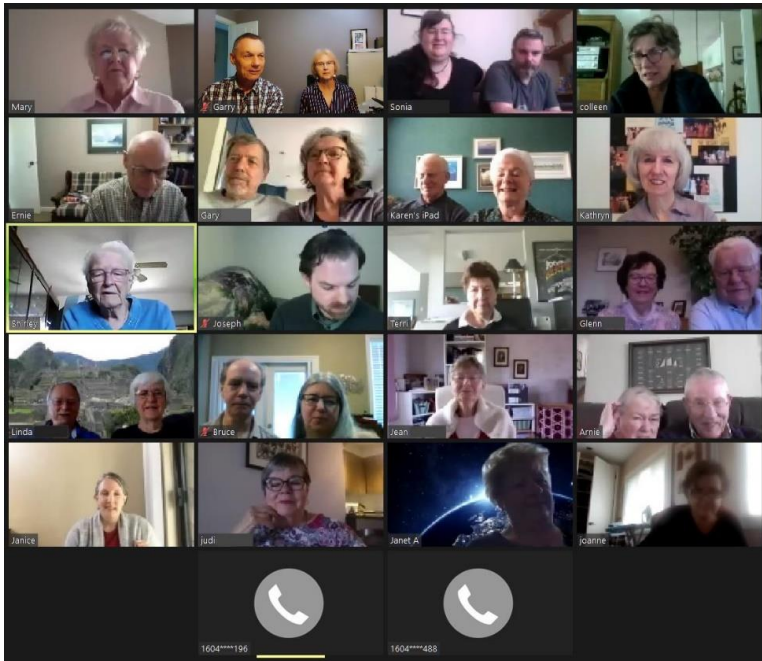


LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

Deer Lake Adapts – and Thrives!

By Garry F



The new normal: Sunday fellowship time via Zoom

This is just one example of the new normal at Deer Lake. We miss the physical aspects of what was normal church time not so long ago: passing the peace, sharing communion, singing hymns, enjoying coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall. It was all so comfortingly familiar.

The human necessity for social interaction, our desire to continue Christian worship and the need to continue the business of the church have required us to adapt. And adapt we have. There are many of us who had seldom watched a YouTube video and even fewer who had engaged in a video conference. Now, with newly learned skills, we routinely click on a link to watch or listen to the Sunday worship service streamed on YouTube. Then, as the service comes to an end we eagerly click another link to join the fellowship time in Zoom. Who would have thought it three months ago?

Vision Statement

Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages that explores and expresses spirituality through:

- worship and music
- fun and fellowship
- caring and outreach
- involvement and growth

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An expanded *What's Up* now fills an ever greater need to keep everyone informed. Worship continues; the choir, men's group, and women's walking group all meet weekly to stay in touch; Board meetings go on; even annual retreats happen! All with the assistance of our digital devices and internet connections. This will be the new normal for the foreseeable future.

Two particularly difficult aspects of life in COVID times have related to our clergy. The first was our inability to adequately thank Rev. Brian Burke for his invaluable service. We were reduced to presenting him with a *digital* cake! (Rumor has it, though, that several *real* cakes will make their way to his door when this is all over.) The second was our inability to properly welcome Joseph Kyser, our new full-time minister. Nevertheless, he has done a wonderful job of introducing himself to us and leading us in meaningful worship on YouTube.

In the articles that follow, Joseph shares his plans for the coming weeks and months, and Dana describes in more detail the ways in which we have adapted to our current times. It's not easy but we are adapting and thriving, and Joseph's plans promise even better things to come. Read on!



Breath, Uncertainty, Grief, Chaos

These are the words that have filled my mind this past month, and I have invited you to take a moment to share in reflecting upon them. Of course, this is not inclusive of all that we have been thinking and feeling over the last few weeks and months. I fortunately have more than 25 Sundays in 2020 to continue this rollercoaster of a ride with you. Luckily, rollercoasters require a seat belt these days so while the ride may be rough, if we hang onto our faith, we will remain grounded until the ride slows down to become a more steady pace. Until then, let's buckle up!

And talking about speed, where did May go? Did it feel as fast for you as it did for me? Of course, starting a new job definitely makes the time go by faster. It certainly was not the beginning I personally had in mind, but in the end, I am pleased with all that has occurred. In the month of May many of us transitioned from being a community that met frequently at 5135 Sperling Avenue to one that meets at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/...>(whatever number that follows). And goodness, look at all we are doing online! I have been thrilled to see so many people who have tuned into YouTube to watch the Live-Stream service. I also have appreciated being able to "meet" and see so many faces during Fellowship Time after the worship service. It was a joy to hang out with the men during their annual Men's Retreat, and thanks to technology, I was able to crash in the Women's Retreat for a few minutes. Everyone has been so open and welcoming to me! Thank you for your warmth and your patience with me as I continue to settle into the community.

Looking ahead, I hope we can continue to build community in new (and safe) ways. I have begun to meet with the different committees including the Board, Worship, Communications, and M&P, as well as being in email contact with the Trustees and Pastoral Care committees. I will continue to be reaching out to the other committees in June to set up a meeting with each one to learn about all the wonderful work you have been doing.

I also plan on "Telling Our Stories" in small groups over Zoom starting Monday, June 15. I have sent out an email inviting you to sign up using OneDrive or calling Pam in the office. This will be limited to six people along with myself to meet as we tell our faith stories and begin to converse about what's next for Deer Lake United. There will be multiple date and time offerings to accommodate differing schedules. Each session will be roughly 90 minutes.

Further, I will be starting a mid-week check-in on Wednesdays beginning on June 17 at noon on Zoom for anyone who wishes to build community this way. We will keep to a one-hour check-in for those who are working and checking-in during their lunch break. This will be a time to say hi to each other, as well as take a look inward to care for our spiritual side. I will lead a small devotion at the end of the time to send us out into our days.

Lastly, also starting on June 17 at 7:05 pm, I will be hosting a post-sermon reflection group for congregational discussion and thought on the topic of the previous Sunday's worship service. This will be a great time to bring your musings and your questions to make worship even more engaging and lasting as we continue to process the message during the week.

This part of the rollercoaster has definitely been shaky, and I am quite sure that we will continue to have more changes in the future. Therefore, hold these plans lightly as they might change and adjust depending on participation and the needs of the community. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at: Joseph@dluc.ca. While it may take a few days for me to return non-urgent emails (it's always a weakness of mine), I will reply as soon as I can.

All I can advise, friends, is buckle up! The ride's not over yet - and that just might be a good thing!

See you soon!

Joseph

Social Action

Act Now
Justice Initiatives

Visit
<https://www.united-church.ca/>
to find out what you can do

COVID-19: Global Response

Create a Universal Basic Income Program

Empower the Ombudsperson and Enact Corporate Accountability

Wetsuwet'en and the Right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

Climate Strike: Fridays for Future

Anti-racism

Climate Change

The building is closed, but Church is open!

By Dana J

We may not physically be together, but there's still a lot happening "at" Deer Lake United. We have had two virtual Board meetings – allowing for good discussion and an opportunity to see familiar faces. Our Pastoral Care Team has been exceptional at connecting with the congregation – through phone calls, cards and emails. Our Communications Team has been hard at work keeping us updated and entertained with the weekly What's Up and this Newsletter. Our trusty IT guy (with initials G.F.) has spent many an hour setting up Zoom meetings for different groups and troubleshooting for members who are using Zoom for the first time. And we have finally welcomed into our "church" our new minister, Joseph. What a way to start your very first ministry! Thankfully he is a techy nerd (I don't think he would disagree) and will be taking our virtual services "live", opening them up to not just our congregation or people who receive What's Up, but to anyone who might be interested. We could not have "love-streamed" services with Brian Burke without a huge amount of work from that trusty IT guy I mentioned earlier, and the willingness of people to learn new ways of contributing to worship. Including the recording by Donna of all the music (and choosing an appropriate anthem previously recorded) and the Scripture Readers.

Pam has continued to work at the office on special projects – the perfect time to go through files and set up new processes. She is completely set up to work from home and could do so should the circumstances warrant it. Justin, our Caretaker, has also continued to work at Deer Lake. The Board is working on a COVID-19 Safety Plan for Deer Lake United to keep our staff healthy and safe and set up clear parameters for anyone entering the building. We are in Phase One (following the recommendations of the United Church of Canada General Council and our Pacific Mountain Regional Council) even though the province is now in Phase Two. In-person worship services are not expected to happen again until sometime next year, and

meetings will continue using Zoom or some other virtual platform. This means virtual services for the foreseeable future – and I think Joseph will lead us through this time with humour, grace, compassion and a strong sense of God in our lives. I, for one, have enjoyed his insightful sermons and can see that in change there is grief – for the loss of what was, for what might never be. I think there is also great opportunity and hope in change – and it's inevitable! I hope you're all willing to come along for the ride.

Rev. Graham Brownmiller from Jubilee United has been assigned as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor until Joseph is ordained. The Search Team (Ellen James, Sharon Hamer, Paul Anderson, Trish Seeram, Bruce VanLuven and I) have transitioned into a support team for Joseph for his first year with Deer Lake. We have lovingly dubbed the team "Joseph and the Amazing Non-Technological Dream Team".

At the virtual Women's Retreat I heard the saying "We are all in the same storm – but we're not all in the same boat." That really speaks to me about the many different ways the pandemic has affected people. You start to think about one aspect and then the ripple effect takes it beyond imagining! What does outreach look like right now? How do we identify needs and set up support? How can we be the church differently than we've ever been? Well, that's our challenge, isn't it? Because Church is open!



I said a
Come, come, come in Jesus' name!
Take our hearts by storm.
All the world lies open:
Pentecost is now! Amen.



**Ryan's 11th
Birthday treat**

A Retreat of a Different Stripe

By Garry F

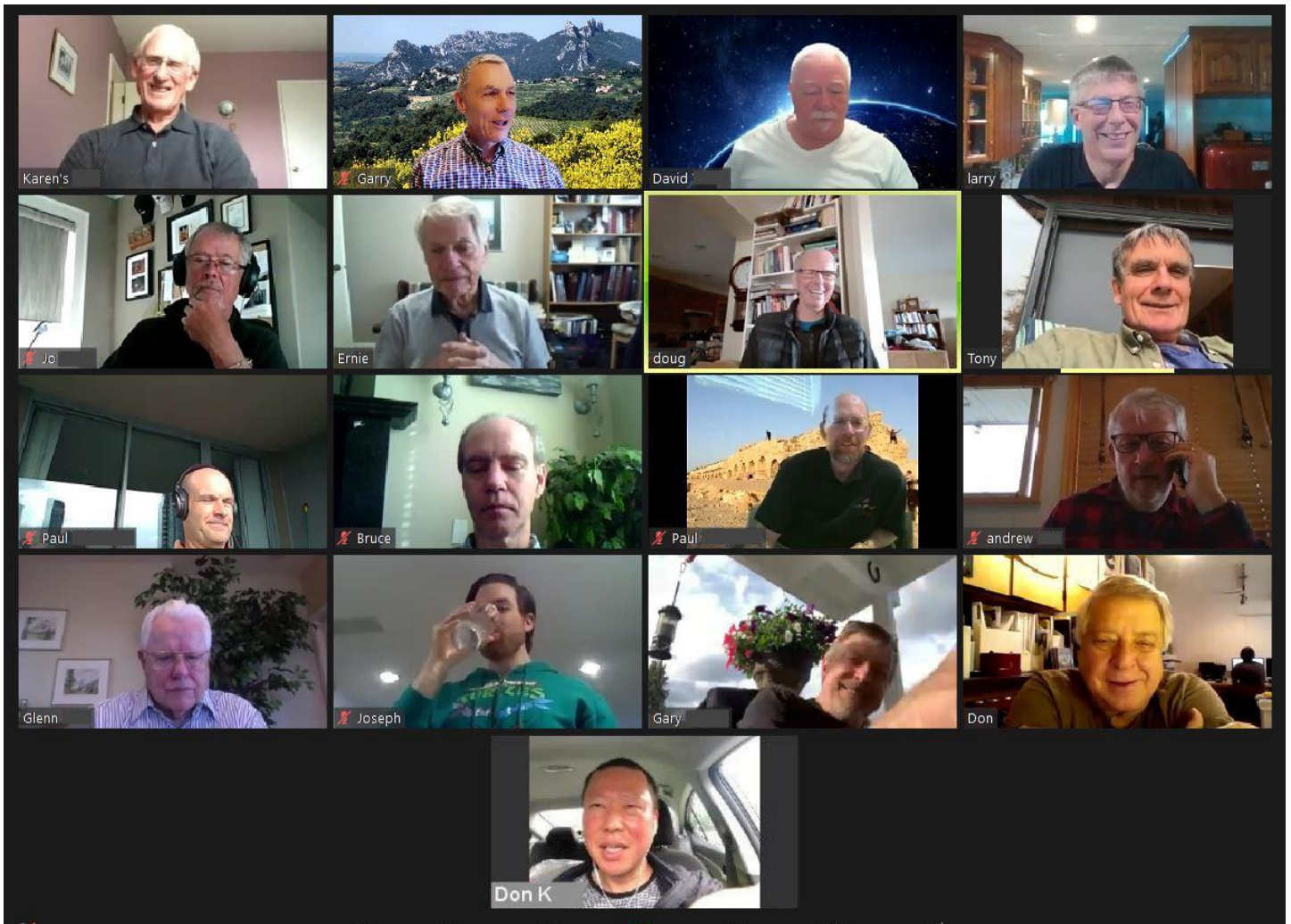
The men’s retreat was certainly different this year. Gone were the carpools and ferry rides. Gone were the vying for prime sleeping spots and segregation of heavy snorers. Gone were lawn darts, tidal bocce and gargantuan beach fires. Gone were lunch at the pub, lasagna, seafood chowder and Bob’s barbecues. Gone were work parties, hikes and naps in the sun. Gone were quiet one-on-one conversations.

Nevertheless, the men settled in front of their digital devices, glass or mug in hand, to continue the tradition of the annual men’s retreat. At four happy hours and the Saturday morning activity, attendance varied from ten to seventeen. Lower than the normal 20 or so to be sure, but the same sense of fellowship prevailed. The jokes and friendly gibes continued.

Instead of one presentation and discussion there were two, both offered by Gary. The first was on disruption and its effects on individuals and society. The second focused on two stories from

“Legends of Vancouver” by Pauline Johnson. The first, “Sisters”, presented the legends around what we now call “The Lions”, those majestic mountain peaks to the north-west of Vancouver. The second, “Deer Lake”, told a tale closer to home of the great Chief Capilano and his battle with a huge seal that somehow made its way from False Creek to Deer Lake. Two very different presentations for a very different men’s retreat.

Yes, it was a retreat of a different stripe this year, but the same sense of supportive camaraderie prevailed. Joseph was there and, although we didn’t have our usual agape service, we were able to enjoy his streamed service on Sunday morning. And a wonderful benefit: some men who have been unable to attend a retreat in the past were able to attend this one. So, the tradition continues and we look forward to next May when, hopefully, we can resume our practice of a true retreat, away from the distractions of home life. May it be so!



Men join one of four happy hours, seemingly from all over (even out of) the world

Piles of Files

By Larry J

Filing... when do we ever get an opportunity to go through files and sort out what to keep, what to archive and what to discard? Well, the answer is: during the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, when we paused our Sunday services and began to explore virtual services and virtual meetings our Office Administrator, Pam, redirected some of her time to filing and archiving. This project was already in progress but was paced by other priorities. Pam's overall objective is to follow United Church of Canada's archiving policies and the COVID-19 pandemic gave Pam more time to work on this project.

DLUC's physical files are housed in several filing cabinets and some committee files are at home with committee members. Pam's process was to inventory all of our files and, with the help of committee Chairs, reorganize the files to ensure that documents are in the right place and also archived or discarded as appropriate.

In this age of computers, many of our files also exist electronically. Pam set-up an electronic folder structure that mirrors the physical file structure. We used a product that we already have a license for, a Microsoft program called OneDrive. Our license allows us to store 5 terabytes of data (that's 5 million megabytes) which is likely more than we will need for the next 20 years.

Pam is the administrator of our OneDrive and she has set-up electronic file folders for the office and for each committee.

BC Pandemic Blues

By Sonia A.

It stalled us—in our tracks and put us flat on our backs
In the ICU, and they didn't know what to do
The government gave out the lockdown order
And informed us not to be a hoarder

No more toilet rolls, chicken, meat, hand sanitizer or soap,
Boredom, no money and unemployment at the end of our rope
Thankfully, Dr. Bonnie and Minister Adrian Dix
Were nimble and quick on the pandemic fix

Wear a mask, cough into your elbow, stay two meters apart
Echoed through our TV screens, and into our heads to start
Truly gracious how Minister Dix would speak every week
About how we have to be all in all, as his voice got quite weak

A marvellous team, they have worked together to help BC
While the fear still lingers in our community
Cheques are being sent to those who need to feed their family
So we can survive throughout this calamity

We thank Dr. Bonnie and Minister Dix for their compassion
As she has inspired us with her awesome sense of fashion
I will truly never forget how very hard-working Minister Adrian Dix is for sure
He has inspired to care for one another until there is a cure.

Each electronic folder has its own privacy and security features which Pam can administer. All files are automatically backed-up too. OneDrive is "in the cloud" so Pam can securely access her files from home if she needs to work remotely. This is especially important as we navigate our way through the various phases of our COVID-19 response.

At our virtual April Board meeting I presented to the Board an update on the progress of Pam's Document Management and Archiving project and the Board Secretary agreed to use OneDrive to manage the documents of the Board. OneDrive also allows sharing of files so that documents such as draft meeting minutes can be created and reviewed collaboratively. All our Board members now have access to electronic versions of current and prior Board minutes as far back as 2012. Easy access to prior minutes could be helpful from time to time.

The next steps will include introducing more of our committee members to OneDrive as Pam rolls-out the project. Next on her list is working with our Worship committee. As Pam has implemented OneDrive over the past couple of months, she is becoming proficient in its use and administration. She will support us all as we learn how to apply this new tool to our church and committee work. These changes benefit us in many different ways including allowing our committees to collaborate remotely as we all work through the new normal that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



We Gathered, We Shared, We Remembered

By Kathy R



We are happy to report that the women of Deer Lake had our annual retreat the weekend of May 29 – May 31! Even though we missed being at our usual sea-side location in either Bowen Island or Sechelt, we are happy to report that it was a great success! With Gloria's skilled leadership 25 women enjoyed a Zoom Happy Hour on Friday evening, which included a fun getting-to-know you game! Participants were invited to send Gloria a fact about them that they didn't think their Deer Lake friends would know, and then we enjoyed guessing who was who! Would you know who was a full-blown majorette with all the fixings in their younger days? Who do you think finished a dress 35 years after it was begun and gave it to her daughter anyways? Who first saw her future husband on a motorcycle in the snow and thought he was an idiot? Who accidentally called 911 when calling overseas? A great way to visit and get to know one another a bit better!

For our Saturday morning program we were each invited to bring an object that

represented something that helped us get through difficult times or times of change. Gloria again led us through these very meaningful and moving presentations and we learned, rejoiced and grieved with one another. The morning ended with a Guided Meditation, which is one of the ways to handle stressful situations.

Our final session occurred at 5 pm on Saturday where we shared many fond memories and laughs! It was amazing that we were able to have a virtual retreat that fed our hearts and souls at a distance. Kathy closed with a prayer during which we gave thanks for some of the many things that were shared during our time of sharing:

Holy one – we came together – thirsty for companionship, for connections we have had to give up during the pandemic, for our usual routines, for worship in the pews, for casual visits and hugs and news other than the angst in the world around us.¹

We gathered, we shared and we remembered and

Collectively we are thankful for all the ways we handle change and challenge –

We are filled with gratitude for:

- health
- creativity in many forms
- resilience
- role models in our lives and memories that comfort
- compassion from 'high' places
- our roots and our connections with others
- our beautiful, natural world
- our faith
- treasures like angels and teapots, meaningful jewelry and prayer shawls, crosses, magnifying glasses and telephones, computers and sewing machines, cookbooks, novels, children's books, favourite authors and books, Anne of Green Gables, Jane Austen, retreat mementos and especially - the present – we are here – now – we are not alone – God is with us always!

Continued on page7



Angels have made our garden a blossoming beauty

Continued from page 6

As our time together comes to an end, may we let go of what we expected....may we give thanks for what was.....may we celebrate when we experienced you.....and may we embrace the sacred night ahead. May we rest...and may our dreams be filled with visions of a new Pentecost and may we rise again tomorrow in joy and hope!²

Amen

1 Moira Anne MacDermaid from Casa: An Experiment in Doing Church Online

2 Catherine MacDonald from Casa: An Experiment in Doing Church Online

Churches are essential... we already knew that.

When the faithful are scattered in every age
due to persecution, disaster, or plague,
we persist in worship and service,
in sacrament and sacrifice –
feeding the hungry,
clothing the naked,
welcoming the stranger,
being good news for the poor,
working to free the captives and oppressed.

Our highest and holy calling
is to be the church,
not go to church.



Upcoming Events At and Around Deer Lake United Church

Sunday Worship

Sundays at 10.30 am love-streamed on YouTube

Telling Our Stories

Daily June 14 to 25 except the 22nd. See Joseph's June 7th email for specifics

Mid-week Check-in

Wednesdays starting June 17 at noon

Post-sermon Reflection

Wednesdays starting June 17 at 7:05 pm

See *What's Up* for details and weekly updates.

Submissions

Lakeshore Lines is published four times each year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communications Committee members (preferably by email):

newsletter@dluc.ca

Next Issue: October 2020

Submission Deadline Sunday, Sept 20, 2020