

Oyen United Church Congregational June letter

I have been missing seeing you all face to face, but I am proud of our church for doing what is necessary to try to keep us all safe. These are unusual times, and we have been meeting them with courage and positivity. You all deserve a big pat on the back, and a halleluiah.

One of the lessons that we have had reinforced is that even through the building is closed, church continues. Church is not about a building; it is the people who are connected through following Jesus' message. We have become aware of how important loving our neighbour is, and I see love sprouting and growing everywhere. Even missing our neighbours makes us realize how much we love them.

Our church services by Zoom have been very successful. We have people attending from all four of our congregations, and we have had people attending from other areas as well. I have found each of Helen's messages uplifting and inspirational, and I leave the service saying to myself, "I needed that!". However, my singing to myself leaves much to be desired.

I get my exercise by walking. It is interesting how my outerwear has changed as I have walked. I started with my parka, toque, and mitts then I went to a down coat, beret, and gloves, then to a spring coat, beret, and gloves, and finally to just a sweater. Yea! My surroundings have also changed. First the snow melted. Then the green grass started to appear. Gradually the leaves turned green as their leaves appeared. Then blossoms popped out on trees. Then flowers started to show up. Finally, when the lilacs came out, although late this year, I knew summer was coming. Each of these transitions was a reminder that no matter the terrible events in our world, nature continues on its cycle of renewal, and there is hope in that.

On my walks, I not only get my exercise, but I also meditate and pray. I never fail to get a jolt of beauty from our incredibly electric blue skies. Then when the trees leaf out, and they contrast with the blue of the sky, as I look up, it takes my breath away. How fortunate we are to live in an area where we can readily see this beauty.

There are other things that make us fortunate to live in this area. We have space for walking, biking, and running and still keep a safe distance from each other. We know our neighbours, and they are our friends. We have people who are ready to support us; all we have to do is ask. For all of these things I am thankful.

Our journey with COVID 19 is not over. We have been doing a good job so far, so we know what we are capable of. Let us continue to social distance, wear masks where necessary, and support our friends and neighbours.

God bless you all,

Georgia Sullivan, Chair, Oyen United Church

