



*To the world, you might be one person  
but to one person, you might be the  
world!*

## In This Issue

### Main Topics

- Ministry in the COVID-19 Era
- Pastoral Care
- Holy Week & Easter Services
- Money & COVID-19
- Prayer Chain Volunteers

### Service Times for 2020

Cancelled during the COVID crisis but available online.

### Our Online Presence

#### Website:

<https://www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca/>

**Facebook:** (Avonmore, Finch and Gravel Hill Presbyterian Churches)

<https://www.facebook.com/PresChurchAFG>

#### Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGrk2bxJdUt-1Rmq0WICmKg>

## A Time for Hope & Trust

Summer seems to have arrived, and with it the temptation to forget all the social distancing rules & regulations we have lived with the past few months. Please don't! Take care & stay healthy.

This week's sermon focuses on the story of Hagar (Genesis 21). She was probably a slave, and faithfully did everything her mistress (Sarah) demanded of her. She slept with her master (Abraham), had a child by him (Ishmael), and was basically thrown out into the desert once Sarah had Isaac. It certainly wasn't fair and she didn't deserve it, but God found her in the desert and brought her to safety.

It's a message we need to hear today as we have, in some ways, been thrown out into our own desert. With church buildings closed, we have essentially been left to struggle with and grow our faith on our own. For some of us, it has been a challenge, particularly as time went on.

But God has not forgotten us, just as he didn't forget Hagar. He has promised to be with us whatever happens to us and whatever we are going through. He provided for Hagar and Ishmael – we can trust that he will provide for us too, perhaps in ways we don't expect.

Spring & summer are times of new beginnings – and maybe, just maybe, that includes our journey as Christians. Our hope and our trust are in God, who came to us and shared our lives as Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rejoice, and enjoy the summer!

Rev. Cheryl

## Contacts

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## Church Openings?

Church buildings can now re-open. St. Andrew's (Avonmore) re-opens June 28<sup>th</sup> while St. Luke's-Knox (Finch) re-opens July 5<sup>th</sup>. No word yet about services at St. James-St. Andrew's (Gravel Hill) for August. We'll keep you posted.

Nervous about coming back? Come back when you are comfortable. In the meantime, we'll tell you what we are doing. We are re-opening, but with a difference:

1. All common areas are cleaned and sanitized regularly, with special attention given to areas of high touch – including backs of pews, door handles and handrails and washrooms.
2. Pews will be roped off (sorry, but you may not be able to sit in your pew for a while) to ensure social distancing.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance and inside. Everyone will be required to use it on entering.
4. Disposable masks are available. If you prefer, bring your own.
5. You will be asked to leave your offering in a plate placed on table at the back of the church.
6. No hymn books or Bibles will be available to begin with.

## Cemetery Services

Uncertain because of the COVID crisis but cemetery services scheduled for:

**Jun 14** – Finch – cancelled

**Jun 21** – Goldfield – cancelled

**Jun 28** – Paul's Hill – cancelled

**Sep 6, 2 pm** – Gravel Hill - ?

## Alternate Services

Some of you have discovered our online presence and alternate ways of worshipping. These will continue!

Join us for **pre-recorded "mini-services"**, available on our Facebook page and YouTube channel Saturday evenings. You can also find them on the church website (a few days later): <https://www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca/AFG-OSermons.html>.

**Printed hardcopies** are also available through the same page.

Join us also for **pre-recorded Bible studies** on the parable – again, on our Facebook page, YouTube channel and Church website.

We have also been using **ZOOM online meetings** for services, Bible studies and Session meetings and – if there is interest – may continue doing so for a while – and maybe even a prayer group. Let me know.

**Pastoral Care**

Church buildings were closed, but **you** (and I) are the church!

Often, Jesus would teach and do miracles, then retreat to pray (e.g., Mt 14:23; Mk 1:35; Lk 5:16). He needed that time alone with God to recharge. So do we. But it’s hard to recharge if we’re worried or stressed. We might withdraw, but end up focusing on what’s stressing us rather than turning to God for help.

But God has not left us alone. He is always with us – and can bring other people into our lives to help. That’s part of what it means to be the Church – we are here for one another.

**Pastoral care is available.** If you need help or want to talk, turn to your Elders – you already know them. But don’t forget, **I am also here**, and can be reached any time by phone or email. Contact information is on Page 2’s left panel.

**Our Graduates!**

Our youth are important and we are proud of all our youth.

Normally, we would like to do something special for those graduating from high school as well as give them a bursary. This year, we can’t honour them in person, but do want to celebrate their achievement.

Our 2020 high school graduates are:

- **Warren Amsing**, graduating from Tagwi Secondary School. He will be attending the Training Institute for Heavy Equipment Operator.
- **Ethan Canham**, graduating from St. Joseph’s Secondary School. He has been accepted to Seneca College in Toronto to study Business and Fashion.
- **Jack DeVries**, graduating from Tagwi Secondary School. He will be apprenticing with McDonald Electric in Maxville to become an electrician.

**Upcoming Birthdays**

Finch has been keeping track of birthdays for a while but this is a new initiative for Avonmore & Gravel Hill. Our apologies for all the birthdays we’ve missed – but getting your birthday info is one of priorities (not the top though). Help us out by letting us Rev. Cheryl / your Elder) know your date of birth (not year!)

**June Birthdays**

June Russell – Jun 8  
 Brent MacIntyre – Jun 9  
 Sandra Armstrong – Jun 18  
 Bert Henderson – Jun 24  
 Debbie MacDonald – Jun 24  
 Robin McIntyre – Jun 28

**July Birthdays**

Jordan Canham – Jul 4  
 Martha Whitford – Jul 8  
 Doris Hanna – Jul 9  
 Don MacDonald – Jul 16  
 Wendy Lang – Jul 19  
 Katelyn Dunbar – Jul 19  
 Mary McRae – Jul 22  
 Ryan Alguire – Jul 25  
 Shirley Alguire – Jul 28  
 Christena Dunbar – Jul 31

**August Birthdays**

Grace Hill – Aug 13  
 Chris Landriault – Aug 14  
 Ethan Canham – Aug 20  
 Barbara Ross – Aug 21  
 Janet Landriault – Aug 23  
 Pat Ouderkirk – Aug 26

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Note: Gravel Hill’s financial information is pretty well on track. Many thanks.

Direct deposit e-transfers may be sent to [gravelhilldonations@finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca](mailto:gravelhilldonations@finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca)

### Note from Avonmore Treasurer & Envelope Secretary

The church buildings may be closed and our worship may have moved to online services, but the work of the church continues – as do the expenses.

While some of you have continued to make regular donations, either by mailing in cheques or dropping them off in our mailboxes, some of you may be wondering what to do.

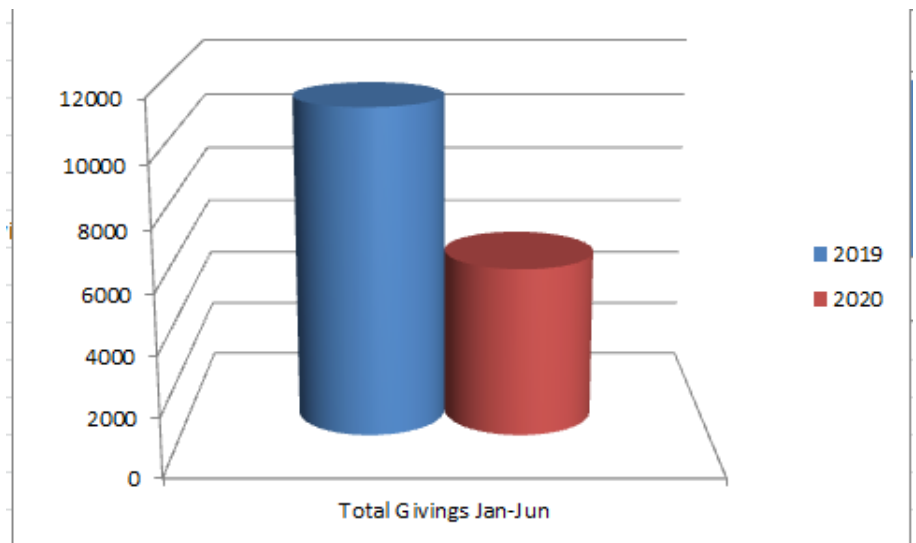
You can now offer donations through direct deposit e-transfers ([avonmoredonations@finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca](mailto:avonmoredonations@finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca)) or Canada Helps. For more information contact your Elder (see list on left panel for Avonmore) or check out our website <https://www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca/AFG-Support-Avon.html>.

The chart below gives an idea of how we are faring financially during this pandemic.

Last year’s total givings, including Presbyterian sharing, was \$23,945.00 By the end of June, we had given \$11,060 or 46.19% of the total amount. This year to date, we have received only \$5735 or only 23.95% of the total amount.

If possible, please consider making an extra donation to the church.

Avonmore’s Givings January-June



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The chart below gives an idea of how we are faring financially during this pandemic. If possible, please consider making an extra donation to the church.

Finch's Givings January-June

