



TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

The Church By The Side Of The Road

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March 18, 2020

To: All Members Topsail United Church

Dear Friends and Families,

Re: COVID-19 Update and Closing of our Church

We have all been reading and listening to the news regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and, more than likely, have been affected by this outbreak in one way or another. I, myself, have just completed a 14 day self-isolation and received a **negative test result**. I thank God for this and pray for those and their families who have and continue to fall victim to this virus.

We have already announced to the church community the decision to close our church for the next two weeks. There will be no service on March 22nd, 2020 or March 29th, 2020 and no church gatherings during the same two week period. Our church office will remain open but at reduced hours, 9 am to 12 pm, Monday to Friday. The Board of Directors at TUC will convene a special meeting at 4 pm, March 29th, 2020 via conference call during which time a decision will be made to continue with this temporary closure or reopen. The decision will be communicated to our church community immediately thereafter.

This decision to close our church is in line with the recent announcement by the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council wherein they directed Communities of Faith to "**...close all churches for public worship and gatherings from today, March 17, 2020 to March 30, 2020.**"

It is important that we ask our Community of Faith to continue to support our church financially during this period. There are several options available; Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR), drop off to the church office, by mailing your contribution, by visiting the official church website, or by using Canada Helps. You can log on to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/> and donate as Topsail United Church is registered on the site as a charitable organization. Also, we anticipate the local Food Banks will be in need of items more now than ever. Therefore we ask you to donate to your Local Food Banks, of course, observing the COVID-19 protocols that exist.

I know this is a difficult and uncertain time for everyone. Please be assured we remain strong in Faith and will continue to support you, members of our church community. Several directors on the Board have completed their term in 2019 but have agreed to continue serving during this time of uncertainty.

Stay true to yourself and God Bless you all.

Yours truly,

Brad Cole

Chair of the Official Board, Topsail United Church