

# Merging Waters Mid-Week

## March 25, 2020

### Church News

#### UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

March 29<sup>th</sup>. Lent 5 Online worship  
April 5<sup>th</sup>. Palm Sunday Online worship  
April 9<sup>th</sup>. Good Friday  
April 12<sup>th</sup>. Easter Sunday  
April 19<sup>th</sup>. Second Sunday of Easter  
Worship at Merging Waters: [www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online](http://www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online)

Merging Waters  
Pastoral Charge



Welcome Grace Service Love  
Community



Greetings Merging Waters,

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

As we journey through Lent, toward Easter, and are facing the physical distance that is due to the COVID-19 pandemic [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) has a message for us that holds promise in times of desolation and suffering. With the imagery of the fields of bones being awakened to new life through the blessings of relationship with God this passage can bring us many questions in troubled times:

- How can we maintain our faith in times of stress?
  - How can our spiritual practices help us to deal with hardship?
- What can we do as a community of faith to share our sense of peace and community with others?
- Does participation in spiritual practices in good times equip us to maintain our faith in troubled times?
- Do we feel the presence of the Spirit of love in hard times?
  - What events or times do we feel it most?
  - Do meditation, prayer, body prayers like yoga help us find the thin places where we are more aware of the Divine in our lives?
- When has our faith helped us through times that we have felt afraid or hopeless in the past?
  - How did we feel after those times had passed?
- How can we celebrate our faith/spiritual life as a support for ourselves and others even in times of difficulty?
- Where do we find the hope in God's promise to be with us through hard times and find new life?

We will continue to celebrate the promise of the journey through our online worship this Sunday at [www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/](http://www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/)

Blessings,

Rev. Ryan Fea

MDiv

[ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com)

## OFFICE IS CLOSED BUT THE WORK CONTINUES:

LOVE  
is patient  
is kind  
it does not envy  
it does not boast  
it is not proud  
it is not rude  
it is not self seeking  
it is not easily angered  
it keeps no record of wrongs  
*never fails*

Please be patient when sending messages to the office through email or over the phone as Susan Smith, office administrator extraordinaire, like Rev. Ryan and other staff, will work from home for the foreseeable future, to keep the life of the community safe, growing, and adapting to life today.

**Gatherings Postponed:** As we all deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 virus on daily life both Merging Waters Pastoral Charge preaching points will be closing their buildings to gatherings. The buildings will be checked in on regularly by members of the building committees. Many groups have halted their gathering practice and gone online, remember to check their websites or call if you are still deciding to head out.



**Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is a community that cares:** In this time of trial we are here for one another. Rev. Ryan and the pastoral care team are here for you and available through email, phone, and instant messenger. Please reach out to one another in support – stay in touch with others and ask for help when you need it. We may not be in the same room but we are in one another's hearts and in the love of God. We aren't sharing germs but we are sharing the love. Keep in touch.

Rev. Ryan Fea: [ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com)

Ivy Lewis Union Pastoral Care Chair: [lewisir@hotmail.com](mailto:lewisir@hotmail.com)

Diane Nene Bearepaire Pastoral Care Coordinator: [dianenener@icloud.com](mailto:dianenener@icloud.com)

**Spiritual Practices:** We aren't meeting in-person but we are still supporting those practices that nurture the faith life of the community. Check out the new Merging Waters Web resources at [www.mergingwaters.ca](http://www.mergingwaters.ca) Click on "Spiritual Life" in the menu and find new pages dedicated to at-home yoga, meditation and contemplation, and our online worship. Keep an eye out for new option for connecting with Rev. Ryan for times of study/discussion, reflection, and prayer online.



Announcement of new online programs will be coming soon keep an eye out.

**Church Online:** Worship will be held online Sundays at 10:30 am. Please join us at [www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/](http://www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/) and you will find videos, music, and the opportunity to make your weekly offerings. On top of allowing us to worship together while physically distancing you also have no parking problems, you can refill your coffee anytime, church in your pajamas, you can mute the pastor – but don't.



Please note that the planned joint worship at Summerlea United Church for March 29<sup>th</sup> has been postponed, we will continue to worship online [www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/](http://www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/)

**Joy And Concern:** Are there individuals and situations that you would ask that we pray for aloud in the time of prayer at this week's online worship? Please email them to Rev. Ryan at [ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com) by Friday night. If you miss the time to submit any not included in the service will be prayed for in our hearts or during next week by the prayer circle.

## We can still support the mission and community of Merging Waters

	<p><b>Not on pre-authorized remittance (PAR)?</b>  <b>Want to keep giving even when we have worship online?</b>  <b>Please continue to support Merging Waters and give to</b>  <b>Union Church or Beaurepaire United through <a href="http://CanadaHelps.org">CanadaHelps.org</a></b></p>	
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Would you like to get on Pre-Authorised Remittance?  
[Download the PAR Form](#), print and send it in with a void cheque to either:

Union Church  
 24 Maple  
 Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue  
 Qc, H9X 2E6

Beaurepaire United  
 25 Avenue Fieldfare  
 Beaconsfield,  
 QC H9W 4W4

**Gifts with Vision** catalogues have arrived at Union church. Or look online where you can give directly to Mission & Service [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca) **How it Works** - The United Church of Canada developed Gifts with Vision in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners. A novel way to give a gift in the name of a loved one who doesn't need more socks.





**Maison Saint Columba House:** During this pandemic, we are committed to continuing to supply a hot meal free to those in need. We are in the process of moving our community lunch program to a pick up and delivery program and we need your help. We will require the purchase of additional 16,000 plastic containers, protective gloves, paper towel and soap to allow this to happen. We will also need additional funds to cover the cost of food.

Our participants suffer from low income and affording food at the best of times is challenging. We provide daily 120 meals to at-risk children, youth and adults within our community. These are some of our most vulnerable people with little to no support system. For many that we feed, this is their sole meal daily.

We are anticipating that the requests for our service will increase over the next week. The need is great and the challenge is large. While we are all facing stress and difficulty over this time, those who suffer from low income are perhaps some of our most vulnerable and in need. This is where we all step in to help.

Currently, as little as \$30 dollars can feed 1 person one meal for 20 days. We are asking for your support to ensure that each request can be met.

To give to Maison Saint Columba House follow this link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/saint-columba-house/campaign/covid-19-emergency-request-to-support-our-meal-program-for-those-at-risk/>

**The Merging waters website is being actively updated, as we grow to use it in new and varied ways you will be able to find updates there.**

[www.mergingwaters.ca](http://www.mergingwaters.ca)