



May 2, 2020

Dear Members & Friends of Oxford Church of the Nazarene,

It is hard to believe it has been almost eight weeks since we have been together in person. We have been doing lots of pivoting and adjusting to stay on mission and connected during this challenging time. There may be moments you find yourself discouraged and longing to get back to 'normal'. I want to encourage you; God will see us through. Continue to place your confidence, trust and hope in him!

2 Tim 1:12 in the NET version.

I know the one in whom my faith is set and I am convinced that he is able to protect what has been entrusted to me until that day.

Annual Meeting Update

All annual meetings in our District have been cancelled, including ours. We are following the procedures put in place for unique circumstances and consequently will be extending the terms of the current board for an additional year. We are still putting together a written booklet with ministry reports and the financial year end report. You can expect it mid-May. In addition, we have a little surprise... but will keep you waiting on that! 😊 Any questions about the annual meeting, please reach out.

Ministry List & Schedule

Lots of great things are still happening. The following is a summary of ongoing ministries.

- Daily Devotions are posted on Facebook. Join the Facebook group: *OxNaz Devotional Group*. Read and share as a church family+ daily!
- Sunday - 10:30 am | **Livestream** of weekly message through Facebook or YouTube!
 - *We've been averaging 5,000 views and 4,000 minutes of content watched each week, thanks to your help sharing the message!*
- Sunday - 11 am | **Church Gathering** on ZOOM for a face-to-face time with further teaching, sharing, worship, prayer and testimony. All welcome.
 - *We've had more than 25 families per week in our gathering.*
- Tuesday - 11 am | **Ladies Prayer Time** over the phone. (Interested? Contact Debbie Thompson)
- Tuesday - 7 pm | **Youth Small Groups** with Pastor Tyler & Lexi on Zoom. (Contact them for more information)
- * On Special Tuesdays at 7 pm Pastor Jodi goes LIVE... watch for details as these special episodes unfold.



- Wednesday - 4:15 pm | **Impact Kids** on ZOOM! (New kids are always welcome. Contact Leah Hobbs for more information)
- Thursday - 7 pm | **Young Mom's Group** on ZOOM. (All young women are welcome. Contact Leah Hobbs if you'd like the link!)
- Friday - 7 pm | **Youth Meeting** on ZOOM. (Contact Pastor Tyler for details)
- Saturday - 9 am | **Men's Group** on ZOOM. (All men are welcome. Contact Pastor Bill)

NOTE: We are working on a few additions to our schedule.

1. A Young Men's Group designed specifically for men in their 20's & 30's which will meet weekly by ZOOM. Watch for details coming soon!
2. For those not on ZOOM, we are examining ways we can share the Sunday Church Gathering on YouTube. If you can watch video on YouTube but cannot get onto ZOOM, please contact the church office to let us know you would be interested in this option. If we have enough interest, we will try to make this happen.

Giving

We have three ways for you to continue giving during this time of separation. We thank you for your generous and ongoing support. It is deeply appreciated!

1. **Online banking/E-Transfer** - Email give@oxfordnazarenechurch.ca Set up one time or even recurring giving so you can set it and forget it!
2. **Credit Card** – Go to our website www.oxnaz.ca and click 'give'. Note there is a 3% fee attached. You can set up one time or recurring giving here as well.
3. **Cheques** - Mail to PO Box 252, Oxford NS B0M 1P0

If you have any questions on giving, please let us know.

Church Renovations

We have received a generous donation for church renovations. The project is just getting underway. If you are willing to help with labour, please contact John Reid.

The renovation includes installing new carpet in the main sanctuary and entry, looking into a new entry door system, reupholstering the pews and updating some lighting and aesthetics. When we return to our gatherings you can expect to be welcomed into a fresh space ready for many more years of ministry to our community and world! Hooray!

I need to ask something of you! This is very important!...

I'm asking for everyone to make a conscious effort to maintain church unity during this reno.



Renovations in churches can divide people, tear churches apart, and be very disruptive. Therefore...

First, I am asking for your trust. Church leaders are working hard to make wise decisions about this renovation. Please trust those in authority and refrain from questioning decisions made. If you have a sincere question or concern, please speak to church board secretary: Carol Embree.

Second, I am asking for your commitment to refrain from hurtful words. When it comes to sharing your thoughts and opinions about anything related to our renovation, can you first please ask... Is it helpful? Is it beneficial? Will my comments promote unity? Is it loving and kind? Please, please... let's express our love for God and each other as we seek to prepare our beautiful church facility for the future!

Youth Update

Youth are meeting online regularly and trying lots of new things. For more information, contact Pastor Tyler at tyleehobbs@hotmail.com. They use their Instagram and their Facebook to provide updates to the youth regarding events. If you need someone added to this communication, please let Tyler know!

Children's Ministry Update

Children and families are being engaged through an online FB group called OxNaz Kids. They also meet weekly on ZOOM for Impact Kids and the moms meet on a separate night by ZOOM. If you know a young family or child that needs to connect to our ministry, contact Leah at leahkrul@hotmail.com. Also, look out for ways to be involved in some upcoming initiatives geared to connecting the generations. One such initiative is already underway with *26 prayer partners upholding each of our young families!*

New Call List

We have created and shared an updated CALL LIST with all our church families. We hope you make good use of this excellent resource to keep in touch!

Faith-FULL & Fear-LESS Toolkit

You have likely been receiving emails with the various components of the Toolkit, including the first two lessons. Have you checked them out? You are encouraged to follow the study but not alone. Have you prayed about walking through it with a friend? Consider it! Lesson 3 comes out Monday!

Families Not Online

We understand that not everyone has access to the internet and therefore is unable to take part in as many of our church activities. Here is what we are doing to help:



- Alternate Communication - Email communications are shared with those folks by phone call or are printed and delivered.
- Sermons by Phone - Volunteers call and allow those folks to listen in on the sermon.
 - If you are willing to make the call to someone who isn't online, please let Barb Pringle know asap!
 - If you know someone who isn't getting the message on Sunday through a phone call, please advise Barb Pringle as well so we can try to match them to a volunteer!
- Prayer Calls - Barb Pringle and our Church Stewards, along with a few volunteers, are using the Call List to connect with folks and share in times of prayer.
 - If you are willing to help with this, please let Barb Pringle know! Help is needed!

Be Involved

Here are just a few reminders and helpful ideas, but the sky is the limit...

- Help us reach those who are not online (as noted above)
 - Contact Barb Pringle to see how you can help
- Make phone calls...reach out to your neighbors.
- Stay connected with seniors. Call them to talk & pray with them.
- Share our Social Media posts. Immediate likes & shares help our posts reach more people, including those who may not know Jesus or be linked with a church. This is so important! PLEASE help with this!
- Serve
 - What unique gift do you possess? How can you use that at this time?
 - You can join OxNaz Delivery team. Contact Tyler! They're at 95 deliveries!
- Continue to give generously.
- Commit to promoting church unity during the renovation (as noted above)
- Pray
 - Pray alone, pray with friends, pray, pray, pray!!

One more important thing for all Facebook users

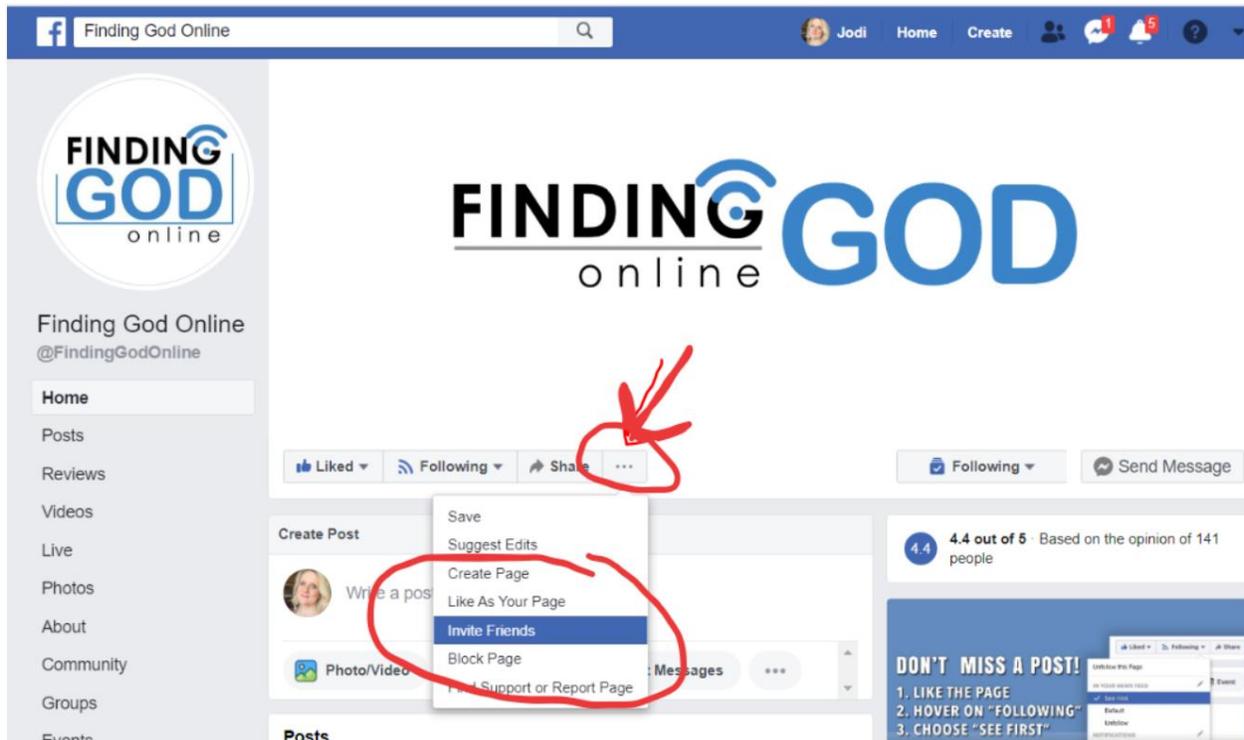
You can make a HUGE difference at this time by inviting your friends to follow our page and connect with our ministry. Some folks have been confused about exactly how to do this.

Have a peek at this little screenshot below. This is not our church page, but it shows you how to invite friends.

Go to our church Facebook. On the main church page, look under the big display picture for three little buttons as the arrow shows (photo on next page). Click them. They show you a

menu and one of the options is 'invite friends' as circled (on photo on next page). Click this and you get a new screen where you can select all friends or specific friends.

Invite them to follow us and VOILA! You've done your part 😊.



Contact Us

I hope you have found this update helpful. Again, if you have any questions, concerns, or need support, please reach out!

There are many ways to reach us. The office is staffed between 10-2 from Tuesday-Friday. You can call during that time and talk to Jen. Our number is (902)447-2539. If it is not urgent, you can call after-hours and leave a message. Another great way is to email info@oxfordnazarenechurch.ca. We will respond as soon as we can.

If you need the Pastor for an urgent or time-sensitive matter, please call her personal line at (902)303-0313.

We continue to stand Nova Scotia Strong, but not in our own power, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Continue to pray for our beautiful province and all the people who are struggling and hurting with recent events as well as with the time of isolation. God is faithful and his mercies are new each day. My friends, He is faithful!