

## **KNOX e-NEWS: LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

For more information [www.kucparksville.ca](http://www.kucparksville.ca)

**March 22, 2020 edition**

**CHURCH CLOSURE** -As of Thursday, March 19, 2020, Knox United Church is closed due to the concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus and all scheduled events are cancelled until the National and Regional United Church and Province deem it to be safe for people to gather again. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEWS ABOUT OUR NEW ONLINE WORSHIP and as our Knox e-NEWS transforms into more of a community newsletter over the next weeks in this in-between time until we are safe to reconnect with one another in person.

### **WORSHIP & ARTS MINISTRY**

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP AT KNOX** - We will not be open for public worship Sunday mornings at 10:00 am until it has been deemed safe by the Province and our National and Regional churches, however, that doesn't mean we still can't worship together in our own homes every Sunday at 10:00 am in the weeks to come. Sandy will be recording Jenny playing hymns so please sing along to her music and Jennifer will be leading us in prayers and scripture and encouraging us in a reflection and blessings. You will all receive the bulletin each week to print off at home along with your E-news to follow along and participate. We aren't sure if you all click on the sermon tab and listen to the audio recording on Sunday at 10:00 am if we will crash the system or how many can access the recording at once so if you can't access the recording at 10:00 Sunday be aware that you could listen at a different time when it is convenient for you. Please trust that whenever you choose to light your candle at home and worship with us that, because God is always in the eternal NOW, we will all be connected by the Spirit in worship. For those 15 folks who are not on a computer, they will still be receiving a bulletin and E-news also from our wonderful deliverers and can worship and sing and pray at home. Despite not being able to gather as a community, I trust we will all continue to walk safely in the beauty and wonder of God's creation. We will continue to be filled with awe, giving thanks to the glory of God. And we will all be praying for one another and the healing of the world—that is holy worship!

Submitted by Shirlene Donnelly, Team Lead Worship & Arts Ministry...

Here are some wonderful thoughts from author Kitty O'Meara in "The Earth Plan" blog spot

( <https://theearthplan.blogspot.com/search/label/kitty%20omeara> ):

*"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.*

*"And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the Earth began to heal.*

*"And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the Earth fully, as they had been healed."*

### **NEW - KNOX CRISIS TEAM**

A team of people has been formed under the direction of Council to help organize a communication process that will assist us in keeping connected and caring for one another throughout this time when we cannot worship or gather as a faith community. We have a Knox Crisis Coordinating Team, a Delivery Team, and a Phone Calling Team. We are currently still putting a Phone Calling Team together who will be responsible for calling 10-12 people in the congregation each week to ensure our congregation knows they are cared for, connected, and healthy.

If you would be willing to be a caller, please let Shane Conn know that you would be willing to help. Shane can be contacted by email at [msconn@shaw.ca](mailto:msconn@shaw.ca)

Members of the Knox Crisis Team are as follows:

Don Emerson  
Meg Hurd  
Jan Jamieson  
Shane Conn  
Jennifer Ferguson

## SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH MINISTRY

**LOCKDOWN** The following is a submission by Jan Reinson who received this poem from her good friend in Saskatchewan. Click on the video link to listen to “Lockdown” an INSPIRING & COMFORTING POEM about the COVID-19 pandemic by Fr. Richard Hendrick 2020.



### UPDATE ON WINTER SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

An update was recently received from Rev. Christine Muise, a minister at St. Edmunds/ St. Anne’s church which provided St. Anne’s as a winter shelter for homeless people. That Shelter provided a place for people to gather and to sleep. Knox folks helped by providing meals and supervision there during the winter. Due to the current Covid-19 situation, Assisi was ordered by their Diocese to shut down.

Some guests had been stabilized at Assisi Shelter and were working on finding housing and help. Rev. Muise reports that some need continued contact with mental health and addiction outreach workers as well as a safe place to lay their heads. Some have had to return to camps where more than 200 people are ‘living rough’ due to poverty, housing, mental health, and/or addictions. Now all indoor public spaces that they were able to access are closed. Five have slept outside the doors of St. Edmunds church for the past nights. These people are crying for help — some need continued contact with outreach and mental health workers so living in ‘the bush’ is not an option.

Rev. Muise is calling upon all levels of government to respond to this crisis. Her plea is for a facility to be procured, where staff and guests would be able to follow protocols for safety, where people had the emotional support and connection, they need to remain stable. Our

the whole community would benefit, and she is, especially, asking for immediate help for the five people staying outside her church, as well as for all those who need access to housing, mental and physical help for health and addictions.

## FUN, FAMILY, FRIENDS & FOOD MINISTRY

**STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE UPDATES...**

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE MINISTRY

**ARROGANT WORMS REFUNDS** If you purchased Arrogant Worms tickets locally and are still in need of a refund, please hold onto your tickets until the church reopens. Please contact our facility coordinator Karen Freeman at [facility@kucparksville.ca](mailto:facility@kucparksville.ca) if you have any questions.

### CANCELLED -THE GREATER VICTORIA POLICE CHORUS

The Greater Victoria Police Chorus, scheduled to perform at Knox on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled. Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, they are cancelling their tour but did say that they very much enjoy playing at Knox and hope to be back here soon.

Due to the cancellation of the concert, we will not be delivering posters for the event during the week of March 29<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to those who volunteered to help with this.

**FALL FAIR 2020 PLANNING MEETING FOR VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN HELPING THE COORDINATORS’**  
Tuesday, March 24 has been **CANCELLED**

**FALL FAIR 2020 PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF OF DONATIONS**  
We would appreciate if you could hold onto your donations for Fall Fair for another month before we start doing pick-ups and drop-offs. Your cooperation would be very much appreciated. Margaret Warburton 250-951-0538

## HEALING AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

**HEALING MINISTRY-** The Healing ministry is **not** taking appointments until further notice. We will reassess at the beginning of April. This decision was made to protect our clients and practitioners at this uncertain time.

Hi everyone. I hope you are all at home being safe for yourselves and others. I want to reach out to let you know we all need to continue to be prayerful for each other. There are of course many others that we can pray for and be helpful to at this time of great change. I would encourage us all to keep in touch, add your perspective and send healing to all. This came to me recently. I particularly was moved by Christ holding us all.

Take care and be safe.

Blessings from Bruce and Maureen



### Pandemic

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar

## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL MINISTRY

**Rev. Jennifer Ferguson: Monday-Thursday, days off are Friday & Saturday.** (Please note Jennifer's schedule varies with meetings etc. If you would like to meet with her for pastoral care via phone call or FaceTime, please call her to make an appointment at **250-927-6061** or email [minister@kucparksville.ca](mailto:minister@kucparksville.ca)

### Knox United Church Staff Email Addresses

Follow this link to the Knox Website: [www.kucparksville.ca/pages/contact-us](http://www.kucparksville.ca/pages/contact-us)

### Knox United Church Council 2018-19

For a list of Council Members and Team Leaders,

<https://www.kucparksville.ca/about/our-leadership--13>

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

NUMBERS 6:25-26 The Lord make his Face shine upon you...and give you peace.

1 JOHN:4-18 There is no fear in Love but perfect Love casteth out fear.

These two scriptures (for yesterday and today) were in the Daily Devotional book that my friend Jeanette gave me. They seemed perfect for the unprecedented unease that fills the world today.

At our Council meeting on Tuesday night, we discussed how to stay connected/tethered in this time of forced distancing. How to care for the most vulnerable among us and how to get them what they need!

Phil Spencer spoke of this perhaps being the time of *new promise*. I believe that in light of this difficult year it will become a time for me to think about the preciousness of Knox and it's people in m life; a time to reach out in new ways; and as my favourite poet Hafiz wrote: "To be a Still Cup".

*For  
God  
To make Love  
For the divine alchemy to work,  
The pitcher needs a still cup.*

Jan

## COMMUNICATIONS

### UNITED CHURCH BROADVIEW MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's time to order or renew your United Church Broadview subscription (June 2020 – June 2021). The cost for one year is \$25, which is the reduced group rate for churches. To help make the process easier, please indicate your wishes to Cathy today. The order will be submitted in early April. Please contact Cathy McNeil at [catbob@shaw.ca](mailto:catbob@shaw.ca) or call 250.248.1259 Checks should be made out to Knox and can be dropped off in the church mail slot while the church is closed.

## COUNCIL NEWS

### STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE UPDATES

## OUR KNOX FAMILY

**SAD NEWS** - It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of Iris Biggs, age 88, on March 11, 2020, and of her husband Kenneth who passed away in November 2019 at the age of 89 years. Ken and Iris were married for 66 years and faithful to Knox for many years. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers as they grieve their passing.

**FREE - HP** LaserJet print cartridge 130G Black CF 350G for HP LaserJet Pro MFP M176 MFP M177 \$90 value. Box opened (wrong cartridge) so the store would not return. Myrt Omnes 1.306.221.8211 (March 22, 2020)

**FREE KINDLE E-READER** – To anyone who would benefit from being able to read library books electronically while the physical library is closed. Contact the Knox Office by email at [admin@kucparksville.ca](mailto:admin@kucparksville.ca) (March 22, 2020)

**NOEN SNAKKER NORSK...ANYONE SPEAK NORWEGIAN?** Free to a good home. Martha Pow has a series of 6 books that she feels certain that someone that speaks Norwegian would love. See her after church one Sunday after church resumes.

## INSPIRATIONAL POETRY

The following poem, submitted by Rane Love, was penned by the author Laura Kelly Fanucci, a Minnesota resident who writes a weekly syndicated column, "Faith at Home". This is a good kind of viral – a poem making the rounds on social media that can uplift anyone affected or infected by coronavirus:

*"When this is over,  
May we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbours  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
A school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.*

*When this ends,  
May we find  
That we have become  
More like the people  
We wanted to be  
We were called to be  
We hoped to be  
And may we stay  
That way – better  
For each other  
Because of the worst."*

## KNOX COMMUNITY NEWS

**OCEANSIDE CONCERT CHOIR PRESENTS "Brahms' Requiem"**  
Sunday, April 5, 2020, 2:30 p.m. at Knox United Church.  
CANCELLED



**Island Health** ✓  
@VanIslandHealth

If you are a person with clinical skills, such as a retired or previously licensed nurse, doctor, person with skills in lab-work, or visiting health care professional, please consider connecting with Island Health at [TemporaryVolunteer@viha.ca](mailto:TemporaryVolunteer@viha.ca).  
[#COVID19](#) [#vancouverisland](#)