

Timothy Topics

Newsletter

September 2020

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Reine's Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays, by appointment

Sunday Worship Service 10am

Fun Fact!

The first mention of the word "church" is in Matthew 16:18 when Jesus says: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my **church**, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."

Minister's Corner

I Am the Light of the World: Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

The mayfly has the shortest lifespan on Earth: 24 hours or less. In fact, the female *Dolania americana*, a subspecies of the mayfly family, lives for about 5 minutes. Now, consider the solar eclipse, when the moon completely covers the sun's surface, and which occurs every one to two years. The eclipse lasts a few hours and total darkness lasts around 3 minutes. Therefore, some Mayflies can spend their entire mature life in darkness. That will be the reality they will have to deal with. One can only imagine what kind of life conclusions they would deduce if they were intelligent creatures. Sometimes the reality of certain moments can challenge timeless truths just as the shadow of the moon can challenge the light of the sun.

Our lifespan towers over that of the mayflies by 27 thousand times. We feel we live long enough and are smart enough to figure everything out. But science tells us otherwise. We live only a tiny fraction of time compared to the age of our planet. Humanity is very young, and the life in each one of us is even younger. There is always a danger of letting some reality in our life challenge a timeless truth. At the time, it will be the right thing to do or consider. 'It's the reality after all' we say. But this is also what some mayflies could say if and when they arrived to the conclusion that life on earth is controlled by darkness. This is not true.

Don't let the darkness of an isolated reality you are experiencing lead you to make wrong judgments about timeless truths. Take a step back and try to see the bigger picture: look at the light, look at Jesus. Rev. Reine

Return to In-Church Worship Services

In-person worship services resume Sep 6. Same time, same place. Though a different reality. Worshipping during a pandemic means added safety measures as well as a modified worship service.

Safety measures include masks, physical distancing, hand sanitising and contact tracing. This means you maintain a distance of 2 metres from others not of your household and sit in every second pew; you wear a mask prior to entering the building and sanitise your hands upon entering the church. You undergo a wellness check. You give your name and contact info so we can communicate any possible exposure to an infectious person.

Modification to the worship service includes no paper worship or announcement bulletins, no pew Bibles, Psalters or Hymnals, no congregational singing; no gathering at Children's Time; no Sunday school or Toddler care; no passing of the offering plates and no Coffee Hour. However, we can still smile to one another, as a smile can be seen in the eyes. We can greet one another with words of salutations. We can follow the worship service from the screen. We can listen to the musicians playing and soloists singing. We can sing in our hearts. Children can follow their lessons from their pews. We can praise, thank and supplicate God in prayers. We can gain wisdom from Scripture readings and from the sermon. We can make offerings on-line or by dropping off our envelopes in offering plates at the door. In short, we can gather as sisters and brothers in Christ: one body in Christ.

Volunteers Needed

During the summer, the COVID-19 sub-committee implemented safety measures for a safe return to worship. The measures are based on guidelines provided by Public Health and City of Ottawa by-laws. To comply, they need volunteers to sanitize the Sanctuary, people to conduct wellness checks, collect contact tracing information and ushers to guide congregants to their seats and to exit in orderly fashion. If you can assist in these tasks, please contact Phoebe Gowdy. If you have questions about safety measures related to COVID-19, please contact your Elder or St Timothy's office.

Cannot Attend Worship In Person?

You can view the worship service via Zoom at 10am Sun morning. You will be able to see the speakers, hear the hymns and see the screen. Rev. Reine will send the link via email on Saturday evening. Please put your microphone on mute (bottom left of screen). Any questions, contact Rev. Reine.

Worship Services

Sunday Worship Sep 6, 13, 20, 10am
Presbyterians Sharing Worship Sep 27, 10am

Upcoming Events

No upcoming events at this time.

Church Groups

Virtual Café Connections Fridays 10am

ST TIM'S PICTORIAL

Newly painted church entrance



Lush vegetable gardens



COVID-19 Safety Measures

Safety Signage



Physical Distancing: Floor Stickers



Physical Distancing: Every Second Pew

