

Our monthly board meeting was held on Wednesday evening, May 12th, and as a group we feel that it is important to keep communications open so that all of you are up to date with the work and decisions of our new community of faith. As always, your feedback and suggestions are most welcome at any time.

Amalgamation Update

There is always news to report regarding our new amalgamated community of faith:

- The sale of Ballinafad Church closed during the first week of May. Our thanks are extended to Dave Shortt, Chair of the Church Trustees, and his committee members Marilyn Linstead and Dan Rohde. They are to be commended for their work through the lengthy and emotional sale process. The church will be enjoyed by an Indonesian faith group out of Mississauga.
- Money from the sale of the church (\$475,000) has since been deposited in a new account for our amalgamated church. This money is “restricted”, meaning that it is generally NOT to be used for operating expenses, but could be used for capital and/or mission projects. A proposal/request must be sent to John Neff, our Regional Council contact, for approval. The interest on this money comes directly to our church to use as we see fit.
- We are anxious to INVEST this money as soon as possible, and will be arranging a meeting of the treasurers, finance committee members, and the Church Trustees as soon as possible to discuss our financial goals, church needs, and possible investment strategies. If any of you have suggestions regarding financial advisors or investment opportunities...please feel free to share your ideas with us! For example, Cathy Hansen, suggested Solar Shares as an investment a few years ago, and we still invest with them at an annual return of 4.5% - which is very good return at the present time.
- The FINAL step of the paperwork submissions was the preparation of a Position (Job) Description for the minister, which is based on the Living Faith Story we presented to you following our annual meeting in February (which was officially approved in March). We feel that the Job Description reflects our present and future needs. This description was approved by the board on Wednesday evening and will be forwarded to the Human Resources Commission for their approval at their meeting next week. Once approved, it will be used to “call” a new minister as Felicia retires at the end of this year.

The Search and Selection of a New Minister

The governing body (our Church Board) is responsible for arranging a SEARCH TEAM who will assume the responsibility of finding a new minister. The size and make-up of the team is flexible, although we are suggesting that FIVE people might be ideal. Please consider taking a role in this important work. Training and resources are readily available. A new database has been developed called ChurchHub. It is a place where we will be posting our Living Faith Story and Position Description, and ministry candidates can sign in to see the posted openings.

**We would like to have team assembled by the end of May if possible, so PLEASE contact me as soon as possible at rbates@uoguelph.ca or call me at (519) 803-4680 if you are willing to a part of this work!

Notes from the Worship Committee

As I am writing this, the new “lock-down” measures are being imposed until June 2nd. We know that folks are “languishing” after so many months, so we are suggesting a few changes/additions to our Sunday service to try and stay upbeat!

- On the second Sunday of every month, we would like to include your ***favourite hymns!*** Please send me your choice(s), and we will “draw” from the list every month.
- On the third Sunday of every month, we will include a ***Minute for Mission***
- On the last Sunday of every month, we will provide an opportunity for people to share a ***Good News Story***

On Father’s Day, June 20th, we will be offering **Communion**, and several **fathers** will be involved in the service!

We will be celebrating **Canada Day** on June 27th using a “**red and white**” theme.

And something special...

The Cup of Kindness Project



This beautiful teacup and saucer, called “Pansies”, is going to be the symbol of a special program for our congregation here at Erin United Church!! Most of us already do more than we brag about to help others... all this important project does is put a name or a focus on our kindnesses.

For the next week we want you to ***“fill your cup with kindness”....*** 5 individual acts will do it....6 will make it overflow!! It is not really a competition, but we think it will be fun! If you have a cup and saucer in your house, please use it to drop a little tab in when you complete each act of kindness. On Sunday, May 23 we will bring our cups to our Zoom service and take some of our time to reflect on our results!! Eventually when the pandemic ends, we will have a giant tea party for all! Be kind and have fun!!

Remember to keep a smile on your face!

Other News

- We extend a special thank you to Cathy Hansen for sharing her knowledge and inspiration with us as we celebrated Earth Day.
- Colleen and Rick Hawes also need to know that we appreciate their musical contribution to our Mother's Day service!
- Jack Edwards has agreed to do the lawn maintenance at the church again this year. Thanks Jack!
- Please remember that the FOOD BANK is always in need of our donations. Call EWCS at (519) 833-9696 for details.

Financial Update

Our treasurer reminded us that we are still in the red! Things will surely improve going forward. As always, we THANK you for your on-going financial support and remind you of your four choices for "giving":

1. Mail your envelopes to ERIN UNITED CHURCH, 115 Main St. ERIN ON N0B 1T0
2. Drop your envelopes off at Vida's: 212 Daniel St. ERIN (519) 833-2273
3. Use PAR (Pre-authorized remittance) – Call Linda Johnson (519) 830-9252 to arrange
4. E-transfer: Call Colleen at (519) 855-6440 to arrange

Blessings to all of you from all of us on the board. Enjoy the sun, flowers, and your time in the garden! SEE you on Sunday!