



CHRIST CHURCH
DARTMOUTH

61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 4H5

May 12, 2021

“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” – Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Friends in Christ,

Once again, we find ourselves in lockdown as we continue to battle the COVID virus. The other day as I was driving to church to record our worship service, and I saw a sign at a neighbouring community church that read: “This too shall pass, it may pass like a kidney stone, but it will pass!” *Sometimes we need a bit of humour to encourage us to move forward.*

I know that these new restrictions have been difficult for many of you. As tested positive cases are in the 100s, we wonder, ‘Oh Lord, how much longer?’ My family has also been affected. Julie and I now home school our youngest son Elijah, and for the time being, daycare has been suspended in our community. I’m sure we are all doing lots of “juggling” as we try and manage the changes. A special prayer for all the parents, grandparents, teachers, and caregivers as this becomes the “new normal” for a while.

As previously noted, you may know that six parishioners, including Rev. Bonnie and myself, had to self-isolate as we were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. All are well! When I was in self-isolation, the baby that Julie and I were expecting decided to arrive a month early! Sadly, I missed William Frederick Wallace Wagner’s birth because I could not leave self-isolation. But my absence, I think shows, how serious we need to take the virus. Mother and baby are doing well! Thank you so much for your prayers and well wishes!

The church’s life continues: We resume with our online worship services, Sundays at 10:00 am, as we gather in spiritual communion with one another. A thank you to our technical and music team: Gail Teixeira, John MacLeod, John Gallant, Vanessa Turner (Lay Reader), Joey Dowell, Tessa Short, and John MacDonald.

On Wednesday Evenings, starting this week, May 12th (today) I invite you to gather for Evening Prayer via Zoom at 7:00 pm. This is an excellent way to end the day, and I encourage you to use

this opportunity for prayer as it indeed does help one's spiritual and mental health, as we are separated physically.

Food Bank: Because the government classifies our Food Bank Ministry as essential, we continue to operate on Thursday mornings, and we are beginning to deliver more boxes to our clients. If you feel comfortable supporting this ministry, please reach out to Christine Hoehne at 902-222-8743.

Visioning Process: At our April meeting of Parish Council, members received a draft document of the findings and summary from our visioning sessions, which were held over lent. Council is reviewing this document. A note to the parish will be sent shortly from our visioning committee, and behalf of council. I suspect that once this document is shared, our vision process will begin to move quickly once again. Right now, COVID-19 has slowed our ability to share what you have told us about your vision for Christ Church, Dartmouth. But soon, we will sift through the information together!

Pastoral Ministry: Rev. Bonnie continues to support the Pastoral Ministry of our parish as she connects with parishioners by phone. Again, thank you to our group of committed Pastoral Visitors who also make so many calls as a way of checking in with our fellow parishioners.

I hope to continue to provide you updates as we continue this journey together.

Remember: "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." -1 John 4:16

Warmly,

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