



Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Psalm 98: 1

January 3, 2021

*Happy New Year from your friends at Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Alma.*

*The saying goes an optimist stays up to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to see the old year out. I think a lot of us are happy to see the end of 2020. We were hoping for so much more from the new decade. As we head into 2021, let us reignite our hopes for the decade just begun. We have learned a lot about our world in 2020. Let us use what we have learned to make an even better 2021.*

### **Pandemic Worship Update**

As we enter 2021, we have again suspended in-person services. The weekly services of worship continue to be available through Knox's Facebook Page. The Sessions of St. Andrew's and Knox will notify you, when they decide it is safe to resume services. To reiterate, even if the Ontario Government lifts its restrictions the end of January, it does not mean that we will automatically resume in-person services. We will keep you posted.

If the government lifts its restrictions on gathering we may attempt to tape more music for the congregation hymns and anthems. For the month of January, we are using the material we have already recorded. We will let you know.

Let me take this opportunity to again thank all the very talented musicians in our congregations who have so generously shared their time and talents to enliven our on line services.

### **With Sadness**

The sympathy of our community is extended to the Fladd family on the passing of Bob Fladd on December 15th. Bob was a dedicated elder and member of Knox and a well respected member of the Elora community. A memorial service is scheduled for the spring.

Our condolences to the Kabbes family on the passing of Erik's mother, Alice Kabbes on December 25th

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the Robinson family on the sudden passing of Bill on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Bill's presence will be missed in the Alma Community.

### **Annual Reports**

We are not sure when our Annual meetings will be this year. It all depends on how the pandemic numbers are tracking. Regardless, Knox people, if you could get your Annual Reports in to Jean as soon as possible, it would be greatly appreciated. Your working deadline is Sunday, January 31, 2021.

## **Winter Bible Study**

Coming the middle of February on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. a Bible Study based on the Lenten Study: A Way Other than our own by Walter Brueggemann. We used his Advent Study: Celebrating Abundance in 2019. If we are open for in-person activities by then I am going to attempt a combination of Zoom and in-person. If not, it will be by Zoom and a variation on a bubble group. (It's a work in progress.) The study guide will be available the end of January.

## **Knox Box**

The Knox Box has received lots of traffic over the course of the pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of our community the box now contains, socks and masks, along with the usual books, dry goods, hats, mitts and scarves. We are running low on books for all ages. If you have any to donate, let me know or drop them off at the manse. Thank you.

## **Prayer Chain**

It has been difficult during the pandemic to keep in touch with the prayer needs of the pastoral charge. It has been suggested that we organize a prayer chain. If you would be interested in this ministry, please let me know. Sylvia and I are working out the mechanics of how it would work.

## **Pictures with Santa**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Pictures with Santa Fundraiser for the Knox Steeple. A Very BIG THANK YOU to Steve T, Ron (Santa) and the Edison Singers for two wonderful afternoons. The event raised over \$1500 with donations continuing to come in.

## **Givings**

A reminder, that both St. Andrew's (8 Peel Street, Alma) and Knox (51 Church St. E, Elora), are able to accept donations by cheque or Knox also accepts e-transfers via email and online donations through our website at [www.knoxelora.ca](http://www.knoxelora.ca). There may be delay in distribution of receipts this year, as they will have to be mailed or hand delivered.

## **And finally, the funny**

A hospital administrator was once startled to see a patient fleeing down the hall out of the operating room, his loose hospital gown flapping in the breeze behind him. He stopped the fleeing patient and said, "Do you mind telling me why you ran away from the operating room?" The patient looked at him with startled eyes and said, "It was because of what the nurse said."

The administrator said "Oh, what did she say?"

She said, "Be brave! An appendectomy is quite simple."

The administrator looked a bit confused and said, "Well, so what? It is quite simple. I would think that would comfort you."

The patient said "Are you kidding, the nurse wasn't talking to me; she was talking to the doctor."

*If you have anything you would like to include in an upcoming newsletter, please contact me [revsvclarke@yahoo.ca](mailto:revsvclarke@yahoo.ca)/[minister@wightman.ca](mailto:minister@wightman.ca) or call 226 369 0131. Our next newsletter will be February 3, 2021.*

*Happy New Year. New Year, Same Jesus.*

*Susan V Clarke*