

# St. Andrew's United Church

[www.standrewsunityharvey.com](http://www.standrewsunityharvey.com)  
[www.facebook.com/StAndrewsHarvey](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsHarvey)

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**Worship: Sundays at 10:30am Facebook Live**  
**Evening Prayer: Wednesdays 6pm Facebook Live**

Dear friends,

Whew! We've been through a lot in the past two weeks. In the midst of all that has been going on, with each new day bringing news of a new something else – a new restriction, guideline, statistic - to add to all the other things that have happened to us since we were last together, life at the moment is far from what we've known. And I have a serious question for you: how are you doing? I really want to know. How have you been feeling?

We are living in unprecedented times, aren't we? All this is new to all of us. And in times like these we can feel a whole range of things. Sadness. Fear. Loneliness. Frustration. Boredom. But also, things like relief. I know some folks I've spoken with name that they are glad to have things slow down for a bit – so they can catch their breath and process all that is going on. And gratitude. Many of the children I've spoken with are grateful to be able to be at home with their families in ways they maybe haven't had the chance to be before. Even happiness, because the new ways we are joining together in online and virtual spaces are allowing folks who can't usually join us in community and connect in person due to health restrictions or distance or busy schedules can now take part.

These feelings are all real, valid things we feel when we are confronted with loss – even if it's the loss of something intangible like our sense of normal, routine, day-to-day life. Change is a kind of loss.

Please know that while so much around us has changed – how we communicate, gather, even simple things like how we get our groceries or worship together – **we have not changed. You are still you. I am still me.** And together we are still the community and church family we call St. Andrew's United. A bright and vibrant part of the Body of Christ and the wider community. **And the ministry we do together is still vital and important – perhaps now more than ever.**

**For the health, safety and wellbeing of our community and each other, there are things that we cannot do at the moment:** We can't gather in our building - for worship, Sunday school, bible study, lunches, suppers, and all the usual ways we come together. And we can't gather in other people's buildings. At the moment, I cannot visit you in your home, or in nursing home, at

Swanhaven or even in the hospital. It is hard. And I miss spending time with you in the ways we used to, but to keep us all safe and to slow the spread of COVID-19 we cannot be in the same physical space together.

**But the good news is there are many things we can still do. Here are a few things that we're doing now:** We are still gathering for worship and prayer every Sunday (10:30am) and Wednesday (6pm) on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/StAndrewsHarvey](http://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsHarvey)). And yes, Sparky is there, too. Our children and young families can still find resources to help them foster a sense of belonging and faith in fun and creative ways in our Children, Youth and Young Families group ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/394093341325388/?source\\_id=525749041099631](https://www.facebook.com/groups/394093341325388/?source_id=525749041099631)) on our Facebook page. Meetings are still happening (yes, even in the midst of a pandemic United Church folks will find a way to have a committee meeting ☺). Our Session, Stewards, and Trustees are still doing the work of the church through online meetings. Pastoral care is still happening. Your Elders (Members of Session) are contacting folks on their district lists to check in, see how you are, finding out what you need and how we can help. I am still doing pastoral care - over the phone, via email, even over text and Facebook Messenger. If you need to talk, please know it is ok to call me. Outreach is still happening. Our last foodbank collection has been delivered to Lakeland and we will continue to support those folks in practical and tangible ways through our Loonies for Lent project – this year being split between the foodbank and our benevolent fund. And even though our buildings are not being used, and need to remain closed until at least May 1st, we still continue to be good stewards of the properties we care for. Everything that can be turned down/off at the St. Andrew's United Church building has been. Folks are checking in on the property regularly. And I and the Manse Committee continue to ensure the manse is being maintained and used efficiently.

**And there is more to come. As you and I adjust to this new way of being together for the time being, here are a few things you can look forward to:** A virtual Theology on Tap gathering on April 2, 7pm. A Zoom call/online gathering for our Sunday school kids on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2pm. Lunchtime livestreams during Holy Week: April 6-10, 12 pm. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services online (times TBA). An online Easter Sunrise prayer service for early birds, on April 12 (time TBA). An online Easter service with Communion on April 12, 10:30am. Take out church kits/packages for families at home. A weekly newsletter to keep in touch. And music. Music is an important part of our community identity and I am working to find ways to make sure that even in the midst of all this newness, we can still sing together...

I want to thank you folks for your patience and generosity as we grow into this new reality together. And while a few of our favourite things have had to be rescheduled, like our play and our Spring Dinner – other things are still going on, like our **Loonies for Lent** campaign and a **Spring Foodless Supper** (see note attached). Your ongoing ministry and support mean so much to so many in our community and beyond.

**So, that's what your minister and Official Board are up to, but we need your help. What you can do:** Pray. It's a simple small act but it changes things for the better in so many ways. Please pray for the folks working hard – custodians, store clerks, bakers, farmers, truckers, care workers,

doctors and nurses, community and world leaders – who are doing their best to keep us going. Pray for the Church. Pray for your neighbours. Check our website often. Like and follow our Facebook page so you can get the most up to date information on what is happening and when (also, liking our page allows me to invite you into groups/send you messages). Please make sure we have your most up to date contact information. If you've not been called or emailed by your Elder (Member of Session) let me know and I will make sure we have your contact info up to date – 'cause we can't reach out if we can't find you. Call your church family and check in, write letters, send cards. Why not start by touching base with the people who sit around you in church? Who sits in the pew in front or behind you? Drop them a line.

Many folks I've spoken with have asked about how to get their offerings to Sabina (our treasurer). Firstly, thank you for asking. Your ongoing support of the ministry and mission of St. Andrew's United Church means that we can keep doing what we've always done – be the hands and feet of Christ in this time and in this place. We are still doing important work together. If you are able to, please consider increasing your offering. There are folks who want to share their gifts, but because of layoffs cannot offer financial support. Your generosity means that everyone at St. Andrew's United gets a chance to share their time, talents and ministry in meaningful ways. Thank you.

**Here are the best ways to financially support the ministry we share:**

**We are able to accept e-transfers.** The email address to use is: standrewsharvey@gmail.com

**We are able to set up PAR** (pre-authorized remittance) for your financial support:

<https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/par-brochure.pdf>

**You can mail cheques to:**

Harvey Station Pastoral Charge – St. Andrew's United  
137 Arnold Little Road  
Harvey, NB E6k 1S7  
Attn: Sabina

**Also, donations can be received through Canada Helps:**

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/harvey-station-pastoral-charge/>

Please email standrewsharvey@gmail.com or rev.christinejohnson@gmail.com for more info.

That's all for this update/check in, folks. Please do get in touch with me and let me know how you are doing. Take good care of yourself and your neighbours. As always, I am just a phone call/text/email away if you need to chat. Love and prayers for good health to you and yours as we make our way through this time of uncertainty and change.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Christine

*Y*our Board of Stewards  
would like to present  
our Spring Foodless Supper  
fund-raising event.

No need to cook  
at your residence;  
Just fill an envelope  
with dollars and cents!

A donation of ten dollars  
or a larger amount  
will show on receipt  
of your year-end account!

This is our 27<sup>th</sup> Foodless Supper  
Hope you're not tired of it  
No need to work  
or cheat on your diet!

Thank you for your most valued and continued support,  
your Board of Stewards

Due April 19, 2020

