



Duncan Christian Reformed Church

930 Trunk Road, Duncan, British Columbia, V9L 2S1

May 3, 2020

From Pastor Kevin

Sunday, May 3's Sermon will be found on the Church website www.duncancrc.org and on Pastor Kevin's Church Facebook page.

Pastor Kevin is posting regular videos of encouragement and devotions on our church's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/duncancrc/>. If you're not "on" Facebook, you can still visit the page and watch the videos. If you are on Facebook, please like and follow the page.

We also have a Facebook group where regular church attenders can communicate: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/duncancrcfamily>

From the Deacons

Offering

During this time when the Worship Services are cancelled, you can drop off your offerings or contributions to the office during business hours or you can mail them to the church. Church Office is open this week, Monday - Friday, 9 - 12 noon. Church Address is 930 Trunk Rd, Duncan, V9L 2S1

Give by e-Transfer

In addition to dropping off or mailing your offerings, we are now setup to receive your offerings through Interac ETransfer from your bank online. Log in to your bank's online banking and navigate to the Send Interac e-Transfer area. Your first time using this method you will need to add giving@duncancrc.org as a new recipient. (You can leave the mobile phone number blank, and if it asks for a security question you can make up anything - we are setup for auto-deposit so the security question will not be used.) To designate a portion of your offering to a specific cause, note the amount for that cause(s) in the note with your transfer. Any undesignated funds will go to Church Ministries.

Offering for Sunday, May 3: Church Ministries and (Diaconal Ministries "NewGround"). "New Ground" was formerly "Operation Manna".

Write the cheque to Duncan CRC and the cause in the memo line.

Offering for Sunday, May 10: Church Ministries and World Renew Maternal and Child Health.

Deacon Care

On behalf of the Deacons, we know we are living in troubling and unprecedented times. If you find yourself in need of any kind and would like / need some assistance, please contact your deacons. Phone Lawrence. Stay safe.

Church Family

Alice B is doing fine after Tavi heart valve surgery this past week and is very grateful for the congregation's prayers and concerns for her.

Birthdays this Week:

Monday, May 4: Bill N

Wednesday, May 6: Lita CD

Thursday, May 7: Dianne L, Bill W

Friday, May 8: William W

Saturday, May 9: John A, Henry VB

Announcements

Today Devotionals

The Today Devotionals for May and June have not yet arrived at the Church.

The Banner

The latest Banner is at the Church and can be picked up when you enter by the Office door.

Keep the Banner Going! - It's our annual appeal time. The Banner is delivered free in print and online to every household in the CRC, and this annual donation appeal makes it possible. If you haven't given to The Banner yet, please give online now at www.thebanner.org/donate

From Diaconal Ministries Canada

COVID-19 Grants Available - Diaconal Ministries Canada and World Renew Canada have partnered together to offer grants to churches who have a great idea for diaconal work right now but lack the resources! Churches can receive up to \$5,000. Visit our website for more information on how to apply (<https://diaconalministries.com/covid-19-resources/>) or give us a call at 1-800-730-3490 x4304.

Cancelled at the Church:

Everything until further notice.

The Church Alarm will be set at 7 pm every evening and disarmed at 8 am every morning.

The Church Office will be open Monday - Friday of this week.

75th Anniversary

May 5 is the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands by the Canadian soldiers. A very small ceremony of 4 people is planned for May 5 at the Duncan Cenotaph at Charles Hoey Park. Because a larger gathering is not possible during COVID-19, people are encouraged to bring a bouquet of tulips in small containers and to put them at the cenotaph anytime on May 4 and 5. And if interested also wear something orange for the occasion.

Offering for this Sunday, May 3

Offering May 3: Church Ministries and Diaconal Ministries NewGround (previously called Operation Manna)

Another Sunday... another cause. You may be asking, 'So where does our money go when we give to NewGround?' Let us tell you! All across Canada, there are churches like yours, filled with people who long to see their communities transformed with the love of Christ. Yet many congregations don't have all of the resources or expertise in order to do that. This is where NewGround can help. Sunday, May 3 has been designated as NewGround Sunday. Through your donations, your church is actively participating in growing God's Kingdom in new and exciting ways all across Canada. To learn more about this revamped program, visit the Diaconal Ministries' website: diaconalministries.com/newground.

1-800-730-3490 | dmc@crcna.org



A PROGRAM OF DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA



God is always at work.

He calls churches to follow Him into their communities to share Christ's transformational love with every person.

It's time to roll up our sleeves and join Him.



Offering for next Sunday, May 10

Offering for next Sunday, May 10: Church Ministries and (World Renew Maternal and Child Health)

Help Deliver Hope to Mothers and Babies in Need - Next week Sunday is Mother's Day. Your church can embrace this opportunity to observe Mother's Day in a unique and helpful way by delivering hope to mothers and babies living in places of extreme poverty. Your gifts and offerings for World Renew's Maternal and Child Health Sunday will support trained health volunteers leading life-saving changes for mothers, babies, and families around the world. To give online and find out more, go to worldrenew.ca/mchsunday.



Pandemic Reflections by Shiao Chong, Editor in Chief of The Banner

The COVID-19 global pandemic has dramatically affected everybody's lives.

I would be lying if I said I am not worried or stressed by this pandemic and its social and economic consequences. But I am not panicking or hoarding because I trust in God. However, I also follow my local public health authority's guidelines for physical distancing and other precautions. There is a line between trusting God and testing God to protect us. Jesus refused to recklessly endanger his life to prove God's promise of protection (Matt. 4:5-7).

I am being careful not only for my own life, but for love of others, especially for my family. As Christians, our response to this pandemic should be driven not by fear but by love for our neighbors, especially those among us who are more vulnerable.

If we act out of love, we would not try to blame or scapegoat others for this pandemic. Racist acts toward Asian Americans have risen since March as many blame them for the virus. When asked by his disciples whose sin was to blame for a man born blind, Jesus refused to play the blame game but emphasized doing God's work (John 9:1-7). This virus respects no ethnicity or boundaries. We must work in solidarity to combat this common threat.

Given the disruption to our normal practices because of physical distancing restrictions, this crisis might actually offer us opportunities to learn and grow.

The church might need to relearn what it means to be church rather than simply to do church. Is this time to shift away from our over reliance on the church building? Can we recapture the New Testament's household church ethos? Do Christian parents need to redouble their efforts in forming their children's faith at home rather than outsourcing it to church "experts"? Can Christian households re-imagine themselves, rather than church buildings, as the focal points to God's mission in their neighborhoods?

Technology, especially the internet and video, is a blessing to many of us at this time. But we must be cautious not to be overly reliant on technology, especially because not everyone has equal access to such technology.

In these uncertain times, individual Christians might need to relearn what it means to trust God instead of trusting our economic or social achievements. Physical distancing gives us an opportunity to examine ourselves to see if we love God more than we love going to church.

One lesson we can all learn from this pandemic is how much we lack control. This tiny virus has unmasked our delusions in this regard. We are losing control of our jobs, our social life, even our church. Our best laid plans are undone. Our normal control mechanisms are not working. And that is why we are afraid.

In the Bible, God often tells us not to be afraid because, even though we are not in control, God is. Jesus, who loves us so much that he died for us, is in control. And as he promised us: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

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The bulletin and weekly sermons can be found on
our website: www.duncancrc.org
Christian Reformed Communications:
communications@crcna.org