

Message from the Minister, March 18, 2020

Dear friends in faith,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that we will be suspending public worship in both Olds and Sundre for at least March 22, 29, and April 5th. We will re-evaluate this again prior to Easter.

With the COVID 19 virus in our midst, it behooves us to be as cautious as we possibly can, to protect our membership.

I will be available to receive and make pastoral telephone calls, throughout the duration of this situation. Also, in the event that anyone in our community of faith finds themselves in quarantine or self isolation, and in need of delivery of groceries or other necessities, I and a few others in our congregations are able to that. Just call the church, as myself and Maureen will be monitoring messages in Olds, and the phone in Sundre will be regularly monitored as well.

As we move through these days, I will be communicating by email, and via the website, as often as I can.

Each week I will endeavour to put spiritual reflections and things on the web site that you may wish to use for an "at home" worship experience. I will also be doing some reflecting on my blog, which can be found here: <http://tammyswanderings.wordpress.com>

For those who are able to access internet and live-streaming on Sunday morning, here are some worship services at other United Churches that can be accessed:

- [Rising Spirit](#) (Bashaw-Ponoka, AB, United Churches)
- [Forest Hill United Church](#) (Toronto)
- [GO Project Virtual Kids Camp for March Break](#): Check their webpage for online session times for children of specific ages.
- [Hillhurst United Church](#) (Calgary)
- [Rideau Park United Church](#) (Ottawa)
- [Trinity United Church](#) (Prince George, BC)
- [Timothy Eaton Memorial](#) (Toronto)
- [West Vancouver United](#) (Vancouver)

As we journey through these days, please remember that our mission and ministry continues, on your behalf, and for those of you that give to the church with PAR (Pre-Authorized Giving) things will carry on as usual. For those that give through cheque or cash when you come to church on Sundays, please consider how you might continue to support your community of faith. You may mail your offering in, or bring it to the office, however please call first to confirm someone is there, as in these days our staff must be cautious as well.

In times such as this, there is a tendency to move to a place of fear. My hope and prayer is that you will trust in the presence of God, and join me in praying for the safety of front line medical workers, staff who must work in grocery stores, pharmacies, etc., emergency services, all those who are at high risk because of health issues or age.

I leave you today with my heartfelt prayers that you remain well and safe, and I share these words of our United Church of Canada Moderator, Rev. Richard Bott – which can be found at this link:

<https://www.united-church.ca/prayers/prayer-during-times-covid-19>

When we return from this time to normal worship, we will gather and celebrate! Oh what an Easter it will be – even if it's later than April 12th.

Blessings and peace,

Tammy