



# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

FROM ST. JOHN'S STEVENSVILLE UNITED CHURCH ——— QUARANTINE ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 2020 ———



Dear Friends;

I have good news to share, we are re-opening our church building for Sunday Worship Services in October!!! October 4<sup>th</sup> will be our first Sunday. It will be so wonderful to gather together in person again. Of course like with everywhere else, there will be adjustments to maintain a healthy safe distance from other worshippers in accordance with the regulations of the Niagara Region, and provincial restrictions that allow for only 1/3 of the sanctuary capacity to be used. Please carefully read the following so that you will know what to expect as we gather.

First off, our church is considered a public building and so masks will be required. If you are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, we would ask that you continue to worship with us online from home. Your health is our main concern.

Everyone will enter from the sanctuary doors, and after disinfecting hands, will be seated by an Usher, filling up every third pew from the front to the back. When the service is finished, Folks will leave the Sanctuary through the Fellowship Hall door, with the front pews leaving first. There will be no coffee time following the service for the next while.

All hymn books, envelopes and Bibles will be removed from the pews, and all songs and readings will be on the screens. The offering plate will be located at the entrance to the sanctuary and not passed through the pews. Due to the extra precautions we have taken we will be able to sing, and under Val's guidance we have added new members to the music leadership team. So, get ready for some exciting new experiences.

On a personal note I want to thank everyone who has chipped in and made the last few months of quarantine worship, not just possible but interesting and engaging. It was a steep learning curve and a LOT of work, but amazing things can happen when the "Body of Christ" pulls together.

*Blessings to you all,  
Rev. Cheryl*

LOVE GOD... LIVE JESUS

## An Unexpected Opportunity



Some of you will have heard that recently there has been some concern raised over the 'inukshuk,' (more properly identified as an inunnguac) beside our front door and the plaque that was attached to it.

The Council has decided to educate ourselves as to the origin, meaning and cultural significance of the 'inukshuk,' particularly to the Inuit people.

This is part of a period of discernment as we decide what we are going to do in response to the concerns that have been raised about both the sculpture and the plaque.

You are invited to join in on those conversations on **Thursday, October 15th at 7:00 in the church hall.**

**All Covid-19 protocols will be observed.**

**Please register with Rev Bill either by email at [rev.bill.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:rev.bill.thomas@gmail.com) or by phone at 289-213-3153.**

## New Bible Study With Rev. Bill

The Book of The Prophet Micah; Tuesdays: October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10  
1:00 – 2:30 @ The Embrace Centre

*"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, Who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
From you shall come forth for me One who is to rule in Israel, Whose origin is from of old, from ancient days."*

*- Micah 5: 2*

As Christians, we read this verse as a prophecy concerning the birth of Jesus. In order to truly understand Christianity and the place of Jesus in the Judeo-Christian tradition, it is important to know and understand the writings of The Prophets.

To begin our journey into The Prophets we are going to spend six Tuesdays studying the relatively short Book of Micah. As many of you know, the prophetic witness of Micah has been very important to my ministry and offers much guidance to the church.

Please join me on this journey on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 At The Embrace Centre. We will ensure social distancing and all necessary Covid-19 protocols. I may also offer this Bible Study online at a different time if enough people are interested.

Of course, there is no cost for this Bible Study but **please register with Rev Bill at [rev.bill.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:rev.bill.thomas@gmail.com) or 289-213-3153 in advance so that he has a sense of the number of participants.**

## From The Finance Committee

- Terry Metcalf

It has been 24 weeks since our church had to suspend services because of COVID-19 and along with that suspension has come some challenges in so far as finances for the church are concerned. Donations are often made when the collection plate is passed around on Sunday morning and through our various fund-raising activities. With regular services and fund raising suspended, giving through those avenues are down substantially, although being able to make donations on-line through the CanadaHelps website has helped to offset this somewhat.

We have also been able to access some assistance through CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy), one of the funding program the federal government put in place to assist with salary costs when companies including non-profit groups such as ourselves, experienced income reductions because of the COVID-19 closings. CEWS along with our Treasurer filing earlier than normal for prior year HST/GST Rebates and drawing down funds held in the UCC Foundation have all helped our cash flow position.

In short, we are keeping our heads above water and will be able to fund the added costs related to reopening in October, but that being said we can always use more help. If you haven't already done so, now might be a good time to contact Linda Gorham and have your giving switched to PAR or drop off or mail a cheque to the church, our Treasurer is still making deposits. Stay healthy, stay safe and we look forward to seeing many of you back in church when we are finally able to reopen.

## Walk Through Bethlehem



The worship Committee is planning on having a "Walk through Bethlehem" held from **Nov. 25 th to 28 th from 1-3 & 7-9.**

In conjunction, the UCW would like to have a display of Baskets for sale to recoup some of the money from not having our Fall Bazaar. We are asking people in the congregation if they could donate a basket for sale. A list of the items in the basket must be printed up and the price you want to sell it for. We do have a few baskets at the church and the cellophane to wrap them with. If you feel this is not possible and would like to make a monetary donation so that we could put something together that would be great as well.

Please let Phyllis Booth 905-871-5968 or Glenda Doan 905-382-2155 for donations.

*Thanks; Phyllis Booth*

## I Hear Music In The Air... There Must Be A God Somewhere!

**We are excited to introduce the new music team! They are not Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band but, let me introduce to you, the one and only music team at St John's Stevensville United Church ...**

**Val is the current organist at St John's Stevensville United Church. A member of the St John's Stevensville Baptism Alumni (she joined in 1954), it was an easy transition back to her home church after Val retired from Rich Products of Canada where she worked as a Product Specialist for 32 years. While at Rich's Val was fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel quite extensively and has been to all of the Canadian provinces and territories, 12 US states and 29 countries. Prior to entering the workforce with Rich's, Val attended and graduated from the University of Guelph.**

**Ian Green, a resident of Hamilton, Ontario, is excited to be a part of the music team at St. John's Stevensville. Ian brings many years of performance experience in churches, concert halls, weddings, and other venues. Currently, Ian teaches piano, theory, and musicianship classes to a vibrant studio of aspiring students of many ages and stages of musical development. A graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT, 2006), and Queen's University (BMus, 2006), Ian enjoys all aspects of musical expression, performance, and education. To learn more about Ian, please visit [www.musicbyiangreen.com](http://www.musicbyiangreen.com)!**

**Fran and Tom are both former music teachers with District School Board of Niagara. They have just retired from a 10 year position as the Music Ministry team for Silver Spire United in St. Catharines.**

**The music team can be contacted at the following email addresses:**

**[v18spear12@rogers.com](mailto:v18spear12@rogers.com)**

**[musicbyiangreeninc@gmail.com](mailto:musicbyiangreeninc@gmail.com)**

**[franinglis@sympatico.ca](mailto:franinglis@sympatico.ca)**

**[tominglis@sympatico.ca](mailto:tominglis@sympatico.ca)**

## Time To Get Creative Again!

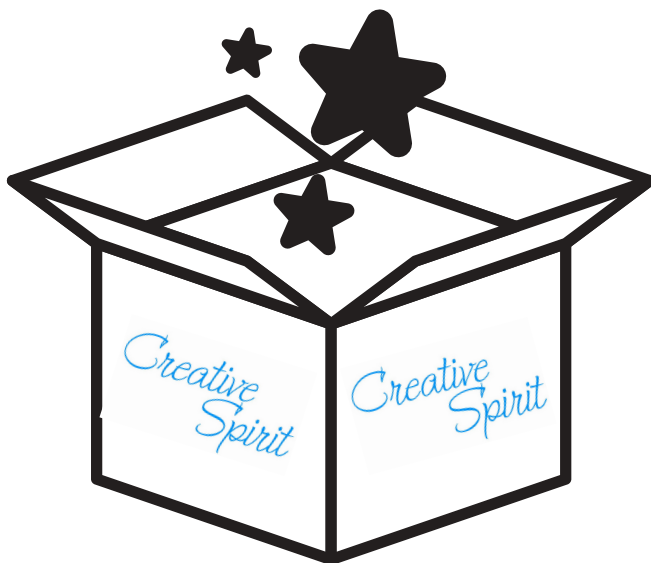
September is quickly approaching and that means Creative Spirit will be starting up again - WOOHOO!

Creative Spirit will remain online until we see how COVID-19 and 'back to school' progresses this fall. For Creative Spirit, it is not only about having a space where folks can be safely distanced from one another, but also about safely using materials, supplies etc. These are shared resources in our regular setting (sharing is still a no-no) and currently, it is not within the budget to purchase a full set of supplies for each and every individual in Creative Spirit.

As I would truly love to get back to using various other mediums for our next round of Zoom sessions, here is what I propose: The Creative Spirit Subscription Box. This is a subscription that you sign up for, just like a magazine subscription, but is a box of various goods that is delivered to you on a monthly or quarterly basis for a fee... yes a fee. You knew there would be a catch.

As I have yet to finalize the cost of the box, I'm expecting it to be between \$20-\$30 month. Perhaps closer to \$30 for the first couple of boxes as you get your basic supplies that we use, that don't have to be replenished as often (paint brushes, paint palette, paints, markers, watercolour pencils etc).

If you have all of the basics at home, as I know some of you do, then this might not be something that you are interested in, but for those that don't have most of the things that we commonly use at Creative Spirit, then this will allow us to enjoy some other art practices that we haven't done in months. More importantly though, is that the subscription box means that YOU don't have to go into the stores to purchase items yourself, keeping you safer and with less stress / anxiety of having to be out in multiple places shopping. I have attached a PDF of the supplies list, so that you can check your resources at home and let me know what you have.



For some, the cost may be of concern. I completely understand this. Creative Spirit was never meant to be an "admission fee" gathering. I will be looking into a sponsor-a-box to help with those costs. Any thoughts, ideas and concerns you may have, PLEASE let me know.

We, as the Embrace Centre community, will continue to make Creative Spirit a safe, prayerful, loving, fun, enriching, empowering, calming, soul filled spiritual practice, in whatever way we can.

*Spirit filled hugs to you all;  
Carolyn*

## Time To Get Creative Again! (cont.)

How many times have you said to yourself, "if I were to do that again...." or "I'll have to remember the next time we are working with [this], that I want to try it this way."? Here's your chance! Our first few weeks of Creative Spirit will be spent with Watercolour.

Here's the list of supplies for our month of Watercolour:

- Watercolour paint – that could be tubes, liquid or pans – set of 12 colours is plenty! (or
- even watercolour pencils if you would prefer)
- Brushes – any, ideally have one round size 6, 8 or 10
- Watercolour Paper – ideally nothing less than 140lb (5-10 sheets 9x12)
- Cardstock – white or light coloured letter size (8.5x11) (couple sheets)
- Paint palette – the 6 well plastic ones we use in CS are fine
- Sharpie Marker – Black - (waterproof marker) – fine & extra fine
- Toothbrush – any
- Saran wrap
- Salt
- Paper towel / rag
- Glass or jar for water
- Painters Tape
- Glue – standard pva school or glue stick
- Suitable work surface - flat, that is washable in case paint gets on it
- Scissors
- Various tree / plant leaves.... Don't need to worry about those right now (haha)

Remember to contact Carolyn at [creativespiritministry@gmail.com](mailto:creativespiritministry@gmail.com) to order a Creative Spirit Box, or sign up to receive the zoom link (if you haven't done so already).

## Announcements

### Prayer Shawls are Needed:

1 – 2 males (18- 24" wide x 60 – 66" long), and 5 – 6 woman's (15 – 18") x 56 – 60" long). No baby, crib or lap shawls are required at this time. Thank you!.

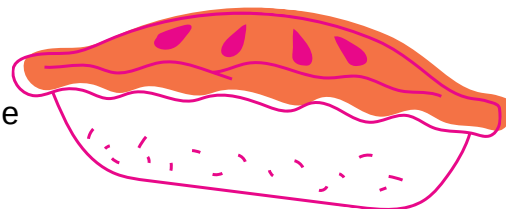


THANK  
YOU

South Niagara Life Ministries have expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the generosity of our congregation during the Baby Bottle Bank Campaign this year. The members of St. John's Stevensville United Church contributed \$685.00 to support this very worthy cause. We can all be very proud that our level of community involvement has remained high in spite of the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The sale of Chicken Pot Pies was so success in July, that we are doing it again in September! But this time instead of chicken, we are using the beef pie recipe from the former Central United Church in Historic Bridgeburg. We have heard good things about how delicious they were, and we can't wait to try it out.

**Pies must be pre-ordered by Sunday, September 13, by calling Susan McLeod at #905-994-9043.** Pies will be available for pick-up after the Parking Lot Vespers Service on Sunday, September 20th at 7pm.



Have you been loving all the different online effects we've been using? Have been curious as to how it all works? John Bedell is looking to train congregation members in how to help make our services unforgettable! Sign up by emailing [niagaraonlineworship@gmail.com](mailto:niagaraonlineworship@gmail.com) or talking to John on during Sunday Vespers.



Stay Tuned for:

**"A JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
BETHLEHEM"  
Nativity Display**

**Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>**



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## Ongoing Events!

If you're really missing your weekly routine, consider tuning in with us through the Facebook Live events.

Sunday @ 11am - Streamed Church Services  
Sunday Vespers @ 7pm - Sept. 6 and Sept. 20

Wondering where our streamed sessions can be found?  
Check out the following:

-  [www.stjohnsstevensvilleunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjohnsstevensvilleunitedchurch.com)
-  St. John's Stevensville United Church
-  The Embrace Center
-  [www.niagaraonlineworship.com](http://www.niagaraonlineworship.com)

We understand that it can be hard when we are all isolated. So please keep in mind that both Rev. Bill and Rev. Cheryl are available to provide pastoral care over the phone at any time. Do not hesitate to call.

## Contact Us

### **St. John's Stevensville United Church:**

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905-382-3344

**Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas:**  
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[rev.cheryl.wood@gmail.com](mailto:rev.cheryl.wood@gmail.com)

**Rev. Bill Thomas**  
289-213-3153  
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