

A Note to the Maynooth-Madawaska Community of Faith and Friends-
from the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

It is not news to anyone who gets this weekly email that Worship has taken many forms since COVID came into our lives. In fact, we have tried more ways than ever to offer an opportunity to pause, centre ourselves in the Spirit and reflect each week.

This fall we have provided:

Worship services in two churches each Sunday at Maynooth and Madawaska

Facebook Live streamed from the 9:30 Maynooth service at least twice a month and available for later viewing

Worship Resource Email sent out weekly in two forms:

1. A text version of the service for those with limited or no internet that can be printed and delivered.
2. An interactive version based on the Sunday Service with web links to hymns, sometimes Rev. Marilyn's message, Scriptures, and prayers.

It's an ambitious program and it is taking many people to make it happen. For many years, the worship committee has been scheduling a worship leader for each week. The intention is that Rev. Marilyn leads worship and preaches twice a month. Appointed as a part-time minister, COVID has radically altered that.

Each week sees the following timeline:

1. Rev. Marilyn prepares/updates announcements and prayers; sends them to Wendy Lavalley, who sets them in printable form and returns to Rev. Marilyn. She then sends it to either Dick Prince or Brian Peterson for including in the Worship Resource Email.

2. The Worship Leader for the Sunday prepares their service and emails it to Rev. Marilyn and Dick/Brian. Either she or Rev. Svinda create the PowerPoint which is on the screen Sunday. She puts the post on Facebook, and Dick or Brian who in turn send their email version to Rev. Marilyn for review before they send out the Worship Resource Email, including the print version, Saturday evening.

And all of that has to happen before Sunday!

3. If there is a Facebook Live, Dick and Rev. Marilyn check the equipment on Friday or Saturday, and then Rev. Marilyn and Rev. Svinda operate the equipment while the Worship Leader delivers the service.

This is a lengthy description, but we feel it is important that our community understand how worship has been happening, and the continuous involvement it requires of Rev. Marilyn. The Ministry and Personnel Committee, and the Worship Committee have reviewed the process and have decided:

1. Unless and until we find a better way, services will not be live-streamed. That process takes an inordinate amount of time to get organized and get smoothly online and few people are choosing that option. It is the dream to be able to present our services that way, but we will have to put it on hold for now.
2. The weekly Worship Resource email is still an important connection for our members who can not come to services, and it will continue, but it will be simplified. The pre-recording of the reflection and the web links to hymns and prayers are very time consuming and will be eliminated, though all the words and message will be included.

The continuing pandemic has been a challenge for everyone, and pastors are on the frontlines serving and ministering. With these changes we hope that there will be a bit more time left for all the other important work our minister does - in her "part-time job".

We are all so grateful that we can currently gather in person to worship each Sunday with the guidelines that have been outlined. It is also wonderful that we can offer an email alternative for those who aren't there in person. We trust that in making these changes, the workload will be a little less, and we can even begin to dream of new ways to bring us together.

Sincerely,
Erin Morlock
Jean Jessup
May Allison
Sheila Stringer