

Friday, March 20, 2020 - COVID-19 MESSAGE

from Ralph Connor Memorial United Church, Canmore AB

As announced on March 18, 2020, Ralph Connor Memorial United Church is discontinuing all public worship gatherings until further notice. This affects both our Sunday Morning Worship and Wednesday Night Evensong, effective immediately.

Additional Notes re: COVID-19 Protocols at RCMUC

- Council/committee meetings will be held electronically, as needed.
- The Church Office is closed, but contact may be made via office@ralphconnor.ca or 403.678.5354. Messages will be checked remotely Tuesday to Friday.
- All Church-related in-person gatherings are cancelled.
- Church user groups are making their own decisions, based on public health guidelines.
- CYAN has "cancelled their events for the month of March in an effort to promote social distancing." (see below)
- In this rapidly changing landscape, we will be guided by the decisions of Public Health Officials, and best practices as circulated by The United Church of Canada. If there are substantial changes to local practice, these will be published on ralphconnor.ca and circulated electronically (or by alternate means for those without email).

CARE CONNECTIONS

As mentioned in our Wednesday news bulletin, a phone/email system has been set up by our Pastoral Care Committee (thanks, Barb & Marilese & all our "Care Contacts"!) so that the RCMUC family stays connected during this time of social distancing. Everyone in the Instant Church Directory - plus additional folks not in the directory, who have "opted in" to the phone/email loop - is now on the contact list of one of our "Care Contacts." We hope that this will provide a way to help us stay healthy in body, mind and spirit.

Now that we have our "Care Contacts" in place, we may need folks willing and able to pick up and deliver necessary items, or run other crucial errands - while your "Care Contact" can receive your requests for needed things, we do not expect the "Care Contact" to run errands. If you are willing to do errands and deliveries (let's call this group "Care Couriers"), please contact Greg at minister@ralphconnor.ca . Thank you!!

BROADER CIRCLES OF CARE

We also encourage everyone to stay in contact with your friends and neighbours and others in your personal "circles of care". - and if you become aware of needs beyond our congregation that we could assist with, please make those known to your "Care Contact" person or to the Church Office, 403-678-5354.

There is also in the community, "Stone Soup Canmore" - a Facebook group with over 1,500 members recently created "so that anyone in Canmore who is desperate for certain things or can't leave their house can place a request here and our community can come together to help! Let's build a support network during the COVID-19 breakout. " That group is willing to receive new members, or requests for assistance, and every day new information is shared from individuals and vendors willing to lend a hand.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/556533621645187/>

RCMUC WORSHIP goes online

Greg and the Worship Committee will be producing a "Virtual Worship Service", to be posted to YouTube on the new Ralph Connor Canmore Channel.

This video will be posted prior to 10 AM, Sunday, March 22nd.

Thanks to Roger Katarey for the technical expertise to make this happen!

FUNDING OUR MISSION

The RCMUC Benevolent Fund helps us to respond to emergency needs, year-round, and will be particularly important now as we respond to emergency needs in the Bow Valley (Canmore, Morley, and neighbouring communities). To donate to this fund, please go to ralphconnor.ca and use the DONATE NOW button, located about half-way down the front page. For Benevolent donations, pick "2-other" and then note "Benevolent" in the message box.

In addition, we need to continue paying the regular expenses of the congregation: salaries, utility bills and the like. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for PAR (Pre-Authorize Remittance) - this is a great help in providing predictable income each month for RCMUC. We will need additional financial resources, however, and the DONATE NOW button is an easy way to help our cash flow stay healthy. A cheque in the mail will also be warmly received.

Thank you, all, for your continued support of the ministry of Ralph Connor Memorial United Church.

-end-