



**Phone:** (905) 822-9834

**Email:** [office@christfirst.ca](mailto:office@christfirst.ca)

**Website:** [christfirst.ca](http://christfirst.ca)

**Clarkson Campus**

*(Mailing address)*

1700 Mazo Crescent  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5J 1Y8

**Port Credit Campus**

151 Lakeshore Rd W  
Mississauga ON  
L5H 1G3

**Ministry Team:**

The Rev. Dr. Morar Murray-Hayes  
The Rev. Scott Beckett  
Victoria Keane

**Music Directors:**

Leanne Pillar  
Greg McCausland

**Office Admin:**

Christine Barlow  
Janis Cowie

**Council Chair:**

Steve Shaver

October 18, 2020

Dear Christ First Friends,

I hope this finds you and family safe and well. COVID-19 has turned our world upside down in the most disturbing ways. While it is getting harder to find and keep the "normal" in our lives, we do know that we can turn to Christ First each week and experience the normalcy of worship. The services may look a bit different, but the music and messages are there for us when we need them.

COVID-19 has made church operations this year more challenging, but we have risen to the challenge. The work of the church continues to be done as you can see from the weekly e-blasts and wonderful 9:02 and 10:30 worship services. This is thanks to the dedication of the church staff, ministerial team, the Church Council, many volunteers and your faithful financial support. We also continue to support the vulnerable in our community through our donations to the Mission and Service Fund, the Compass, Open Door, Mitten Tree and Chase the Chill. Our partnership with and support of the Bighead River Foodgrains Project results in a crop being grown and harvested with proceeds going to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank which is helping to fight world hunger.

We will all be happy to get 2020 behind us, and now is the time to look ahead to 2021 and the challenges we may yet face. We have cause for optimism. Our Living Faith story correctly says that we have a strong vision of where we want to go and no lack of dedicated and creative people to help us get there. But as the Chair of Council said in his recent letter to the congregation, we do need to remain vigilant to the financial impact of COVID-19. Our rental revenues are down, there is no guarantee we will qualify for government wage rebates after November, and with the current path of COVID there is unlikely to be a Spring Thing in 2021 for additional revenue.

In this wildly unpredictable environment, we will need to count on your financial support more than ever before. For the first time, we will not be able to depend on outside revenues to meet our financial goals.



Our annual stewardship campaign, **Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)** will be running from October 18 to November 8. During that time, please think about the important place Christ First has in your life and how you can ensure it remains strong during 2021. You will be hearing stories from fellow members how they support our church and the joy that gives them.

By November 8, we will ask you to give us an idea of your financial intentions for next year. Your gift, big or small, will be welcomed. With your assistance and generosity, we can still make 2021 a positive one for Christ First and its impact on the local community.

Even as COVID-19 does its best to take everything away, let's make sure we don't let it take away Christ First's ability to keep on doing God's important work in our community.

Thank you for your continued support. You are appreciated!

Sincerely,

Mary Dowding-Paré  
Chair, Stewardship Committee