

January 2021
Lennoxville United Church

To the Community of Faith of Lennoxville United Church,

Greetings in the name of Love; Love that Creates us, Love that Redeems us, and the Love that Sustains us, through all of life's joys and sorrows. I am so grateful for all the extra effort from so many of you to enable the spiritual practice of Advent and Christmas for our church and the wider community. The Community Tree was well received and the UCWs 2020 version of the Bazaar was impressive; we adapted and continued to be present for our community through a difficult time. It is a beautiful thing to witness the Body of Christ working together in hope and love. As a Community of Faith we lived out the call to shine the Light of Christ in our world.

This time of global crisis has been challenging, and we are being asked to follow a new plan in the hope of alleviating the intense pressure on our medical system. Our online gatherings will continue, however, we will have to put a hold on our next Parade of Offering and Upper Room Worship. I continue to trust that God is with us in this struggle, just as God was with the Hebrews, having left Egypt, and with the Israelites exiled by Babylone, and with Jesus in the wilderness. You are in my prayers and on my mind, I yearn for full Christian Worship with you. For now, the best we can do is care for each other from a distance, while being united in prayer. May we be open to new learnings as we journey with the Spirit through this time of change and challenge.

I offer some resources to help your spiritual practice during this time of hibernation. I will continue to lead a time of prayer and reflection on Facebook Live on Sundays at 10am throughout the current shutdown. I will also be on Facebook Live for Bible Discovery Online on Wednesdays starting in February. Recordings of Online Church and Bible Discovery are available on our website <http://www.lennoxvilleunitedchurch.com/> . Shana Bernier, with the Regional Council, offers a children's church on Facebook Live Sundays at 9:30am (you can find recordings on the Lennoxville United Church Facebook Page). Beaconsfield United Church is hosting a 6-week online program for seniors to stay connected and engaged through brain games and trivia; every Tuesday 10:30-12pm, register with aileenborruel@yahoo.ca . Riverside United Church invites you to join them and explore new experiences through "The Travelling Armchair," Wednesdays 1-2:30pm register with aileenborruel@yahoo.ca . Mental Health Estrie invites you to join them for a zoom on Thursday January 21 10-11:30am, contact ml@townshippers.org . On our Lennoxville United Church website, you can find printable personal prayer reflections that can be done at home, or printed out for a friend. Consider sharing on our Lennoxville United Church Facebook Page resources that have enabled your spiritual practice during these difficult times.

I am so grateful for the leadership of Lennoxville United Church, working with you is a joy. Council and Ministry Teams continue to adapt, hoping for the best while providing care for the children of God with every action that they take. I am grateful to serve with hope-filled Jesus followers. Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement, I continue to listen to the movements of the Holy Spirit, trusting that the peace of Christ and the Love of God will lead the way.

We are United in Prayer,
Rev. Linda D Buchanan

