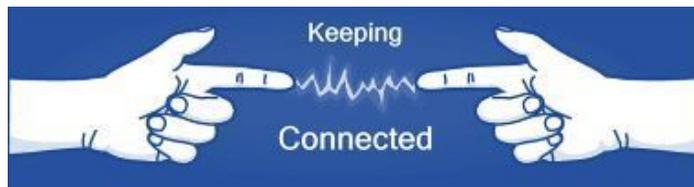


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For Sunday April 11 2021



See us on the [WWW](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#)



Lawn Care Opportunity St. Paul's Community Cemetery is in need of someone to cut the grass at the Cemetery for the months of May and June 2021. You will need to supply your own equipment, but we are able to pay a modest amount per cutting.

If you are interested please contact

Michael Mavis 613-256-2431.



Home Hospice North Lanark Advanced Care Planning seminar

Online free event on April 20 2021 2-3:30 p.m.

What is Advance Care Planning? It is a process of reflection and communication; a time for you to reflect on your values and wishes, and to let your future substitute decision-maker(s) know what kind of health and personal care you would want in the future if you were unable to speak for yourself. Life can change in an instant! It is the best gift you can

give your loved ones.

For details, consult The Millstone [HERE](#). and RSVP by Friday, April 16 to deanna@hnl.ca

The **West Ottawa Ladies Chorus** is offering a **free online mini concert** called “The Promise of Spring”. There are songs of hope and happiness to lift your spirits. You can view it by accessing www.westottawaladieschorus.ca on Friday, April 23rd at 7:30 pm. All are welcome!

A Message from Rev. Jonathon
New Beginnings

Spring is my favourite time of the year. And early spring is my favourite time of the season. After a long, dark, cold winter, signs of change begin to emerge everywhere. The days get longer, and the sunlight gets stronger and warmer. Migrating birds begin to return and the air is filled with the sounds of their songs. People that were mostly taking shelter indoors over the winter months begin to emerge and spend more and more time outside. We begin to shed the many layers of winter clothes in favour of lighter clothing.



In addition to change, there is also a sense that everything is new again. To me, spring is about new life, new beginnings, and new possibilities. Grass that was once brown or yellow in a state of dormancy over the winter suddenly turns green. Soon new buds will begin to emerge on the trees and flowers will begin to poke through the ground, reaching upwards towards the sunlight.

Change, transition, and new beginnings in the natural world shouldn't come as a surprise to us. After all, the world was created by God and the Bible reminds us that God is always active and doing something new.

The prophet Isaiah writes that God says "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43: 18-19, NRSV).

This passage implies that we may not always perceive what God is doing, even though He is active. I wonder how many times we miss out on God's action (and blessings) in our lives? This may be because our attention and efforts are focused

elsewhere, or it may be because we don't attribute the change and activity in our lives to God.

The first Christians experienced a new beginning in springtime, and the change literally happened overnight. They went from grieving the death of Jesus to celebrating His resurrection. In fact, the change in outlook was so abrupt that their first reaction to news of the resurrection was one of shock and disbelief.

This year, perhaps more than ever, we risk the danger of overlooking God's ever-present activity in our world. As was noted in our recent diocesan COVID update, we have just celebrated our second Easter with pandemic restrictions in place, and things appear to be headed in the wrong direction. What was supposed to be a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic Easter last year has now turned into two years in a row.

Nevertheless, I believe there is reason for hope at this time of year. Vaccines offer hope that things will gradually improve. And more importantly, our Christian faith offers us hope that no matter how bad things seem right now, that is not how they will always be. Because God is acting, we have reason to hope.

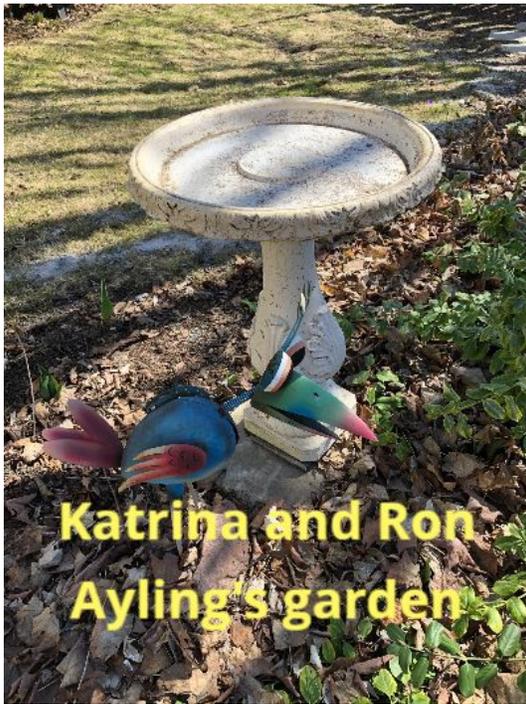
I am reminded of another passage, this one from the Apostle Paul who writes: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Romans 8: 18-19, NRSV).

As we wait and long for a return to a more normal life beyond the pandemic, may we not lose hope. And may we not lose sight of what God is doing in front of our very eyes right here and right now. Enjoy this time of new beginnings. Happy Easter!

There's more good news!

Yes, the Good News of Easter is the best news of all.
Running a close second is this: **signs of new life!**





Do you have pictures of new life you'd like to share? Send them to the Office!

Centre for Creative Living

What's New?

Several of the Centre for Creative Living practice circles have been continuing over Zoom during the pandemic where they continue to make a difference in the lives of the participants.

The **Writing Circle**, for example, meets every Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. People are writing stories, memoirs, poetry etc. with support from mentor Sarah Prospero. For more info, contact Sue Evans (evanssue@rogers.com or (613) 721-0033).

The following fable is by *Bill Fehlner*, a member of the Writing Circle.

Bill asks us: How do you find yourself “seeing” the process of helping in a different way after reading this legend?

The Legend of the Shoemaker

There was an old shoemaker who was reaching the end of his life. On some days he was still able to get to his shop for a few hours, on other days he just rested at home. The day that he found himself completely out of breath and, with both knees very sore after walking to the village, he decided the time had come to close his shop for good. First though, he would help out the villagers one last time.

The shoemaker wrapped up several pairs of shoes in gift paper. When he saw a young man passing by the front of his shop, he called out to the lad. As he stepped inside the

shop, the shoemaker asked this young man if he would help him by taking these gifts to people in the village whose shoes were wearing out.

The young man was enthusiastic. He took as many gift packages as he could carry and rushed off to the village. A woman at a vegetable stall in the centre of town clearly needed new shoes. When the young man offered her one of the packages and told her that it contained a new pair of shoes for her, she broke into laughter. 'What you're wearing doesn't look any better than my current shoes' she managed to get out between her laughs. And she was right. The young man's shoes were scuffed and dirty, and there was a large hole at the back of his left shoe. In the end no one, no matter how needy, had accepted his offer of a new pair of shoes.

The next day, the shoemaker asked a young woman to help him give away the shoes. She was surprised to be asked and felt very inadequate. She only took two gift boxes when she left the shop and she headed straight to the school library. She read all she could about shoes. She learned about colour, about fit, about heel size. The next day she returned to the library in order to learn some of the jargon of the shoemaker's trade. The following day she felt she finally knew enough and she headed off to the village square.

She saw a person resting on a wooden bench in the village square and sat down beside him. She asked him if he knew much about shoes. Before he could answer, she began lecturing him about footwear. By the time she had told him that his 'lateral instep was abnormally pronated', the listener's eyes had glazed over and he simply got up and walked away. In a similar manner, the young woman drove away each person that she met.

The shoemaker was discouraged but he asked another young man to assist him. This youth said 'Yes, I can help you. But would you give me a new pair of shoes first, so I don't feel embarrassed while I'm walking about the village?' The shoemaker found a pair of shoes that fit him well. When he left the shop, the young man did not take any gift packages with him, but he did promise the cobbler that he would return. For an entire day, the young man proudly walked about the village, clearly enjoying the comfort of his new shoes.

The next day, a poor man called to the young man as he walked by: 'You look so pleased with your shoes. I wish I could afford such shoes.' The young man replied 'Come meet the man who made these shoes for me. I am certain that he can help you too.' Over the next few days, the young man brought several more people to meet the shoemaker personally. And each of them left the shop with a new pair of shoes.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Easter 2

Click on a reading to see the text from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway

- **First reading:** [Acts 4:32-35](#)
- **Psalm:** [Psalm 133](#)
- **Second reading:** [1 John 1:1-2:2](#)
- **Gospel:** [John 20:19-31](#)



Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

In the World. The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean (covering Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles); the international mission work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), the Canadian Anglican response for emergency relief, refugees, development, and justice.

In Canada. The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and their upcoming House of Bishops Provincial Council meeting.

In our Diocese. The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; Trinity, Ottawa South and all those who minister there; the Director of Financial Ministry, Sanjay Grover; the Licensed Lay Readers' Association, and their warden, The Reverend Canon Patricia Martin.

In Our Community. We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being. We pray for the work of The Hub - for their volunteers, staff and clients. We pray for the health, safety and well-being of our neighbours in the face of increased numbers of covid-19 cases in our area and for everyone involved in the distribution of covid-19 vaccines.

In Our Parish. We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other. We ask for God's healing hand to cover our members who are struggling with health issues. We ask for God's blessing on our members Isobel Cathcart, Jack and Eloise Caverson, Harry and Sandra Code, Thomas and Joanna Coleman, and Nancy Deschênes. We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



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