

**October 2020**

**Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,**

We hope you are remaining well and enjoying this beautiful fall weather. Some of you may be collecting the bounty of your garden and preparing for the winter months ahead. Others may be enjoying the fall colours out your windows or on scenic drives.

The bounty of love St. Mark's offered to **"Food4Kids"** was extremely plentiful. We enjoyed a perfect fall day for our **"Ride/Walk For Refuge"** this past Saturday. We walked 10 km and stopped and visited with some members along the way. It was heart lifting to see everyone's smiles and enjoy a visit. The members and friends of St. Mark's joined together in supporting this fundraiser and raised **over \$3,600.00** for **Food 4 Kids of Waterloo Region** - <https://www.food4kidswr.ca/> which will provide food for approximately 43 children for a month or 3 ½ children for a year. What a tremendous day it was, to see our members connected and working together in God's love. As a church we have remained "In Mission", continuing to support our community, and staying connected and committed to each other.

**Thank you to everyone for their support!**

Church Council has had many conversations surrounding the re-opening of our church. At this point we have decided to continue monitoring the current climate of the pandemic. When the science and numbers provide us with the confidence to re-open we will do so, following all public health regulations. We will continue to enjoy our online services and those lovely photos that have been sent in to share. We will keep you up to date with re-opening decisions. Please feel free to contact any council member, Pastor Dave or Sue with any thoughts or questions.

Our church has managed to weather the pandemic financially to this point. Thank you to everyone for their generosity. However, it should be noted that our financials have usually improved in the September to December months after low attendance during summer months. We are attending church on line now so the opportunity for giving is looking a bit different. Please feel free to mail in your donations or call a council member or Pastor Dave and Sue and we can arrange to pick up at your home so that we can continue to provide ministry to our local and wider communities.

It is with heartfelt thanks, that we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. This is a time of year where we are forever grateful and thankful for all of God's blessings. As we gather this Thanksgiving for "on-line" worship, we can be grateful for the love and support that St. Mark's members show to one another and the surrounding community. We also give many thanks to Pastor Dave and Sue for their support and leadership as we pass through this period of time.

**Stay Well, Stay Connected,**

**St. Mark's Church Council**