

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J 0R4

May 2020

CREATING COMMUNITY IN CYBERSPACE

This issue is mostly about connecting via **ZOOM**. However, the editors couldn't resist sharing the poem on page 2 by the Prime Minister of New Zealand. Here are some stories.

Heather: When we entered the second month of physical distancing and we realized that it was nearly impossible to get in a good visit online on Sundays, we put the wheels in motion for some weekly **ZOOM** opportunities. Our first step was to gather a group together to see if there was in fact a need or even a want for additional communications amongst our Dayspringers. So the invitation went out for a brainstorming session to help decide, about ten people responded and away we went! Many ideas were generated and we chose to begin with a combination of virtual gatherings; for a casual morning coffee, a more formal Bible Study, an Evening-connect for those who weren't available through the day, and also a Youth-connect bimonthly. Our webkeeper got busy organizing the links and posting them on the DPC website and we were set to go!

As time passes during our COVID-19 new normal, we may be adding other initiatives such as ladies & men's events, hobby night and kid's connect.

Iris: I started attending bible study earlier this year, joining about 4 other people. Then COVID-19 came into the picture and like everything else in our world things changed. Bible study, like many things was cancelled. Then after about 2 months, the **ZOOM** Connect group were able to set up a few online groups, including a bible study session. Since then the numbers have increased to about a dozen which is great. Being on-line, the session has been streamlined from it's previous format which actually gives us a bit more time for discussion. This bible study is based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Truth be told, at first I did not understand exactly what that meant. It was just another one of those "church phrases" that I just accepted as another Presbyterian tradition. I began to realize that this meant it was based on the Bible reading, and thereby also Heinrich's message, to take place on the Sunday after next. We actually get a preview and some in depth study of what is to come, which I find enriches the service for me.

Saúl: I was able to connect with some youth, and these are some things that came to mind.

- As we navigate this "new normal" during these unprecedented times, we can't help but hope that this is only temporary.
- We miss our social interactions, gatherings, and events.
- We reminisce the times when human affection didn't carry such a stigma.
- We also miss the times we didn't spend so much time at home, on our devices... but for

now, via these devices, we get a chance to **CONNECT!**

- to meet virtually a couple of times a month to check in with each other,
- to be able to engage in reflection and fun virtual activities...
- and to make us realize that despite any current situation,

God's **YOUTH** will find a way to have fellowship and **CONNECT**.



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- Reflection on these times (PM Adern)
- Renita
- Minister's Message
- Ryshanna, Brooklynn, & Justin
- Marg & Nesta



REFLECTION ON THESE TIMES

Rest now, e Papatūānuku
 (Mother Earth)
 Breathe easy and settle
 Right here where you are
 We'll not move upon you
 For awhile
 We'll stop, we'll cease
 We'll slow down and stay home
 Draw each other close and be
 kind
 Kinder than we've ever been.
 I wish we could say we were doing
 it for you as much as ourselves
 But hei aha
 We're doing it anyway
 It's right.
 It's time.
 Time to return

Time to remember
 Time to listen and forgive
 Time to withhold judgment
 Time to cry
 Time to think
 About others
 Remove our shoes
 Press hands to soil
 Sift grains between fingers
 Gentle palms
 Time to plant
 Time to wait
 Time to notice
 To whom we belong
 For now it's just you
 And the wind
 And the forests and the oceans
 and the sky full of rain
 Finally, it's raining! Ka turuturu te
 wai kamo o Rangī ki runga i a
 koe
 [Maori phrase meaning - "tears
 from the eyes of Ranginui drip
 down on you." Ranginui is our
 sky father, it is common to refer
 to rain as the tears of Rangī for
 his beloved, from whom he was
 separated at the beginning of
 time in order that there could be
 light in the world.]

Embrace it
 This sacrifice of solitude we have
 carved out for you He iti noaiho -
 a small offering which is a treasure
 People always said it wasn't possible
 To ground flights and stay home
 and stop our habits of consumption
 But it was
 It always was.
 We were just afraid of how much
 it was going to hurt - and it IS
 hurting and it will hurt and continue
 to hurt
 But not as much as you have
 been hurt.
 So be still now
 Wrap your hills around our absence
 Loosen the concrete belt cinched
 tight at your waist -
 Rest. - Breathe. - Recover. -
 Heal
 And we will do the same. —

Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister of New Zealand

Renita: I have found the broadcast of Sunday worship services on **ZOOM** to be a valuable resource for me personally. As many of you know, I continue to be recovering from an illness and as a result I am unable to leave home often (even if the COVID-19 pandemic wasn't occurring). I definitely would not be able to attend morning worship services so I am very grateful that they are available online. I appreciate being able to worship every Sunday and I also enjoy the time afterwards visiting with friends. Of course nothing can replicate the experience of worshipping together in person, but I do think that continuing to have

services live-streamed in the future, even after we can meet again in person, would be a valuable resource for shut-ins and anyone who can't attend worship services, I am enjoying the additional **ZOOM** gatherings and how the delivery of the Sunday services are improving/progressing from week to week. Clearly the worship committee and the people involved on the IT side of things are working very hard to make sure that our worship services are available and that they are meaningful and uplifting for everyone. Thank you!

FROM OUR MINISTER:

Ministering by remote



What a ride it's been! The whole world is in some form of self-isolation from the coronavirus pandemic.

We started mid-March and we are now in mid-May. This has brought about a new challenge to ministry that has been quite

interesting. Every Sunday we've been worshipping via ZOOM, an App that makes it possible to meet and see one another online. Every week we've tried to improve upon the previous week.

This requires planning as we've always done, except that we don't do everything the same way as we have usually been doing it. There is also no way of making Sunday worship a replication of the way we do it in the sanctuary. We have a rehearsal every Saturday, usually at 2 pm and there our whole team agrees upon what cues to follow, and when to change what. It's never straightforward, hence the times when there are unforeseen glitches. Our sincere appreciation goes out to John Carr and his two ZOOM-team assistants, Nathan Harms and Saúl Carvajal, Gord McCrostie and a couple of other people that alternate weekly.

Not only do we worship remotely, we also do Pastoral Care remotely. This is done jointly with our Pastoral Care Team taking a regular look at who is in which predicament. We try our utmost to be in touch with the many who are in need of pastoral care, usually by phone, email, text message, and many similar methods.

Then there are ZOOM meetings where Session has a meeting once a month, and various others.

To sum it up, it is a joy of another form, always doing a learning curve. One always has to take care of those eyes, as it's hard to look at all 25 faces per page while still looking at the web camera. Blessings, take care, and stay healthy!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heinrich". The ink is a dark brown or black color, and the signature is written on a white background.

Ryshanna, Brooklynn and Justin: We found Dayspring Church when we moved to Beaumont in 2011. After trialling several churches our previous minister highly recommended Dayspring to us. We were told the music will lift our hearts and bring joy to spirits. Wow, was he right! I remember the first service we attended at Dayspring and the music was amazing quite energizing to our spirits, my eyes filled with tears of overwhelming Joy. I always enjoyed church throughout the years but never had I experienced a service with a church community filled with people enjoying singing and musicians enjoying playing their instruments like this before. Not only the music was uplifting but also Rev. Heinrich's service was prepared and delivered with motivation and inspiration to live a beautiful life of faith. We felt like we found a church that welcomed us and gave us the fostering we needed for our souls.

In 2015 we moved to a lake near Bonnyville for work. There is no Presbyterian Church near us in this area. We did try attending different churches when we came here but we never found a connection here with a church community. Our children attend the Catholic school system as this was the only French Immersion option here. They have loved having the ability of learning with faith and to be able to freely talk about God and Jesus in their life at school with their friends. However, because they have not been baptized Catholic or converted to Catholic, they are not allowed to participate in religion classes or services and feel like outsiders.

So with the pandemic we received an email from Dayspring to invite us to a **ZOOM** Connect Sunday service. So we did. We immediately felt at home, like that piece of the puzzle that was missing in our lives was now in place. The first Sunday we joined, I was actually at work and my daughter was at home. Although, we were in different places we were still able to be together, together with an entire community. A community that welcomes you and believes the same as you. A community that are there for all of the same reasons, to grow with our faith, to celebrate, to connect with God and be thankful for everything we receive. We are truly grateful for the ability to be able to connect and enjoy the Sunday church service.

My children also were interested to attend the bible study on Wednesday this past week. Brooklynn was delighted and very excited to be able to learn from such wonderful people. She said she was very nervous to join the session but she was so thrilled because "everyone was welcoming and they valued everyone's opinions". Brooklynn is hoping to continue to learn the lessons of the bible and share her time with this incredible group of people. She already has an alarm set on her device so she doesn't forget to join next week. (>>> p. 4)

Ryshanna (continued): With the challenges from the last few months it can be difficult to find gratitude and connection with others. It's funny though with these challenging times of connecting with others we were brought back to this community we missed so much. For this we are full of gratitude. Thank you for bringing our family that missing piece of the puzzle. We are truly grateful for all of the work you as a church community has done to connect us with you. Our spirits feel full again, we feel uplifted and our hearts full of joy. God Bless all of you!

Marg: It's in my head — Tuesday, 10 am, sit down with coffee in hand, plus a muffin, or whatever, and enjoy visiting with whomever joins the morning coffee club. There are several time choices during the week. It's been good to see and share with Dayspring friends. We've not spent much time discussing COVID-19; lots of other topics pop up. More and more faces appear as the hour progresses; some have to leave early (moi). That's okay. John Carr is SO very patient and skilled to get even the least adept connected and still smiling. Dayspring coffee time is a most welcome addition to my blank calendar. Pick a time; see you soon!

Nesta: Last Thursday evening I tuned into Dayspring's **ZOOM** Connect. I spent a very convivial hour or more chatting with church friends, some I had not seen for a while. Many of us relaxed with a glass of wine while we listened to stories and laughed a lot together. A short interlude during our long days of isolation but a great way to reduce anxiety. Do hope more folk will **ZOOM** in for subsequent chats.



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DayBook Deadlines

3rd Sunday of September, October
and June
2nd Sunday of November, December,
January, February, March, April, and
May

SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Gina Kottke

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

Hostensia Bineba (on leave)	Samuel Mforteh
Bill Davis	Jan Ray Moncada
Jane de Caen	Nick Nation
Darlene Eerkes	Laura Patterson- Fortin
Peter Eerkes	Todd Shipman
Carina Grosskopf	Darleen Springstein (Honorary)
Ransford Kusi- Menkah	Heather Tansem
Sam Malayang	Mary Waugh

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn
Vaughan

Youth Coordinator: Saúl Carvajal

Worship Arts Coordinator

Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

Pianist: Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

Alternate Pianist

Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.
(Education)

Administrative Assistant: Linda

Custodian: Jim