



The Anchor

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church

Easter 2020 Volume 27 Issue 1



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Passing the virtual collection plate

There are several ways of continuing to support the ministries of our congregation for the next few weeks when we are not "passing the plate."

Some of you already give through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR).

If you would like to join the PAR programme, [contact the Church Treasurer using this form.](#)

You can also give through [Canada Helps](#), using [PayPal](#), or by sending and e-transfer through your bank to the church email address churchoffice@ermuc.ca.

**For pastoral care concerns
phone or text**

Joe (613-701-7781)

Bill (613-922-8397)

Elizabeth (343-363-0754)



A Message from the Editors



What a world...how quickly things change. At time of writing we are in our second week of COVID-19 upheaval! NO CHURCH, NO GROUPS. But from our perspectives, the most important thing is staying safe. In order to do that, we are staying apart-all of us, everyday, which seems such a contradiction. But we can do it. Reach out to those most isolated— a quick phone call or newsy email is sure to brighten someone's day. We can all do our part to make Kingston and the world a safer place. Because previously scheduled events are "up in the air" at this point, we have decided NOT to include them in this issue. Stay informed through our church website for up to the minute changes in activities. Enjoy this issue filled with information and pictures of others in our church community. Blessings and a virtual hug to all. *Patti & Paul*

The Council of Elders passed the following motion on March 24: "that we will continue to offer virtual video & audio worship services on Sundays but that the building will be closed for the foreseeable future."

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact in every corner of the world. As people of faith, more than ever we need to connect with each other, assure ourselves of the presence of God in our world, and try to make sense of what is happening around us.

Although we will not be gathering at the church, Bill and Joe will be leading virtual worship services using video conference technology. Each Sunday at 10 am, you are invited to use your computer, tablet or smartphone to join us for worship that will include prayers, a sermon, music ... and even a chance to join a small group conversation for a few minutes.

Thank you to all who are making an effort to make this work. We look forward to this new venture together in the face of these challenging times. Information on how to join will be emailed to your email the church has on file.

Please join us

Sunday at 10 AM for our "virtual worship service."

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1486044624>

Not everyone in the congregation is on our mailing list.

Please pass this information along to others whom you think may not receive our emails.

Questions? Email Joe at: rev.ramsay@ermuc.ca

All In-person activities Cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Check the website for updates

Dear Friends:

In a time when my mind is usually focused on the lead up to Easter and the variety of ways in which we recognize and celebrate the Resurrection Story, today, like many of you, my thoughts revolve around COVID-19 and our response to this pandemic virus. As you may be aware, the Council of Elders has determined that the church building will be closed indefinitely until it is safe for us to again gather together in person. As important as Easter is to us as Christians, we can recognize and celebrate it at any given time throughout the year, but your health must be of primary importance as of now!

You may have noticed in recent bulletins that Holy Week Services had been planned. These involved a number of tactile activities, a pot-luck dinner, handwashing, and Communion to name a few. Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter worship services will be offered online. Please stay tuned to our website or congregational mailings for updates.

It is hard to believe how a virus can make the world stand still. Schools and sporting teams, many offices and churches are heeding the concerns expressed by the WHO to be extra diligent in hand washing, do not gather in large groups and self-quarantine if you have any signs of symptoms.

As a faith community, we want to be here for you during this uncertainty. We are attempting to post 'virtual worship experiences' online. This is something that is new for us as it may be to you. Please be patient with us as we seek the best ways to reach out. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Feel free to email at any time or call if that would be better for you. Know that you are not alone. That is the first sentence in our Creed. While we may be practicing 'social distancing', we have a 'spiritual closeness' which is also contagious, but in a good way!



The Lenten journey begins with the Biblical phrase ... and 'Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem.' There were many hardships along the way...human disappointment, emotional stress, physical pain. But, Jesus knew that his faith would give him strength to deal with this and that these things too would pass. At the end was the victory and the empty tomb.

The world has not stopped, only put on pause for a bit. May God give us strength in these times. I look forward to the day, when we can say 'the virus has passed' and we can be reunited, face to face as the family of God.

In the meantime, keep safe, keep well, know the God's presence surrounds you and soon we will be together to shout and celebrate.

THE LORD IS RISEN ... HE IS RISEN INDEED

Bill

Rev. Dr. William D. Smith

Kindness in Uncertain Times

In this time of uncertainty, I have been reaching out by telephone to the Classics for a check in. As I have been speaking with you, I must admit that I am impressed with how you have been rolling with the changes that have taken place. I am also impressed, but not surprised, with the continued support that our Classics have been receiving from family and friends. Kindness seems to be the order of the day and that makes me very happy. Until we are able to get back to personal visiting, let's keep in touch over the telephone. Please call me at (343) 363-0754 or email at pastoralcare@ermuc.ca if you need to talk or if you need help with anything that I can coordinate with our members. Remember as the UCC A New Creed tell us, you are not alone in this, "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God."



Elizabeth Amirault,
Minister of Pastoral Care

During this time of social distancing and restricted access to homes and residences, I would like to ask Edith Rankin Memorial United Church congregation to consider phoning a "Classics" friend. Just a reminder that someone is thinking of them could make a big difference in their life. Pull out your Photo Directory or your own address book and make a connection.



Be Not Afraid

I remember hearing a story about an off-Broadway matinée being performed on November 22, 1963. There was a moment in the play when one of the characters listens to a transistor radio. As a prop, the character used a real radio, and simply tuned in to the current broadcast. During the particular performance, the actor turned on the radio shortly after 1:30 pm, just as the voice on the radio was announcing that President JF Kennedy had been assassinated. Everyone stopped on stage, the rest of the play was cancelled, the world had changed in an instant.

Our world is constantly changing and events can occur suddenly and unexpectedly — in our lives, in our families, in our neighbourhoods, in our world. Sometimes what suddenly emerges in life is a welcomed and joyful surprise. A child living at a distance shows up suddenly just to say happy birthday. Good news about a diagnosis is delivered when you expected the worst. A movement emerges led by our youth calling us to address global warming and instilling hope in us.

More often, it seems, changes that emerge make us fearful. A beloved leader is shot, a terminal diagnosis is given, news is delivered that global warming is worse than we thought, or a life-threatening virus suddenly appears and reaches a global pandemic level in just a few weeks. We are living in such a time, when all of us have reason to be afraid — for ourselves, for those we love, and for our world.

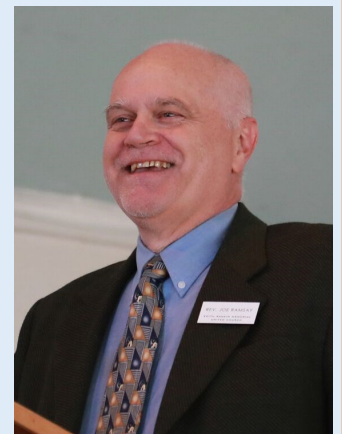
It is not surprising, really, that the expression that appears the most often in the Bible is “Do not be afraid.” Jesus uttered this expression more than any other. In these fearful times we, as the church of Jesus, can draw on our faith in a loving God who brings resurrection from death, hope from fear.

We often think that faith is the opposite of fear, but in fact, love is really the opposite of fear. This week, these words were posted on our United Church of Canada website:

As a church, we seek a compassionate response that acknowledges the personhood attached to each statistic. We know that the people affected include not only those infected by the COVID-19 virus but also their families, friends, co-workers, and community members. We mourn with people whose loved ones have died, who have lost their livelihood through the growing economic impact, who have lost community through self-isolation and limited travel, and, who have lost a sense of security through fear of contamination or racial discrimination. We also offer our prayers of thanksgiving for the professionals who are providing leadership in the treatment and containment of the virus, and our prayers of concern for those who put at risk their personal health to serve and support others, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Like the words that blurted unexpectedly on a New York stage in 1963, the news of the COVID-19 virus has suddenly changed our story and created fear among us. So let us respond as a community of faith by becoming even more diligent in our love for each other, for our families, for our neighbours and for our world.

Rev. Joe Ramsay



Social Distancing

Facebook Edith Rankin Memorial United Church Fellowship Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/353562875524281/>

This group is for congregation members and friends of Edith Rankin Memorial United Church to join virtually in fellowship with each other. If you require pastoral care, please go to our [Contact Us](#) website.

Ministers' Meditations

<https://ermuc.ca/newsletter/ministers-meditations/>

Read pastoral articles from our Ministers, the Rev. Joe Ramsay and the Rev. Dr. Bill Smith.



Update from the Search and Selection Committee

Like everyone, our plans have been set aside as COVID-19 takes priority. While some of us have more time at home, others on the Committee (or who might have applied for our position) have young children, are working at home, or are volunteering in the community to help with the unprecedented situation. So, our planning sessions and interviews become secondary.

Most of you have seen or heard our monthly communication updates. Nevertheless, for this issue of the Anchor, we provide a full summary.

The Committee started to meet in December and has met every Monday evening in January, February and March. With COVID-19, we are now meeting using electronic technology and we will continue to follow the guidelines set out by Public Health authorities. We had first interviews with candidates on February 24 and 25. We planned to have more but these did not materialize... some because the candidate decided to step back and others because we thought the applicant was not suitable. As appropriate, we have reminded those who are interested that we expect to be hiring other ministerial staff next year. We have applicants from out of the province, so we are using electronic meeting services for the first interviews. We have worked to develop a fair process so we can treat all applicants equally and with respect and dignity.

The Search and Selection Committee made a recommendation to Council and this resulted in Council passing a Motion "to declare our intention to engage in an educational process on becoming an Affirming Congregation". Council has communicated this to the Congregation in separate announcements.

Our Committee became more pro-active in reaching out to the broader church community to encourage potential applicants to contact us.

This was successful in that we have had several very qualified candidates express interest. We have had preliminary conversations with an additional 5 or 6 potential candidates but as noted above, none have advanced to a first interview.

We have identified our "short list" and had plans in place to start second interviews on March 23. We want any second interview to be in person and with travel restrictions now in place we now are waiting until after Easter. For those who did not make our short list, we have advised them of our decision.

Your Search and Selection Committee recognizes the importance of the work in front of us and we look forward to completing this work to the best of our abilities. To successfully represent the whole congregation, we encourage any comments or questions you might have. It would be very helpful if you would attend the visioning sessions that are being hosted by Joe.

Our next monthly update is scheduled for April 12. As this is Easter, we will delay the next update until April 19. In the meantime, stay well and reach out to support your friends and family.

Peter Merkley,
on behalf of the Search and Selection Committee



ERMUC's wonderful Library has been under the umbrella of the UCW since 1978. Over the years it has been in several locations - in a hall, in the old minister's office, on a revolving book display in the Upper Room, and finally in its own room called the Library, just off of the Welcome Centre. Former librarians were Belva Rolufs, Mildred Britt, Donna Stoness, Gloria Engel, and Glenda Turner. But did you know that it has been Joan Martin who has overseen it during the past thirty years!! A big thank you, Joan!

The addition of a library cart to display books downstairs has been very helpful in increasing readership. There are a wide variety of books in both locations. Borrowers are only requiring to sign them out and return them in the basket provided, after a reasonable length of time. All books except the children's are filed alphabetically according to author.

2020 marks a transition for the Library from being the responsibility of the UCW to being the responsibility of a new congregational Library Ministry Team. This team includes Joan Martin, Barb O'Neill, Gail Hanley and Barbara Godfrey. If you are interested in being part of this team, please contact Joan at evaj Joanmartin@gmail.com.

Church Library closed until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions

Sunday School

Sunday School Update March 2020

They say that a picture's worth a thousand words; well, if this is the case, then this March edition of the Sunday School Anchor will be our wordiest one yet! Some highlights of the past four months include:

Being part of our annual CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, which included wonderful performances by our Children's Christmas Choir, and which could not have been the huge success that it was without the help of many others in our congregation, including our narrators, accompanists, soloists, costume co-ordinators, parent helpers, Sunday School assistants, and of course our camels and special guest, Santa!

Celebrating JESUS' BIRTHDAY with a cake that Lorna Thorne made

Making special holiday CRAFTS under the leadership of Florence Niven

Sharing Christmas Eve together in a deLIGHTful multi-sensory and interactive family service, complete with musical performances, costumes, an alphabet-based narration and yes, even glow sticks!

Enjoying many CAPTIVATING stories and activities led by Rev. Bill Smith during our Children's Time in the sanctuary

Discussing what CHURCH means to us and learning songs such as "We Are the Church"

Baking cookies and enjoying heart-shaped strawberry shortcake for our "LOVE IS..." theme

Creating a MURAL to show Shannon Smith how much we love and care for her; the CRIB which the congregation purchased for her was lovingly wrapped in the mural paper that the children decorated and was later presented to Shannon at her baby shower.

Learning some Spanish and making cards to send to the children of Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel in EL SALVADOR

Being TEMPTED in Lent by chips, Timbits, "mystery bags" and a button that said "Don't Push!"

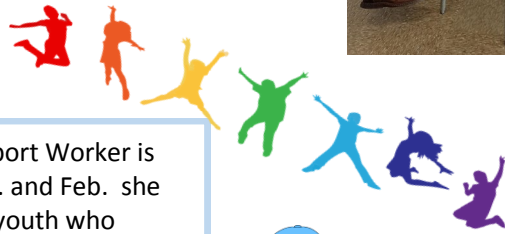
Ruth Judd



Youth Ministry

Shannon Smith, our Part-time Youth Support Worker is now on maternity leave. Throughout Jan. and Feb. she continued to support and meet with the youth who arrived on Sundays. She also made herself available to help Ruth Judd, Sunday School Superintendent when youth found themselves with projects and jobs that kept them away.

A group of 25 + members and friends celebrated the imminent birth with a shower for Shannon on Sunday Feb 29. With collected funds from many generous folks at ERMUC, Shannon was presented with gift cards, for herself and her baby, as well as a crib, wrapped in kraft paper and decorated by the children in our Sunday School, as well as many other delightful baby necessities!



CONGRATULATIONS to Shannon, husband Mike, and big sister Violet on the birth of Xandor Terrence Christopher Brown-Smith. Born Friday March 5, weighing in at 6 lbs 14 oz. We wish this family God's blessing as they begin their life together.

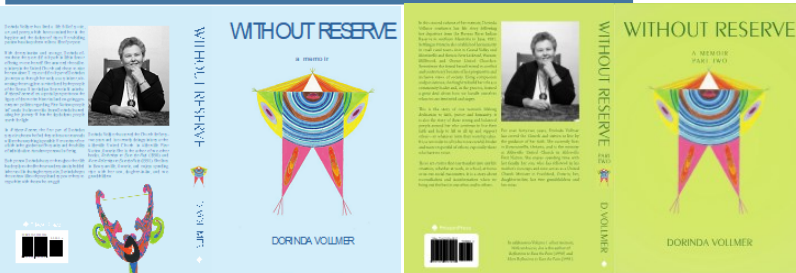


The annual UCW Worship Service would have happened on April 19 with Guest Speaker Rev. Dorinda Vollmer. While we hope to re-schedule, no date has been chosen at this point. Our library has 2 books by Rev. Vollmer. Once we are back in the building sign one out for some interesting reading.

To Be Rescheduled

**CANCELLED? POSTPONED?
WHO KNOWS?**

It sure is hard to be up to date as we make our way through these challenging times. In order to keep things as current as possible, we have decided to post only a limited number of upcoming events in this issue. Please check the website, ermuc.ca, to find out what's on & what's off, or leave a message at 613 389 2530 – office number is being monitored daily.



MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
April 26th, 2020
Speaker: Bob Wells
Working with indigenous neighbours
CANCELLED

Classics Birthday Celebration
Postponed to a later date!

Getting to Know our Neighbours
Saturday April 18, 2020



To Be Rescheduled

UCW Spring General Meeting

Tuesday, May 5th at 1:30 in the Lower Hall



Guest Speaker: Pierre Klein, Special Projects Manager
Kingston Home Base Non-Profit Housing
Focus: Kingston Youth Service Hub
Located at Princess Street United Church
Everyone welcome!

UCW Artisans' Bazaar

Mark the date: Saturday Nov 14, 2020 10 am – 2 pm



It won't be long before we will be getting ready for this years' upcoming Artisans' Bazaar. The planning committee has discussed the idea of having a Silent Auction table as part of this outreach project. This would be an opportunity to collect donations from the congregation, package them up and have them available for sale for a set price. In order for this to work, we are seeking a co-ordinator to be the contact person. Decorating a Christmas tree with unique handmade decorations would also be a visual attraction for the bazaar. This is a great way to share your resourcefulness and creativity using your craft materials, fabric, felt, notions, etc. in the upcoming months. Let us know how you are willing to assist in this venture. Is it time to create a craft group? Please contact Marg Merkley, Jan Rubino or Jean Barna. Our next planning meeting will be held Tuesday May 12. Many of the Artisans from last year are returning, but if there is anyone else that would be interested, please contact Jean Barna at jkbarbrown@hotmail.com.



Spirit Sisters Reading List 2020

Every year Spirit Sisters holds one meeting dedicated to sharing what we've been reading. The choices are as varied and eclectic as we are! This year's meeting has fallen directly in the path of COVID-19 restrictions. Since we have chosen NOT to meet in March, we thought we would share our list with you in the hopes that you can access something online or chat with one of these women to borrow her disinfected copy! Enjoy our selections!

Brenda Moyer	<i>Hum if You Don't Know the Words</i> , by Bianca Marais <i>If you want to make God laugh</i> , by Bianca Marais
Mary Lavery	<i>Along the Shore—Rediscovering Toronto's Waterfront Heritage</i> , by M.Jane Fairburn
Susan Gibbon	<i>Silent Survivor</i> , <i>Wednesday's Child</i> , & <i>Rabbit in the Moon</i> by Deborah Shlian <i>The Stone Frigate - RMC's first female cadet speaks out</i> , by Kate Armstrong <i>The Moment of Lift</i> , by Melinda Gates
Florence Niven	<i>Bittersweet</i> , by Shauna Niequest
Patti Speck	<i>Forgiveness</i> , by Mark Sakamoto
Mary Catherine Robb	<i>Kingdom of the Blind A Better Man</i> , by Louise Penny <i>The Gown</i> , by Jennifer Robson
Rhonda Kerr	<i>The German Midwife</i> , by Mandy Rowbotham
Barb Taft	<i>Becoming</i> , by Michelle Obama <i>Women Who Shaped the World</i> , Smith Davies Publishing
Lorna Thorne	<i>The Winter by the Sea</i> , by Susanna Kearsley
Kathy Thomas	<i>Becoming Mrs. Lewis</i> , by Patti Callahan <i>Every Note</i> , by Lisa Genova, <i>Station Eleven</i> , by Emily St. John Mandel
Bev Ryan	<i>The Boy on The Wooden Box</i> , a memoir of Leon Leyson <i>The Pearl That Broke its Shell</i> , by Nadia Hashimi <i>The Island of Sea Women</i> , by Lisa See
Dorothy Mills	<i>Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and The Law</i> , by Beverley McLachlin <i>The Other Side of the Coin: The Queen, The Dresser and the Wardrobe</i> , by Angela Kelly <i>The Clockmaker's Daughter</i> , by Kate Morton
Eleanor Orr	<i>Moon Over the Crusted Snow</i> , by Waubgeshig Rice <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> , by Delia Owens <i>The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules</i> , by Catharina Ingleman Sundberg
Carolyn McPhee	<i>The Book of Joy – Lasting Happiness in a Changing World</i> , by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams
Leola Becker	<i>How to Say it to Seniors: Closing the Communication Glad with Our Elders</i> , by David Sole
Judy Nurse	<i>Do No Harm</i> , by Henry Marsh, <i>The Innocents</i> , by Michael Crummy
Lois Butler	<i>The Girl from Berlin</i> , by Steve Burrows, <i>The Other Einstein</i> by Marie Benedict

FündScrip

Help us raise money and join our gift card fundraiser!

Support Edith by purchasing
Fundscrip Shopping/Gift Cards.

Order Forms are in the Welcome Centre, and are
available for over 250 retailers.

Use cash, cheque. credit or debit.

Purchase for groceries, gas, Shoppers Drug Mart necessities

Ordering postponed—Check the website for updates



facebook



twitter



Edith Rankin Church

@EdithRankinMUC

www.ermuc.ca



YOUR BLOOD is desperately needed!

In these difficult times more than ever!

ERMUC has a team for

Partners for Life with Canadian Blood Services.

Use our team number EDIT009590

Phone 1-888-236-6283 to book an appointment.

OR just Walk in to 850 Gardiners Road.

No Upper-age limit and

No Physician's Assessment Required.

Questions? Call Sharon Van Nest 613 544 6802

SENIORS CENTRE LOYALIST



4080 Bath Road, Kingston
(Edith Rankin Memorial United Church)

613.985.7812

Programs suspended until further notice

Visit the website for further information

<https://seniorskingston.ca/seniors-centre-loyalist/>

The Seniors Centre: 56 Francis Street Kingston

phone: 613.548.7810 info@seniorskingston.ca

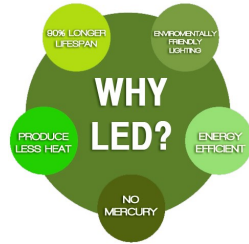
Chancel Lighting

Your Media & Communication is currently finalizing the design and installation of new LED Lighting in the chancel. This upgraded lighting will replace all of the old floodlighting control panel.

This energy efficient, longer lasting lighting will produce less heat and more evenly distributed light. The Media Team will now also be able to control the lighting during the service/ event, as opposed to just turning on all lights with no control.

While we have budgeted for this project this year, we have been asked by Council to look at funding options.

One way we are doing this is to ask you if you would be willing to contribute any amount above and beyond the amount you currently give to the church. Please contact any of the Media Team to find out you can help. Thank you for your support.



Check out our updated website

www.ermuc.ca

Listen to recent services

Watch for event updates

You'll see notices of upcoming events with links to our webpage and you'll see pictures of events too. If there is an event which should be noted on either our webpage or Facebook page, please help out our webmaster and send it to: webmaster@ermuc.ca

Webmaster

Paul Van Nest

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church

4080 Bath Road, Kingston, ON K7M 4Y7

Telephone 613-389-2530 Monitored daily,
please leave a message

e-mail: churchoffice@ermuc.ca

Sunday Services Suspended until further Notice

Visit the Website for up to date information

For contact information see the

Ministry Personnel and Staff Directory



Edith Rankin Memorial United Church sits on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee & Anishinaabe peoples

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church Gchi-gkinoomaagegamig atemagad Haudenosaunee miinwaa Anishinaabe aking

Ne Edith Rankin Memorial United Church e'tho noriwe nikanónhsote tsi noriwe ne Haudenasaunee tánon Anishinaabek tehatihsnónhsahere ne óhontsa