

May 1, 2020

Dear friends,

It's May! I am at my desk writing Update 9 during what the Urban Dictionary calls "Coronageddon." I feel like I'm in the movie Groundhog Day. Or like a little kid in the backseat of the car looking out the window saying, "Are we there yet?"

Freedom

If getting "there" means being free from this virus, we are not there yet. Still nothing interrupts the freedom that is ours in Jesus Christ. Freedom from sin – all that ruins, diminishes, kills and cuts us off from God and each other. Freedom to live with and for Christ.

And, being in Love...

I have an old hymn on repeat piping through my earphones, written by a Methodist, William Featherstone (1864). It's the hymn the congregation sang when I was baptized at a Baptist church in Lindsay at the age of 10. Some of the words are in Old English but will you join me on memory lane and give a listen to a more modern rendition of the song [here](#)? (Feel free to skip the ad.)

*My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now...*

This is how I feel. I've been asking Jesus to expand my heart to love him more. I invite you to join me in prayer that we will grow in our love for Jesus. Being in Love changes everything.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

We are free. Not free to do whatever we want. That's not actual freedom. We are free to turn from sin, to repent. We are free to love Christ and to live with and for him. True freedom is one of the highlights in this Sunday's sermon from 1 Peter 2:11-25. Yes, we feel trapped by some life circumstances. But there's not one thing that can block the freedom Jesus offers right now: from sin, for love. It turns out Covid-19 is not so powerful after all.

For Zoom links, [please contact me](#).

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

Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.

For a link to send your child to Sunday School please contact our [Pastor of Family Ministries](#).

There were some technological glitches last week. Zoom has made some upgrades and boosted security. That's a good thing; please accept any upgrades.

Tuesday Daytime Prayer Gathering (May 5)

This week we marked a world record in the Sunnyside prayer team. Joyce Pratt, our resident card writer and all-star encourager, sent out the 1,000th card on behalf of the Sunnyside prayer team. If you've every been a recipient of one of those cards, you know they come right on time with just the words you need to hear for the moment. Thank you to Joyce and the prayer team!

Our prayer team gathers weekly on Tuesday mornings at 11:30 a.m. You are welcome to [reach out with your requests](#).

Working with the Church of Ottawa to Reach Out: Respond Ottawa

Under the umbrella of Love Ottawa, the Respond Ottawa C-19 task force is “working to connect churches and organizations to ensure that urgent and critical needs that have risen from the Covid-19 crisis are being met.” Please check out the [Respond Ottawa](#) website for a variety of ways to give and to receive help. There is no need for us to reinvent the wheel; Sunnyside is now connected with Respond Ottawa, with our Mission and Outreach team lead as the point person.

Be at Peace

I leave you with a prayerful poem by 17th century Bishop of Geneva, Francis de Sales. My friend sent it to me this week. I thought you might find it encouraging:

*Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life;
Rather look to them with full hope that as they arise,
God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things;
And when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms.
Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
The same everlasting Father who cares for you today
will take care of you today and every day.
He will either shield you from suffering or will give you
unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.*

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)