

SUMMER EDITION 2021

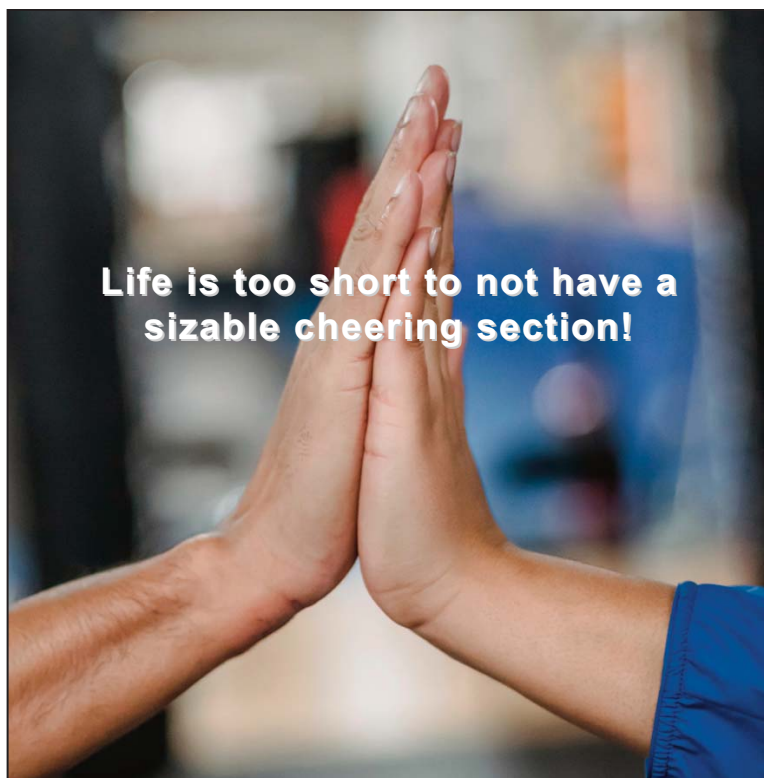


Reverend David Exley
Lead Minister
(519) 472-6071 Ext. 222

"Rock, Paper, Scissors...Applause!"

One of my games from my years of working as a summer camp counsellor and director is called "Rock, Paper, Scissors... Applause!" The rules of the game are relatively simple—individuals in large group of people pair off and begin to play "Rock, Paper, Scissors" against one another. Once a winner is determined between two players, the winner finds another player who won their first game and moves on to the next round.

The twist in this game is that the loser of each match follows the winning player around and cheers them on as they face the next competitor (that's where the "Applause" part of the game comes in). Each time a winner is determined, the cheering section for that player grows until two people are left standing, and a giant crowd of people cheer the final two players on in the final match. As you might imagine, it is a simple, fun game that keeps children and youth entertained for a short period of time. One of the reasons I love the game so much is that unlike most win/lose games (where defeat can weigh heavy upon the player), everyone has a role to play in the game's success.



Didn't win the game? Don't worry—you get to be the cheering section for the next part of the game.

"Rock, Paper, Scissors... Applause!" is a beautiful metaphor for life. I can't think of a better image for what the church can be in this world (when it is at its best). We can be those people planted throughout the world cheering on neighbours and strangers (those close to us) as they navigate the ups and downs of life. In a world where many see life as a

competition with clear winners and losers, we can choose to play by different rules.

We can turn the victories of others into our victories. We can make celebration a key part of our identity. We can help the world shift away from the "us versus them" mentality into a new (more united) approach to life. In the days ahead, take a moment each day to celebrate the victories of others.

Take time to join the cheering section. As you do, know that God is there to cheer along with you. Life is too short to not have a sizable cheering section.. **Amen.**

Rev. Dave



Marilyn Arthur
 Director of Children and Youth Ministries
 Recognized Designated Lay Minister
 (519) 472-6071 Ext. 223

Hi there!! I hope you having a wonderful summer. My hope is that you are able to enjoy God's incredible creation as we share in the warmth, sunshine and all the things that summer can bring to our lives. We had a lovely celebration on Zoom (video) with our ten confirmands from 2020 and 2021 on Sunday June 13th. We recorded the service and you can watch this by clicking this private link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpPnGW6gwvo>

We gifted each confirmand with a Student Bible, a wooden cross made from the Riverside pews (thanks John Welbourn), an Affirm bookmark and gummy fish. These gift packages were delivered via porch drop off to our young people and they opened them together near the end of our confirmation service.

Thank you to our ten young people for saying 'yes' to embarking on this confirmation journey and to their mentors who walked alongside them as they learned more about who they are, about each other and how incredible they are as they discovered more about their faith, beliefs, their gifts/talents and how they are called to serve and bless others in our world.

Thank you to our Riverside family for your continued prayer and support for our young people.

We hope you enjoy watching this unique and special way of celebrating confirmation that we had to do this year.

Our children and youth continue to meet online together for discussions, activities and games. Our Children's Worship curriculum that we are learning about at the present time is called 'Joining God at Work in the World'. Each week the children are invited to join God at continuing to do the incredible work we have been invited to do, such as blessing, encouraging, caring and taking care of all God's people and the Earth by doing various activities.

The themes we have done so far have been:

God Invites Abram and Sarah: Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1, 5-6
 Theme: bravery, creating good for all creation and to follow God's calling for their lives;

God's Love for Hagar and Ishmael: Genesis 21:5-21
 Theme: God's faithfulness, God cares for those who suffer, and God's love has no boundaries;

The Place God Was In- Genesis 28:10-19
 Theme: God's forever presence with us

5 Daughters Demand to be Included- Numbers 27:1-11
 Theme: learning the difference between equity and equality, how we can speak up when we see situations causing disadvantages.

I miss you all. I am sending you all lots of love.
 Marilyn Arthur

2020 Confirmation Group

**Cameron Giffin and mentor Sheila Grose
 Jocelyn McLennan and mentor Lynn Mellon
 Tanner Morris-Marlatt and mentor Peter Case
 Jack Watson and mentor David Sawyer**

2021 Confirmation Group

**Leah Exley and mentor Susan Scott
 Lila Foster and mentor Jennifer Cross
 Matthew Foster and mentor Brent Scott
 Zachary Giffin and mentor Linda Thompson
 Caleb Scott and mentor Ken Fraser
 Emmett Sharpe and mentor Lino Prelazzi**



2020 and 2021 Riverside Confirmands and Mentors



Jan Shamrock
Administrative Assistant
(519) 472-6071 Ext. 221

Our Church Family:

IN HOSPITAL: If you know of anyone in hospital please call the church office at 519-472-6071 ext. 221 and let us know.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS: Please keep June Simpson and her family in your prayers as she enters palliative care at Mount Hope.

IN SYMPATHY: The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jeff & Pam Poor and family following the passing of Jeff's father, Eric, on July 1.

SINCERE THANK YOU: The Brooks family would like to thank all who made a contribution to Riverside in memory of Norm. We would also like to thank all who sent flowers and cards to us. We really appreciated

receiving your condolences and thoughtfulness as well as the phone calls.

We would like to thank our friends at Riverside for all of the phone calls, cards and condolence messages following the loss of Mel's brother Ralph on June 25th. Mel and Stella Finkbeiner

SERMON BY PHONE: Need a boost of Sunday Worship? Why not try just listening to the latest service? It's a unique experience we promise you...Feel the inspiration of a Sunday sermon while going about your chores or better - exercise! Go on, give it a try! **519-266-0259**

BEST WISHES: Riverside staff and Council wish Johann Kinting all the best as he leaves his Communications position to pursue his Golf Teaching business. Thanks for all your hard work Johann!

JULY BIRTHDAYS
The whole Riverside family wish everyone with a birthday in July a very happy day and a year full of joy.