

March 20th, 2020

Dear Members and Adherents,

The last week has been a rollercoaster of changes and emotions as we come to understand the seriousness of the Covid-19 pandemic and how it has changed our lives. It is also very difficult for many emotionally due to self-isolation, concern for loved ones, and financial uncertainty. Please know that you can reach out to your church elder, church family members, or to myself if you need to speak to someone or need some assistance. My contact information is 705-441-2474 or e-mail nmathers@bell.net.

As you know all worship services and activities at St. Andrew's are suspended until further notice. Presently, we do not know when they will resume. Although the church building is locked, Barb will be in the office on an intermittent basis to answer the phone or return phone/email messages, and other day-to-day work that needs to be kept up.

For those of you on Facebook we now have a Facebook page to keep you up to date. You may find us by searching for "St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Barrie". Each day I am posting a devotional for you to reflect on. There will also be a link for a Sunday live-stream option for Sunday worship posted there weekly, and on the church website at www.standrewsbarrie.ca.

Some of you have asked about how you can continue to support St. Andrew's financially while we are closed. This, of course, is vitally important so our financial commitments can be met. Your offerings and gifts can be placed in the mail slot (which drops into a locked box) at the side door of the church or mail your cheque to the church. Many have chosen to give monthly through Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR) or use e-transfers through their online banking, or on our Website using the "Click Here to Give" tab which is processed by Tithe-ly (however, the Tithe-ly option incurs a larger service charge cost to the church). You can call Barb at the church office (705-728-3991) to see which option best suits you and help you navigate through any of them. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Finally, I want to encourage you to uphold each other, our healthcare workers, and our political leaders in prayer. And always, always remember God is faithful. He is with us in all of the circumstances of life. So, do not be afraid. He is our Peace.

Rev. Dr. A.R.Neal Mathers
Interim Moderator