

## The Latest Information: Church **BUILDING CLOSED** until April 2

***A message from Jean Redgrave, Susan Posgate, Stan Harvey, and Michael Brooks:***

Dear Port Nelson Church Family:

Things continue to change by the hour in our city, our province, our country, and God's world. These are indeed challenging and difficult times for all of us, particularly those who are alone and especially vulnerable.

This past Sunday, we met for virtual worship. Over 200 people have viewed the YouTube Stream of the service. We explored helpful rituals that can support and encourage us. It worked well, given the circumstances. We are blessed with technology and with people who know how to use it for the good of the community and to glorify God.

This past Sunday, we committed to sharing further information today. So, here it is! We share the following new measures and changes in the sincere hope that, with God's help, we can slow the spread of the virus and do our part to promote the health of God's people:

- **Effective immediately, the BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED to the congregation, public and external groups until Thursday, April 2; ALL programs, small groups and meetings scheduled between now and April 2 are cancelled**
- The **Call to Prayer** originally planned for this Friday, March 20 **will not happen in person**, but we will include prayer tips/aids in this Friday's email news
- The **Church Breakfast** scheduled for Saturday, **April 4 is cancelled**
- The closure will be **re-evaluated based on latest available information** and a follow up communication will be made no later than April 2
- A **small team has been set up** to monitor developments and make decisions quickly as necessary; the team is: Jean Redgrave (Chair of the Board), Susan Posgate (Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee), Stan Harvey (Secretary of the Board), and Michael Brooks (Lead Minister)
- We have reviewed key staff and lay leadership roles to make sure the church can function if key people become ill; **all key leaders have identified back-up people**; we are blessed to have many people that we can ask for help if needed
- The church **staff will monitor email, telephone and mail communication** at least daily from Monday to Friday
- Many of the church's **ministries will continue in modified form**
- You will continue to receive the **weekly Friday email** newsletter
- **Sunday worship** will continue to be **broadcast live via YouTube at 10.30am** Subscribe by clicking this YouTube link. After subscribing, hit the notifications button and from then on you will receive an email every time we Livestream new video stream.

- **Pinnacle Youth** will continue to meet Sundays at 10.30am using **Google Hangout**
- **Adventure Crew** Children will continue to be **sent Sunday activities**
- **Financial offerings** can be made on-line by **CLICKING HERE**, or by mailing cheques to the church office; if you are already on Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), thank-you!
- **Teleministry will be augmented** as part of our pastoral care; those in our church family who are alone, isolated or vulnerable will be called frequently
- **Pastoral Visitors will conduct telephone visits** with our family in retirement and long-term care homes at least bi-weekly...more often if needed or requested
- In the case of **palliative situations**, please contact one of the ministers listed below for pastoral care
- Susan Rust, a member of the congregation, has generously offered to assist anyone who needs **guidance ordering products online**; if you or someone you know would like Susan's assistance, please call her at: 289 880 1733
- **Food Voucher participants** will be contacted by telephone and gift cards will be mailed to those who are in dire need

*Burlington Food Bank:*

We are reminded that the **Burlington Food Bank is in need of food and financial donations**. Needs are likely to increase with the economic downturn. Food can be dropped off at grocery stores or directly at the food bank, 1254 Plains Road East. Please help where you can.

*Questions/Concerns:*

There may be questions or concerns about these plans or about many matters. **Please send your questions to the church office at [office@portnelsonunitedchurch.com](mailto:office@portnelsonunitedchurch.com)**. The coordinating group will do their best to get answers.

*Urgent Pastoral Care:*

The **ministers** can be contacted by cell phone at any time if needed. Please do not hesitate to call if you require care, or if you are concerned about someone else in the church family:

Rev. Michael Brooks: 905 746 0052

Rev. Martha Reynolds: 289 684 2845

**If you are aware of someone in the church family who does not use email, please call them today to share this news.**

Please continue to **pray** for one another and our world. Pray for:

- People directly affected by the virus
- Health care workers and local and national leaders
- Vulnerable people: the elderly, those with compromised immunity, the poor
- Our community of faith - that even in the midst of challenge and trouble, we are not alone - God is always with us

And finally, consider reaching out to someone in our church family who might be alone or vulnerable. This is an excellent time to share telephone visits with others. Stay safe. Live in the blessing of God who reminds us that we are never alone.