

Orchard Valley United Church

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Announcements for Sunday, April 19, 2020

Postponement of Annual Congregational Meeting

April 15, 2020

Greetings to the saints of Orchard Valley United Church. Christians have experienced living in unprecedented times throughout our history. It appears we are living in such a way now. We are blessed to have the teachings of Jesus on our side, allowing us to lead through inclusion, compassion, respect and love for one another. These are paramount influencers in our decisions towards the Annual Congregational Meeting. In a time when many of us may be feeling isolated and disconnected to all that we know, your church family does not want to conduct the important business of the church without every one having the ability to participate and know they are each loved, cherished and important contributors to our family of faith. With these guiding principles, your Church Council met last night. Our Council Chair, Jane McDonald, addresses the results of our prayerful decisions below. The peace of Christ and the grace of God be with you all.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Don Sellsted

April 14, 2020

I know that with our Annual Meeting fast approaching some of you may be anxious about not being able to participate in the decision-making steps that we go through each year. It is an opportunity for us to collectively agree where and how our church moves forward. Today your Council made the decision to postpone our Annual Meeting until a time when we can again share time and space together. It is the only way that we can hear each voice that wishes to speak and show their support.

We were able to attain information from the Region that indicated that for those items that we felt were necessary for us to accomplish legally, it is possible to defer and ratify at a later date. We had three areas of concern, those being the budget, committee renewal, and continuing the bursary for Rhonda Schofield.

We were informed that your Council can approve our budget which we did in January and the Congregation can ratify that approval when we are again able to be together face to face. We were also concerned about our committees and their abilities to continue to be effective and offer the

opportunity for new members to participate. We passed a motion today to allow committees to add members and allow individuals to resign if needed.

The third item was the approval of the congregation to further support Rhonda Schofield in her journey to ordination. Last year we approved a bursary of \$10,000 for Rhonda. It was the decision of the Council to again bring the proposal to the congregation to continue support for Rhonda to the amount of \$10,000. With the advent of the COVID-19 crisis we felt it important to consider Rhonda's situation through this time, so the Council approved a \$5,000 advance on the bursary where we were in a holding pattern with the onset of the pandemic. Seeing no time in the near future where we would be able to further commit to the additional \$5,000 for Rhonda, tonight we passed the motion to forward the additional \$5,000 to Rhonda for 2020. We hope that you will agree with us and ratify that decision to allow one of our own to move towards her goal of being an ordained minister of the United Church.

I hope you will agree that we are making the best decision possible for Orchard Valley in postponing our Annual meeting. We feel it is important to be inclusive and not divisive in how we move through this difficult time. We will be together soon. Have faith and pray for those who are suffering from isolation and loneliness.

Faithfully yours,

Jane McDonald
Chair of Council

FundScrip – Following are upcoming FundScrip order and delivery dates:

Order Dates	Delivery Dates
April 12	April 19
April 26	May 3
May 10	May 17

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

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, April 19, 2020 – Acts 2:12a, 22–32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3–9, John 20:19–31.

Orchard Valley Kidz -- Orchard Valley Kidz will be held via Zoom on Sundays, 10:00 am. A computer with camera, mic and good Internet are preferable. Contact Andy for more info or Zoom details (andriel_p@yahoo.ca; 542-1545).

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.

Donating to OVUC – 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:

- Mail your post-dated cheque(s) to the office (OVUC, 130 Cornwallis Ave, New Minas, NS B4N 3M7);
- 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;
- Click the DONATE button on our website;
- Transfer funds to us via bank e-transfer. Please contact the office for details; and
- Sign-up for PAR. Please contact the office for details.

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. Please go to the following link and then click on the Activities for Children's tab:
"Worship-Services/Video-Recorded-Messages/"

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#.

Relief for Acadia Students (REVISED) – Acadia has set up a Student Relief Fund. For more information about this fund, go to <https://covid-19-information.acadiau.ca/student-relief-fund.html>. To donate to it, go to giving.acadiau.ca/COVID.

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.

Seniors' Connection Line –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! Please share this information, to ensure as many vulnerable seniors as possible are aware of the ways we are able to meet their needs during this challenging time.

This week's bulletin is sponsored in memory of

Erik Swinimer
1924-2010

By loving wife, Elsie,
and daughters Jo-Anne Eye and Heather Ross