



Penticton United CHURCH

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Lent/Easter Newsletter 2020

Ministers Message

It has been a pleasure to start this journey with PUC. It was fitting that I started at the beginning of January during the church season of Epiphany, as we journeyed with the Magi to Bethlehem on their journey of the unexpected. This is an exciting time for PUC. We are on a journey together that is filled with possibility as you explore opportunities for shared ministry and support me during my internship.

We are now entering the church season of Lent (Feb 21 – April 9). It is the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. It is a season of reflection and preparation for Easter, and it commemorates Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert. It is traditional to fast or give something up during the season of Lent. Often people give up a vice or a guilty pleasure, like chocolate. The reason we give something up is to create space to come into deeper relationship with God. Here are some examples of other ways to approach this during Lent:

- Fast from things that distract us from God and from one another.
- Commit to a daily spiritual practice like prayer or meditation (we will be trying a new spiritual practice at each worship service in Lent)
- Add in a daily practice of Gratitude, listing three things you are grateful for each day.
- Write a thank you note each day.

However you choose to mark Lent this year, may you come to a deeper experience of the Holy.

Blessings, Joanne Scofield

CELEBRATIONS

New Student Minister: We welcomed Joanne Scofield and her partner Fred Worm to our congregation on January 5. We are looking forward to travelling a new road into our future with her.

Search Committee is now dissolved and we want to thank all the members who worked so

hard to find a new minister for our church.

Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for our delicious soup and sandwich lunch to celebrate New Years – New Beginnings and the gourmet desserts provided by the Ministry and Personnel Committee and the Stewardship Committee cookie sale.

the Search Committee for the gift baskets, plant and welcome mat. A great start to the year. And thanks to all who provided items in the baskets.

Congratulations to Cindy Garnham for graduating from the school of sound system finally we have an additional operator !!

Concerts: these were very successful but still need our support as they are a big fundraiser for our church. A huge pat on the back for the the Concert Club committee.

Check below for upcoming events at our church.

AND CONCERNS

We remember and pray for all those who lost loved ones in the past few months. We also remember those who have had major surgery and are now recovering and are currently undergoing health issues and also remembering their care givers.

Feeling thankful and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

THINGS TO ENJOY

Sunday February 23 our Shrove Sunday pancake and sausage brunch after the service. A traditional start to Lent.

Friday March 6 – World Day of Prayer at St. Ann's Catholic Church at 11:00 all are welcome to join with other churches. The The Women of Zimbabwe have written it.

Saturday, March 7 9:00 – 3:00 a forum organized by the Wise Elders entitled Thriving Places with guest speaker Jason Byassee at St. Saviours Anglican Church. This includes people from the two United Churches, Anglican, Presbyterian and Lutheran churches. Let us know if you plan on attending by signing the book in the office so they have numbers for the lunch which is provide.

Sunday, March 8 . 10:00 a Shared service at St. Saviour. **Note** there will not be a service at our church that day.

April 9 Maundy Thursday Taize service at 5:30

April 10, Good Friday Service at 10:00.

April 12, 7:00 Sunrise Service at the Japanese Garden followed by hot cross buns at the church. If you find standing difficult please bring a chair. Dress warmly!!

10:00 Easter Service

Sunday June 14 after church another shared event at a picnic at Skaha Lake Gazebo.

I cant change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination – James Dean

THINGS TO DO

There's a place for us. Yes as a **Committee member**: Don't forget that if you want to join a committee they will welcome you with open arms. See list of committees below. Talk to a member of the Executive

Look at the benefits to being a **sound operator** during church. You sit above everyone, you are in control and best of all you get the favoured seat in church the "back" seat. Don't be shy, don't hold back if you or you know someone, even someone who does not attend, who would be willing to operate the **sound system** at the church please talk to Gordon Houston. With most of us suffering from hearing deficit it is a crucial ministry to enable people to hear what is being said. Having extra operators is such a relief to those who faithfully maintain it each week.

*****Are you interested** in attending **discussion group** during Lent using the book "The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming" by Henri Nouwen. It will run for six weeks during the time of Lent (March 2 - April 10). Dates and time to be determined based on interest. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and indicate the day of the week and time that works best for you.

*****Are you interested** in a **Pastoral Care workshop** facilitated by David Sparks and his partner Kathy. It will be covering 4 areas of basic pastoral care; Why and how do we care? Listening well, Good practice in pastoral care, The use of prayer in pastoral care. It will give participants a start on learning about and practicing caring skills and will enable participants to ask the pastoral care and visiting skills questions that are on their minds. They will be three mornings from 9-12.30 during late March and early April. Nominal fee \$5.00 will be charged

*****Fresh Start** provides materials/tools for clergy and laity to use in establishing healthy relationship in communities of faith. If you are interested in exploring this please sign the book in the office.

*****Are you interested** in attending a **Mental Health First Aid training** at our church on March 11 and 12. Cost is \$150.00. Talk to Sarah Tupholme if you are interested.

FINANCIAL FACTS

PAR: Pre-Authorized Remittance. If you are unable to attend church regularly but wish to give on a regular basis please consider this. Phone the office to get more information.

If you want to feel rich just count all the things you have that money can't buy

ONGOING

Choir – come and sing your heart out on Thursday at 6:30 and Sunday.

Gift cards for Save On and Safeway are available on an ongoing basis after church or at the

office. Talk to Cheryl Filipenko if you want to order Garden Works cards. All these make great gifts as well as our own grocery and plant shopping.

Knitters: still meet regularly on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Concorde Care facility at 2:00 pm talk to Fern Gibbard for all the information.

Various Committees and groups: we are always looking for new members on Stewardship, Worship and Music, Building, UCW, Finance, Memorial Fund, Membership and Pastoral Care, and Peace and Justice committees. In order to carry out the work of the church we need people to take on some responsibility. Where does your gift lie? Just talk to Patti Skinner who loves to fill those empty spots.

Healing Group is always ongoing. Contact numbers - Church office- 250 492-2684
Tuesday morning session - Martha @ 250 493-0356
Thursday evening session - Doreen @ 250 487-7607
Person in Hospital or care - Doreen @ 250 487-7607

If you have more questions, please call Sheila at 250 493-1096.

Love to Read? Don't forget that we have a great selection of books for your reading pleasure in the office area. Just \$2.00 what a deal!

Cushion Crusade. Some people attending the ever increasing concerts in our church have mentioned that the seat backs are uncomfortable so we are trying to build up a cushion supply. If you can donate any that are not too "thick" we would appreciate it.

We now have **two famous authors** in our midst. As well Rev. Harvie Barker with his editions of "A Good Word in Season" we also have Sheila MacDermott who has written a children's book entitled "Ori's Rainbow Forest" suitable for ages 3 and up. These are being sold after church and in the office.

The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched-they must be felt with the heart – Helen Keller

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

March 15 don't forget to bring your change to put in the Pot O Gold.

April 5, Palm Sunday, the Stewardship Committee is cooking frittatas to serve after church.

May 2 Church garage sale. More information to follow.

Bulletin bloopers: the minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their girdles for the pancake breakfast!!

AND CONCERTS WHERE RECEIVE MONEY FROM TICKET SALES. COME AND SUPPORT THESE EVENTS.

April 18 2 Penticton Tune-Agers concert - sanctuary
April 19 2 Penticton Tune-Agers concert - sanctuary
May 1 7 Mosaic Concert - sanctuary
June 16 7 Penticton Concert Band - sanctuary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 23 Pancake Brunch after church. Shrove Sunday
March 7 Wise Elders forum at St. Saviours. Theme Thriving Places
March 8 Shared service at St. Saviours.
March 11 Mental Health First Aid Course in Parlour
March 12 Mental Health First Aid Course in Parlour
March 15 Pot O Gold collection during service
April 5 Palm Sunday – frittatas after church
April 10 Good Friday
April 12 Easter Sunday
April 18 2 Penticton Tune-Agers concert - sanctuary
April 19 2 Penticton Tune-Agers concert - sanctuary
May 1 7 Mosaic Concert - sanctuary
May 1 Garage Sale set up – main hall/chapel
May 2 Garage Sale – main hall/chapel
May 2 7 Naramata concert- sanctuary
May 7-10 Pacific Mountain Meeting in Victoria
June 14 After church Wise Elders picnic at Skaha Lake Gazebo.
June 16 7 Penticton Concert Band - sanctuary
September 26 7:30-6 Society of Anachronistic Creativity – Main hall/kitchen

How many of you have checked out our **webpage** recently? Look at pentictonunitedchurch.ca and see the new look which we are developing. We are also hopefully by the time this newsletter goes out on **Facebook** too.

Happiness starts with you. Not with your relationships, not with your job, not with your money, not with your circumstances, but with you.
