

Council News October 2020

Our Council meeting was another Zoom meeting with all smiling faces in attendance.

From Outreach and Inclusion:

The Outreach Committee is planning a financial appeal for the month of November as a way of keeping our traditional commitment to our Christmas charities such as White Gift for Bissell, St. Albert Food Bank, Mustard Seed and No Room at The Inn. You will find a Reverse Advent Calendar in the Grapevine before December 1 which will offer you the opportunity to collect a pre-determined item of food each day of December to be donated to the Food Bank.

Thanks to the Affirm Team for the great service for our 6th Affirmaversary. The local Outloud Group received \$420.00 for Rainbow masks which I am sure we will see from now on on Sundays.

Our UCW has come up with a novel fundraiser! They are holding a No Bake Bake Sale. You can see the poster on how you can contribute on our website on the homepage under upcoming events. This is a sure way to avoid all those calories!

If you have been at the church this week, you have probably seen the Telus Team trying to upgrade our communication system to support our live streaming of Sunday Services. We are not there yet and expect another visit next week. In the meantime we appreciate the hours Troy Sartison, Lionel and Wade are putting in at the church to send a tape of the service to our members who choose not to attend service in person just yet. It means you can't see the service until Monday, but it is the best we can do at the moment.

Planning is in the works for our Semi-Annual AGM November 15. We are attempting to have a hybrid meeting with those who attend church staying for a meeting and our Zoom experts joining the electronically connected members to the meeting. We hope this will give as many people as possible all the information they need and voting privileges where required. Our main agenda item will be our financial situation and approval of a new Budget. Please watch your Grapevine for information on how to be part of the meeting. **Registration will be required**

In planning for the Semi Annual meeting, Council received a report from Finance and a draft Budget. Council's concern surrounding our financial situation led to a decision to have a brainstorming meeting before the Semi Annual meeting. This meeting is planned for next week.

Rev. Mervin is on Study Leave Nov.2 to Nov. 8. In planning for his absence, please let him know ASAP if you plan a Zoom meeting during that week. Rev. Mervin can transfer the host duties, but would really appreciate as much notice as possible. Our Zoom, hosted by Rev. Mervin has been our lifeline during this trying time.

We will be placing our receptacle for donations to the St. Albert Food Bank in the foyer in the near future. There is an acute need for this service at the moment and we have volunteers who are willing to deliver the food.

November 15 is the first Sunday in our 6 week Advent. Our Ministers have put forward plans for a very meaningful journey to Christmas. We look forward to some light in our world. There are also plans for an "Advent Candle Lighting" evening on Zoom during Advent. The Children are embarking on a virtual Advent Sunday School which includes the creation of a wreath. The candle lighting will give us a chance to share the children's enthusiasm and to light our own wreath at home. Stay Tuned for the final plan!

Our re-opening Team have been front and centre each Sunday making sure that the protocols we need for a safe service are followed. Now that we have the system in place it is time for us to thank the team and to find volunteers to take some of these positions. If you would be interested in helping with the sanitizer (sit down job), temperature taking, list checking (also a sit down job) or usher, please let Donna Wyatt, Betty Welsby or Wendy Poirier know. Please watch your Grapevine for further information.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for November 17. If you have any concerns, or ideas for fundraisers, please let your Chair of Council Troy Sartison know, or you can leave your messages at the office.