



### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Stars twinkle in the darkened sky, lights on homes illumine the dreary night, and a new birth gives hope to a troubled world – all signs of Christmas. Concerts by beloved choirs fill the air. The mitten tree sits on the chancel. Preparations are made for the upcoming Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. What joy to be in the midst of Advent festivities.

Penticton United Church has a rich history of Advent and Christmas traditions. The season begins with the popular Choral Extravaganza. This year 7 choirs performed to a sell out church. The Queen's Park School breakfast program and the Okanagan Falls School lunch program will benefit receiving half the proceeds from the concert. Our church receives the other half of the proceeds. The Maker's Market was a new initiative replacing the UCW tea and bake sale. Crafters and artisans sold their items, while the congregation also had an impressive array of craft items, preserves and baked goods for sale. A tea and coffee room did a bustling business and a good time was had by all. The traditional candle-light Christmas Eve worship service will be offered at 7:00 pm on December 24. A Christmas Day worship service will be offered at Penticton United Church at 10:00 am with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church sharing in the service. Stories from the Rocking Chair will be the theme.

May the hope, peace, joy and love of this blessed season fill your hearts and homes.

Blessings,

Laura Turnbull (Rev.)

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Sunday December 11** – 10:00 am - White Gift and Mitten Tree Sunday

**Thursday December 22** – 11:00 am – Wise Elders meeting

**Saturday December 24** – 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service

**Sunday December 25** – 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship Service – “Stories from the Rocking Chair”

**Monday, December 26** – Office closed

**Friday December 30** – Last day for 2016 financial contributions

**Sunday January 1** – 10:00 am – New Year Worship Service – Sarah Tupholme – Worship Leader

**Monday January 2** – Office closed

**Wednesday January 4** – 9:15 am – Council Executive Meeting

**Wednesday January 25** – 9:15 am – Council Meeting

**Wednesday January 25** – 2:15 pm – Worship and Music Committee meeting

**Sunday January 29** – 10:00 am – Epiphany Communion

**Sunday February 5** – 10:00 am – Angelus Ringers offering Musical Ministry



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Sunday February 12 – 10:00 am – Worship and Annual Meeting

Sunday March 5 – 10:00 am – Lent 1 Worship with Communion

## HARD WORKING ELVES

The Stewardship Committee, The Concert Club, the UCW, and the countless volunteers of the church have been busy helping to raise funds on behalf of the church. Whether it is putting up risers for a concert, knitting countless treasures for the Makers Market, hosting a funeral tea, or cooking turkeys for our autumn dinner, there is no doubt that a small group of volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure our church has sufficient funds to operate. And by the end of the event, as tired as they are, they all say, “we had fun.”

Did you know that each year we budget \$12,000 of stewardship fundraising dollars in our annual budget? This means that our stewardship committee is called upon to be creative in developing events that will generate significant money. We are dependent on the church community to support it in all the many facets of putting on an event. And then we advertise throughout Penticton praying that a large crowd will support us.

Our Concert Club is also busy seeking out groups who will perform in our beautiful sanctuary with its great acoustics. Our sold out Choral Extravaganza was a delight to both the audience and performers. With over \$3000 dispersed to the Queens Park School Breakfast Program and the Okanagan Falls School Lunch program and \$3000 staying at Penticton United Church, there is no doubt that every group were winners. We are proud to have the Naramata Choir practice in the sanctuary every Tuesday evening and perform a Peace and Remembrance Concert in November. The Penticton Concert Band performs for the second year.

The UCW is generous in supporting the church. A donation of \$3,500 has been given and is much appreciated.

Please support the church by attending fund-raising events, concerts and through your on-going PAR and Sunday offerings. Special Christmas offering envelopes are available.

## How Have We Done?

At the June 5, 2016 Congregational Meeting 12 recommendations were approved.

That we create a new PUC Photo Directory – done – should be available in a week

That we create a volunteer data sheet - done – should be available by January 1

That grocery cards be sold from the office during the week – in place

That we find out who are new arrivals to Penticton and invite them to PUC – in process

That we welcome newcomers to our congregation by inviting them to lunch or dinner - ?

That we create appealing brochures for general information about our church and also to promote the use of our performance space - done and in pews – will be distributed through community later

That we group our evening meetings and activities into fewer evenings – done – grouped on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

That we discuss, explain, and encourage people to make bequests to PUC – brochure produced – addressed in one sermon

That we reduce the Mission and Service covenant – to be raised at February 12, 2017 AGM

That we express a more concrete goal for a fund raising event – not done



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That we hold a fund raising event to reduce the deficit – not done

That we encourage personal contributions be increased by 5% - announced in bulletin and from pulpit

Additional Ideas

A bulletin insert be prepared to explain the Outreach initiatives. – done

We explore cost sharing of office space to interested groups. – done - on web page