

Viral Times

17 June 2020



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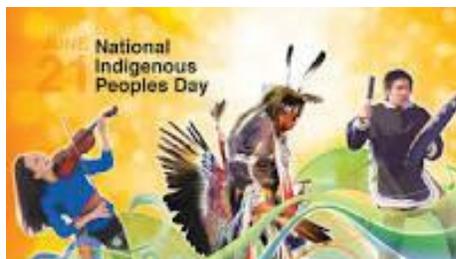
National Aboriginal Day

In a recent e-mail the Racial Justice Advisory Committee of the Eastern Synod, and its Circle for Reconciliation and Justice have reminded us that June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada. Here is a portion of that message:

It is time to build awareness and live out compassion for all. The summer solstice on June 21st marks National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada. A day to recognize the contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and cultures. We ask you to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples who are reclaiming languages, cultures, and sacred ways to connect with the land. The solstice is a time of thanksgiving to the land for its abundance.

Mother Earth provides for all of our needs. Yet Indigenous neighbours cry out for equal access to clean water, nutritious foods, adequate health care, satisfactory housing, resources for education, and freedom to self-govern without interference from the Canadian government. From the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, increased number of death by suicide cases in Indigenous youth and young adult populations, to the heightened risks of substance abuse, we have not been good neighbours. We have not heard the warning calls to care for our land and hold all creation as sacred. It is time to heed the wisdom of Indigenous neighbours and to join in the caretaking of this land.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives movement we are doubly reminded of our common humanity, and the need for us to find ways to relate to one another as beloved children of God.



Life Line

Our working partnership with Youth Stars is in the early stages. Soon we expect to sign an agreement regarding the use of office and program space here at CTR. As public officials allow, an after-school program will be launched in our building five days a week beginning in September. A Saturday program will also be held on our premises.

Director Malik Shaheed also invites us to a *Black Lives Matter* Rally at Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School on Saturday June 27 at 1:00. We will be identified as one of the sponsors. Your attendance (with mask and spacing) is a simple way to express your love and concern for all people.

A grant from Desjardins will allow some building upgrades, including ceiling lights, accordion doors, tables and chairs.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim Slack



Sumba Family

We're still gathering furniture and household goods for the Shumba family, who have recently come to Canada from Zimbabwe. With help from St. John's in Montreal they expect to move into an apartment August 2.

This Week at CTR

June 17 Lessons' Study 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting ID 879 1570 3753
June 21 Worship 9:30/10:00 am
Zoom Meeting ID 879 6252 4151
June 23 Congregational Council - Special
Zoom Meeting ID 816-6504 3191

