

July 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

Be Willing to Take Jesus on Board

All who are paddling or motoring our way around Ontario lakes or rivers this summer may want to use our boating times to reflect on what difference it makes to take Jesus on board in our lives.

In John's Gospel (6:16-21), Jesus' disciples are boating across Lake Galilee when a storm sweeps in and rattles them. They strain at the oars for five or six kilometres before they notice a figure approaching their boat, walking on the water. That freaks them out. But the figure – Jesus – states, "It is I; don't be afraid." I love the next phrase: "Then *they were willing to take him into the boat*, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading."

We live in a season when, left, right and centre, we are hurt, and angry and grieved by the unjust things people – we – do to other people, sometimes in the name of God. I feel sad and worried that some are choosing to throw God overboard for human failures. God has nothing to do with it. If Jesus Christ is the fully human face of God, then all we see when we carefully trace his life is mercy and justice. Anything not merciful and just is not God. We will do well to take Jesus into our boat rather than throw him out. With him, we'll get to where we long to go. Please pay close attention to Jesus. Perhaps you'd like to (re)acquaint yourself with him through one of the Gospels (Good News) in the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, and/or let the inspiring entertainment of [The Chosen](#) series help you consider what it means to take Jesus on board.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

On Sunday – the third last Zoom service as we've known them – we will hear about how Jesus fed more than 5,000 people, and we will consider how doable it is to participate in the good things of Christ. No need to hold yourself or others to superhuman expectations. May we reject the urge to be critical of ourselves or others; may the gentle way of Christ be our speed in the Sunnyside Wesleyan Church community. We each do our part and we trust Christ for good, even supernatural, outcomes.

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](#).

Tuesday Zoom Prayer Gathering: July 27 at 11:00 a.m.

Please [email the prayer team](#) to let us know how we may remember you.

Thank you!

...to each one of you who is jumping in to lead and serve as we make our way forward into a new day through Sunday worship gatherings (beginning at the church on Sept. 5), Sunnyside small groups, retreats, youth ministries, and ongoing mutual relationships and outreach in Old Ottawa South and beyond.

Neighbourhood Connections

I had a wonderful time representing us in a Community Pillars meeting this morning with Old Ottawa South leaders representing Seniors Watch Old Ottawa South, Ottawa South Community Association, Ottawa Public Library (Sunnyside branch), Councillor Shawn Menard's office (Capital Ward), Trinity Anglican Church, Southminster United Church, and Abbotsford Community Centre. We have an opportunity to engage in relationships characterized by mutuality and generosity for the common good in our context. I am so excited about the future of Sunnyside Wesleyan Church in relation to the wider Old Ottawa South community. What a privilege it is to be here.

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