



Gordon United Church Announcements

<http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca> office@gordonunitedchurch.ca

Check us out on Facebook

935 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria BC, V9B 2Y2 - Phone 250.478.6632

We are happy to share worship with you on YouTube! It's a brave new world!

*We invite you to join us after the service on Zoom. The connection information is not publicly available and is **sent via email only**, so if you do not receive our emails, we would love to add you to our distribution list.*

*Whether you are new or visiting, or have been a congregation member for many years, please feel free to send your contact information to the Office (contact information above, in **GREEN**). We would be happy to add you to our weekly email distribution list and/or update our church directory. **WELCOME!***

**God heals us; God heals through us.
Our offerings are God's healing love in action.**

Sunday, October 25:

[CLICK HERE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE](#)

Council Update: Exciting News!

Advent is coming, praise God!

With it comes the re-opening of our beloved church, on the second Sunday in Advent! Yea! In-person times of gathering will resume December 6th although, of course, new ways of attending will be required. The plan is to begin with small groups, spaced well apart, to watch the pre-recorded services. Please read all the details at the end of these announcements. These links will take you directly to the information:

[CLICK HERE](#) for this week's update.

[CLICK HERE](#) for last week's update.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full Safety Plan.

Thank you to our Reader for today, **Mary Newman**

- Scriptures: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- Psalm 90:1-6
- Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40
- Minute for Mission: "We Love Our Ministers!"

Zoom Meeting

Sunday's Zoom meetings begin at 11:15am
See your Friday email for the connection information!

Sunday Service Prayers

Opening Prayer

Beloved people of God, we are called to love with all our hearts!

Let us love with all our hearts, all our souls and all our minds.

Lift up your hearts; let us walk together as neighbors.

Let us love each other as Christ has loved us.

Come, let us rejoice!

Amen.

Words of Assurance

O God,

When we treat our faith as nothing more than a self-help system and You, God, as simply a cure for whatever ails us,

Where is the love?

When we use the gifts our planet gives us with little care for our wastefulness and destruction,

Where is the love?

When we deny and disdain truths and practices that others hold dear,

Where is the love?

When we forget our responsibilities to those who come after us,

Where is the love?

When we ignore the sickness, the loneliness, the struggle and the vulnerability of others, because it doesn't affect us,

Where is the love?

When we berate ourselves for our failures, or holds ourselves to impossible and trivial standards

Where is the love?

Forgive us, Lord, and teach us and our world what it really means to love radically as You tell us to.

Let us remember that You God are love and that we always can rest in You, our refuge.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Because God in faithfulness calls us to trust in the word of hope and promise, and urges us to believe the words of Christ, who said that whatever we ask in his name believing, God would do; let us open our hearts to God, both to speak and to listen in that same spirit.

YHWH, God, Holy One, we give thanks for all your gifts to us—for daily food, for health, for each breath we take, for freedom to choose, and for the gifts of your word, your power and your love. Our hearts are truly overwhelmed, O God, when we consider how you have entrusted so much to us. May we be worthy of that trust—may we be a people who are unafraid to live as fully and as richly as you want us to live.

Help us, O God, as followers and siblings of Jesus, to multiply all that You have given us, to risk spreading Your word and perhaps see it misunderstood, to gamble by loving those whom others think worthy only of hate, to take chances by doing good to those who have not done good to us. Help us be faith filled and desire to increase Your glory and Your goodness in this world. Make us people who share in both word and deed that which You have given to us.

And in this spirit of reaching beyond ourselves, we pray for the church gathered today, both here and around the world, that it may encourage all of its members to discover, develop and use all their gifts, those of nature and those of grace, and to share those gifts unto the next generation and beyond.

As those entrusted as Your children God, we pray for those who are poor in body or in spirit, for those oppressed and heavy laden, for those sick or in despair. We pray God Your love cover all and that they be ministered to as we are ministered to, by Your truth and love, by your Spirit and by us. Give us the hands and feet and heart and words to reach out to those we name in this moment of silence... Help us walk faithfully in the path of Your son Jesus Christ who taught us to pray,

Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name...

Amen.

Message from Rev. Heidi:

Hi all - looking forward to seeing you soon (online). I'm doing some advanced planning for Advent and Christmas, and would welcome ideas about how to incorporate some of our traditions and some new ideas into a pre-recorded video format. The theme will be "Filling the Night with Music and Light". Our main symbol will be "luminaries" (small paper or aluminum lanterns) and I'll be encouraging people to make lots! Ideas for decorating the communion table area and pulpit in ways that evoke the colours, sights, sounds of the Advent and Christmas seasons and can be seen within the camera angles (I know you home decorators and artists are out there!), suggestions for a "theme song", volunteers of any age to record candle-lighting, reading and storytelling from home or church, etc will be welcome. If you've got ideas for some movements folk can do to favourite carols (since we can't sing together) that would be great too - I bet the kids could come up with some! Feel free to share those ideas via email, note, or phone call after November 1st; if it seems feasible, I'll organize a conference call or Zoom to brainstorm together. ~ Heidi

GAG Fundraiser

The Get Acquainted Group is pleased to offer some wonderful Christmas quilts for sale!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the photographs.

Tish Portelance (250) 478-1350

Minute for Affirm United

This one is for all you Netflix subscribers! There is an amazing documentary called "Disclosure" on Netflix that explores how transgender identities have been portrayed throughout the years in film, television and the media. It looks at the harm this has done to the community, but also at the progress. **WARNING:** This film contains some triggering content including sexual assault, nudity, and substance use.

What is 'gender identity'? How is it different from 'gender expression'? What about 'non-binary'? Join host Wil Fundal as they explore these questions alongside people who find themselves navigating the world of preferred pronouns, trans rights and the quest to be recognized for who they are. To listen to They & Us podcasts, [CLICK HERE](#).

Music!

Have you been wondering what to do with yourself between Remembrance Day and Advent? Wonder no more! *Ms. Music* will be a free piano concert of light classical music, broadcast on YouTube and/or our own website. We wish it could be live but it will be recorded in *our* sanctuary on *our* grand piano by *our* very own summer pianist. We hope you will "tune in". The concert will be online from Friday, November 13 for about two weeks. Donations will be welcome and proceeds will go toward the increased expenses related to our online ministry at Gordon United Church. Please share this news with all your friends and volunteers to put up posters will be welcome. Contact the church office for flyers.

Angel Gifts

Gordon United is pleased to participate in the Angel Gift Program 2020. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, there will be two options for how you can contribute to the Angel Gift Program this year. They are:

- 1) By cheque - call Pat Flack to let her know that you want to participate and she will give you the information you need to send a cheque. The deadline for cheques is November 9th as Our Place has to make sure that they have enough volunteers to help do the shopping.
- 2) Buying gifts - call Pat Flack to let her know that you want to participate and how many people you want to sponsor. Once she gets that information she will get a list from Our Place and she will call you to give you the details about the person you are buying for. The deadline for gifts is December 6th.

If you decide on giving a gift, you can drop it off at the church. Rev. Heidi says we can store them in the lounge.

If you are able to participate, please contact **Pat Flack** at **(250) 478-2178**.

Pastoral Care

We invite anyone who is in need of Pastoral support to contact:

Adele Morley - (250) 590-2507
Betty Pellaers - (778) 430-3073
Deanna Robb - (250) 294-6737
Dianne Wilson McDougall - (250) 391-7550
(home) or (250) 415-9461 (cell)
Ruth Kelbough - (250) 478-5450

Email: pastoralcare@gordonunitedchurch.ca



If you'd like a phone chat with Melanie Ihmels, please contact the office to make arrangements or email minister@gordonunitedchurch.ca. In an emergency, call (250) 857-9124.



**Do you, or does someone you know,
need prayer NOW?**

**Email: prayerinaminute@gmail.com
with first name and a short message.
We'll send up a burst of prayer.**

Share the Warmth

Blanket and Clothing Drive



Please help our neighbours who are struggling to keep warm this winter

We are in need of these gently used items:

- blankets (twin size preferable)
- sleeping bags
- warm clothing
- winter coats/gloves/hats/scarves
- face masks (PPE)
- rain gear
- tarps
- backpacks
- tents

Please call ahead to one of these locations to schedule your donation drop off

Our Place Society
919 Pandora Avenue
(250) 388-7112

New Roads TRC
94 Talcott Road in View Royal
(250) 388-7112

Comfort Inn
3020 Blanshard
(250) 388-7112

Rock Bay Landing shelter
Coats only please
535 Ellice Street
250-383-1951

Sandy Merriman House
women's shelter
809 Burdett Avenue
(250) 480-1408

Thank you for caring!

ourplace
Hope and Belonging



Dandelion
SOCIETY

CoolAid
everyone deserves home

This week's message from the Safety Team

Members: Anna Mary McIlwain, Beverly Stewart, Carolyn Matheson, Dianne McDougall, Melanie Ihmels

The Safety Team have been meeting every two weeks, discerning what needs to be carried out for the reopening of the Gordon United Church on December 6th. We realize that the beginning of Advent actually starts on Sunday, November 29th. However, the Team and the volunteers required to carry out the amount of preparation work need all of this time in order to be ready for opening on December 6th.

The development of the Safety Plan has been completed and will be posted among other policies and guidelines.

Sanitizing Training has been scheduled for Monday, October 26th for the Safety Team and for the members of Property & Finance. This training will be carried out by Rev. Alanna Menu, who has in-depth knowledge and experience on sanitization. Rev. Alanna has graciously offered her time to do this for us. After this session, the Safety Team will set up teaching sessions for Council members and other volunteers, such as ushers and greeters.

The Sanctuary Pews are being removed for various safety reasons as stated in last week's update (copied below). They will be replaced by more comfortable chairs offered by Broadview United (Cadboro Bay United & St. Aiden's United) for the price of a donation. Arrangements are currently being made to have the chairs transported. The Safety Team feel that this is a 'GOD MOMENT'.

Other tasks include a safety barrier in Heidi's office, the purchasing of spacing markers, directional arrows, etc. As you can see, there is much work to be done over the next few weeks. We are asking for volunteers to please help us out so that this work can be completed for our reopening date of December 6th. Please call the church office at 250-478-6632 if you are able to help. Thank you in advance for offering your assistance.

The intention of these news quips is to keep the Congregation informed of the reopening process as it evolves. Please stay tuned.

The Safety Team

Last week's message from the Safety Team

This was sent by email Oct 16:

The Safety Team was originally formed to adapt a COVID 19 Safety Plan from Centennial United Church with permission from Reverend Alanna Menu. The members of this team are Anna Mary McIlwaine, Beverly Stewart, Dianne McDougall, and Carolyn Matheson with the support of Melanie Ihmels. In the process of adapting the Safety Plan to comply with the attributes of Gordon United Church, it became apparent that there was a possibility of reopening our church. Under the leadership of Melanie Ihmels, we were able to discern with great hope for this reopening.

Several recommendations from the Safety Team came to the Council Meeting on October 13th, 2020. The following recommendations were approved by Council at that meeting.

- Plan on how to put the Covid19 Safety Plan into operation for opening.
- Remove the pews and replace with chairs which would ease the entry and exiting of people more safely and serve as a multi-purpose area.
 - Preregistration for church attendance.
 - The actual service would be a presentation of the weekly on-line Video Service in the

Sanctuary on Sunday morning as well as the continuation of on-line service.

- Timeline-beginning of Advent, Sunday Dec 6th for church opening.
- Ongoing evaluation is required... what is working and not working. Address the issues.
- If successful, plan for the next opening phase.

In order to open the Sanctuary on December 6th, there is much work to be done. One of the tasks will be the removal of the pews simply for the reason to ease the entering and the exiting of people from the sanctuary in the name of safety for everyone. Also, all of the cushions which are currently on the pews must be removed due to inability to sanitize them properly because of the materials. The chairs are as Judy Muir states in her following message is that "being able to sit in a pew and feel like I am in church. It's what I grew up with and spent most of my church life sitting in. A calming, warm experience". We as the Safety Team members are positive that many of us feel the same way as going to church and sitting in a pew is what we grew up with. Today however is different. COVID 19 has changed our world and it dictates what we can and cannot do. We keep asking the question "What will our Church look like after all of this?" After much discernment by the Safety Team and Council, it was decided to remove the pews for the safety of all in the church sanctuary. Please read the following message as written by Judy Muir, Vice Chair, Trustees

With respect, The Safety Team

Me and Pews

To me going into a church means being able to sit in a pew and feel like I am in church. It's what I grew up with and spent most of my church life sitting in. A calming, warm experience.

Now with COVID, its different. Having been on the Property and Finance Team for so many years I am familiar with the amount of work that will be involved in sanitizing the pews and public spaces. This will be for a very long time.

Over the years Council has discussed removing pews and replacing them with chairs to make it easier and more comfortable for some folks to enjoy Sunday services. The back pews were the first to be removed and chairs set up. A few years ago Council discussed the pews again and decided to remove the middle 2 pews on each side of the church. It was understood that these pews were Oak and advertised

as such. There was immediate interest from a Contractor. When he first saw them, he said; "They are not Oak, they are plywood!" That seemed to deflate the value of the pews.

If the pews were removed and chairs set up it would allow for better social distancing as folks arrive for the Sunday Service. After the service each chair would have to be totally sprayed and wiped down. The logistics of maneuvering between the pews to sanitize the areas where folks have slid across or touched would be enormous. Due to the restrictions of how many people are allowed in each church area, the chairs in the Sanctuary would also allow for more meeting space as needed.

Now as we look forward to the reopening of our church, if the pews are removed, I will personally shed a tear. They have a history. Taken from the historical notes of the 60th Anniversary "4 couples made up the committee for choosing pews. They went to Fairfield United, Seventh Day Adventist and a 3rd church and took features from the pews. The ones chosen were to fit our backs and cost \$85.00 each".

I support Council on the tough decision that they had to make.

Judy Muir

Gordon United - COVID-19 Safety Plan

COVID SAFETY PLAN UPDATE PHASES 1, 2 and 3

October 20, 2020

Gordon United Church is committed to balancing its primary values of hospitality and inclusivity with a commitment to care for all who are part of the worshipping community and the day-to-day life of the congregation and building. We are committed to care for the vulnerable among us, and want to support and safeguard all who may be especially spiritually, mentally or physically vulnerable at this time.

The following are the opening Phases as outlined by the United Church of Canada:

Phase 1: Worship is online only with some exceptions for outdoor worship. Small groups may meet in person in small numbers, with social distancing and masks.

Phase 2: Reopening In-Person Worship during the Pandemic. Worship and other activities resume in

church buildings allowing up to 50 participants with social distancing and other measures.

Phase 3: Full return during pandemic. It is required that the British Columbia Industry specific protocols are considered and reviewed. Each Council makes decisions based on these standards for reopening. The guiding principle is the safety of all who enter the building.

RISK ASSESSMENT (where the risks could be identified):

- The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads in several ways. It can spread in droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. It can also spread if a person touches a contaminated surface and then touches their face.

- The risk of person-to-person transmission increases the closer people come to other people, the more time one spends near them, and the more people one comes near.

- The risk of surface transmission increases when many people contact the same surface and when those contacts happen over short periods of time.

- In the development of Gordon United's plan to decrease the risk of infection noted above, Gordon United has involved the Council Chair, a Pastoral Care Personnel, the Ministry & Personnel Co-Chairs, and the Minister (a committee which shall be known as the 'Safety Team').

- Areas where people gather are Sanctuary, CE Hall, Lounge, Upstairs Meeting Rooms. The kitchen has been closed until further notice as per government recommendations.

- Physical distancing will be difficult to maintain in areas such as the Sanctuary aisle, hallway, and CE Hall doorways.

- The following persons who must not enter Gordon United Church are:

a) People who have had symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 14 days.

b) People who have been directed by Public Health to self-isolate.

c) People who have arrived from outside Canada and who are directed to self-isolate for 14 days.

d) People who have been exposed to someone with Covid19.

e) People who are feeling sick, including those with ANY symptoms or feelings of sickness, especially if they have a fever, upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms (e.g., chills, worsening cough, sore throat, muscle aches).

f) Congregational members will be asked Covid19 questions by ushers, greeters, and Council members in reference to the policy on who may not attend Gordon United Church.

PROTOCOLS:

Industry specific protocols have been reviewed by the Safety Team for the development of the Safety Plan for Gordon United Church. They are:

- WorkSafeBC applicable to churches and places of employment
- BC Health Officer notices re: orders, guidance, and notices applicable to churches
- United Church of Canada National Office guidelines
- Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada

a) First level (elimination)

- 'Occupancy limits' and protocols and scheduling have been created to ensure people maintain a social distance.

- Signs have been posted notifying the public of the maximum number of persons allowed in the building – 50 persons.

- Signs have been posted at the various rooms in Gordon United Church's building, including washrooms, notifying the public of the maximum number of persons allowed in the room.

- Signs have been posted notifying the public to practice social distancing of 6 feet while in the building.

- Markers have been placed on the pews in the Sanctuary to indicate seating spaces which are 6 feet apart.

- Markers have been placed outside the washrooms indicating standing distance of 6 feet.

- Pew cushions, book holders, and hymn books must be removed.

b) Second level (engineering)

- Safety barriers for the Office Administrator are not required as the desk is located three steps above the office floor. People will not be allowed past those steps. An “x” will mark where a person must stand to address the Office Administrator.
- The minister’s office must be fitted with a Plexiglas barrier between the desk and the sitting area. The sitting area is limited to 2 persons.
- Otherwise, social distance can be maintained without further engineering controls.

c) Third level (administrative)

- Protocols for in-person services to be distributed to members of the congregation via email and posted letter when a decision has been made to have in-person services. (Appendix A).
- Floor arrows to be placed to indicate the direction of travel within the building.
- Enter and exit signs are to be placed on doors in the Sanctuary to ensure single direction travel.
- Protocols to be instituted to do contact tracing. Sheets are to be shredded after one month.
- Protocols and schedules to be developed for sanitizing. (Appendix B).
- People doing the sanitizing must be trained.

d) Fourth level (PPE)

- Education and training (if necessary) is required for the wearing of masks using information on ‘Selecting and Using Masks’ and ‘Instructions on How to Use a Mask’. (Appendices C and D)
- Members of the congregation are to be advised to wear a mask during in-person services.
- Members of the congregation are to be advised that there would be no congregational singing during the in-person service. A soloist seated 12 feet back from both the minister and music director would lead the hymns. Members could hum along, but only if they were wearing a mask.
- Members of the congregation are to be advised that bulletins would be handed out by volunteers wearing gloves who had been trained in proper hygiene practices (e.g., not touching their own face, no physical contact with the recipient).

e) Effective cleaning and hygiene practices

- In reference to information on ‘Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces’ from WorkSafeBC, Gordon United Church has easily accessible hand washing

facilities which are located in each of the nearby bathrooms.

- WorkSafeBC posters ‘Handwashing’ and ‘Cover Coughs and Sneezes’ and ‘Glove Removal Procedure’ are to be placed at each of the handwashing facilities. (Appendices E and F and G)
- Sanitizing protocols are to be placed in all common areas – washrooms, light switches, door handles, counters, pews. (Appendix B).
- The Sanctuary is sanitized after use. The meeting rooms are sanitized after use. The washrooms are sanitized at the end of every day. The hallways are sanitized every day. A log is kept of the sanitising.
- Hymn books and other printed material are to be removed from the Sanctuary.
- Doors and windows are to be opened to allow air circulation from outside when people gather.
- Financial collection would not occur during the in-person but that collection plates would be available at the exits at the end of the service. The financial items (cash, cheques, offering envelopes) would not be touched for 48 hours.
- The Safety Plan protocol will be distributed to renters and tenants, who are required to sign an agreement to follow these. The penalty for noncompliance is forfeiture of their right to the space.

POLICY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING USAGE:

- Gordon United’s policies address who can be in our building, how to address illness that arises at Gordon, and how those in our building can be kept safe.

The following people **MUST** stay home for the sake of others in the community:

- a) People who have had symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 14 days.
- b) People who have been directed by Public Health to self-isolate.
- c) People who have arrived from outside Canada and who are directed to self-isolate for 14 days.
- d) People who have been exposed to someone with Covid-19.
- e) People who are feeling sick, including those with ANY symptoms or feelings of sickness, especially if they have a fever, upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms (e.g., chills, worsening cough, sore throat, muscle aches).

- The following are **ENCOURAGED** to stay home:
 - a) People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
 - b) People, especially the elderly (over 65 years of age) with underlying or compromised medical conditions.
 - c) Family members who live with elderly people or those at risk.

- Staff or volunteers who may start to feel ill at work will be instructed as follows:
 - a) to wash or sanitize their hands, be provided with a mask, and isolated. The person is to go straight home.
 - b) if the person is severely ill (difficulty breathing, chest pains), 911 will be called
 - c) clean and disinfect any surfaces with which the sick person has been in contact.

COMMUNICATION PLANS AND TRAINING

- A Communication Plan must be in place to ensure that staff and the core group of volunteers including Council members and greeters and ushers are trained in policies and procedures including reviewing the Covid19 guidelines, contact tracing, and traffic control.
- All staff and volunteers are given the written policies for staying home when sick.
- Signage is to be posted including building and room occupancy limits and effective hygiene practices.
- Signage is to be posted at the main entrance indicating who is restricted from entering the premises.
- Hard copies of the protocols are to be posted in the building and on the Gordon United Church Website.

MONITOR THE PREMISES AND UPDATE PLAN AS NECESSARY

- If new areas of concerns are identified, or if members of the public, volunteers or users of the facility bring forward an area of concern, or if it seems like something isn't working, steps will be taken to update Gordon United Church's policies and procedures by the Safety Team where procedures have been implemented for Stage 1.
- If there are any concerns, people are encouraged to contact the Office Administrator, 250-478-6632 or email office@gordonunitedchurch.ca.

This updated Safety Plan has been adapted from the original plan at Centennial United Church with permission from their minister Rev. Alanna Menu and Rev. Gail Miller, Regional Minister. Please refer to the original '*Gordon United Church Safety Procedures for Stage 1*' for further instructions for Tenant Groups, Small Church Groups, and Outdoor Worship during Stage 1.

Important notice re COVID-19: Please note any interaction with the general public poses an elevated risk of being exposed to COVID-19 and we cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed while in attendance at Gordon United Church. We encourage you to follow the Gordon United Church's Safety Policies as posted, as well as local laws and restrictions for your own safety. It is an expectation that while attending Gordon United Church that the Safety Protocols are adhered to as we cannot be responsible for any illness occurring on the church premises.