



# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

FROM ST. JOHN'S STEVENSVILLE UNITED CHURCH

QUARANTINE ISSUE: JULY 2020

Hello SJS Folks & Friends;

Here we are moving into the latter half of July already! I thought this would be a good time to send out a quick note to remind you all that you are in my thoughts and prayers and that I am only a text or phone call away, and I know that the same rings true Rev. Bill as well. It is almost 4 months since the church building closed for the quarantine, and as places begin to re-open please know that we are also planning for our eventual reopening. There were certain restrictions lifted as the Niagara Region moved to Phase 2 of re-opening public spaces, but the Church Council felt after much prayerful discernment that we would be wiser to wait, and now we are seeing a provincial phase 3 on the horizon.



**Stay tuned as the situation develops!**

However, just because we are not worshipping inside our building on Sunday mornings does not mean that we have not been worshipping together. I want to extend a special thank-you to our very own techie John Bedell for the faithfulness he models through the Niagara Online Worship ministry. And of course, we continue to try new things in our worship time. We have made great use of our blue screen and have been able to welcome a variety of guests to join us in segments of the service. And beginning on Sunday, August 26th at 7PM, we will be offering a bi-weekly Vespers Service and Hymn Sing in our northside parking lot. Cars are invited to arrive in the parking lot around 6:45pm for the 7pm start. You will remain in your cars with the radio tuned to 95.9FM broadcast frequency. The parking spaces will pre-marked with chalk to indicate the physical distance markers. A small group did a test-run of the system to iron-out the kinks and we are pretty excited to open this worship experience to the community. I am including a sample of the first week's Vesper Service for you to have an idea what to expect. Hymn books will be available to loan out, but they will become your responsibility to hold onto until in-house services resume in the Fall.

As a fundraiser, Susan M is baking delicious chicken pot pies for sale that can be picked up at the Vespers Service. They are 5in and cost \$5/pie. They must be pre-ordered. Val S will also have available facemasks -\$8 and a limited variety of jams -\$5.

*Blessings to you all,  
Rev. Cheryl*

LOVE GOD... LIVE JESUS

# Getting Schooled By COVID-19

## Part 2

Well, here we are in the middle of July, a little bit later for this newsletter than I had been thinking last time I wrote but, not too far off. If you remember, the last time I wrote Rev Cheryl and I were just getting ready for the Spring/Summer 'residency' portion of our respective Doctor of Ministry programs. We were in the process of choosing our 'classroom' spaces in different areas of the house. And, we were finishing up the reading that each of us had to do in advance of our classes.

I am very happy to tell you that we were indeed able to find spaces in the house to do our Zoom classwork. Rev Cheryl situated herself in what has become her art room at the front of the house and I found myself in the basement. The classes proceeded ... I would like to say without a hitch but, like everything we do, when we are doing it for the first time, there were some hiccups. There were also some funny moments.

The second day of my first class, one of my fellow students was joined on camera by his 6 year old son who proceeded to climb up his father's back, sit on his shoulders and cover his face with his hands. One of the women in the class who was planning her step-daughter's wedding the following week and, her own wedding the week after that was joined by her husband to be who brought her a cup of tea and a friendly smooch. Of course, that inspired me to do the same so, on a break from my class I took Rev Cheryl a cup of tea and left with a kiss of my own. The joys of online learning intersecting with 'real-life.'

I learned quite a bit about both The Prophets and The Holy Spirit. On the Thursday of my second week of classes I had to go to the church to record my sermon, you might remember it as it was a little more 'Pentecostal' in both tenor and content. It is great and, quite exciting to be challenged by people and concepts from beyond our own tradition and outside of our comfort zone.

Now, Acadia Divinity School, where I am studying has already decided that the fall classes will also be offered online and, we are still waiting to hear from Rev Cheryl's school in Rochester. Rev Cheryl is now on the home stretch, (sorry to all the baseball fans, I know using sports analogies might be painful during this time of professional sports drought), and she is beginning the arduous task of writing her dissertation.

But now I have to sign off and send this letter to our newsletter editor, (our daughter, Victoria) and get back to the task at hand ... writing a paper on the role of the Holy Spirit in the call of the Prophets ... I will write again soon when the August newsletter is going to print.

God Bless and, for now continue to Stay Well, Stay Safe and (as much as you can) Stay Home!

*Rev. Bill*

## Sunday Night Vespers - July 26th

Wondering what the Sunday night vespers might look like?  
Here's a quick snapshot of the order of service.



1. Welcome
2. #664 What a Friend we have in Jesus
3. #69 Away in a Manger
4. #635 All the Way my Saviour Leads Me
5. Reading
6. #341 Fairest Lord Jesus
7. #120 O Jesus I have promised
8. Reading
9. The Old Rugged Cross
10. #179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks
11. Prayer
12. #278 In the Quiet Curve of Evening.

### Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross  
The emblem of suffering and shame  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain (R)

(Refrain)

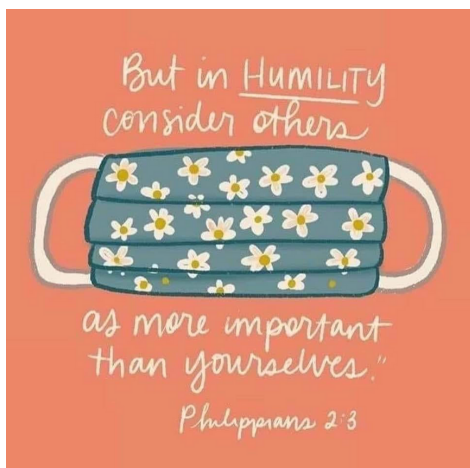
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
And I will cling to the old rugged cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true  
It's shame and reproach gladly bear  
Then he'll call me someday to my home far away  
Where his glory forever I'll share (R)



# Something Fun

O U K G M Q H S D T A G A V C H A L K Y  
 M A Q R M E Y M O G M E O F R R N U N Q  
 F F Q H B D T L J W C R E A T I O N K P  
 M Z B L R S G A D S F W O R S H I P S T  
 E F F G W N A X E V N N M Z O A X G S U  
 J V V R I D G I N L M Q Z C Y K N G Z D  
 F G F K A A A J U N I G P R A O M U W Z  
 D R R Z E D L M S O M L T T S J E F I Y  
 T A I P E J I R Y F E R B A B X Z V V K  
 P J E E N U E O H R C S E Z K W E I N R  
 J N E U N P F Q S Y O W E U H N L K Y M  
 L H F Q S D C T C T M V P Y N L T B C T  
 T B G E B H S A Z I A N V R M I G J S N  
 I W V H Y G I T V X W T B F A N T W F D  
 G G C P R A Y E R T S J I O I I B E X K  
 T G Y H H H W V G C O J R O O F S D D G  
 W T A C Z Q G V K Q Y L Z Y N K B E I C  
 T J F A I T H F U L N E S S U A X H C B  
 B R O A D C A S T Z N I O J W G K F A P  
 A W U W A J Y A J L F K P Y U E Z H N F



radio station  
 faithfulness  
 parking lot  
 broadcast  
 hymn book

praise  
 prayer  
 chalk  
 songs

creation  
 reunited  
 friends  
 vespers  
 worship

## Check out the Scene at the Lilyypad!!



A number of neighbouring United Church ministers join with Rev. Bill / Billfrog to explore the early stories of Israel in a fun and engaging new way during this summers children's moment for our online services. Be sure to watch all summer for those special lessons!



## Announcements

Chicken Pot Pies are available for \$5/ pie. They must be pre-ordered, and can be picked up at the vespers services.

Handmade Facemasks are available for \$8 in a variety of prints. Contact Val Speare to order.

A number of different types of jams are still available for \$5. They can be picked up at the vesper services.

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.

