

Orchard Valley United Church

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Announcements for Sunday, April 5, 2020

Orchard Valley United Church has cancelled all in-person events, meetings and worship services at the church for at least the next three weeks. Please check our website, under the Cancellations and Postponements, for more information.

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

The Orchard Valley United Church will hold their Annual Meeting on April 19th at 11:00 am. This meeting will be held **electronically** using a technology called Zoom. You can participate and see the other participants if you have a computer with a camera. If your computer has a microphone like most portables or you have a headset or even a cellphone or a tablet, you can participate fully. If you don't have those technologies available to you, then you can still participate by phone.

Aside from the regular business that we discuss at the Annual Meeting such as nominations and passing our 2020 budget, we will also receive updates from our Search Committee and our Facilities Committee.

Our Council is also recommending our continued support of Rhonda Schofield this year as she furthers her goal towards ordered ministry.

As this is a new way of doing business for us, we ask that you register if you plan to participate. Please call the office or email Theresa no later than the 13th of April. (902-681-0366, ext 1 OR AdminOVU@bellaliant.com)

If you wish to participate in a learning session on the use of Zoom technology, please let Theresa know as soon as possible and we will arrange some tutorials.

Current world circumstances have forced churches to adapt to being a community of faith in new ways. We do understand and appreciate that adapting our methods to do the business of the church in this way is not ideal for everyone. Thank you for your understanding.

FundScrip – Following are upcoming FundScrip order and delivery dates:

Order Dates	Delivery Dates
March 29	April 5
April 12	April 19
April 26	May 3

Please feel free to speak with one of the Men's Group to order gift cards.

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, April 5, 2020 –

Liturgy of Palms: Matthew 21:1–11, Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

**Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4–9a, Psalm 31:9–16, Philemon 2:5–11,
Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54**

Broadview Subscriptions (former *The Observer*) – *Broadview* (formerly known as *The Observer*) is a magazine published by the United Church of Canada. If you would like to order a yearly subscription (10 months) of *Broadview* at OVUC's group rate of \$25 (including HST), please contact Theresa (902-681-0366 ext 1 or AdminOVU@bellaliant.com). The deadline for subscriptions/renewals is Monday, April 13. Cheques are payable to OVUC.

Camp Sponsorship Drive – With the hope that Sherbrooke Lake Camp will still be able to run this summer, Christian Development is launching this year's sponsorship drive. Last year we raised \$3,767. Thanks again for your generous support! This year we have 20 adults, youth and children asking for sponsorships for a total of \$3,810 in fees. To be clear, not all of these people attend Orchard Valley's worship but they all have been involved in at least one of our programs at some point, especially previous church camp sponsorships. Please consider making a donation to ensure we can continue this ministry! If you mail a cheque or put it in the church's exterior mail slot, please write on the memo line that it is for camp sponsorships. If you send the church an e-transfer, please mention what it is for when you contact Theresa. If you use the "Donate" button on Orchard Valley's website, pick "General" for the Fund but type "Camp Sponsorships" in the Message box. Note that any money not used this year for camp sponsorships will be held for next year's sponsorships.

"Donate" and Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR) – For those in the congregation who would like to continue supporting the church financially while we are experiencing our temporary closure, we have several ways you can donate:

- You may mail your post-dated cheque(s) to the office (OVUC, 130 Cornwallis Ave, New Minas, NS B4N 3M7) and they will be deposited each week.
- You may drop your offerings into our mail slot. It's located on the outside of the OVUC building, on the left corner. This is a secure, internal mailbox.
- We are also signed up now with Canada Helps. They help non-profit and charitable agencies collect donations. To make a donation, please click the DONATE button on our website, OR go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47344>. This will take you directly to our DONATE NOW site.
- Finally, you may also choose to change your method of giving to monthly through our PAR program. You will find a copy of the PAR form for download on our website under "About Us/Forms". Please download and print this form, fill it in, and submit it to OVUC along with a blank cheque marked VOID. Your PAR amount will then be automatically withdrawn from your account on the 20th of every month.

Regardless of the method you choose, you will receive a tax receipt in 2021 for your donation(s). For more information or assistance, please contact the office (902-681-0366, ext 1, or AdminOVU@bellaliant.com).

Video Recorded Worship Services – In this time of uncertainty, Rev Don wants to keep our worship family together in spirit, if not in body. Therefore, he has been preparing a series of worship services, to be shared with our church family. Please view our video recorded services by going to our webpage and clicking on "Worship Services/Video Recorded Messages".

Video Recorded Activities for Children – We now have a tab on our Video Recorded Messages webpage that includes activities for children that tie into Sunday services. For example, this week's upload includes a Palm Sunday craft for kids, so they can make palms in advance of Palm Sunday. Please go to the following link and then click on the Activities for Children's tab: "Worship-Services/Video-Recorded-Messages/"

Video Recorded Lenten Reflections – Rev Don has been preparing a daily series of short Reflections during this time of Lent. Please view his video recorded reflections by going to our webpage and clicking on "Worship Services/Video Recorded Messages" and choosing the tab "Lenten Reflections". If you would like paper transcriptions of these reflections, please contact the office (902-681-0366 ext 1 or AdminOVU@bellaliant.com).

We're on Facebook – Did you know we are on Facebook? Here we share updates on the UCC and Orchard Valley United Church, including upcoming events and church notifications. Find us by searching and "liking" us at @orchardvalleyuc or at <https://www.facebook.com/orchardvalleyuc/>

Community Announcements

Hope New Minas Al-Anon Family Group – Hope Al-Anon will be using "fongo" for a phone meeting on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am until we can get back in Orchard Valley United Church. This program will let 15 people meet by phone. To enter the meeting, call 1-902-932-1200 and enter the password 902-932-7986#.

Fundy Inter-Church Food Bank – The Food Bank is up and running and is working to meet the needs of anyone in our Valley community who may find themselves in need of food at this time. Our building is closed to the public but we have established a system of drivers and volunteers who will deliver food to the door of anyone who is in need. Please call 902-679-3664 or email fundy.foodbank.2015@gmail.com and someone will be in touch. Please pass this information on to anyone who might require help at this time.

Kings County "Help Line" / COVID-19 Response – We have been busy preparing and planning around COVID-19. We have partnered with health- and food-related professionals in the development of a 'Central Registry' for people in need throughout Kings County (<http://helps.openarms.ca>). **"Help Line"** – A trained volunteer Peer Support Team is beginning intensive training regarding the operation of a 'warm line' / Community Resource Referral Service through which people can find direction to necessary supports and register for food support and wellness calls with Open Arms. This line will make the service and associated supports more accessible to the people who need it. Launch for the toll free number was scheduled for March 30th. **"Food Prep"** – Preparation of healthy prepared foods has begun as a further means of supporting those who are at risk and require more than food bank supplements can provide. In some cases these are healthy dehydrated 'just add water' soups but in some cases fully prepared food is the better option. While it is important that older people and those with pre-existing health risks remain isolated, there are others of us who can assist (albeit with proper social distancing). We are thankful we are able to work with others in the community to facilitate self-isolation and supports for those most at risk. **"Donations"** – Donations will be redirected to local supports and used 100% to provide for people in need in their respective areas. If you are in Kings or Annapolis Counties, please direct people in need, helpers and helping agencies to <http://helps.openarms.ca>. This helps us assist with making the right connections.

Seniors' Connection Line – The Kings County Seniors' Safety Society has been given some additional funds by the Province of Nova Scotia to meet the needs of vulnerable seniors due to the COVID-19 pandemic and State of Emergency. We are using a piece of this money to bring an additional part-time staff person onboard to assist with new inquires from seniors around access to essential items (food, medication, transportation, etc.) and to assist with connecting with vulnerable seniors in a variety of ways via phone, in an effort to reduce isolation. To do this we have launched a new Seniors' Connection Line: 902-670-0950. This line is for seniors who:

- Are looking for information on deliveries and/or access to food, medication and other essentials
- Would like a quick telephone check-in a couple of times a week, to help reduce fear and anxiety
- Are in need of a social call, to feel better connected to the community
- Are looking for recreation ideas at home, to stay physically and mentally engaged
- Are concerned for their own (or another's) safety and security

We're here to help, and get you connected! We have a few community partners, Seniors LINCS and Municipality of Kings Recreation Services, assisting with making calls and proving home recreation options for seniors. Please share this information broadly, to ensure as many vulnerable seniors as possible are aware of the ways we are able to meet their needs during this challenging time.

Virtual Information Wellness Resource Hub – CMHA-NS is pleased to announce the launch of its free newly created COVID-19 virtual Information Wellness Resource Hub, <https://caringtogether-cmhans.ca>. The Wellness Hub provides the latest information and resources regarding COVID-19. It also contains links to wellness resources and activities that Nova Scotians have told us through text, emails, on-line groups and telephone conversations that they would like to have available to them, to support their health, resilience and wellbeing during these uncertain times. The Wellness HUB is a living resource that will grow and develop over the days and weeks as we receive new information and resources, from our multiple partners and community-influencers in an effort to help Nova Scotia stay safe and mentally healthy while working from home, caring for children and family members and collectively adjusting to and learning to cope and flourish, while self-isolating and practicing safe and responsible social distancing, while out in our communities. CMHA NS encourages you to share broadly among your families, friends, partners, stakeholders and communities. We also invite everyone to come back often to experience all the HUB has and will have to offer all. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cmhansdivision/>. Follow us on Twitter: @nsCMHA