



The Anchor

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church

Easter 2021 Volume 28 Issue 1



IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Note

Michelle Down

Holy Week and Easter Services
Pastoral Care

Elizabeth Amirault

Getting to Know You

Kim Barney

Pandemic Reflections

El Salvador

UCW

FündScrip

Coronavirus Video Rant

Mike Bullett

Virtual Services Etiquette

COVID-19 Information

Co-Editors

Patti Speck & Paul Carl

Roving Reporters

Cathy Flynn & Carolyn May

Photo Credits

Craig Pettis

Contact Us

Telephone 613-389-2530

[Contact Us Form](#)

Select Church Office

For contact information see the

[Ministry Personnel and Staff Directory](#)



[Edith Rankin Church](#)



[@EdithRankinMUC](#)



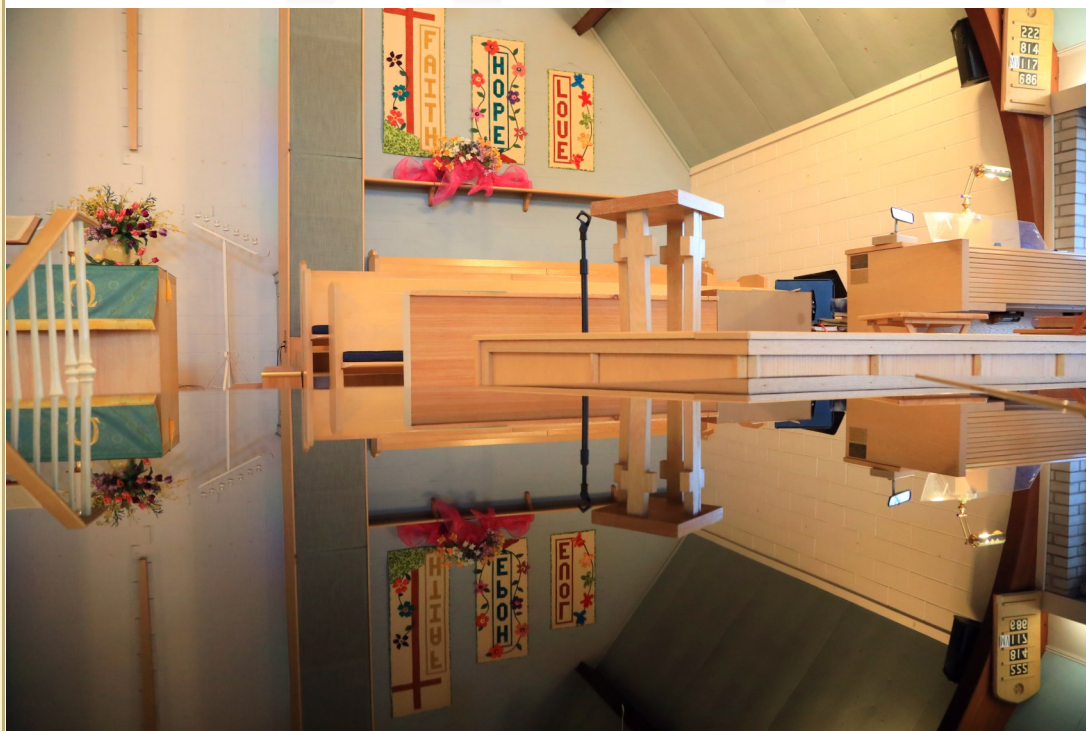
www.ermuc.ca

Reflections
Reflections

Discernment
Discernment

Our Easter Journey

Our Easter Journey



Sunday Services Online

Currently NO in-person worship services or group gatherings are permitted in the church in order to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

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 noíwe nikanónhsote tsi noíwe ne Haudenasaunee tánon Anishinaabek tehatihsnónhsahere ne óhontsa



“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” Luke 1:78-79. Now - at last - that dawn has come!

Throughout Lent at Edith Rankin, we have been exploring a number of Spiritual Practices to help with our discernment. God is leading us into a new future, and there is no better time than Easter to be

able to experience that dawning.

The invitation to new life offered in the Easter story, in a season when creation is sprouting all around us, enables us to be bold and courageous in saying YES to new life:

Living into the resurrection of new hope and possibilities; Vaccinating ourselves against the disease of apathy, and living, truly living into a life of Love and Light, Hope and Generosity, Kindness and Compassion, Empathy and Grace. This is the Easter invitation. This is the dawning of New Life. This is the Spiritual practice of a Resurrected life, of a life pulled from the tomb of despair, depression, and Covid isolation, and

Into a life of freedom, breath, and openness.

Into a life of equity, inclusion, and justice.

Into a life of community, collaboration, and wonder.

The work of Easter people is big work. We have the opportunity to reset our compass, and follow the One who leads us into the mission and ministry of healing, reconciliation, and new life. Jesus lived as we do, so that we would have a relatable prophet. Now our work, is to live like He did, so that we and others can bear witness to the Divine.

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” Luke 1:78-79. Now - at last - that Easter dawn has come!

Light beckons us, calls us, into the newness of the Easter dawn, to which we are granted entry with grace and humility. Friends, be led into this space, into this offering of new life. Knowing that this past year has been so difficult for so many, I invite you to hold all of the gifts and learnings that Covid has offered, and bring them with you into the Easter dawn that awaits you with blessing and renewal.

As we move forward in Relationship, in Trust, in Authenticity, in Faith, may we grow in the Light of the Resurrection, and may our feet be guided in the way of Peace.

Easter Blessings to all

For In Faithful Service

Rev Michelle Down



Holy Week and Easter Services



Sunday, March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

10:00 am

Theme: “The Journey”

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-11



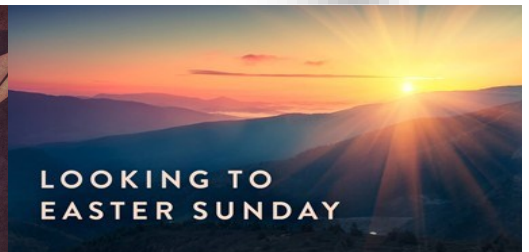
Friday, April 2, 2021

Good Friday

10:00 am

Theme: “Were You There?”

Scripture Reading: John 18:1-19:42



Sunday, April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

10:00 am

Theme: “New Light. New Life!”

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

As with all other celebrations at this time, these services will be broadcast via Ring Central so that you can participate with us online. Please see the Weekly Tidings or ermuc.ca for more information.

Pastoral Care

**Elizabeth Amirault,
Minister of Pastoral Care.**



At this time of year, I am filled with hope. Life begins anew, bringing the hope of spring with new blooms rising from beneath snow. At Easter too we are hopeful, we show this through renewing our commitment to our faith, bringing into the fold new members through confirmation. When we are hopeful about the future, that is a sign of faith. Faith that summer fields will bring to us a harvest of all of the good things from Creation that sustain and nurture us. We can hope because we have faith in each other and in God.

We here in Kingston have been extremely blessed as we have travelled this past year without a large number of cases and with only [one](#) death attributed to COVID-19. As we count our blessings, let us be mindful of the families who have suffered hardship whether it be physical, emotional, financial, or spiritual. Although the future is looking brighter every day, we still have a way to go before the road is clear. But we continue to hope that this pandemic will end, and we will be able to celebrate and once again meet as a community at Edith Rankin MUC.

Until we meet in person again, I want you to know that Edith Rankin MUC wants very much to remain in contact with you. We want to know how you are doing, since we can't see you in person right now. Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number or email address? Do you know of someone else who has moved or made some changes to their contact information?

During this season of renewal and growth, keep your faith, continue in hope, and trust that in God's love we will until we meet in person again.

Elizabeth

Getting to Know You

*Ever wondered about some of the folks that work
so hard for us here at Edith Rankin?
Here's your chance to get to know:*

Kim Barney, Music Director



Back when we were all in the church, most of you had a wonderful view of the back of our choir director, sitting at the organ or the grand piano. We would like to introduce you to **Kim Barney**. We felt that a brief bio would help you get to know him a little better.

He is the youngest of six children, born and raised in Oregon. He has been involved in music his whole life. Kim received his Bachelor of Science and Organ Performance from Lewis and Clarke College in Portland Oregon.

After a varied career, he settled in the Tri-Cities in Washington State, working for H & N Electric for 34 years. During these years, he was organist/ choir director at many local churches. He met his wife, Alma, in 2000 and after a long distance relationship, Alma moved to Washington State and they were married in 2002. To our great fortune, they moved to this area in 2016, and joined Edith Rankin in 2018 and became part of the choir in 2019.

And as they say, the rest is history. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful, happy, and talented person who is so generous with his musical gifts, leading the music at Edith Rankin.

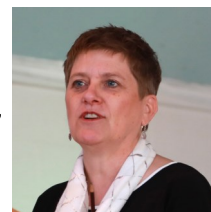
To see the organ that Kim studied on, go to <https://youtu.be/E9VdiiNg3nY>.



Reflecting...

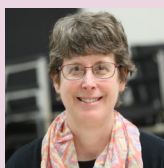
Κεντρικά...

If anyone had told us a year ago, that we would still be in the midst of a global-wide pandemic, I doubt we would have believed them. But we are... But the good news is, we are managing! We have changed the way we work, and play and worship. We have found new ways to connect with family and friends. We have tried to focus on what is really important -and made our home environment our "safe-spot." The year has been challenging, but we have all realized how lucky we are, even during a pandemic. Enjoy these reflections, from some of your church friends. They have shared how their responsibilities have changed, and how Covid has made them feel. Thank you to all who have contributed these heartfelt comments.



I retired from Queen's in late January 2020 and had a month to enjoy Wellness Walking, lots of bell tree rehearsals, plays, concerts and Tai Chi classes. My friends teased me that I'd burn myself out being so busy in retirement. But I was glad I was out of the house every day doing the things I enjoyed. In February and March I was being trained to be the third person on the church Website Team able to edit the service's audio recording to post on our website. I learned how to do this and posted the service on Sunday, March 8th, our last "live" service in the building in 2020! Our whole Website and Media Team had a steep learning curve with Ring Central and major website changes expertly guided by Rev. Joe Ramsey. I had been worried that my brain wouldn't be challenged enough once I retired but there was no worry about that in 2020.

I missed connecting with the bell and flute choirs that met at ERMUC but found out I greatly enjoyed the Wednesday morning Pastoral Visiting virtual chat and helped host when Joe was on vacation. On March 15th I started my own version of Wellness Walking by walking every single day so far of the pandemic, rain, snow, shine or even our daughter's wedding day. So with my daily dose of fresh air, Zoom calls for online support groups, a huge pile of library books and knitting yarn, I've survived our very memorable year, 2020. **Kathy Baer**



Aruba, Jamaica, oh I want to take ya.... oh wait! No daydreaming, the church needed me to fill in as Relief Office Administrator for six months. Just as I was starting to think that maybe I did know what I was doing Premier Ford declared a state of emergency, effectively closing our doors. Rev. Joe Ramsay in his unflappable way suggested that we could use an application on our newly purchased Ring Central phone system called Ring Central Virtual Meetings. The proverbial window opened.

Thanks to some incredible 'techie' people in the church I learned the basics of hosting meetings (I love the mute button) and have spent the past 11 months helping to bring together virtually all the interested women's groups in the congregation as well as Church Council. I am in awe of those in our congregation who have been willing to download the app, push the magic link and find themselves sharing together in Christian witness, fellowship and service. I must admit however, that each time I open a 'meeting' I still hold my breath until it actually works.



As great as virtual get-togethers are I look forward to once again meeting in person and continuing my day dreams.....*Bermuda, Bahamas, come on pretty mama.*
Rhonda Kerr



To paraphrase Dickens "It was the worst of times, it was the best of times". In mid-March-2020 Marlene and I cancelled our trip to California to visit our daughter and family. Being fully retired allowed us to feel safe at home having only to go out for groceries. Thanks to FaceTime we have been reading to our Toronto and California grandchildren on Tuesday nights. In February, 2020 before the global pandemic had thrust its reality onto our consciousness none of us had heard of Ring Central or Zoom. By mid-March we were Zooming virtual church services on Sundays, singing and taking communion. Our congregation had hardly skipped a beat. Yes, I agree you can't have much of a conversation with anyone on Zoom and I look forward to doing that again in person. However, the most important aspect of the Sunday morning service, the spirituality, remains very much present! Imagine even considering bringing in a new minister during a global pandemic! Yet here we are six months later feeling blessed that Michelle is with us. Seeing her on the computer screen every Sunday morning it now seems like we have known her for a long time. I attend my Just Men group by Zoom and Marlene Zooms her Spirit Sisters' meetings. I have regular check-in phone calls with church friends and we probably talk more than we did pre-pandemic. Back to Dickens... in many ways the "worst of times" for us is lessened by retirement and lack of financial worry and "the best of times" is being able to stay home with Marlene to play ping-pong, play guitar and work on my photography projects. Any meetings I'm involved in are by Zoom hence no need to venture out on a cold, stormy night. However, our good fortune is tempered by realizing that many less fortunate people, having lost their employment, are impacted by financial stress and the mental worry. This really is "the worst of times" for them. They are in our prayers. **Brian McCracken**



PROPERTY'S COVID YEAR – PIVOTING IN THE WIND!

COVID-19 has certainly prevented Property Team from group project activities and the associated and important comraderie. The Church closure presented a major opportunity for undertaking some long deferred Property maintenance work such as painting inside and outside the building.

The work with the Church Re-opening Team required identification and sourcing opening materials such a floor marking, plexiglass shields and sanitation materials. Each requirement had an associated secondary requirement, such as the need to protect the new floors in the new addition and renovations with two coats of sealer/ polish, specific to the flooring material, to prevent permanent marking of the floor. Similarly, all the paper hand towel dispensers had to be changed to ones that

dispensed the towel free from the holder, etc.

With the floors shining due to several coats of wax/ protector and significantly reduced wear and tear, my relationship with Barry became much closer given he needed to productively fill his reduced hours. My spirits were lifted when I discovered he was willing to undertake Property Team duties beyond custodial and was an experienced painter. Providing Barry, monthly, with a two page itemized list of tasks plus time sheet, the Property Team tasks were completed.

Since Tanya and Barry were working reduced and irregular hours, it was easier for me to arrange and open/close the building for the heating, plumbing, alarm, phone cabling and electrical contractors to repair problems and undertake installations. Finally, there was the regular checking of the building to ensure security, external lighting, plumbing and heating were working properly when staff was not in the building.

To sum it up, with the Church closed, I have been continuously busy throughout COVID-19 year with a series of Property matters and surprises such as the elevator and heating failures. I am pleased with all the Property Team tasks Barry has completed while the Church has been closed. The Property Team tasks will continue to be carried out by Barry until the Church re-opens. However, the Public Health requirements when the Church opens are unknown but it is anticipated that the vaccinated Property Team will once again come together and undertake tasks, in preparation.

Gord Bell, Coordinator, Property Team



"Anchored"

On the corner of the front lawn of ERMUC, you will see an anchor. As I am writing for 'the Anchor', I am reminded of the 'anchors' I have experienced during this past year.

At the beginning of the pandemic my household, and likely yours too, was anchored to the television, watching news updates, continually. It was fear-inspiring, to say the least. On one foray into the outside world I

snapped at a young shopper who invaded my space, returning to the car shaking with shame. My behavior shocked me! Fear had to go! I needed to find ways to feel safe that did not make others feel unsafe. As much as I had no control over the pandemic I could control my response to it. After all, I want to heed God's call, and live a life that makes a difference in the world.

The nightly walk Stephen and I take throughout our neighbourhood has become one anchor upon which I rely. The night-sky throughout this year has revealed many wondrous sights: the comet Neo-wise, the alignment of Jupiter with Saturn, incredible moon halos. The regular movement of stars and their constellations remind me of God's grandeur and constancy. I stand in awe, anchored in time and place.

Early on, I recognized that the passage of time: months, days and hours of the day, were becoming meaningless. I was reminded again, last week, when I forgot the day was Thursday, and missed my session with our Lenten series, how important time anchors are.

Initially, starting last March, Sunday worship became the defining anchor to my week. I am grateful for the efforts of our church and our tech crew who have worked so hard to make weekly worship possible. They are guiding us all toward comfortably connecting through technology.

Interestingly, RingCentral has allowed Spirit Sisters to maintain a strong anchor throughout this past year. Typically, in January and February, attendance drops from twenty-four participants to about eleven or twelve, with at least one winter meeting cancelled due to weather. This year, we have seen between twenty-six and thirty women join RingCentral each month. We share our stories and connect with one another without leaving the comfort of our own home. We are likely wearing our slippers – no one knows the difference!

The technology I love to hate is becoming my friend, an anchor that keeps me connected to family. Last week, our daughter, Elizabeth, instantly captured and shared a cherished moment, through video, of our grandson, Sammy, gloriously laughing at the birds he noticed for the first time. While I would prefer face-to-face contact I am grateful for the technology that allows me to remain anchored to my children, and them to me.

I am less afraid of the outside world now and less anxious about using technology. We are a people, anchored in God's love, to one another, and the world around us. May all our anchors hold!

Linda Delve



Where do I begin?

For me a new reality began the summer of '19.

It was time. I sold the house that had been home for thirty years and moved onto a lovely brand new apartment at Kingsbridge. I loved it. No more cleaning and cooking, new folk to meet, new experiences to be had, and most of my life as usual: study groups, bridge, choir, concerts, theatre, impromptu luncheons, movies, fish and chips at the pub with El and Alli, and on Sun, church with my church family and lunch out with friends. Even my ancient 17 yr old Toyota was purring like a kitten and getting me anywhere I wanted to go. Every morning I said, "thank you" for the wonderful life I was living.

Then suddenly, just a year ago, it all came to an abrupt end. A dangerous virus was threatening. It started with a directive - only two to a table in the dining room, the pool was closed til further notice, exercise class limited to five, no large gatherings. Very soon after, it was "lock down." We were all confined to barracks. Meals were delivered to the apartment by our masked staff, no in house visiting allowed, no trips outside and no visitors inside. Suddenly the phone, the iPad, the CD player, the radio, and the piano became much more important than they had ever been before- the link to the outside world, family, friends, entertainment and the news.

But not long after, a glimmer of hope, something we had never heard of Ring Central. I could go to church on Sun. Just the basics to begin with, but in no time, church as usual. There was Patti with her bell and announcements, Barb reading the lesson,

Steve with prayers of the people, Bill or Joe in the pulpit from home, wonderful live music from our choirs, beautiful pictures of home from Craig, and these days, the positive messages from Michelle, who I hope to meet in person one day soon. It was an oasis of normalcy in an increasingly weird world and has remained so ever since.

About a month into this daughter Susie convinced me to join her in Ottawa "for the duration." Subsequently, we found that we enjoyed living together and in Sept. I pulled up stakes once again and moved to Ottawa with her. Life is good here but Sun morning finds me back home in the Kingston that I love.

All of this isolation has finally given me time to think a little more about the things that really matter in this world of mine. One thing that I have come to realize is how important people have been in my life. Not just my family and friends but all the other folk, Pat the postmistress, Kin the pharmacist, my garage mechanic, the checkout folk at the Metro, etc. etc. Every person I have encountered, and there must have been hundreds by now, has in some way big or small, informed, changed, and enriched my life. I could not have been more blessed.

Stay safe my friends. We will all be together again soon.

Tysie Mitchell



Reflecting On Our Journey Together!



As we celebrate Easter 2021 and the teachings of Christ rising from the tomb, we must remember his instructions, **"Where two or three have gathered, I will be there"**. I am sure that includes gathering online in RingCentral. We need to give thanks. Thanks for what COVID-19 has gifted us! I don't mean the virus and the terrible social, economical and health effects it has brought to every corner of our world. I mean the gift of showing what is really important to us. And of everyone who has worked so hard over the past year of to continue the ministries of Edith Rankin Memorial United Church.



In this Anchor we have heard of people talking of joy and laughter, tears and sadness, hope and faith. This are all because of the Council, staff, people behind the scenes, those that join us each week, virtually and to those that are unable to. In other words-our community.

How far we have grown as a community of faith. Faith in the way we celebrate, that 12 months ago no one would have imagined. How many of us will think of the word ZOOM not as going fast, but a way of staying in touch?

Yes it has been hard. I remember Council making the difficult but right decision to go into lock down. I think of how the Re-opening Committees worked to come up with a plan that would ensure that our eventual re-opening will be both safe and welcoming. Yes we miss seeing live flesh and blood people in the pews or in our groups, but here we are still gathering, all be it virtually. I especially miss the smiles behind our masks. Maybe after all this is done, we will have to have a **Smile Party**. But until then we continue on this journey. Please take a second to give thanks for what we have and what COVID-19 has gifted us. That gift still being a community of faith.

Paul Carl

And yes this journey is still is to be continued...

El Salvador

Some of the worst poverty that you will ever see lies in the barrio of San Jacinto, a section of San Salvador, the capital city of El Salvador. The twin afflictions of poverty and gang violence plague this area. Shacks made of corrugated metal with little shelter from the elements, no security nor privacy house a mom and a dad and several kids.

And yet, you will never see people more thankful for what they receive from us or other donors. Notes of gratitude regularly arrive at our church from children and parents who we support, some as recently as last week. Much of the money we send goes to support the Scholarship Program so that parents, who want their children to attend Collegio Bautiste Emmanuel but cannot afford to pay the tuition, give their children an opportunity to obtain a first-rate education and to plan for college or university after completion of the program. This is something we take for granted here in Canada, but an opportunity of a lifetime for these children and parents.

The Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel community has been hit hard by Covid, its resulting job loss, plus several hurricanes that hit the area during the fall of 2020, and their needs are ongoing. We sent US\$5000 to them back in December but if you could consider helping out in their time of extreme need, it would be very much appreciated by the people there. A cheque or e-transfer to the church will be your best, and only options.

Gordon Sinclair



As Women of the UCW we strive to live out our purpose,

"To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service"



ERMUC UCW Annual Worship Service

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Guest Speaker: Joyce Payne

While the UCW will be responsible for this service, UC women of the congregation will be participating. Join us for Joyce's message, *"Being Present"*.



UCW Annual May General Meeting

Tuesday, May 4th at 1:30 p.m. - Virtually via Ring Central

Watch the Weekly Tidings email or contact the church office for more information.

Guest Speaker – Janet Stobie, who has written several books will join us at the beginning of our meeting to speak on *Storytelling and Our Faith*. We are extending an invitation to all United Church members in Kingston to join us – including everyone at ERMUC! After the guest speaker, ERMUC UCW ladies are invited to remain on Ring-Central for a short general meeting. Please go to Janet's website at www.janetstobie.com to see all of her books. They are available for purchase through Amazon.





FündScrip shopping/gift cards can be ordered online!

Visit ermuc.ca/2021/01/25/fundscrip-ongoing/ and enter this invitation code: **FNZ32G**
Place your order and be sure to confirm it before closing the site. Your order will be shipped directly to an address of your choice for \$1.04. You can order up to 4 cards at a time, or \$500 worth.
For more information on how to order your **FündScrip Cards** go to the website above or call Sharon **613 544 6802**

A Reflective Rant..... Again



Click On Mike's Picture To View Rant Video

Tired of all this COVID-NESS? Have a listen to this, presented at our concert in late November. Mike's sense of humour is sure to make you smile!

**Mike's
Coronavirus
Rant**



Join us for Virtual Worship Services Online
Sunday at 10 am

Link will be sent out via the Weekly Tidings email
or call the church office for the worship service toll-free number.



RingCentral®
Meetings

Virtual Services Etiquette

- Mute microphone when not speaking or speaking to someone not online
- Leave microphone muted when muted by Media Team as the service is being recorded
- Rename yourself so people know who you are
- Beware of background
- Don't do other private things with camera on & microphone unmuted
- Dress appropriately
- Keep in mind that people aren't just seeing you, they're also seeing whatever the camera is pointed at behind you.
- Try to look into the camera
- Test your camera & microphone before the meeting.



COVID-19 Information and Updates

The Council of Elders has decided to continue in **STAGE 1** of the COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan with NO in-person worship services or group gatherings in the church building in order to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The goal is to ensure we have practices and protocols in place that keep our congregation a safe place for everyone. Council will re-assess this policy regularly and post any updates as required. You will be kept informed of developments through this website, Tidings and announcements on the church phone.

For more information please go to: <https://ermuc.ca/covid-19-info/>