



Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
Matthew 22: 37

February 1, 2022

Welcome to February. I always think that when January is behind us that we are well on our way to the end of winter. That of course remains to be seen. It does seem like a bit of shame to rush the seasons along. Each season is a remarkable gift from God. All serving a purpose in the cycle of creation. Winter offers us a time to rest and reflect. It gives us an opportunity to plan for spring planting. It makes us appreciate the warmth of summer and the kaleidoscope of colours in Autumn. Winter brings with it its own marvels, the sparkle of snow, the crunch of footsteps and the wonder of sunlight reflected off the trees. This may not be the season of stop and smell the roses but is the season of stop and see the glow of a sunset off snow.

Pandemic Update

On January 31st, the government of Ontario raised the number of persons allowed to gather in doors from five to ten. (This restriction did not include public services of worship which was set at 50%) A survey taken of the elders of Knox, agreed with letting groups resume meeting in the church hall provided they were under the ten. If you participate or lead a group which would now qualify to meet, please let Mary M at the Knox Office know. This is for scheduling purposes only. We need to keep track of who is using the church and when.

With Thanks

A word of thanks to our Free Coffee Friday partners, Elora Cafe, Wreckless Eric's and Lost and Found Cafe and the Covid Assistance Fund of the the Presbytery of Waterloo Wellington. I heard from quite a few very cheerful recipients of a free coffee.

Communion

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on March 6th. You are reminded that Covid Protocols are still in place. You are asked to bring your own elements with you.

Annual Reports and Meetings

The Annual Meeting for **St. Andrew's** will follow the service of worship on Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 10:30 am.

The Annual Meeting for **Knox** will follow the service of worship on Sunday, February 27, 2022 at noon. The deadline for Annual Reports was January 30th. The reports will be available for distribution the middle of February.

Next **Food Bank Sundays** are February 6, 2022 and March 6, 2022

Lenten Bible Study

Monday Nights beginning March 21 and working until April 11, at 7:00 p.m, Rev. Clarke will be leading a Lenten Study based on A Way Other than our Own by Walter Brueggemann at St. Andrew's. (Covid protocols allowing) There are copies of the study available through the Knox office or by contacting Rev. Clarke. You do not have to participate in the group study to borrow one of the guides.

Election of Elders Knox

The Election of Elders has moved to the third and fourth stage. The Session of Knox will meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 for the sole purpose of counting the ballots. We will then proceed to contact the persons receiving the highest number of votes to assess their willingness to service. The Elders will meet again on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting.

As soon as we have had an opportunity to contact candidates, determine if they are willing to serve, and the slate of new elders is approved by Session, we will move to the ordination of elders (or receiving if they are already ordained)

Knox Box

Thank you for your continued support of the Knox Box through the winter months. We are in need of children's books, mitts and socks and food items that won't freeze (soup mixes, Mac and Cheese, tea, coffee, side kicks etc).

Prayer Chain

A quick reminder that our prayer list is first names only. If you have a prayer request, please let me know. (At your request, the person's name will appear on this list.)

Brian	Bob	Richard	Don	Nancy
Stephen	Donna	KnECT	Jeff	Carol
Lynn	Cathy	Mark	Elora United	Robert
Front line workers	The Scott Family	Vi	Wesley	Carol
Wilton Family	St. James	Alma United	Alma Bible Church	Pete

New Admin/Bookkeeper

When you call the Knox office, you will hear a new voice answering the phone. We are pleased to welcome Mary Maxwell to the staff of Knox Presbyterian. Mary lives in Alma and is looking forward to meeting everyone when the pandemic allows.

Winter Weather

If you are unsure of the weather, please stay home and join us on line. If the in person service is canceled your elder will contact you. When in doubt, don't go out.

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. Knox also accepts e-transfers and online donations through our website at 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

An English teacher was well known for being a fair, but hard, grader. One day a student received a B minus on a paper. In hopes of bettering their grade and in the spirit of the Valentine season, they sent her an extravagant heart-shaped box of chocolates with the pre-printed inscription: "BE MINE." The following day, they received a Valentine from the teacher. It read: "Thank you, but it's still BE MINE-US."