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April 20, 2020

To: Members and Adherents of Wesley-Knox United Church

We are riding over what we hope is the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through unprecedented physical distancing and the shutting down of much of our economy we are having a definite impact on the spread of this disease. The cost to us has been monumental as many are out of work, struggling with home learning and worrying about loved ones in seniors and long-term care residences.

While many of the congregation are making phone calls to keep in touch with those who may be isolated or need support, if you are in need please call the church office and we will try to respond. For those who have not heard from friends recently please take time to reach out and give reassurance that we are all in this together.

Wesley-Knox is carrying on as we learn new ways to be in community. We are getting comfortable with online meetings. With the arrival of our new supply minister, Rev. Pirie Mitchell, we have launched a series of recorded "virtual" worship services. These are easily reached from our website (wesleyknox.com). Activities are planned for our primary choir. Our prayer group is meeting regularly, and an adult study group is lining up a study of the course *How Jesus Became God*, by Bart Erhman. Check our website Calendar for details on these activities or call the church office (voice messages are being picked up).

There are many things we can do to help further the work of Wesley-Knox Church. For example, printing a copy of the weekly newsletter and delivering it (keeping distance) to someone who does not have access to a computer. Watching our services and participating in our online activities will also help to keep our morale up and give structure to our days. A recent newsletter reported on how our hospitality teams and Senior Choir joined to give \$1,500 to the London Food Bank. Please note that cheques written out to the London Food Bank must be cashed by the Food Bank and they will issue charitable receipts.

Then, of course, there are finances. Our givings are down by about 25% in March and April is likely to be yet another tough month. We appreciate greatly those who have kept their PAR (pre-authorized remittance) intact or dropped off envelopes, which are

picked up daily at the church. PAR is a very safe, easy reliable and efficient way to donate on a monthly basis. Forms are available on the Donate page on our website or through the church office. Donations can also be submitted through canadahelps.org. Details of all the different ways to donate are available on our website. We continue to maintain our building, pay our staff and support our community to help those most affected. Please consider your support for Wesley-Knox, make it a priority, and help our church weather this storm.

These are very challenging times for each of us. Our daily routines have changed and what we took for granted is now not allowed. But, by coming together as a community of faith and doing what we can financially and spiritually, we will come through this together and life will have even more meaning in the future.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McFall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

John McFall
Chair, Leadership Council