

BEACH UNITED CHURCH SURVEY ABOUT ON-LINE SERVICES - June 2020

Since the closing of our building in March, we have worked hard to creatively and meaningfully meet the spiritual needs of the congregation at Beach which has included offering (in addition to 1:1 pastoral care and making available information about activities outside Beach), several Zoom and Facebook Live events online. We have received supportive feedback about the value of these events but we also realize some folks are in a holding pattern waiting for when church is once again open.

However it is becoming apparent that our building might not open for some time, and even then, some might not feel comfortable coming out for services, so we expect to extend and continue our online services for some time to come. This will be the case even after the building reopens and services and programs resume.

This survey is to learn from you about what you would like to see us add to our online offerings to better meet the needs of the congregation now and in the future.

The following summary is based on responses of 54 people completed the survey between June 20th and June 28th 2020. Half of the sample reported having two or more adults in the family. If half of those included another who was active in the congregation, the survey represents approximately 80 congregants.

1. These first questions are about the online services that are currently offered. Based on your experience, would you say these events are excellent, worthwhile, or disappointing. If you were not aware of the event or did not participate, indicate that.

	DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE EVENT	KNEW ABOUT THE EVENT BUT DIDN'T PARTICIPATE	DID PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT	
Sunday Session – 45 minutes on Zoom hosted by Karen Dale exploring various spiritual themes and sometimes including a special guest. Available live on Sunday morning at 10:30am but the recording is available afterwards on the website at any time.	4%	33%	63%	100%
Spirit Connect – Audio podcast reflections from Karen Dale with music, prayers, as well as spiritual practice videos all available on our website.	10%	21%	69%	100%
Let's Talk – Regular lively discussion on Facebook Live hosted by Karen Dale on thoughts and questions from the congregation about her weekly podcasts, prayers, and spiritual practice videos.	23%	42%	35%	100%
Music for the Soul – Recorded gifts of music from Steven Webb available at any time on the church website. Includes music videos from various genres and background information.	9%	26%	65%	100%
Zoom Meet-ups – Periodic one hour zoom sessions with members of the congregation hosted by Dave, Danna, Karen, Frank, Mary Anne, Pat, Nanci and others. Discussions cover a wide range of topics important to those on the call.	6%	36%	58%	100%
Coffee Online – Weekly one-hour coffee discussions on Wednesday morning. A chance to catch up with others in the congregation to see what has been going on with others and their families.	8%	59%	33%	100%
Choir Meet up – Weekly zoom session with the choir hosted by Mary Anne Alton.	23%	42%	35%	100%
Children and Youth – Zoom meet up every two weeks for children and youth of the church community	27%	52%	21%	100%

The following chart shows the evaluation of those who participated in each event...

	EXCELLENT	WORTHWHILE	LESS THAN YOU EXPECTED	
Sunday Session – 45 minutes on Zoom hosted by Karen Dale exploring various spiritual themes and sometimes including a special guest. Available live on Sunday morning at 10:30am but the recording is available afterwards on the website at any time.	56%	35%	9%	100%
Spirit Connect – Audio podcast reflections from Karen Dale with music, prayers, as well as spiritual practice videos all available on our website.	44%	47%	8%	100%
Let's Talk – Regular lively discussion on Facebook Live hosted by Karen Dale on thoughts and questions from the congregation about her weekly podcasts, prayers, and spiritual practice videos.	32%	63%	5%	100%
Music for the Soul – Recorded gifts of music from Steven Webb available at any time on the church website. Includes music videos from various genres and background information.	31%	57%	11%	100%
Zoom Meet-ups – Periodic one hour zoom sessions with members of the congregation hosted by Dave, Danna, Karen, Frank, Mary Anne, Pat, Nanci and others. Discussions cover a wide range of topics important to those on the call.	42%	52%	6%	100%
Coffee Online – Weekly one-hour coffee discussions on Wednesday morning. A chance to catch up with others in the congregation to see what has been going on with others and their families.	17%	78%	6%	100%
Choir Meet up – Weekly zoom session with the choir hosted by Mary Anne Alton.	39%	56%	6%	100%
Children and Youth – Zoom meet up every two weeks for children and youth of the church community	45%	36%	18%	100%

2. Here are several things that could be added to current online offerings or which could be a new event. Which of the following would you be interested in having added to the online offerings at Beach United Church?

	VERY INTERESTED	SOMEWHAT INTERESTED	NOT VERY INTERESTED	NOT AT ALL INTERESTED
Hymn Singing – Opportunity for online hymn singing in a group with accompaniment.	23%	23%	34%	21%
Gift of Music – Instrumental or voice from guest soloists or someone within the congregation; with commentary on the pieces selected.	38%	45%	9%	8%
Church News – Updates from members of the congregation on what has been happening with various events and programs like the weekly lunch program, Fred's Walk, the church gardens, Knitting for Shivering Children to name a few.	54%	43%	2%	2%
Guest Speakers – Knowledgeable and engaging speakers on spiritual and other themes.	51%	43%	2%	4%
Participation with Children and Youth – Occasional opportunities to see and hear what the children and youth in the congregation have been doing in their various programs.	20%	35%	27%	18%

3. Some people like the idea of shorter events at various times through the week. Others like to have one major event combining many of the things described above, like regular Sunday services. If it is decided to go ahead with one or more of these additions described above, would you prefer to see them added to the Sunday Session at 10:30am on Sunday morning, or would you prefer that it be a separate event at a different time.

	PART OF SUNDAY MORNING	SEPARATE EVENT
Hymn Singing – Opportunity for online hymn singing in a group with accompaniment.	63%	37%
Gift of Music – Instrumental or voice from guest soloists or someone within the congregation; with commentary on the pieces selected.	62%	39%
Church News – Updates from members of the congregation on what has been happening with various events and programs like the weekly lunch program, Fred’s Walk, the church gardens, Knitting for Shivering Children to name a few.	53%	47%
Guest Speakers – Knowledgeable and engaging speakers on spiritual and other themes.	51%	49%
Participation with Children and Youth – Occasional opportunities to see and hear what the children and youth in the congregation have been doing in their various programs.	59%	41%

Participating in some of these online events means you may have to figure out how to do some new things on your computer. How big a barrier is this for you?

- A significant barrier **15%**
- Not a significant barrier **33%**
- Not a barrier at all **52%**

4. Some people have visited the sites of other churches and sampled the things they are doing. If you saw any online events at other churches that you thought were worth sharing, please tell us what the event was, what you liked or disliked about it, and which church presented it.

- *One had on-line registration for in-person church services*
- *Liked live music*
- *Islington United had full Sunday service with familiar hymns and news about the congregation, such as birthdays, births, and health updates*
- *Kedron United Church - I know the minister*
- *Islington United has a "traditional" service on FB including music, hymn singing, prayer and reflection. This is followed by an informal FB live session led by the Minister to update everyone on what is going on with church programs and personal events within the congregation, e.g. births, graduations with use of chat function by church members. Church members advised the minister in advance by email of personal updates. This was very effective.*

- *A call to action sermon yesterday at Trinity Anglican Church in Cambridge. It's on their FB page. It was passionate, powerful and spoke to me about my role in fighting racism, especially here in Canada with indigenous people.*
- *<https://www.stpaulsunitedbc.com/worship-live-video>*
- *Other churches websites I have looked at tend to more or less mimic a live service which I find long and not very engaging when watching it on a computer screen. I like the shorter podcasts and spiritual practice videos better. I find them to be an appropriate duration and are more engaging. I also think the length and format of Zoom and livestream sessions has been perfect for online engagement.*
- *Saw communion on-line. Belleville church. You provide your own elements!*
- *The site of Eglinton St George's has been extremely useful for children's activities, musical and verbal supports from the outside, both church and non-church world. these were extremely helpful to me during the early to middle times of the shut down by COVID . I virtually attended two of their groups back then.*

5. Some people spend much of the summer at a cottage and are not usually able to attend services at Beach United Church. If this is the case for you, how interested would you be in taking advantage of online services from Beach through the summer?

6.

I spend much of the summer at a cottage	61%
I am around through the summer and usually can attend the service	39%
	100%

Of the 61% who spend much of the summer at a cottage...

Extremely interested	0%
Very interested	23%
Somewhat interested	48%
Not so interested	26%
Not at all interested	3%
	100%

7. If you have any other ideas or opinions that you would like to share, please use the space below.

- *I would like to hear about congregation happy or sad news*
- *Use the parking lot for church outside in summer. Would be easy six foot spacing*
- *What happened to Steven Webb and the music program?*
- *As a newcomer, connecting with people in the congregation through zoom etc has been great. It's better than Sunday coffee time*
- *The new website is much more approachable than the previous format*
- *For me, the online programming necessitated by the pandemic has been a valuable opportunity to try new ways of "being church" that are relevant to our changed circumstances. I am personally less*

interested in trying to recreate a traditional Sunday service online than I am in exploring a variety of podcasts, videos, and written formats in my own schedule,

- *There could be pertinent links to other spiritual leaders such as Richard Rohr and Caroline Myss (this woman is amazing) plus Brenee Brown.*
- *I want to say that I am not at all negative about the online work BUC has done though I have not attended. I think it is very important to people. Too much of my work online now so I have not attended.*
- *I really miss being able to receive a gift of music from Steven Webb. To my knowledge there is just the one that was done early on. He has a particular gift for choosing and playing hymns and more modern pieces. I sincerely hope that he will be able to return.*
- *Thank you for your creativity and dedication as you quickly pivoted to meet the needs of our community. While we haven't been participating actively in the programs being offered, we have been keeping updated through the website and emails. Our goal is to participate more again, beginning in the fall.*
- *Need to keep in mind that there are those who would like to "sample" our services without engaging, when church shopping. For this group, FB live is a more appropriate tool than Zoom.*
- *We have no Wi-Fi in Muskoka and are away June and August and possibly some July weekends. Interested in getting more involved again in the fall depending on COVID.*
- *Church news can be effectively communicated through eBlasts and on website so as not to make Sunday sessions can be devoted to reflection, music and connection. I like the breakout rooms after Zoom reflection on Sundays. It's a chance to chat in small groups about message or just to catch up.*
- *I am sure you are aware that many of congregation are not on Facebook and can hardly manage Zoom*
- *I am not planning to attend "in person" worship services at the church building until after a large percentage of the population is vaccinated. Re-opening the building for services prematurely is an invitation to become a place where the virus I can be spread among a vulnerable population. Has anyone noticed what has happened in Long Term Care facilities?*
- *Church at the cottage is a non-starter. No internet access*
- *I like that I can hear the church service at any time through the week.*
- *No Wi-Fi so hard to participate regularly for any length of time.*
- *I would like to attend the Wednesday morning sessions but the timing conflicts with another regular meeting on Zoom which is neither movable nor avoidable. Otherwise I would attend that one. As well, just as a comment, I did not regularly attend Sunday church prior to the shutdown and change to our lives as lived because I find Sunday mornings at home with the radio more relaxing and connecting to the world and how I must live it in a respectful way towards myself and others. I used to attend all the time many years ago. I and my spouse continue to support Beach financially. That PAR donation being our largest by 3 times our donations to other charities such as The United Way and MSF. I support with weekly actions other in the community activities that Beach takes part in and I support my spouse as a resource in his more direct actions that are in support of the more traditional Sunday church programs. I think that as a church community you do very well with what you have.*

8. For how many years have you have attended BUC (or one of the predecessor churches)?

10 years or less	25%
11 – 34 years	40%
35 years or more	35%

9. How many adults live in your household?

One person	25%
Two people	51%
Three or more	24%

10. How many children under 18 years of age live in your household?

None	98%
One	2%
Two	2%