This year, people will receive a lovely Christ Church calendar, featuring Janice Silver's photography, prepared by the Pastoral Ministry group.
- **Lights of Love Tree lighting:** Please tune in this Sunday evening as we bless our Christmas tree. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, our service will be broadcast live on our YouTube Channel. You can get to the service by visiting our website (www.christchurchdartmouth.com), which will provide directions on how to view this event. There is still time to donate to the vital ministry we do, and you can place a light bulb on the tree in memory or honour of a loved one by visiting: <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/lights.html>
- **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve services are still tentatively scheduled to be in-person with limited numbers. However, we will take direction from the province regarding in-person worship. If we are unable to gather, the service will be prerecorded for broadcast.
 - o Family Service 4:00pm
 - o Holy Communion (BAS) with Choir 6:00pm
 - o Holy Eucharist (BCP) 8:00pm
- As well, you can now download "[Advent at Home 2020](#)" which is a guide to lighting advent candles each week, including Christmas Eve.

Yours Faithfully in the Peace of Jesus Christ,



The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Rector, Christ Church, Dartmouth
Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI
Anglican Church of Canada