

Minister's Message, Wednesday, January 13, 2021

## Update on State of Emergency

Yesterday the Province of Ontario proclaimed a State of Emergency that mandated a "Stay At Home" order. This news came as a surprise to many, and it took many hours to find out what all this might mean for us at TSA. The good news is that nothing much has changed. We were already closed, and so there are no new regulations or limitations on churches. We are still allowed to use the building to livestream the Sunday service. Our Office Administrator Debbie McDermid is working from home, and she checks the post, emails and phone messages at the church daily. Our custodian Merv Kusluski is allowed to continue to do maintenance and repairs. I am working from home and can be reached by email and telephone. My email address is james@tsarenfrew.ca and my cell phone # is 613-728-7410. You can also leave a phone message at the church office for me. I'm happy to arrange telephone or videoconferencing pastoral visits.

This is a 28 day Stay At Home order, so it will be mid February before we see any possible lifting of restrictions. Once the Province and the local Health Authority gives proper authorization we will announce our re-opening plans.

In the mean time, we will continue to offer Sunday services live on our Facebook page. Our Music director Mike McCormick will be lifting our spirits each week with Hump Day Hymns, which happens live on Wednesdays at 12:30. Our weekly Bible Study runs Wednesdays from 11-12. We meet using the Webex teleconferencing system. This winter we are looking at the Gospel of Luke. Email me or the office if you would like a link to join in.

I know these are challenging circumstances, so it is important for us to stay connected so we can support one another. I pray you will stay calm, and strong, and if you are able, I encourage you to reach out to others as we support one another.

As the Christmas song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" says,

"Someday soon we all will be together  
If the fates allow  
Until then we'll have to muddle through somehow."

With thanks,

Rev. James Murray