

EMAIL NOTICE October 2, 2020

A MAXIMUM OF 25 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO BE IN THE SANCTUARY. We are presently at Code Red. If you plan to attend church on Sunday, you must “reserve your spot” by calling the church or emailing. You will be contacted to let you know if there are still places available.

Minister's word

October 2nd, 2020

Dear Ste Genny's family,

You must have heard by now that we are now in a red level COVID-19 alert. Until Monday night, none of us knew what it would mean for places of worship. Donna and I were bracing ourselves for a cancellation of in person worship, but it did not happen. We are still allowed to gather, a maximum of 25 people at a time, for worship.

Just last Sunday, we heard Jesus tell the parable of the two sons: one who says he will do his father's will but does not, while the other says he won't do it, but he does. As I was saying on Sunday, this parable is, in part, an acknowledgement that we can change. Last Spring, the provincial government said they would take care of people's mental health, but in many ways, they failed to do so. It seems they have since learned from the first wave experience and seem to understand a bit better that gathering for worship plays a crucial role in people's mental, spiritual, and social health.

There are many ways to gather for worship. At Ste Genny's, we offer three ways to do so:

- - In person, in the church building on Sundays at 10:30 am (reserve your spot by contacting the church office before Friday 11 am)
- - On zoom, on Sundays at 1 pm
- - Via Facebook at anytime by viewing the recording of the zoom service, praying, signing, and sharing your comments and prayers in the comment section.

All of these are valid ways in which we can gather and connect to this one community that is Ste Genevieve United Church and this even wider community that is the body of Christ.

We can still gather in person because we have been careful and disciplined. Let us continue to protect each other by avoiding gatherings in the hall or in the corridor before or after worship, by wearing a mask, by respecting 2 m physical distance between people of different households. This Sunday is Worldwide Communion Sunday. If you attend worship in person, you will be invited to take pre-packaged communion elements when you come into the sanctuary. They are little cups with a wafer on top and grape juice at the bottom. You will receive instructions about how and when to use them during worship.

The United Church of Canada authorises communion to be celebrated online under special circumstances. However, I have been informed of a deep discomfort regarding this practice among some members of Ste Genevieve United Church. I believe communion should be something that unites us as the body of Christ, not something that causes division and discomfort within the community. For this reason, we will be united in prayer, but will not share communion elements online this Sunday.

No matter how you choose to join us this Sunday, I am thankful for your presence and your devotion to God. Let us continue worshiping God while keeping each other safe.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Joëlle Leduc