

June 25, 2021

Dear Friends,

We have a long mission statement – and maybe someday we will shorten it – but it says some good things.

The Mission of Sunnyside Wesleyan Church is to be:

- a place where we experience God’s transforming love through the Holy Spirit, by faith, the Word of God, worship and prayer;
- a people being transformed by the love and grace of Jesus as we practice authentic community;
- a presence of God’s transforming love in Old Ottawa South, across the city and around the world, through acts of generosity, compassion, and outreach.

These next months we will re-establish a sense of *place*: a space or spaces for flesh-and-blood encounter in our church sanctuary and our backyards and homes. We are taking care of our place on 58 Grosvenor Avenue because we have vision for its present and future use. I hear work crews and construction noises in the background, repairing and protecting our physical foundations. Place matters: concrete space set aside for people to experience the love of God.

This next year we will refresh and grow as *a people* who practice authentic community. The face on Sunnyside Wesleyan has changed; we have quite a few newcomers. Be ready to be open. If you are a long timer, get ready to enjoy and receive from new friends. What does it mean to practice *authentic* community? To be authentic is to be fully human, that is, to embody the life and way of Christ. A key Christ-like priority is to be receivers and givers of love and grace.

We will continue to be a *presence* of God’s transforming love. The generosity in and through our community this past year has been beautiful. Let’s keep it going. God is the God of fullness, abundance, more-than-enough. May we relax and freely be channels of God’s blessing. I heard it said this week that in God’s world giving-is-receiving.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

“For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1) I am pondering this text and the verses which precede it. What is the freedom Christ has given? How do we unnecessarily step backwards into being bound and restricted? I pray that God will give us freeing insights as we meet on Sunday.

Please [contact me](#) for a Zoom link.

*Please join the Zoom meeting after 9:30 a.m. to avoid problems entering.

For this week’s scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday’s bulletin](#).

Staff Transitions

Welcome to Nathan and Sammantha Huff! They will move into their new home on Saturday (June 26). Nathan is our Pastor of Spiritual Formation (with a major in youth ministries).

On Monday, we will interview a candidate for the position of Pastor of Hospitality (with a major in family ministries).

The dream is to build overlap between our incoming and outgoing team members. July will be a month of honour and welcome.

Our new staff member(s) will begin on July 5th and the whole team will meet during a staff prayer and planning day on July 8th. Let us pray for each other as our community shifts and grows. What a ride!

“May the God of hope will you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

With love and prayers,
Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)