

Good morning,

If you have ever walked up to the back door of the church near my office, you may have noticed this little sign on my office window:



I have always been interested in safety. I put the note up because I think Hope is a "*safe space*" for people. There were a few unusual times in the past. About ten years ago, the bronze cross near our guest book disappeared, but was later returned to us by the RCMP. It went out the door but came back. Safety usually means that we and our possessions are secure. That may not always be the case. A couple of years ago, the church and my office were broken into, resulting in what I always think of as the "*great ju-jube robbery*." A few other items vanished as well, but my ju-jubes were not safe.

However, my little sign is a message about people. The word *safe* is related to the religious word *salvation*. That carries the sense that God is close and cares for us. We are safe, come what may, in the care of the Good Shepherd. I put it up to encourage people about our community of faith. Others are not at risk among us.

I came in early one morning during the pandemic, just as an older couple were wandering away from the building. At the time there was a large hedge near the front of my office window. They were looking for a place to sleep that night and took the sign literally. They camped out beneath my window because "*this is a safe space*." They were gracious and thanked me for a safe space. Safety can mean a lot of things,

As God's people we seek to ensure the safety of others. Are we friendly, open, and caring? Can we "see" others and welcome them? Do people feel better around us? Is this a safe space? People who come to our gatherings tell me that they feel safe. Thank you for always helping to make Hope a safe space. I have been glad to be the pastor of a safe space.

***I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. (Psalm 4:8)***

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**Please note:**

In case you are unable to be present in person, I've been asked to include this **Zoom link for my Retirement Party** at Hope on **Saturday, May 3 beginning at 5:00 pm** with a pot-luck supper, followed by a program:

Topic: Pastor Terry's retirement party

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82993334789>

Meeting ID: 829 9333 4789

Passcode: **Jube**

By Telephone

- +1 778 907 2071 Canada

Meeting ID: 829 9333 4789

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Coming up at Hope:

May 1 @ 10:00 am *Hymn Sing on Zoom*

May 2 @ 8:30 am *Men's Breakfast meeting*

May 2 @ 9:00 am - noon *Hope Quilters*

May 3 @ 5:00 pm *Pastor Terry's Retirement Pot Luck Party* at Hope

May 4 @ 10:00 am *Sunday Worship Service*

The *Sunday service* and *Invitation to Zoom* will appear in your email on Saturday morning.

Christ is risen!

Pastor Terry