



The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. (Dolly Parton)

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Service Times for 2021

- 9:30 a.m. – Finch
- 11:00 a.m. - Avonmore

Upcoming Communion

- Oct. 3rd – World Communion
- Nov. 28th – Advent 1

Our Online Presence

Website:

finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca/

Facebook: (Avonmore, Finch and Gravel Hill Presbyterian Churches)
facebook.com/PresChurchAFG

Youtube:

youtube.com/channel/UCGrk2bxJdUt-1Rmq0WICmKg

(if links don't work, you may have to add: "https://www." at the beginning)

We're Back!

It's September – the start of a new school year and new church year. We're back to meeting in-person! Thank God. Many of us are fully vaccinated and see light at the end of a very long tunnel called Covid. It's hard not to be somewhat optimistic even if we are nervous about being surrounded by people again.

Our church buildings have been closed for almost six months – and in-person services have been sporadic for over a year, depending on where we were in the pandemic. Pre-recorded services and Zoom live virtual services have offered opportunities for worship but it's hard to know who has watched and who has been missed.

But Church is more than a building – it's people – it's you and me and God. While we're comfortable and used to worshipping in person in a church building, we sometimes forget that we are responsible for doing our part to keep our faith alive and growing. It was easy in the old days when "everyone" went to church and church was central to our lives, but it's not any more. So many distractions and competing priorities. It's hard to find time for the things we *have to get done* – it's easy to forget that we're responsible for growing our faith.

So, what can we do to deepen our faith? How can we do it?
Ideas?

Many of you are leery about coming back in-person. Understandable. I'm struggling a bit as well – and still hesitant about home visitations. **So how can we (minister & Elders) help?**

Rev. Cheryl

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Lessons Learned During the Pandemic

Some things we've learned during the pandemic:

- 1- I don't really like telephones and definitely did not phone you as much as I could have. Sorry and will keep working on it!
- 2- We have great Elders and great people in the congregation who kept tabs on people, kept me posted on what was going on, and tried to make sure that no one fell through the cracks. Much appreciated and many thanks to all who stepped up when they were needed.
- 3- Quite a few in the congregation did not have access (or good access) to the internet for online services. Any ideas on how we can fix this?
- 4- Several members who have been unable to attend Sunday services found us online and have been able to get our online pre-recorded services. This includes people at Maxville Manor! Now to work to get into other nursing homes as well.
- 5- Our online services and Bible studies have connected us with people outside the congregation and community! Wow! How can we build up this ministry?

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is available. If you want or need to talk, turn to an Elder you know or call me (1-613-918-0506). You can text me, message me, email me – or even Zoom or Facebook me!

Getting To Know You



Now that we are no longer locked down and can visit in-person once again, I would like to somehow get to know everyone in the congregations better.

Haven't figured out how yet (remember, I'm not crazy about phones and am hesitant about going outside of my bubble), but expect something to hear from me before 2022!



Bible Study (Virtual)

Our Midweek Bible Study has started up again. **Wednesday Afternoons @ 2:00 p.m.**

We are just about finished looking at the timeline for biblical events and when the Bible was written/finalized, etc.

This week, we’re looking at Angels or “Angelology”. Afterwards, it’s back to the Book of Revelation (chapters 12-22) – don’t worry if you weren’t part of the Bible study last spring. Chances are that we have ***all forgotten what was in the first part of Revelation!***

Join us – Contact me to get the Zoom link.



Midweek Service (Virtual)

I’ve started a “midweek” service – **Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m.** It is virtual (online) and will continue to be virtual, but right now it is pre-recorded. (This replaces the pre-recorded service I used to post Saturday evenings.) In time, I hope to go “Facebook live” but I’m not there yet.

So, if you can’t make it on a Sunday morning, check us out Thursday evening.

Upcoming Birthdays

Our apologies for all the birthdays we’ve missed – but getting your birthday info is one of priorities (not the top though). Help us out by letting us Rev. Cheryl / your Elder) know your date of birth (not year!)