

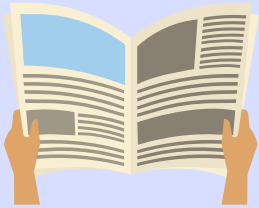
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# This Week at St. Andrew's

June 17, 2020



## Presbyterian Connection



The Summer edition of the Presbyterian Connection newspaper is available. Remember, you can view this paper online or subscribe to have it delivered to you at home. [Click here](#) for the digital edition and information on subscriptions. Read the summer edition and look out for a piece about our very own recitals!

## Pandemic Brings New Opportunities to be Community



A little while back, the government of Canada joined other countries and endorsed the use of non-medical face masks for situations when physical distancing is difficult to maintain. Suddenly there was a demand for masks in Victoria and local makers have been meeting it.

Mask-making has become of source of income and comfort for people during the uncertainties of the pandemic. The local Facebook group that matches mask-makers with buyers has almost 2,000 members.

Scrolling through the posts and comments are many positive interactions between people who may never have met otherwise. A member offers to share her fabric stash with strangers. A First Nations woman tells the group how mask-making has helped her support her community. Members come together to make free masks for the homeless community. A young person gets advice on setting up a sewing machine for the first time.

Along with the cheers for healthcare workers; the recognition of the importance of grocery clerks and delivery drivers; and a renewed appreciation for some of the slower, simpler things in life- this is just another place where acts of community and hope have sprung up during the Covid-19 pandemic.

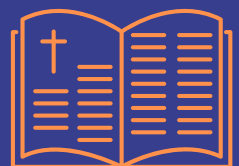
**Note:** The government of Canada suggests non-medical masks for people without breathing problems when physical distancing is hard to maintain such as in stores and on public transit. [Click here for information.](#)



[Click here](#) for a sing-along video of the hymn "To Abraham and Sarah"

## Read From Your Bible This Week

Genesis 21:8-21 and  
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39



# Pastor's Parable

The world and the city are emerging (of sorts) from our 3-month cocoon. The signs are everywhere that there is movement, energy and the beginning of emerging activity. What about activity at St. Andrew's? When will we emerge and test the waters by returning to live worship within our sanctuary? While virtual worship has been well-received and will continue even past the time that we re-engage live worship within the sanctuary, we know there is no substitute for worshipping together in person.

A Session Task Force has been formed and begun meeting to begin to weigh the options and the risks about when and how to return to the sanctuary. They will look at all options, research the best medical directives and determine our own re-entry procedures.

Session will not make their decision-making process lightly. They understand the risks and have every desire to make wise and informed decisions. Session is under no rush to resume live worship within our sanctuary before August or September. As the Presbyterian Church in Calgary whose attempt to meet in person when it was unsafe and suffered dire consequences as a result, the church said in response, "We wish we had a do-over." St. Andrew's is not interested in creating a situation that leaves room for a risky re-entry.

To that end, we need your thoughtful feedback. Our elders will be posing the following questions during the coming days. We ask you to consider your own responses, write them down and send them to your **elder**, to **me** or to our **office** so they might serve as a basis for our re-entry considerations. If you have questions that you wish to speak to your elder or to myself about, we would welcome your contact. Please submit your answers by Sunday, June 28. Thank you!!!

A)What would make you feel safe/comfortable to attend worship in the sanctuary?

B)What are the barriers to you personally attending worship in the sanctuary?

Remember the encouragement in Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4-7

It is with sadness that we inform you that Alex Brown died on June 8th. Alex had served as an elder and he and his wife May have been long time members of our congregation. They were both very active until their activities became restricted by ill health. Alex died in hospice after a very brief time in the hospital.

A funeral celebration for Alex will be planned and conducted when it is safe to do so. There will be an obituary in the Times Colonist in the near future. Please remember May in your prayers. Alex's death leaves her sad and very confused.

