

Spurred on in Love and Good Deeds



An anonymous 2nd century Christian wrote a letter to a man named Diognetus. The letter was probably written about 150 years after Jesus was resurrected on that first Easter Sunday. I love how the author identifies himself in the letter – not by given name, but simply by the Greek word *mathetes*: “student” or “disciple.” More than anything else in his life, that is his identity – a follower of Jesus Christ. Listen to how he talks about followers of Jesus: “They share their food with each other, but not their marriage bed. They love all people. They are poor, and yet they make many rich; they are completely destitute, and yet they enjoy complete abundance.”

Oh, for the church to once again be marked by followers of Jesus who care more for the wellbeing of others than themselves! But if I’m honest, I am weak and my justifications for self-preservation are endless. Friends, when we talk about “expiring” for the world around us, this is what we’re binding ourselves to. Breathing out the Holy Spirit on a world that so desperately needs to be “inspired” by the living breath of God. Not reckless disregard for proper safety and health

measures during this time, but finding ways to show God’s love while still being responsible citizens (something Scripture also implores us to do). This is the underlying truth of the upside-down Kingdom of Jesus – that the more we give of ourselves, the more we put others first, the more we choose self-giving and not self-serving, the more the Spirit of God comes to dwell within us as individuals and as a community of *mathetes*.

I have been humbled and overwhelmed by the radical acts of self-giving I have witnessed in our community over the past month. Folks who have lost their jobs calling the church to ask how they can serve, give, and show God’s love in tangible ways. Families who are unbelievably creative in reaching out to those who are isolated, often from the confines of their own home – to show love to those who don’t have robust support structures and those who need extra encouragement. Frontline health workers who are not avoiding work but are talking about a ministry of “faithful presence” in their work as they care for scared and hurting people. During this time a single verse (cont’d on page 3)

Do You Need Help?

Please let us know if you need any of the following:

- Financial Support
- Prayer
- Groceries picked up and delivered
- Errands completed

Call us at 403-251-5150

Email us at office@oakpark.ca

Are You Able to Help?



Please contact the church if you would like to help in any of these ways:

- Financial donations for those in need
- Grocery shopping and delivery for others
- Running errands for others

Call us at 403-251-5150

Email us at office@oakpark.ca

(cont'd from page 1) has been front and centre in my mind – it is my prayer for us as a church family: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Or as Peterson’s *The Message* paraphrase puts it: “Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.”

Come and jump in, this is no time for fence-sitting, lukewarm-ish, almost-Christianity! Now is the time to take up our true identity and participate in the very ministry of God’s faithful presence in a time of need and questioning!

By Pastor Lane

D.I.Y. Facemasks

If you would like to make protective face masks at home, there are many supplies you might already have to do so. There are even options for those of you who don't have a sewing machine. Fine woven cotton is best, think men's dress shirts, sheets, bandanas, etc. A variety of items can be used for filters: vacuum cleaner bags, furnace air filters, washed and dried (twice) dryer sheets, water proof (not plastic) sheet protectors. To fit to your nose you can use pipe cleaners, wiki-stiks (wax covered thread), etc. You can use elastic hair bands, or create ties. There are many YouTube videos online, here are just a few examples:

5 minutes - mask

<https://youtu.be/9K4dH3-LHLO>

No-sew mask, using a bandana

<https://youtu.be/ZNAQalt3QZ4>

Health Care Worker Filter Mask

<https://youtu.be/e-vlyLMgUhg>





Eat Well. Spend Less.



2020

Any one can order one or more Good Food Boxes.

Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

LARGE	40 lbs	\$35.00
MEDIUM	30 lbs	\$30.00
SMALL	20 lbs	\$25.00

ORDER BY

- January 13
- February 3
- March 9
- April 13
- May 4
- June 1
- September 7
- September 28
- October 26
- November 30

DELIVERY DATE

- January 22
- February 12
- March 18
- April 22
- May 13
- June 10
- September 16
- October 7
- November 4
- December 9

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email office@oakpark.ca

Online Services

Good news! We are streaming our Sunday services online!

How to view our online services:

1. Go to www.youtube.com
 2. Search for "Oak Park Church of Christ"
 3. Select and subscribe to our channel
 4. Select the Sunday service video that streams at 10am on Sundays
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Parent Resource Centre

Hey parents! Here are some helpful resources and links for you and your families.

1. Focus on the Family has set up a free streaming service with a lot of fun content such as Adventures in Odyssey and McGee and Me. For more information visit:

https://www.focusonthefamily.com/streaming/?fbclid=IwAR3atcoLWN6VTsNeRnxQbp747sJ_X5nrloOdpdXnKzV6wZFrflAPI2Z_NS7E

2. Another Family Ministries Pastor put this video together talking about how we can know when our children and youth are struggling.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9yj-92A_cw

Additional video lessons and supporting documents can be found at:

www.falconridgefamily.com/kids.

3. Looking for some dinner conversation starters? Check out this website:

<https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/>

4. Family Fun Calgary also has a page on their website with some fun ideas!

<https://www.familyfuncanada.com/calgary/category/covid-19/>

April Food Bank Update

April 6th Food Bank Highlights:

We fed 11 families (45 in total including 29 children), including a turkey for Easter for each family

We had amazing volunteer participation (shoppers, packers, delivery) and generous donations of food and money

We came in approximately \$500 under budget

We had enough food donated to make up 9 emergency bags

We had enough money leftover (approximately \$1000) to do more emergency bags during the Covid-19 lockdown

Thank you for your generosity and support!





Oak Park Missions Update



Norm Weatherhead in Papua New Guinea – Norm had planned to return home in March but decided to remain in PNG due to the uncertainty of flights on the way home. Norm's prayers were answered when all his translators got safely back to their villages before the country was shut down. He will

work with them online. Jill is home in Calgary by herself and continuing with her work as a nurse at the Foothills Hospital. Please pray the Lord will keep Norm safe, physically well, and able to maintain good contact with Jill online as they deal with living apart for an unknown amount of time.

Vienna Moilliet in the Philippines –

Vienna has shared an urgent request that we pray for the extension of her visa which is due to expire in May. She had an organization that she thought was taking care of this but it never got done. She plans to remain at Kalinga with her co-workers at the site of her new 'Refuge of Hope'. They are under a total community quarantine.



Jay and Collette in Poland - There is panic in the country resulting in a serious shortage of some supplies (including toilet paper, hand sanitizer, tuna). For them, however, it's business as usual. They are

accustomed to using technology and are now trying to be very creative and continue with classes online. Please pray that they can be encouraging and supportive with their students and that the Lord keeps them safe and well.

Phone Call Ministry

The staff and elders at Oak Park are diligently staying connected with the congregation via phone calls. A ten minute phone call once or twice a week is a huge source of encouragement, especially in a time like this! If you have a heart to stay connected with people and would like to help in this area please contact Pastor Martin at martin@oakpark.ca.

Prayer Ministry

We receive many prayer requests via phone and email throughout the week and we pray for people in our congregation regularly. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Pastor Dawn at dawn@oakpark.ca.

Long Range Planning Committee Report

Financial Feasibility Study on Hold

As reported in the 2020 AGM package, following extensive consultation with almost all of Oak Park's stakeholders and ministries, ministry expansion plans are sufficiently detailed to move to the next step – determining Oak Park's financial ability to proceed with those plans.

You may recall this will be a three step process:

- Preliminary assessment by the Verger Group, consultants in church expansion feasibility. This preliminary assessment involves a review of Oak Park's financials and givings history.
- Secondary assessment. This stage will involve consultation with several, but not all, church family members to estimate the likely level of financial support in a future fund raising drive.
- Formal fund raising drive.

The goal was to complete the first two steps before this summer and if sufficient financial commitment was determined, to proceed to a formal fund raising drive this fall.

However, in light of the current situation with Covid-19 and the financial pressures on families and Oak Park overall, it's clearly not the right time to proceed with the second and third steps.

We are working with Verger to complete the first step, since it involves just the review of Oak Park's financials, and will form one of the measures by Verger of our fund raising potential in normal times, by comparing our financial status and recent history to other churches with which they've worked and interpolating a range of results Oak Park could expect.

Once we receive that preliminary assessment, we'll put LRP work on hold and resume the project with steps two and three when life for all of us gets back to normal, whenever that will be.

Thanks to everyone at Oak Park for your interest and enthusiasm in expanding Oak Park's ministries. We still believe this is the right direction for Oak Park, just not now. Please feel free to call or email me at doug.walker@shaw.ca with any questions.

Doug Walker, Chairman
Long Range Planning

Your Giving Matters!

March Financial Update

Current year compared to prior year

	<u>Jan - Mar 2020</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 2019</u>
Funds Received:		
- General Fund	79,789	74,191
- Other		
Revenue	<u>13,837</u>	<u>11,519</u>
	93,626	85,710
Disbursements:	<u>-106,860</u>	<u>-98,491</u>
Deficit	<u>-13,234</u>	<u>-12,781</u>

Current year compared to budget

	<u>Actual Jan - Mar 2020</u>	<u>Budget Jan - Mar 2020</u>
Funds Received:		
- General Fund	79,789	87,000
- Other		
Revenue	<u>13,837</u>	<u>15,144</u>
	93,626	102,144
Disbursements:	<u>-106,860</u>	<u>107,885</u>
Deficit	<u>-13,234</u>	<u>-5,741</u>

Please note, the Board has granted rental deferral to Happy Times Daycare during the ongoing crisis. This decision was entirely at the initiative of our leadership, endeavoring to act fairly and graciously in this time of crisis. Oak Park and Happy Time will engage in a candid conversation regarding the payment deferral once we return to full operational mode. This does mean, however, that in the coming months we will be without almost \$4000/month of revenue which will make this season even more challenging.



The Mustard Seed is responding to Covid-19 and needs your help!

Urgently needed items:

- Face masks and other Personal Protective Equipment
- Cleaning supplies
- Toilet paper
- Hygiene products (shampoo, soap, deodorant, female hygiene products)
- Twin size blankets
- Men's casual clothing

If you can donate any of the above please drop it off at the church or at the Mustard Seed. If you are able to give financially or would like to volunteer your time please visit www.TheSeed.ca for more information on how you can help during this pandemic.

THE MUSTARD SEED
WITH YOUR HELP
HOPE LIVES HERE
PANDEMIC RELIEF FUND

**Donate to the
Pandemic Relief Fund!**
With your help,
hope lives here!

TheSeed.ca

THE MUSTARD SEED



Did you know Oak Park has an app? Download to your smartphone to access online sermons & event information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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 **oak park**
CHURCH OF CHRIST