



*We are ... ordinary people, praising God, caring for others, learning to be the Family of God*

June 2020

Greetings to our Zion Community of Faith!

Did you know there is so much going on at Zion despite not meeting on Sundays?! We hope this newsletter helps to keep you up-to-date on all the things that have been happening.

### **A Big Thank You!**

We have been blessed over the last number of weeks being led in worship by Rev. Marg via YouTube with the assistance of Neil, Barbara, Jennifer, and P.J. It has been comforting to see our sanctuary, and to hear the beautiful piano and organ music. We are grateful!

### **Summer Services**

Rev. Marg deserves a well-earned vacation from writing her weekly emails and ensuring we have a familiar place to worship online each week. A big thanks to Rev. Marg for your leadership and guidance. Have a wonderful rest.

From June 21 to July 28, we welcome Rev. Marilyn Burnard.

NOTE: August 2 and 9: Zion's online services will take a vacation. Stay tuned for links to follow.

August 15 – 30: Online services resume with Steven Martin leading worship.

During the month of August, Joan Berge will provide pastoral care. Thanks to all!

### **News from Leadership Council**

Leadership Council has been meeting virtually, sometimes twice a month, since our building closed due to Covid-19.

Now that all places of worship in Ontario are permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more than 30 per cent of the building capacity to ensure the safety of worshippers, we are looking for volunteers to form a

Task Force to investigate ways for our church to re-open.

Below are some factors to ponder:

- Is our building ready? How do we prepare it?
- Are worship plans in place to keep us safe?
- Is the congregation ready to have meaningful worship services differently? (singing, offering, greeting, communion, etc.)

All of the guidelines from the United Church of Canada and the [provincial government](#) will need consideration as we personalize them for Zion.

Please prayerfully give consideration to volunteering for this Task Force. This would be a very rewarding short-term commitment. Those interested should contact Neil Lackey by email at [council-chair@bellnet.ca](mailto:council-chair@bellnet.ca) to express their interest.

### **Nominating Committee**

The following lists the vacancies on each of our teams:

HR—3; Trustees—1; Learning Team—1; House Team Leads—2; (Teams 1 & 4); Praising Team—1; Leadership Council – 2 (Member at Large, WOW Rep). Please consider volunteering to fill the roster.

We also need volunteers for our Nominating Committee. Many hands make light work PLUS volunteering connects you to others and provides surprising benefits! Contact Neil Lackey.

### **Caring Team**

Thank you to the Caring Team for keeping in touch with our post-secondary students and providing them with a gift card.

Also thanks to the Caring Team for its \$200 donation towards the Indigenous Elder Project (see below).

### **Indigenous Elder Project**

The Wilmot Ecumenical Working Group on Indigenous/Settler Issues, in collaboration with the Wilmot Family Resource Centre (WFRC), has been fundraising and seeking financial support to hire an

Indigenous Elder to support approximately 500 Indigenous citizens in our community.

The vision for the WFRC Indigenous Elder position includes supporting and counselling women affected by family violence; helping to shape programming for children, youth and adults; sharing knowledge, especially about the connections between people and the natural world; and helping to build respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in our community. For more information or if you wish to make a donation, contact Dorothy Wilson.



### Learning Team

Kathy Poirier, our CE & Youth Director, created Zion's first virtual PD Day. The participants travelled **Around the World in**

**1 Day.** They visited seven countries and completed an activity, even making a snack, in each country. The countries visited were Egypt, Gambia, Scotland, Italy, Mexico, England, and China. What an amazing accomplishment Kathy! Thank you.

If you feel like leaving your home for a short while, why not [travel around the world in a day!](#) Bon voyage!!



### Finance

The Finance Team thanks you for your generosity throughout Covid-19!

Financial Picture	
Receipts since January 1	\$64,900
Expenses since January 1	\$56,300
Positive Balance	+\$9,000

Your contributions presently support the repairs, maintenance, salaries, and other ongoing expenses we have, even though we are not meeting together. At the moment, our givings are supporting a two-thirds full-time minister. As we voted to support a full-time minister in the future, we anticipate we will need to see an increase in givings. For now - way to go Zion!



### Property

Do you enjoy gardening? Zion needs some volunteers to maintain the front garden.

Could that be you together with a few house team members?? Please contact Dave Underwood if interested.

### Camp Bimini

Camp Bimini is working hard to reimagine what camp looks like since it will not be able to welcome its friends on site this summer. It has developed **Bimini Connects!** Camp Bimini is very excited to offer exciting virtual sessions through a secure server. The camp's enthusiastic Program Team of Matt and Nicole, along with its amazing Coordinator Carol will be offering multiple daily sessions for 8 weeks from mid-June to mid-August. Register now at [campbimini.ca](http://campbimini.ca). A small registration fee will allow your entire family access to every session this summer! For more information, contact Kathy Poirier.

View [Camp Bimini's promotional video](#) for more information.

Camp Bimini extends its deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to its Bottle Drive! They were overwhelmed by the support they received at all six drop off locations and are excited to announce that they brought in over **\$11,000!!** THANK YOU!



### Faith and Life Discussion Group

Our faithful group thanks Neil Lackey for leading us this year through our bi-monthly gatherings where often new ideas are introduced and the "light bulb" goes on! All are welcome.



### UCW

The UCW held its closing meeting virtually. It was wonderful to see familiar faces again! Stay safe everyone. See you in September!

