

April 2020

Ed. # 64

Sunday Worship 11a.m.

Sunday School & Nursery available

Coffee & Conversation in the Sunday school hall after worship.

### Mark Your Calendar

April 1<sup>st</sup> April Fool's Day ~ a light-hearted day to play practical jokes on your friends.

**Please note that for the present time the church will remain closed as per the recommendations of the Medical Officer of Health for Ontario and by the United Church offices.**

A reminder that Rev. Peter is available to our congregation and community by email :

[peterdahlin52@gmail.com](mailto:peterdahlin52@gmail.com),  
[russellunited@gmail.com](mailto:russellunited@gmail.com) or by phone: (home) 613- 443-7603  
( church) 613-445-3111.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday** (Matthew 21.1-11)

Riding on a donkey, Jesus entered Jerusalem to the cheers of people waving palm branches.



**Apr 10<sup>th</sup> Good Friday**



**April 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**



**April 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Earth Day 3 R's –**

**reduce, reuse, and recycle**



## Adventures with Christ

St. Andrew's & St. Paul's United Church  
Russell, ON ~ 445 3111~[russellunited@gmail.com](mailto:russellunited@gmail.com)

Minister ~ Rev. Peter Dohlin ~443-7603 E-mail ~ [PeterDahlin52@gmail.com](mailto:PeterDahlin52@gmail.com)

Our mission: To Know Jesus and share his Love  
Message from the Pulpit:

**May you experience the joy of this season!  
Christ is risen indeed!**

In a [letter to all communities of faith](#), Moderator Richard Bott writes:

"Grace and peace to you, in the love of the Creator, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. I am writing to you on the evening following the announcement by the World Health Organization that the novel coronavirus COVID-19 has reached a pandemic state. Here in Canada, while the number of presumptive and confirmed cases remains low, Canadians are being asked to prepare for an increase in the number of people affected by the virus....

"Scripture talks a lot about fear—often in the form of “Don’t be afraid!” I know that can be hard to do, but think there is an important call to us as people of God and followers of Jesus. In those moments when fear gets huge, we have the opportunity to love even more and, in that love, to help one another."

**Notice:** Due to the ongoing concerns of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) the church **will remain closed**. Please remain calm, but vigilant! Check in with your neighbours to see if they need any assistance. Rev. Peter

**FINANCES** During this time of closure, expenses continue. We are encouraging members to use PAR, Canada Helps, or to send their offering by cheque to the church. If a congregation defaults on its ADP withdrawal for salaries, ADP allows one default payment without interrupting employees pay, but if the situation continues beyond that, other resources will have to be used; perhaps from reserves or manse funds.

## **From the minister's desk:**

It is surprising how quickly things can change in just a few weeks. We are in a period of uncertainty, fear, and nervousness; the COVID-19 virus has affected all of us. None of us are sure what the future holds; our personal lives have been affected, our communities are affected, and our church has been affected.

We are told to self-isolate if we have been away, or feel unwell. Even if we feel healthy, we are to distance ourselves from one another; for many this feels unnatural and foreign. We are concerned about our jobs and loss of income; our retirement incomes in many cases have dropped drastically. We are worried not only of our own health, but the wellbeing of family and friends.

In our community, stores have had to close. We are told not to mingle with other people and those who are social-butterflies find this extremely difficult. When we shop for the necessities of life, we try to do it as infrequently as possible, only to find what we are really looking for out of stock, necessitating another trip.

When it comes to our church, we miss the communal aspect of worshiping together. Yes, we can pray, and perhaps read the scriptures on our own, but it is not quite the same as being in our community of faith. And there is also the social aspect of worshiping together. It is an opportunity to speak to friends and neighbours, to find out how they are doing, and to catch up with what is going on in our community. In our busy lives, often this has become the only opportunity to do so. But perhaps, it is the elderly and those who are unable to move around, who find this time the most difficult. It is in the church community where they find their time to interact with others, and to share their joys and concerns.

We are nearing the end of the Lenten season, a time when we reflect on our relationship to God and one another. So perhaps it is fitting for Christians to go through these turbulent times now, as we seek to help those around us. We may not be able to meet in person, but we can always pick up the phone and check in with one another. Those of us who are able to get around can go shopping for those who are house bound. Just letting people know they are not forgotten can really lift a person's spirit.

Easter is quickly approaching us, which in my mind is a good thing. Easter for Christians highlights hope, we are a resurrection people. Out of the doom and gloom, comes the dawning of a new day, and new possibilities. The COVID-19 virus may return in another wave, so life has changed for us; but if we remember that God is with us, we have hope. We also have the support of one another.

As I was thinking of a biblical passage that would reflect the time we are in, I kept coming back to the Hebrew people who were enslaved by the Egyptians. They had been brutally oppressed and exploited. Moses with God's help led them to freedom. The people were unsure of the path, and what exactly lay ahead of them. It was a time of extreme uncertainty, they thought they were going to die of thirst in the desert, it seemed to take forever to come to the promised land. Although they grumbled and complained to Moses, they did put their trust in God and Moses. God had a way of coming to their aid when they felt that they were at the end of their rope. They received food from heaven, and life-giving water when they needed it most. In the end, they established the nation of Israel in the Promised Land.

As we struggle with the COVID-19 virus, we too are unsure of the future, and what it may hold for us. But we need to trust in God and those around us, just like the Hebrew people. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, because we are Resurrection People.

If you are finding it extremely difficult during these times, please call me and share your concerns (613) 443-7603; or if like email me [PeterDahlin52@gmail.com](mailto:PeterDahlin52@gmail.com)

Please remember to wash your hands thoroughly and frequently, and remain a safe distance from those we meet; as well as helping those in need. If we follow those simple guidelines we will get through this ordeal.

I would like to close with a little prayer.

Loving and Gracious God, we ask that you be with all of your people through these difficult and trying times. Give us the courage, strength and stamina, to deal with the events in our lives. We ask that you be with all of the care givers, whether they be in hospitals, nursing homes, or our homes; that they too be given the all of the support they need. We pray for those who have lost family members during this time, and they have not been able to have appropriate celebrations of life for their beloved family members.

We give you thanks that you promise to never forsake us; that you will always be there in our darkest moments. Help us to realize this promise in the midst of varied emotions, thereby lifting our spirits, and hope for the future. Amen.

*As we continue our journey as disciples of Christ;  
may we grow in faith, love and understanding.  
Rev. Peter W. Dahli*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**If fish is your favorite dish,  
Then we're here to grant your wish  
Russell United Church**

**Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**5:00pm to 7:00pm**

***Preordered Takeouts 4:00- 4:30***

**Contact: Susanna Cluff-Clyburne (445-2915),  
Marilyn James (445-5451),  
Eileen Hamelin (445-5335)**

***Advanced tickets only***