

Notes from meeting Apr 24th at 11:30am after church service

1. Community Needs

- Food Bank -need for food assistance but not sure how best to do it
- Building up community in the neighbourhood through events including other churches and neighbours
- Support and service for those who can't/don't feel comfortable being physically present in the church – better sound system, hearing assisting equipment, have social events so they will come into the building and lose fear of doing that
- Events for families/children
- Assist those with challenges while taking part in activities in the building such as hearing problems, sight problems.

2. Ministries We Can do to Meet Community Needs

- a) Deacon's cupboard - Quite a few folks want to continue to provide support for those in need of assistance in regards to groceries. Discussion around doing a hybrid of supporting the large food bank at the Baptist Church on Pape and keeping our small cupboard stocked. Discussion that we perhaps need to make sure the items we have are suitable for the homeless ie easy open, don't need cooking, include utensils and should be items that will be helpful to them (not what we would consider a balanced diet but one with lots of sugar and starch is what they require) also need to find 2 people willing to run the ministry as the two who have been doing it for quite awhile need a break.
- b) Building Community – could we have social events and include other churches and neighbourhoods. Things such as BBQ's, sing-a-longs outside, community lunches on a regular basis. Establish a drop in coffee time for Mom's or seniors held regularly. Reinstate Author's night where an author comes and talks about their book, used to have this and it was very popular. It was run by U of T bookstore. Local bookstore would be interested in having a sale held at the church. Have someone from the Astronomy branch of U of T come and give a presentation. Have a Pet Blessing for the neighbourhood. Have the churches do more things together then just Good Friday such as singing in a park. Have some music concerts at the church, maybe during weekends or at lunch hours.

- c) Assist those with challenges while taking part in things at the church – continue to have zoom meetings and have the services on zoom, would be beneficial in bad weather and also because of the parking situation. Would also mean folks who live away from the area can take part. Look into a new sound system or hearing assistance program.
- d) Family/Children's Ministry – return the children's corner items so that they have something to do when they come. Look at starting children's programs and Sunday School.
- e) Outreach – Kennedy House – continue with the ministry we have done and maybe start some new events. We are in discussion with them and one of our members is hopefully going to start giving those interested painting lessons. There is a possibility that they may even be able to have a table at the Art Show to sell their work and give the funds to Kennedy House. Looking into doing something for Canada Day with the youth as well.
- f) Outreach – become more proactive in encouraging folks to get vaccinated, do educational programs, offer our space for vaccinations to happen etc. Once our accessibility renovation is complete use our sign board to publicize local events and our events to those walking past.

While this meeting was about our ministry in the community several items for internal ministry came up.

1. That a screen be set up inside the church so that we wouldn't have to use books, entire service would be put up on the screen.
2. That we begin singing the service again – while we are still wearing masks which helps, singing is being asked to be kept to a minimum by the Diocese as projecting your voice sends moisture out and the masks most of us are wearing aren't as protective to that as we often think. The restrictions are scheduled to be removed on June 5th and at that point we will look into when we should start doing this again.