

## Council News September 2020

Another meeting by zoom and what a busy evening we shared!

From our reports we learn that UCW has held their General Meeting. Mizpah UCW has disbanded and the members will join one of our other two UCW groups, either Shalom or Mary and Martha. UCW is seeking ways to fundraise during a pandemic!

Outreach and inclusion is firming up the service for our "Affirmiversary Service" October 18. Outreach will meet every second Tuesday as needed to try to establish alternative ways of supporting the charities that rely on their support during the Christmas season.

Rev. Mervin will be participating in an online course during study leave the first week of November. Rev. Deborah will assume all ministerial duties that week.

Our ministers will be resuming services at Youville Home on a monthly basis. Only the minister and musician will be allowed in at the present time. No helpers for now!

United Church Hub is now up and running! A profile of every Community of Faith is now listed on Church Hub. This is also the place where our statistics will be completed in the future.

Our re-opening team is pleased with the response to the re establishing of services at SAUC. Thank you for your patience as we work together to keep everyone safe. We will be looking for Greeters and Ushers to replace the team now that protocols have been established.

SAUC will share with Christians around the world October 4 in World Wide Communion. This will be a new experience for us as we celebrate communion during COVID, but our Worship Committee has worked hard to come up with the best solution.

"Thanks to the Finance team for their report showing the challenges of keeping our church financially viable. With our government grants reaching their end date and limited opportunities for fundraising, all of us will need to pull together and find new ways to support our community while we endure the pandemic."

PAR is a way to make your regular church offerings electronically, once a month, through a Pre-Authorized Remittance. It is a convenient and environmentally friendly way for your givings to reach St. Albert United Church consistently. The majority of our church revenue comes from offerings, and the majority of our offerings come from PAR.

And it's a good thing too! If in-person offerings were the majority, closing our sanctuary to worship for the past few months would have had a far more devastating impact on our financial situation.

If you are not yet on PAR, please consider doing so; you can get the PAR form from the SAUC website, or by requesting one from the office. You can drop it off in the mail slot or send it by mail or e-mail. The stability that your ongoing offering provides is greatly appreciated!

If you are already on PAR and have the ability, please consider increasing your monthly givings, even temporarily, while our ability to worship together is restricted by our COVID countermeasures. Doing this is as simple as calling, writing, or e-mailing the office.

If you are attending St. Albert United in person and using our new offering box-thank you for coming and for helping support our community of faith

Council is looking for ways to replace our traditional fundraisers which are all socially unacceptable in COVID times. We are closely watching as other groups try out innovative exercises such as “Bakeless Bakesale”, “Drive through turkey dinner”, “Virtual Auction Sale” If you have any ideas or see something that works, please let any member of Council in on the secret.

Our Semi Annual Meeting is still being planned for November 15. Council is looking for the best way to make this available to as many members as possible. Stay tuned!

The re-opening team is looking ahead to our Christmas Services. It will certainly be a challenge, but we have met them all so far, and this is just another step on our journey of togetherness.

Copies of the minutes of SAUC church council are available for viewing at the church office or electronically to all members and adherents of SAUC on request.

**We ask that you please do not distribute these minutes without the express consent of SAUC Church Council, and direct requests for additional copies to them. Thank you.**