

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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To: My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The early Christians did not have a church building to meet in. No, they met in homes. On at least one occasion at Paul sends greetings to one of these house churches. In Romans 16 he writes:

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. 5 Greet also the church that meets at their house.

Since we are meeting in our homes during this time, I think I could change my greeting to "the church which meets in your house!" Some of you may be meeting with your family. Some may be meeting just with a spouse. Some will be meeting alone. It doesn't matter. Church this week is in your house and Jesus is present with you.

There has been talk this week of provincial and federal governments beginning to open things up. Seasonal businesses, such as nurseries and marinas, are able to bring their employees back to work in preparation for the season ahead. Parks are now open for day use only. On the one hand, some may feel relieved that things will return to some form of normalcy in the near future. This will be particularly true of families with children that are beginning to crawl the walls after 8 weeks of isolation. However, I trust that this reopening will be very gradual. Physical or social distancing is still being encouraged. And I truly hope that the borders will not be opened to visitors.

There has been no mention of meetings in larger groups. Personally, I expect this will be one of the last areas to be relaxed. That means no physical church anytime soon. This is not true south of the border. I notice that some churches there are open already and that some companies are pushing masks and hand sanitizer in bulk for such churches. Even if this area were opened up, the elders will take a long hard look at it and not do anything rash. We recognize that we have vulnerable people in our congregation and we would not want a single one of you to be put at risk. You mean too much to us.



“... a place to belong!”

In the meantime, we will just continue what we are doing. We will make sure that everyone of you gets a copy of the Sunday worship service, whether by mail, personal delivery, email or on the church website.

And keep in mind one of the verses that appears in this Sunday's sermon. [5](#) **God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** [6](#) **So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.** (Hebrews 13) May the full blessing of our Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – rest upon you as you meet for "church" and worship in your house.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Stephen Dunkin

P.S. Thanks to Shelagh Stevens for this picture taken on Monday which reminds us that, despite the cold and snow we experienced over this past weekend, spring is really on the way!



“... a place to belong!”