



SILVER SPIRE UNITED CHURCH

LEARNING | LIVING | LOVING | AFFIRMING

Join us for Worship [online](#) and in person this Sunday at 10:30 am.

Thank you to the many people who have volunteered their time to support our worship on Sunday.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE:

I received a link to an article from a friend of mine who belongs to PFLAG Niagara. PFLAG Canada "is proud to be Canada's only national organization that offers peer-to-peer support striving to help all Canadians with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression." As an affirming church, we are supporters and allies of organizations such as these. She was alerting me to "a call to pastors to stand united on biblical sexual morality." I'm including links to the articles at the end of this message. Warning – they are horrific and filled with harmful rhetoric and theology. I followed up with a Facebook post on our church page and my personal page denouncing this call to action which was particularly targeting Bill C-4 – the anti-conversion therapy bill in Canada and similar bills in the U.S.

It was particularly serendipitous that we happen to be tackling the "Texts of Terror" in Church After Dark next weekend. It's a time when we can look at the biblical texts and really interpret what they were getting at, in their time and their situations. Theology is dangerous. I saw a bumper sticker/T-shirt which I must get that says Bad Theology Kills! And it is so true. When we wield the gospel in a way that hurts folks and denies their identities as images of God, I feel we are sinning. I am often asked if I preach the Bible... well of course we do! With our entire intellect, our entire beings.

Once again this a reminder that we are all children of God, made in the image of God, wholly loved and glorified – in God. It's not enough to say that or believe it - Love is an action.

Blessings

<https://www.gracechurch.org/news/posts/2307?fbclid=IwAR0ic0P5GKqxYgDIk8x9pSGp0H2kyXPM8GRyFHtgE4Dhv540HuKf0jJTswM>

Rev. Karen

WORSHIP

Live Streaming of Worship: Silver Spire is livestreaming worship each Sunday. You can find this week's service and past services at <https://venue.streamspot.com/8ee74d5a>, or on our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCRzdnq0-FWnooHB9LDQE1Q/>

Worship by Phone: Our Pastoral Care team wants to connect those without a computer to a recording of our Sunday Service. Dial **905-228-0272** and you will hear a recording of the previous Sunday Service. Each Monday morning the previous Sunday Service will be available.

Order of Service: Please [click here](#) see a copy of this Sunday's Order of Service.

Back to Church Team Update: Our goal is to abide by the provincial regulations and limit the contacts of staff and congregants as Omicron is so transmissible. We need to remember to be vigilant in observing the COVID protocols (physically distance by staying 6 feet apart, wear a 3-ply medical mask that covers the mouth and nose, use hand sanitizer, stay home if you are feeling unwell). Safety must be first in all we do.

When you sit in the pews, make sure the green tape is behind you, not beside you or further down the pew. The green tape makes sure we are 6 feet apart. Even though we assume that people are fully vaccinated, and/or boosted, it is easy to let down our guard. For worship, people do not need to show proof of vaccination to attend. And even though people are vaccinated they can carry the virus to others or become ill themselves.

The church will be open for worship for those who feel that they need to attend. It will continue to be on-line for viewing at home. People can also access the sermon via the telephone.

The church will be closed to the public at all other times. If you do need to come to the church for some reason, contact the person you will meet or call the church office to make an appointment. Our staff will work remotely when possible.

Committee and team meetings will be held on Zoom.

The following will be **CANCELLED** until further notice – **all in-person groups, meetings and get-togethers, Morning Prayer, short term or one time rentals, UCW meat pie making, Zumba, choir practice, etc.**

Out of the Cold will continue with a maximum of five people working in the kitchen, always masked. The take-out dinners will continue.

AA, NA and CA will continue with physical distancing and masks.

The shower program will run as usual.

The Bear Clan Patrol continues on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Our long term renters will monitor themselves and follow all provincial regulations.

We all love the music in the church and it is a very big part of our worship experience. Since the arrival of the Omicron variant we are asking that congregants do not sing. The choir will be limited to three to five members who will be six feet apart, using individual microphones and always masked. We all love the music and it adds so much to our worship but we must be safe.

Thank you all for adhering to these protocols at Silver Spire. Please reach out to one of the team members if you have suggestions, questions or concerns. The

team members are: Shirley Scott (chair), Rev. Jane, Rev. Karen, David and Kathy Reid, Anne Scott and Mary Kowalchuk.

Sunday Morning Seating: It has been wonderful to see all of you returning to worship. As we are still maintaining social distancing, we encourage those who are able to sit in our balcony. This makes more room on the main floor.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Rev. Jane's 2022 Holidays and Sabbatical: Rev. Jane will be on holidays January 3 - 9th. In the office January 10 - 16th and then on study leave January 17th -21st. Her last Sunday before her sabbatical will be January 23rd (returning March 29th). Please hold Rev. Jane in your prayers during her sabbatical, that this may be a time of rest and renewal.

Care for the Soul is a monthly small group that meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month, either in the afternoon from 1-3:30 pm, or in the evening from 7-9 pm. It is a Circle of Trust, where we share a safe space to reflect on a poem, art, music, or wisdom literature, and learn how to support each other in living with enhanced integrity and authenticity from day to day. Attendance is not mandatory each month as each gathering is self contained - perhaps you would like to consider joining one month to start this 2022 year! Call Sue Empringham at 905-708-2116 for further information.

Thursday Coffee Hour is taking a break while this COVID wave goes by. Watch here for when we start to gather again.

The United Church of Canada has made a commitment to becoming an anti-racist church. What does this mean for you and for me?

Join us this winter as we read books of fiction and non-fiction, poems, and watch Hollywood movies and documentaries as we engage in Indigenous Justice.

Taking place on **Sunday evenings at 7:00**, discussion for 1.5 hours

January 16 - Andrew Balfour - Selkirk Ave and Take the Indian - Musical

Compositions

January 30 - 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act - Book by Bob Joseph

February 13 - nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up - Documentary

February 27 - The Other Side of the River - Book by Alf Dumont

March 13 - The Grizzlies - Hollywood Movie

March 27 - The Marrow Thieves - Book by Cherie Simaline

April 10 - Oka - Podcast by Commons (Real Estate series)

April 24 - The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open - Canadian Film

For more information and to register...

<https://hfrucc.ca/racism-is-a-pandemic/>

Please visit <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/mohawk-institute-residential-school-virtual-tour-now-available-online/> for more information.

Virtual Tour: Please join First Grantham, Mountainview, and Silver Spire United Churches in a **Virtual Tour of Woodland Cultural Centre**, the former Mohawk Institute Residential School in Brantford, Ontario. The virtual tour is **January 25 at 2:00 pm.**

The virtual tour is part of the Woodland Cultural Centres campaign to raise awareness and support for the restoration of the former Mohawk Institute Residential school, and to develop the building into an interpreted Hirstoric Site and Educational resource.

This tour presents a screening of the Mohawk Institute Residential School as a fundraiser for the Save the Evidence fundraising campaign.

Please register for the link at office@firstgrantham.ca or 905 935 5369 x 200

Living Room Conversations: You are warmly invited to consider joining a small monthly Living room conversation group which will connect you with a few congregation members for meaningful discussions on timely topics. The hope is to have these rotate in homes once the pandemic dies out - meanwhile they will be online. One group is already meeting (this month's topic is Fear vs. Courage), and

if you would like to be part of something like this, please contact Sue Empringham at 905-708-2116. There is no commitment expected if you would just like to try one gathering!

Pageturners will be meeting online for the time being. Contact Rev. Karen with any questions, concerns or if you're interested in joining!

Outreach Needs – Feel Free to Donate!

The Drop-in Centre can use:

- Gloves
- Men's boxer-briefs
- Women's underwear
- Deodorant
- T-shirts
- \$25 Giant Tiger gift cards are a big help for the pantry!

Donations: There are many alternatives to handing in your offertory envelope on a Sunday morning. You can...

1) Sign up for PAR: follow the instructions on the link for the forms and mailing address

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/giving-monthly-through-par>

2) Donate through <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12599>

3) Or you can send in your cheque by snail mail. Our address is 366 St. Paul St., St Catharines, L2R 3N2

E-transfers: Silver Spire can now accept e-transfers! As a new option to donate to the church, we are accepting e-transfers to the email finance@silverspire.ca. **Please note:** If you are a new donor to the church, please provide your full name and mailing address in the comment section, so we are able to send you a tax receipt at the end of the year.

CONTACT US

Rev. Jane: rev.jane.capstick@silverspire.ca 289-686-7215

Rev. Karen: rev.karen.orlandi@silverspire.ca 289-990-2905

Lynne: lynne.honsberger@silverspire.ca

Meggan: office@silverspire.ca