



Burton Avenue United Church



April 2, 2020

Dear Friends,

As your newly elected Treasurer, I have been asked by the Executive of the Board to write a note to the congregation to update everyone on our financials during the Covid-19 crisis.

I am grateful for the strong financial foundation that I have inherited. At the end of February our bank account sat just under \$65,000 on the balance sheet. It will bring us through this difficult time and I have deep faith in the dedication of those who call this church their home. Your commitment will sustain us and we will recover and be stronger for this experience.

Many people, including members of our community, are suffering financially because of Covid-19 and we want to acknowledge that if you are currently not able to contribute to the church - we understand. We are here to support each other through this. I have information below with regards to making changes to your regular PAR contributions if needed.

For those of you who are concerned about how to financially support the church while our building is closed, here are some options to consider.

PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) We are grateful for those who contribute to the church through the PAR program. With no Sunday offerings, PAR has continued without interruption. If you wish to increase or decrease your PAR donation amount, no form is needed, just send me an e-mail and I will forward on to the PAR administrator. On our website you can find the PAR cancellation form if you need to take that step. Mail or drop off to the church and we will contact the PAR administrator.

For those of you who normally contribute to this church with a Sunday offering and are concerned about how long these restrictions may go on, you may want to consider setting up a regular PAR transaction. On our website you will find a PAR authorization form. This form can be mailed or dropped off in the church mailbox and I will mail on to the administrator for processing. Or you can mail directly to the United Church PAR administrator at her home address below. DO NOT mail to the address on the form as the General Council staff are working from home.

Rose Cambourne
The United Church of Canada
8 Switzer Street
New Lowell, ON L0M 1N0

Cheques We are grateful that some of you have already mailed in donations through cheques. We have made arrangements that the mail will be picked up every other day and placed in a secure location and Sandy Davidson and I will be in weekly to prepare a deposit. If you send post-dated cheques, they will be stored and only deposited at the appropriate time. Remember to seal the envelope with a wet sponge rather than lick and mail to the office or drop in the church mailbox.

E-Transfers We now have the ability to accept e-transfers directly into the church bank account. You can send them to the treasurer's e-mail at treasurerbauc@outlook.com. Any deposits through e-transfer would be recorded against your donor number and will be included in your end-of-year charitable receipt as any other donation.



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Canada Helps

I have set up BAUC with a Canada Helps account. Canada Helps is a not-for-profit that accepts donations on behalf of other non-for-profits. The cost to BAUC is minimal but the ease of accepting donations is worth it. There will be a “Donate Now” button on the Burton Avenue United Church web page soon but until then you can access the Burton Avenue account by using this link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/burton-avenue-united-church/>

If you have any questions about any of these options, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me.

The church financials aside, there are many in our community who are in need at this time. I asked Christine Naylor, the Chair of the Outreach Committee, for an update on the organizations we regularly support.

The Busby Centre is in need of PPE and cleaning supplies. They are accepting donations at the 88 Mulcaster Street Location from 4:30 to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday. **Youth Haven** is most in need of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Other than that, they are accepting canned or packaged foods that can be wiped down when accepted. Remember to practice good physical distancing when dropping off supplies. **The Barrie Food Bank** is encouraging anyone who would like to make a donation to visit their website at www.barriefoodbank.org and make the donation online or if you would prefer to write a cheque you can mail your donation to Barrie Food Bank P.O. Box 145, Barrie, ON L4M 4S5 rather than delivering it. They reminded us that all funds raised are spent locally with local grocery stores that support them and allow them to stretch their dollars with them.

The Outreach Committee has asked that \$500 cheques be prepared on behalf of BAUC to each of the above organizations and we have also contributed \$500 worth of grocery store gift cards at the request of the Samaritan House for distribution to their clients in need. Christine made the request to make these donations from the Outreach Committee Budget at a special meeting of the Executive Board on March 25. It may seem counter-intuitive to be donating when we too have been hit by the Covid-19 restrictions, but it is exactly the right time. If we have been affected, then those who are fragile will be affected even more.

Lastly, I would like to mention that we have a Benevolent Fund that is administered with confidentiality by Andrea Wheaton and a small group of church members. This fund is intended for emergency financial support to individuals in our community. It may be something to keep in mind as you are reaching out to isolated family, friends and neighbours.

We are a strong church, with or without our building, and I am proud that we have found ways to go out in the world and be a “bright light” through this crisis.

Holding you in God’s Light
Cathy Manzato, Treasurer
treasurerbauc@outlook.com