

Projects from your Outreach Committee

◆ **Fill a Purse for a Sister Campaign: Deadline Nov. 15th**

We invite you to join us to help women who are homeless. Please donate a new or gently used purse and fill it with some of the items listed below. For those who have a purse to donate but don't wish to fill it, or for those who have items for filling purses but no purse, we welcome those donations as well. We have placed a labelled box for your donations in the narthex and we will gladly accept your donations until Nov 15th. The CEO team will fill empty purses as required and then send all the donations to the local drop off centre in early December. Thanks for your participation!

What to put in the purse:

- feminine hygiene products
- tissues
- hand sanitizers
- reusable cloth face masks
- shampoo and conditioners
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- hair brush
- gloves, a hat, a scarf
- packaged and sealed lip balm and makeup
- coffee shop gift card
- notepad and a pen
- whistle and/or flashlight



***Fill a Purse for a Sister Campaign
President/Founder Angel Freedman***

● **Mitten Tree**

We will be putting up the Mitten tree in early December.

We'll be distributing many of the mittens, scarves, and gloves before Christmas; the rest of the items will be distributed early in the New Year. Help us keep those in need warm this winter.

● **Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child: Deadline by Nov. 15th**



After much deliberation, and given our focus on the local "fill a purse for a Sister" campaign, we will not be running this Shoebox campaign for kids in 3rd world countries this Christmas. But if you do want to do a shoebox, we do have some available for your use. These can be taken to the drop off centre at the Valley View Alliance Church at 800 Davis Dr., in Newmarket. Contact Lorraine Milne at 905-862-2418 for more details. Drop-off dates: Nov. 16 10am - 4pm, Nov. 20 10am - 9pm, Nov. 21 10am - 2pm and Nov. 23 10am - 4pm. Alternatively drop them at our church on Nov 15th so we can deliver them for you.

● **Local Donation**

We've donated a Loblaw's gift card to a single mother who lost all her belongings during the fire that raged on Weldrick in late July. Despite early assistance from York region's emergency social services and Red Cross, she is struggling to get back on her feet. She is now living with her children in a shelter in Newmarket. We wish her and her children well.

● **Salvation Army Winter Coat Drive. Can you help? Deadline: end of October**

They are looking for new and gently used winter coats for children, youth and adults. Donations can be dropped off at the Salvation Army at 55 Newkirk Ave until the end of October. For more information please call 905 737-0496 info@rhconline.ca

Submitted by Doreen Coyne

Important Dates from the Worship Committee

October 25: Helen Smith will be in charge of the service as David will accompany his wife to an out-of-town preaching engagement that day.

November 1: Anniversary Sunday will be celebrated during our worship service.

November 15: Health Ministry Health & Healing service. This will not include the anointing aspect of the service due to COVID.

Christmas Services:

November 29: Advent 1 – Communion

December 6: Advent 2 – White Gifts

December 13: Advent 3

December 20: Advent 4

December 24: Christmas Eve service

December 25: Merry Christmas everyone!

Note: No “Carols by Candlelight” service this year. But perhaps some additional music on Dec. 13 and during the Christmas Eve service—still TBD.

Submitted by Naomi Knight

Clinic info from the Health Ministry

The Health Ministry offers:

- Foot Care Clinics on the 2nd Wednesday from 9am to 1pm. Foot care is completed by a trained nurse and by appointment only. Call the church office to book (or cancel) an appointment asap - at least 1 week in advance as appointment slots are limited due to COVID. You can also make future appointments at the time of a scheduled treatment.
- Blood Pressure & Therapeutic Touch Clinics are currently on hold.
- A survey will be done to gather information on how Covid has affected you and what you have learned about yourself as a result. This information will be used in summary form (no individual data released) during the Nov. 15th Health and Healing Service.
- Educational and fun activities offered online by retirement homes and our community partners will be posted by the Health Ministry on two Bulletin Boards - one on the west side of the hallway leading to the hall and on the Narthex one which is opposite the sanctuary door in the narthex.

Submitted by Linda Alldred-Johnson

Recycling Continues

The plastics recycling program is back up and running again. It has been running for almost 2 years and the response has been great! Each month there is enough recycling to almost fill the back of my van. Thanks to everyone for recycling. BTW: They also take fabric and clothing regardless of its condition for recycling or donation.

Please continue to bring **clean, soft, clear plastic and rigid Styrofoam** to the church on the first Sunday of each month. Please see the notes, below, to ensure that everything that you bring is acceptable.

Notes:

- For ALL plastics you must use the ‘finger test’; you MUST be able to poke your finger through the plastic or it can’t be accepted.
- You can recycle Ziploc bags but you MUST cut off the zipper top and the plastic MUST pass the ‘finger test’.
- The plastic MUST be clear; if the backing of the plastic is coloured, then it can’t be accepted.
- Plastic MUST be soft; if it is ‘stiff’ or if it ‘crackles’ it can’t be accepted.
- Styrofoam MUST be rigid. There is a newer, smoother, softer type of Styrofoam that is not rigid and it can’t be accepted.
- Styrofoam plates and cups MUST have food removed; they can be stained but it must be rinsed clean.

What is soft plastic?

This is plastic that you can poke your finger through relatively easy (‘finger test’) such as:

- grocery, newspaper and dry cleaning bags
- bread bags – turn inside out and shake out crumbs
- fruit and veggie bags that you tear off of a roll
- light plastic tablecloths – give it finger test
- NO bubble plastic or plastic food wrap (Saran)

What is Styrofoam?

- Styrofoam cups – rinse out
- clam shell hamburger containers
- meat and food trays – black or white
- remove meat absorbent pads – put these into your green bin
- plates & cups - wipe off any food
- rigid Styrofoam packaging material
- NO Styrofoam “noodles” or “peanuts”

Submitted by Bertha Mohl

Please follow St. Matthew's United Church's COVID Health Safety Guidelines

Now that we are open again, there are several guidelines in place to ensure your safe return to church services. Seating will be limited based on both social distancing and a percentage of our normal capacity. Seating will be provided on a first come, first served basis. If you are not feeling well or have a new cough, cold, or fever, please stay home to protect yourself and your fellow congregants. If you are healthy and have not traveled outside of Canada, we look forward to seeing you!

You may want to come a bit early as it may take additional time to record attendance and seat everyone.

Upon entry to the church, you will be required to do the following.

- Wear your face mask and/or shield throughout the service and until you leave the building.
- Please keep 6 feet apart as you enter, exit and travel in the building.
- Use the hand sanitizer at the front entrance or the one just before you go to the pews.
- Take your coats with you into the church to avoid a backup in the narthex

- Please do not sit in taped off areas and pews as these taped areas help to ensure appropriate social distancing. A family sitting together in a pew count as one group. Each group should be at least 6' from the next person or group within a given pew.
- Please place your weekly donation in the collection plate as you enter or leave. A collection plate will not be passed during the service.
- Note that there can be only one person in a wash-room at a time. This applies to both multi-cubicle and single person washrooms.
- We are unable to sing our beloved Hymns out loud and cannot offer tea, coffee nor snacks after service.
- Please take some time to acknowledge other members you have not seen for awhile; but maintain appropriate social distancing. You are invited to bring a bottle of water with you to use during the service as needed.

Should the status of Covid-19 change for York Region, we will notify you of any resulting changes to our status. While this is a stressful time in our history, we are thankful that we are able to worship and pray together once again.

Regards – Your Board

A Covid Prayer: *Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.*

Taken in part from a prayer by the Sisters of IHM, Scranton, PA

LEEK SOUP: A Warm Recipe for Winter

Making the leek soup is very easy. You'll need 4 large well washed leeks (white and lighter green parts), 4 large potatoes, and chicken or vegetable stock. First cook diced leeks in oil. When soft add diced potatoes. Cover with water and cook until soft. Then add 2 cups of stock. Let the soup cool, then put it through the blender. This recipe makes 4 or 5 meals for 2; you can make a less thick soup by adding more stock and thus getting more soup. Now fill plastic freezer containers $\frac{3}{4}$ full and stick a label with the date on the lid. Put these in the freezer. You can leave them as is or once the soup is frozen, usually the next morning, you can set the containers in hot water for a few minutes to loosen the soup from the container. Slip the frozen soup blocks into a medium sized freezer bag and reuse your containers for the next batch of produce, soups, or side dishes to be frozen. *Recipe by Jennifer Pyke, used with her permission.*

