

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

-Isaiah 40:1

Greetings Kindred in Christ,

The opening scripture for these announcements is short, but a lot can be said in just a few words. Here the prophet Isaiah is responding to a great tragedy that has taken place, the invasion of the Babylonians, and the exile of so many of Jerusalem's citizens. The people are grieving, and grieving something that feels too big for them to really comprehend. Into this pain, God speaks words of comfort.

We can look back across our lives and think of times where we have needed to hear those words. Some of those times might be in the midst of a difficult childhood, others will be world shaking tragedies that have rendered us speechless, and still others are closer to home geographically and temporally in the recent wildfires in Nova Scotia, and the still raging fires across Canada. Into these God speaks words of comfort, inviting us not just to be held by God through the tragedy and grief, but to be held by one another as we support each other.

As we reflect on the ways that we can be the arms of God reaching through to hold creation, let us pray:

Embrace us, O God, in those hardest of times and remind us that we are not alone.

Shine on us, O Christ, in those darkest of times and show us the way.

Call to us, O Holy Spirit, when we are wayward and lost, and guide us back to you. AMEN

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Richard Bowley

Keep reading for more information on what is happening at Quispamsis United Church

Weekly Announcements for Quispamsis United Church June 15th, 2023

1. Saint John Quakers meeting This Sunday **(REMINDER)**
2. Universal Pictures have arrived! **(REMINDER) ***PLEASE READ*****
3. Faith Profile Committee *****PLEASE READ*****
4. Worshipping In-Person
5. Worshipping Online **(UPDATED)**
6. Breast Cancer Research

7. New Battery for AED and Instructional Video (**NEW**)
 8. QUC Office Hours
 9. Special Services in July (**REMINDER**) *****PLEASE READ*****
 10. QUC Calendar
 11. Sunday Readers for the Next 4 Services (**UPDATED**)
 12. Pastoral Visits (**NEW**)
 13. Dedicate a Service
 14. Looking for Tech Volunteers
 15. Financial Report
 16. How You Can Direct Your Givings *****PLEASE READ*****
 17. Submitting Announcements
 18. Sharing our Message on Social Media (**NEW**)
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1. **Saint John Quakers meeting this Sunday:** This Sunday the Saint John Quakers will be gathering in the meeting room at 11:30 am. As we finish our worship, please be mindful of the noise we make in the hallways so as not to disturb our neighbours.

2. **Universal Pictures have arrived:** The pictures are in the office. You can pick them up on Tuesday or Thursday a.m. If this is not convenient for you, give Leslie a call at 506-847-4503 or email at office@quc.ca and something can be arranged.

3. **Faith Profile Committee:** The Faith Profile Committee, established at the last congregation meeting, will be having an initial meeting soon to start the process, appoint a chair etc. There are currently 6 of us and we would like a few more to help in completing a Faith Profile for QUC. This will be our current story/future story and used when we go to the search committee phase. We will have a liaison from Pastoral Relations from Region to help guide us (or at least keep us close to the path!). Apart from reviewing what we have we will also be looking for feedback from the congregation.

If interested please contact Bob Crowley at robertgcrowley@gmail.com or call 849-0627.

4. **Worshipping In-Person:** If you plan on attending in-person, please review these guidelines as there may have been changes since you were last with us!

- a. **Masks Encouraged but not Required:** Masks have been a great way to ease the spread of not just COVID but other common illnesses. Because of their effectiveness

we are still encouraging attendees to wear them. However, they are no longer a requirement to participate in worship with us.

- b. **Entry & Exit:** There are two main entrances/exits to the building: the sanctuary door, and the side door. Feel free to come and go through either of these doors.
- c. **Physical Distancing:** As with masks, you are not required to physically distance, but if you prefer to maintain that spacing for yourself and others, you may do so, space-permitting.

If you have concerns regarding these changes, please share them with you Safe Church Committee through our chair Bill Whittaker, whittakerw3@gmail.com. Know that any concerns and comments will be reviewed and given attention.

- 5. **Worshipping Online:** Follow the instructions below for logging on to zoom, getting your copy of the bulletin, and catching up on services you may have missed.
 - a. **Zoom Information:** The information to join our Zoom worship is below:
 - i. The Zoom link for smartphones, tablets, or computers is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/233787625?pwd=V2gxY05oYU5NMm1YMFZKTElnM2NtZz09>
 - ii. The password for this meeting room is: **400688**
 - iii. For those who would prefer to call in the number is: **1 647 558 0588** then use the Meeting ID: **233 787 625**, and then enter the passcode **400688** when prompted (long distance charges may apply if you do not have a plan)
 - b. **Bulletins for Sunday:** The bulletin is available for viewing on our website, and can found at the following link:
 - i. Sunday's Bulletin: <https://www.quc.ca/s/June-18-Bulletin.pdf>
 - c. Council Minutes: <https://www.quc.ca/congregational-minutes>
 - d. **Last Sunday's Worship:** In case you missed it, the worship service (video) and message (audio) are on the website. Just follow the links below, scroll to the date, and watch or listen.
 - i. Videos of Previous Worship Services: <https://www.quc.ca/worship/videos>
 - ii. Audio of Message: <https://www.quc.ca/worship/messages>
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- 6. **Breast Cancer Research:** A study is currently being conducted at the Saint John Regional Hospital to determine if Breast Cancer can be detected through Breath Analysis. Healthy female participants are needed. Participants must be between 30 and 89 years of age, with a negative mammogram within the last two years. If you, or someone you know are

interested in taking part, please contact: Donna Fairweather or Hannah Lanigan at (506) 648-7852 or email: donna.fairweather@horizonnb.ca

7. **New Battery for AED and Instructional Video:** A new battery was acquired for the AED in the hallway (donated by Janie and Kid Zone)! An instructional video on the use of this device is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uhZPzvyu10&t=51s>. We will be showing this video at an upcoming worship service.

8. **QUC Office Hours:** Barring inclement weather or emergencies, the church will be accessible and Leslie will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-12:30. Should you need access to the building outside these times, please contact Leslie at office@quc.ca to make arrangements.

9. **Special Services in July:** Mark your calendars! With Rev. Richard's time at QUC coming to a close at the end of July, there will be some special services to mark our time together.
 - a. **Sunday, July 16th:** This will be the last **in-person** service until returning on August 20th. At this service, along with communion, there will be a special **end of covenant** piece included to mark the end of the relationship between QUC and Rev. Richard.
 - b. **Sunday, July 23rd:** This is Rev. Richard's last Sunday. Appropriately, because so much time was spent early in the pastoral relationship on Zoom, this last service will be on Zoom as well. Come in your favourite PJ's with a coffee to end as we began.

10. **QUC Calendar:** Any events you would like to see posted, contact Leslie. You can find the calendar by using the following link: <https://www.quc.ca/quc-calendar>

11. **Sunday Readers for the Next 4 Services:** One of the great gifts that we have each week is your participation in Sunday Worship in the welcoming, Acknowledgement of Land, the responsive pieces (Call to Worship, Commissioning, etc.), and of course the scripture reading. You add so much to the experience of worship every Sunday! Below are the readers for the next 4 Services. If you see your name here and are unable to be available for your Sunday, please **check the reader list and arrange a replacement and let Leslie know.**
 - a. **June 18th:** Bob Crowley
 - b. **June 25th:** Stephen Alexander

- c. **July 2nd**: Chris Young
 - d. **July 9th**: Heather Alward
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12. **Pastoral Visits:** Rev. Richard is available for pastoral visits until July 21st. If you would like him to stop by, contact him at rev.bowley@outlook.com or by phone at **(506)898-4747**.

13. **Dedicate a Service:** CELEBRATE a member of your family or place a MEMORIAL in our weekly bulletin by making a donation. Just send your donation, details of announcement “Dedicated by (donator) in loving memory/celebration of people/situation” and your chosen date to Leslie. She will include your message in the powerpoint.

14. **Looking for Tech Volunteers** – We have regularly been updating our technical abilities at the church with new laptops, microphones, screen, cameras and are still planning future updates. We have a very small crew and we are looking for some help. If you enjoy learning and/or are a bit tech savvy, we would love for you to join us. If you are interested, please reach out to us through Leslie at office@quc.ca.

15. **Financial Report: For the Period of May**

| | Current Month | Year To-date |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Total Receipts | \$ 17,248.82 | \$77,290.64 |
| Total Expenses | \$15,000.12 | \$79,142.83 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | \$2,248.70 | \$1,852.19 |
| M&S | \$776.50 | \$4,552.50 |

Another good surplus in May, let's keep it going!!!

16. **How You Can Direct Your Givings:** Did you know that when you give financially, you can direct where that money goes and how it supports the work of our church and mission? Here are some of the categories for directing your offerings: **Local, M&S, Memorial, Building, Outreach, Special (Advent, Lent, etc)**

If you want to make any changes to where your gifts go to support the work of this community of faith, just follow the directions below:

- a. *Envelope givers* – Already divided between Local and M & S. If you want it to go to another category just write on the envelope
- b. *E-Transfer givers* – Write in the message section where you would like it recorded. If no comment is made it will be recorded as Local
- c. *PAR givers* – Send Brion a message stating how much in each category. If no comment is made it will be recorded as Local
- d. *Mail givers* – Write on cheque which category and how much in each. If no comment is made it will be recorded as Local

For any queries or concerns please give Brion Crossman a call at 849-6003 or Hally Kimball at 849-9618.

17. Submitting Announcements: To get your announcement in this weekly notice, we ask that you submit them to Leslie with a **small paragraph** of detail by Wednesday of the week you want your announcement to run. Also include the number of weeks that you want this announcement in the weekly notice (if no number is given we will run it for 4 weeks or until the event has taken place). Send all announcements to Leslie at office@quc.ca

18. Sharing our Message on Social Media: Sometimes we have some pretty amazing events going on at QUC. Sometimes we do some pretty awesome stuff in the community. Sometimes we just want to remind people of the welcoming home that they can find at QUC. We can share all of these messages through Facebook! If your **committee** has a message to share with the wider community, send that brief message (preferably with a picture) to Leslie through office@quc.ca and she will get our message out there!