



2021 04 16

Dear Community of Faith Leader:

The Gathering Place board met last week to discuss, among other things, our method of providing meals during the Covid-19 pandemic. I have been asked to update all of the supporting churches. (Complete minutes are available from Ministerial Executive.)

Meals continue to be delivered to the three Bowmanville group homes. In addition, people living in the community, who are not living in group homes, but who had been attending Gathering Place dinners in the past, and migrant workers at two local farms have also been receiving dinners during the past few months, thanks to a Grant provided by the Town of Clarington, which required expansion of our current program.

Meals have been prepared by three local restaurants – Bowmanville Family Restaurant and Sunrise Griddle in Bowmanville, and Massey House in Newcastle. Meals are costing \$15.00 per meal, plus tax. This represents a doubling of cost per meal, compared to preparing the meals in the Church kitchen. Although fewer meals are being prepared (about 65 for the three group homes), a significant cost is involved for each meal.

Meals have been greatly appreciated by the groups receiving them – indicating it is important to continue this ministry. The sense of sharing and belonging is very important to those involved with The Gathering Place. Many positive comments have been received. One woman from the community has mentioned that she is able to treat her kids to a special meal each month, which makes her feel good as a mom. One of the migrant workers sent a note, which read: “Thank you very much for the dinner that you sent us. May God fill you with blessings today, tomorrow and always. Greetings also to the community that made it possible for this dinner. May God bless you all”.

A big Thank You needs to be expressed to those Communities of Faith who have continued to provide financial support for this vital ministry during this time of Covid. In order to continue providing meals, in the current format, until the pandemic restrictions can be lifted, we continue to need your support. Please remind your Congregations/Communities of Faith that this ministry is still very much alive, and financial support will be gratefully received. Donations can be made through your church, and then directed to The Gathering Place (c/o St. Paul’s United Church, 178 Church St., Bowmanville, ON, L1C 1T9.) If your Community of Faith has made a recent donation, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Isabel'.

Isabel Peat, Secretary
The Gathering Place Board