



Kitchissippi
UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, April 26th, 2020
Second Sunday after Easter

A note from Rev. Jenni

Hello all,

First, I realize that I haven't mentioned that I have postponed my sabbatical to May 2021, and Ministry and Personnel are in agreement with that decision. The Rev. Dianne Cardin, who was happy to cover May and June 2020, is also on board with the postponement. If you have any questions about this, please do be in touch with me or with Peggy Clarke (chair of M & P).

Second, I've been thinking a lot about new life, new growth, transformation, resurrection...probably because of Easter, but I'm glad for the time to think and process and not feel like I have to "do" or busy myself with something. Thankfully, my very small garden in my backyard has provided evidence of new life and new growth. I'm attaching pictures of my chives, garlic (thankfully, I only plucked one out!), rhubarb and crocuses (from earlier this spring). Also a picture of some succulents I'm trying to grow inside.

Despite what is happening in the world - especially around quarantine/isolation and the recent murders in Nova Scotia - Creation continues to amaze and inspire me. God is still at work in the world. God is still creating, still speaking. We still have the opportunity to co-create with God: through listening, through wonder, through creating, through action, through curiosity. We remain children of God; enclosed safely in our homes; beloved observers of God's beauty; peacemakers; activists; lovers of neighbours and the outcast. This does not take away from the hard feelings of isolation or the murders: they still exist and need to be felt, processed and examined. As complex human beings, we are called to hold both in our hands, hearts and heads and to know when to reach out for help when the hard feelings overwhelm us. Be in touch with me, a trusted family member, friend or the crisis line for youth ([613-260-2360](tel:613-260-2360) OR CRISIS CHAT HERE <https://www.ysb.ca/services/ysb-mental-health/24-7-crisis-line/>) or adults (613-722-6914). You are not alone. People are here to help you.

New life and new growth are embodied in this hymn. It has been a favourite of mine for a couple of decades, confirmed when I heard my children singing it in the bathtub, after learning it at Camp Awesome when they were 4 or 5 (it's amazing what children can memorize!). Please find below the lyrics and the music in a sound clip by Gavan, our esteemed Music Director. (Thank you so much, Gavan!)

In the Bulb there is a Flower (VU 703)

In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

APRIL 24, 2020

There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.



Finally, I'm excited about the 'Getting to know you...' Project! I've had several very positive responses, and, last evening, the first biography was submitted - with a photo!! You will find out who that first person was on Monday, when we will begin our roll out of the Project! Who was the first person??? Stay tuned for Monday!! (I've put the premise and questions in a document, and have attached it here, so if you missed yesterday's email, please take a look.)

APRIL 24, 2020

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rlmwgQHScogilsdLeEPYguQyW1lizo5uc1qPuHJEf2k/edit?usp=sharing>

I hope you all are able to find the beauty in each day, even if it is in a hot cup of brewed tea or coffee, in the crease of a newspaper or the song of the birds outside our windows - let us all look for God's handiwork in Creation. Let us all look for healing during these stressful times.

“The price we pay for our dualistic mind is that one side of the comparison is always idealized and the other demonized, or at least minimized. There is little room for balance or honesty, much less love. ... In fact, you could say that the greater opposites you can hold together, the greater soul you usually have.”
—Richard Rohr in *Hope Against Darkness*.

Blessings,
Jenni

Outreach-Carlington Chaplaincy News

**A recent letter from Carlington Community Chaplaincy Board Chair Harold Rode:
Dear Board and Church Representatives.**

As you know the Chaplaincy is now providing breakfast and once a month brunch to the community but has stopped all other programming. I sent the attached note about the Chaplaincy response to COVID via e-mail to the members at Faith Lutheran. There has been a positive response – both in terms of donations about also appreciation for the Chaplaincy providing this service.

Please feel free to use it if you wish – modify it as appropriate for your church.
Harold Note: Donations can be made via the Chaplaincy's website <http://www.carlingtonchaplaincy.com/>

Dear friends of the Carlington Chaplaincy,

Peace be with you. I wish to bring you up-to-date on the Chaplaincy's response to the COVID-19 crisis. To encourage social distancing, the Chaplaincy has cancelled its programs as requested by the government except for some of its food programs. The residents of the Carlington area living in poverty have always had difficulties having enough food especially towards the end of the month, exacerbated by the fact that assistance they receive is not keeping up with inflation. Both the Chaplaincy and the Caldwell Family Centre have seen a considerable increase in the numbers coming for food programs.

Our drop-in from 10:00 to 12:00 Monday to Friday where people were provided healthy snacks in a safe environment has been changed to a take-out breakfast served from 9:00 -11:00. Single servings of yogurt or cereal, a boiled egg, cheese and crackers and fruit or juice in a paper lunch bag are handed out safely to residents at the door. We made this change in concert with the Family Centre (CFC), which had previously provided a light breakfast but now need time to prepare pick-up bags of groceries for people coming to their Food Bank. The residents who came to breakfast at the Family Centre now come to the Chaplaincy; the number of people getting food has approximately doubled.

We will continue our once a month Saturday brunch; instead of a hot brunch, now lunch bags with sandwiches, juice and fruit. For the brunch in March St Basil's Roman Catholic Church prepared sandwiches, others brought clementines and approximately 70 people came for food.

APRIL 24, 2020

The Chaplaincy is also looking at ways to help combat the loneliness due to social distancing; our Chaplain Matt has encouraged people to call him if they need to talk. We are using a sign-up sheet so that people can give their contact information; we are looking at setting up a phone tree to contact these individuals on a regular basis.

Unfortunately these changes mean our costs have increased substantially even with the CFC providing some food from the food bank to help with breakfast. Fundraising events such as our spring music fest has been cancelled due to the pandemic. This means we have to work extra hard at fundraising when this crisis is over.

Thank you for your on-going support of the residents of the Carlington community and the work of the Chaplaincy. Often the residents say “God bless you” as they pickup their food; I pass their blessing on to you. We know that no matter what happens we have the comfort of knowing that we are children of God and God is with us.

Harold Rode

Chair, Carlington Community Chaplaincy Board

We are here for you! Please reach out!

Kitchissippi United Church

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**CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE DUE
TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

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← Unvirtuous Abbey



Unvirtuous Abbey

1 hr · ✨

This kind of nonsense that I'm hearing from the motivational speaker tribe and happy pastor culture is my new thing to actively resist.

Be sad. Be tired. God loves you. Take your meds. We're in this together. This pandemic won't make us better people. A lot of people are suffering right now. No one has extra time to do these kinds of things. In fact, we have less time.



Jonathan Shalit OBE (Hon Prof)

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If you don't come out of this quarantine with

- 1) a new skill,
- 2) your side hustle started
- 3) more knowledge

— you never lacked time. You lacked discipline.

