

CRESCENT FORT ROUGE UNITED CHURCH RESPONSE TO THE COVID 19 OUTBREAK

At an online virtual meeting of the CFRUC Leadership team on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, a decision was made to suspend public worship gatherings until Sunday, April 12 (unless otherwise advised) and to close our facility to all public use effective Friday, March 20, 2020, until further notice.

While this will have a significant impact on our day to day operations, the work of the church, the body of Christ in the world, never ends. During this period in which the facility is closed, The Leadership Team has taken measures to ensure that our key operations will continue. In addition you will receive:

INFORMATION UPDATES

- Weekly through email
- On Facebook – www.facebook.com/cfruc
- Website – www.crescentfortrouge.ca

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES

- daily devotional through email
- Worship service emailed Friday afternoon
- Other resources as they become available

WATCH FOR LIVE STREAMING AND ONLINE POTENTIAL FOR:

- Worship
- Prayer group
- Meetings
- Opportunities for check-ins

You will find a detailed continuity plan outlined below. Knowing that this situation often changes rapidly, the period of building closure may need to be extended and additional measures may need to be taken. Rest assured that your Leadership Team is carefully considering various scenarios and will act with the best interests of the church, our staff and our community in mind.

CONTINUITY PLAN

COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES

- During the outbreak you will receive weekly updates via email alerting you to things you need to know
- We will attempt to contact those without email by other means
- For more frequent updates and links to various online resources please check our website www.crescentfortrouge.ca and Facebook page www.facebook.com/cfruc
- Please note: you may be receiving a greater volume of emails from the church than you are accustomed to. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes in the short-term, but at this time do not have the capacity to remove individual emails from particular email groups in a timely fashion

CFRUC FACILITY

- During our shut-down, our facility will be closed to all public use—this includes small group meetings, group activities, and community gatherings
- There will continue to be limited staff presence

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

- While the facility is shut down, the building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized
- Common areas, such as washrooms, and frequently touched surfaces like door handles, will continue to be cleaned on a regular basis

STAFF

- Our ministry staff, Rev. Marc Whitehead will continue to work during the outbreak; for the most part, he will work from home; Call or text at 204-461-1767 or email at marc.cfruc@mymts.net
- In the event that Marc becomes ill or is otherwise under quarantine, we have identified a list of alternate providers of emergency pastoral care
- Our Office Administrator Sherri Van Aert will continue to keep regular office hours Monday-Friday—although she may be working off site. Sherri will continue to check voice-mail and email, send out communications, keep the church books, and attend to payroll; in the event that Sherri becomes ill, we have arranged for a back-up to complete essential tasks
- Michael Cutler, our organist and choir director will continue to work during our scheduled closure; he will be deployed to help implement a plan for live streaming of concerts, worship and other events
- Our custodian Adam McPhee will also continue to work during our scheduled closure to carry out essential cleaning and maintenance duties; in the event that Adam becomes ill or needs to self-isolate, alternative arrangements will be made

WORSHIP

- Public in person worship will be suspended until Sunday, April 12
- A list of live-streaming worship options from across the country will be posted on the church's webpage
- Every Friday Marc will post a blog reflection and prayers for the coming week and you will be emailed an "at-home" worship resource
- As well, we will be experimenting with other interactive, virtual worship options via Zoom or live streaming; you will be notified as these become available

PRAYER GROUP

- In house gatherings of the prayer group will be suspended until further notice
- Everyone is invited to set aside Wednesday morning from 10:15-11:15 as intentional prayer time. Resources will be posted on the website, and a prayer service will be emailed out every Tuesday evening.
- We will also be setting up virtual gatherings via Zoom Conferencing—details forthcoming

PRIVATE DEVOTIONS

- Links to various on-line resources will be posted on our website; Marc will also forward a daily devotional from the Centre for Action and Contemplation, and an invitation to join the online Northumbria Community in morning prayer
- Each Thursday you will be emailed a weekly devotional resource from Sacrediese

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Materials for at home use with children and families are available; please check our website and facebook page

PASTORAL CARE

- Face to face visiting with those in hospital, care home, or assisted living residence (with some exceptions) is currently suspended.
- Our pastoral care team will continue to maintain contact by phone with those with whom they have ongoing connections
- Our house group leaders will maintain contact with those who are part of their house groups
- Marc will continue to offer pastoral support by phone, email, and in some cases in person. Call or text Marc at 204-461-1767 or email him at marc.cfruc@mymts.net
- You are also encouraged to check in with your church friends, neighbours, and family members. Please notify Marc or the church office if someone is ill, or would like contact with the church.

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

- Marc will continue to provide support to individuals and families in the event of severe illness, death, or significant life emergency.
- Public funeral or memorial services will likely need to be postponed until the pandemic passes; private burials or other rituals where social distancing can be safely practiced may be possible; options can be discussed with Marc

OUTREACH

- While we will not be able to collect food donations while we are closed, we encourage you to continue to support our ministry partners; there will be an ongoing need for donations and volunteers
- for most current information about how you can help, please check out the 1JustCity website <https://www.1justcity.ca/>.

FINANCE

- While our facility is closed, our expenses will continue.
- We would appreciate your continued financial support even in the absence of regular Sunday worship
- Your PAR (pre-authorized remittance) donations will continue; if you are not currently on PAR, you can enroll at any time; for more information, please email the church office at cfruc@mymts.net

- If you make your offerings through other means, we would encourage you to a cheque, or top up your pledge once services resume
- You can also make a donation online through Canada Helps
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/crescent-fort-rouge-united-church/>
- Because so many of our user groups, partners, and renters have had to suspend their activities, we are anticipating that our rental revenue will be reduced, we would encourage you to consider making an over and above donation to help meet our fixed operating costs
- Sherri will continue to pay bills and ensure payroll is completed
- Our trustees will continue to oversee investments, insurance, and the endowment fund

PARTNERSHIPS

- We will continue to be in communication with our partners and user groups, to offer updates and our support both now, and in the weeks and months to come

GOVERNANCE

- While our facility is closed, our Leadership Team, Finance team, M&P Committee, and Trustees will continue to oversee our operations and will continue to meet through electronic means.