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## Easter 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Chippawa Presbyterian Church,

It is always with a sense of encouragement and pride that I'm able to write these letters for you a few times a year. The vibrancy, faithfulness, generosity and graciousness of our congregation inspires me.

After his resurrection Jesus said, 'You will be my witnesses, to the ends of the earth.' Whether it is singing God's praise and hearing his word in worship, or helping feed the hungry in our city partnering with Project Share, or strengthening the church in Nicaragua, our witness is strong. Thank you for your love for Jesus, and how you show that in such a variety of ways.

We have already enjoyed the Single Women/Widows' Luncheon, the Lenten Retreat and the Men's Retreat in March!! There is a lot more going on this coming Easter season. Include your church family on your calendar!

### Visioning Day

This will take place on Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Chippawa Presbyterian Church. In the next few years, we anticipate completing our mortgage from the 2010 renovation. Being free of the mortgage will give us an increased capacity for ministry. We would like you to be part of the conversation where we listen for God about how we might serve our community and world going forward. Facilitated by Jeff Lockyer, the lead pastor at Southridge Community Church (known for its homeless shelter, Rose City Kids and migrant workers ministries), the day promises to be engaging and inspiring. Lunch will be provided. Please be part of helping hear God's call to our congregation.

### Easter Worship

Through Lent, our worship series is titled 'Seven Words'. The life of faith is relatively simple at its core. The words yes, help, enough, thanks, no, sorry and wow can bring a full experience of relationship with God. Come to worship this Easter season and learn how a single word can shape your faith.

Our Easter service times are:

- **Palm Sunday** – Sunday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday** – Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday** – Friday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.
- **Easter Sunrise Service** – Sunday, April 21, 6:15 a.m.  
This will be a shared service with St. Andrew's-Knox PC, Fort Erie – The Rev. Trish Heidebrecht-Archibald' congregation. It will be held on the shore of the Niagara River and the intersection of Netherby Rd. and the Niagara Parkway.
- **Easter Sunday** – Sunday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.

### Easter Food Drive – Saturday, April 13 and Saturday April 20.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, we will hand deliver Easter Food drive bags door to door on routes within Chippawa. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will do the driving pick ups. You can do sign up for one or the other, or both! This is a great activity to do as a family.

We were disappointed to hear that Project Share will not be having the Grand Prix Go-karting Event this year. Our congregation won 'most pledges raised' for nine years in a row, and finished with both the first and second place trophies in 2018.

### Refugee and Evangelism Work

Reed Eaglesham will be returning to Greece in May, bringing a team from his congregation in Vancouver to work with Syrian Refugees there. We are supporting Reed's work with a grant from the Raising The Future endowment. We invite you to attend the bake sale on after worship on April 13 or to make a donation to Reed's work. Funds raised will be used to purchase needed items for the refugee families.

At the writing of this letter, Ben Kelly is travelling to Cambodia and Thailand to take part in evangelism work in partnership with Youth With a Mission. Keep both these young men in your prayers.

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### **Spring Card Party and Luncheon**

On Wednesday, April 24 beginning at noon, the Women of the Church will once again host this ever popular event. Come enjoy an excellent lunch and door prizes. Bring some friends to enjoy an afternoon of cards or bring along a board game you like. Tickets are \$15. They sell out quickly so speak to a member of the WOC asap.

### **Teen Challenge Canada – April 28**

We all know individuals and families whose lives have been devastated by alcohol and drug addiction. The opioid crisis in our community is wide spread and heart-breaking and we at times don't know where to turn or what resources to suggest. Teen Challenge Canada operates 12 month in-residence rehabilitation programs across Canada, the closest being in London, Ontario. They have a proven faith-based program. We have invited them to visit our congregation on Sunday, April 28. We will get to hear inspired stories of healing, and well as be presented with a path toward restoration for those who may need help. We encourage you to invite those who may have need of this kind of path to come to worship that Sunday. [www.teenchallenge.ca](http://www.teenchallenge.ca)

### **Other Upcoming Ministries**

#### **Stewards By Design – May 2 – 5**

We will be sending a team of four to this national Presbyterian Church in Canada Conference to continue the process of discerning God's continuing call upon us as a congregation.

#### **Vacation Bible School - "Safari – Journey With God" – July 22-26**

Mark your calendars as we go on a safari into God's. Watch the announcements for ways you can participate in this fun ministry.

#### **New Members/Profession of Faith Class – Saturday, June 1**

If you are interested taking your faith to the next level consider publicly making your commitment to being a Christ follower and formally become part of the congregation. The class is a necessary step. Contact Chris Vizzari if you are interested or have questions.

#### **Habitat For Humanity Lunches**

We are signed up to bring lunch to Habitat For Humanity volunteer teams. We will do this on May 30, July 4 and August 15

#### **Mortgage**

We continue to make excellent progress on the mortgage as people are being very consistent and generous in following through on their 'Building Legacy' commitments. As of the writing of this letter, the mortgage stands at \$239,500. This is truly amazing progress. Thank you. We did run into major repairs, with a major water pipes bursting in the cold and our boilers requiring unforeseen critical repairs.

An Easter gift to the congregation's general fund this year would be greatly strengthen our ongoing work. You can use the envelope enclosed with this letter. Or if you are reading this letter online, you can get an envelope in the pew or at the information desk on a Sunday, or give through our website. Thank you so much for your continued love and generosity toward your church family and its work and witness.

On behalf of the elders and staff of our congregation, I want to wish you and your loved ones a blessed Easter season.

With my continuing prayers,



Doug Schonberg  
Minister