



25 Main Street, P.O. Box 61, Grand Bend, Ontario N0M 1T0 * (519) 238-2402
huronshoresunitedchurch@gmail.com * www.huronshoresunitedchurch.com

October 6, 2021

That was then, this is now

But the Lord says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already - you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there. Isaiah 43:18-19

As we return to in person worship we wonder will things ever be the same as it was. A while ago I asked for input on what people missed the most and one member said she missed hugs.

Many of us have worshipped in multiple churches or communities and maybe even in different denominations or countries. We can probably all recall favourite parts of each of these experiences, a favourite location, a favourite part of worship service, a favourite worship leader, favourite church family members and the list goes on.

Roger and I remember when our kids (teenagers at the time) would mouth the words of the service benediction back to the minister because it was always exactly the same and when he caught on to this he would occasionally change the wording to trip them up. It became their inside joke and when he stumped them both the kids and he would break out in smiles as they chuckled to themselves. I messaged our kids recently and asked if they remember that benediction and one of them could remember it verbatim all these years later, the other two had some recollection and when we got it in our minds again we could hear Rev. Tucker's Welsh accent repeat those words.

There is something both comforting and mind numbing about familiarity. As life takes us to new locations or as familiar worship settings change due to circumstance, we long for what has been and are anxious about what is to come.

Yes things are different now, and as we adjust and move forward we need to remember that if we look in the rear view mirror with the vehicle in drive the outcome might not be what we hoped.

So whether you worship in person, on zoom, via phone or any other method you choose, let's make all of our connections a "hug" as we embrace and support each other during this time of change.

Hugs,
[Lori Hyatt](#)

P.S. Please consider sharing your Hope. You can send us a letter for publication or even just a few of your thoughts to our email Hyatt.le.rc@gmail.com or via a phone call at 519-897-8315.

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*



Affirm/Staffirmer
UNITED ENSEMBLE