

Dear Friends:

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" says the apostle Paul in Romans 8:31. This is a wonderful truth. The gospel singer, Casey J, responds to this verse of scripture in one of her songs:

... **What shall**

We say to these things?

There's still cancer

And so much disease

What shall

We say to these things?

So much hurting

And broken esteem.

So many questions

But still just one answer

... **If God be for me, who can be against me?**

Spring has begun to make its mark on our wintery world. We are looking forward to Sunday morning services at All People's Church which will start the first weekend in May. Most of all, we anticipate seeing one another again at the lake - one of our best-loved locales!

Although we have not met as a congregation this winter, we know that we are members of the body of Christ wherever we go, whatever happens to us. We are encouraged knowing that our church family cares about us and is praying for us. This has been of particular importance to members of the board as several individuals have faced a variety of challenges this winter.

We thank God for help and healing as Erna Wiebe has overcome a bout of Covid combined with blood clots in the lungs brought on through flying, as Martha Dueck recovers from knee replacement surgery, and as John Hill gains strength while waiting for a repair to a deteriorating aortic stent.

We grieve with Leona Doerksen and Johnathon and Jaylene Doerksen as they said farewell to their husband and father, Luke Doerksen, who passed away unexpectedly at the end of December. And we continue to bring our pastor's name before the Lord in prayer. We know the winter has been difficult for him as he mourns the passing of his wife, Betty, and as he begins to find different rhythms for his life.

What lies heavily on our hearts at the moment is the hard news that Reg Penner is facing a diagnosis of Stage 4 cancer with a mass on the pancreas, and spots on the liver. Reg returned home yesterday from being in the hospital for the past two weeks. He is waiting to hear from cancer care in regard to his chemo treatment. Ingrid is asking us to pray for miracles - big and small - that will help Reg as he seeks treatment, and that will bring health, as well as hope, faith and peace both to him and to his family. If you want to comment directly to Reg and his family, and want to know better how to pray, Ingrid invites you to follow her blogs on the caringbridge.org site under the name of Reginald Penner.

Leslie, a friend and neighbour who lives near to Erna and Terry, is asking for our prayers as she undergoes gamma knife treatment this coming Thursday to address a rapidly growing brain tumor. Leslie and Jim began attending All People's Church last summer and we pray for excellent medical care, for healing, and for an awareness of God's loving presence.

You, too, may have faced various perils and challenges this past winter. Do let our church family know if we can pray for you or walk alongside you in some way. How extremely good it is to know that “in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

We are meeting shortly as a board to plan the coming season at All People’s Church. At this time there are no plans for an Easter service but should that change, we will let you know immediately. Later this month, Erna will meet with Lauren, the director of Kids’ Camp, which is planned to be held this coming summer on the week that follows the August long weekend. We’ll confirm the exact dates as soon as we can.

A note from our treasurer, Art Dueck: For those who have been asking, the contact information for Interac e-transfers is apctreasurermb@gmail.com. We thank you for the generous support that you give to the church through all the seasons of the year. God bless you and your gifts.

May you enjoy these days of increasing sunlight, of milder temperatures, of the first hints of green grass emerging from the snow. God has plans for the future!

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

We look forward to seeing you soon,
The All People’s Church Board,
Erna Wiebe, Audrey Hill, Herb Wittenberg, Arthur Dueck, Jennifer Turner, Ingrid Penner, Johnathon Doerksen, Pastor Bill Ehlers.