

Church Chat May 22, 2020



Rhododendrons at Linden Gardens

Message from Joanne Scofield

It has been so nice to experience longer days and see nature beginning to bloom. I find it grounding, and a reminder that no matter what happens in the world, the cycle of life continues. We are also beginning to see the easing of restrictions and re-opening of some services and businesses. And while this is a sign of hope for many, it can also bring up concerns and anxieties. Let's be gentle with our selves and others as we navigate this time and remember that we are all connected and held in love.

God who speaks from out of the whirlwind,
and hears sighs too deep for words:
as we come to terms with changing times ·
as we struggle to make sense of the world around us
and imagine what life will be like,
ground us in our kindness.

May a gracious word begin our next encounter,
a patient thought accompany our coming breath,
so that with little left in our control,
we may control ourselves with grace and faith and compassion.

Amen.

(Corrymeela Community, adapted)

Council update: The church council and executive have been holding regular meetings during this time. We have been following the Covid19 Guidelines from the United Church of Canada National and Provincial bodies regarding building maintenance and re-opening procedures.

We are currently in their Phase 1 (not to be confused with the Provincial Health Officers Phases). This Phase points out the need to have a safe opening plan that spells out the provisions for safe opening of both the sanctuary for worship and the space for our church users. With this in mind we have formed a Return to Worship Committee to plan and prepare for all the requirements that need to be met in order to safely re-open.

We will be updating you all and our church users.

The Council has voted to continue online worship at this time until we receive further recommendations from the Pacific Mountain Region.

The health and safety of our congregation and church users is of utmost importance.

Remember as of now our church is still closed and we would ask that no one go in.

Church Chat: Some people are not receiving this even though they are on the email list. I hate to say this but maybe check your “junk” mail!!!!

Featured Committee: Worship and Music: they discuss the upcoming services and the content of our worship time which can be challenging at the moment. If you are interested in the worship format at Penticton United Church please consider joining this wonderful group.

Lighting a candle: Let's join together in a ritual of pausing, lighting a candle and saying a prayer or meditation every day at 8 pm. It's a way for us to connect as a community, in spirit. A number of congregations across the country have started this ritual so we can think of our own family and friends, the PUC family as well as the broader church. Here is a suggested prayer

You never sleep, God.

You are always awake, always willing the world and its people towards wholeness and healing.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep because of illness

or worry,

or fear;

or for reasons they cannot understand.

And tonight, will you be close to those who wait patiently or impatiently

for a birth or death,

or for pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

And God, listen to us

as we share with you

whatever joys or sorrows,

discoveries of questions

we will take with us into the night...

Into your hands we commit ourselves -

our souls, our bodies our minds, our futures -

for all things are best kept in your care. Amen. (*Iona Community Worship Book*)

Announcements:

Sunday May 31 is Pentecost: just for fun, if you remember, wear something red, orange or yellow, the flame colours.

Grocery Cards: \$422.50 has been raised from March to Mid-May so please keep buying these cards. Cheryl is prepared to carry on with this. If you need any please call her at 250-492-2540 or email talk2ca@hotmail.com and she will be very happy to drop them off in exchange for a cheque to Penticton United Church, all done at a "safe distance"

Okanagan Gleaners: We are preparing for our next soup mixing event to be held on June 9 to 13, & June 15 to 19th.

Due to the challenges of COVID-19+, we require folks to come and help, only by reservation with **first reserved, first confirmed**. We can only take 25 reservations per day, so please register in advance by contacting okgsecretary@gmail.com. Also include the dates you are coming in your email reservation.

We have 9 RV sites available for those dates, so please email

okghospitality@gmail.com to reserve your site. You must be self-contained as no food will be provided during the mixing.

your own reusable face masks.

Please bring

At this time,

we cannot have walk-ins or visitors. These are unusual times for us all, but we are continuing to prepare food for the hungry as best as we can. Greg Masson
General Manager

Phone calls: please feel free to continue calling the church and leaving messages. The phone messages are being checked remotely so responses should be in a timely manner.

Mail: the mail box is secure and mail is being picked up daily.

Broadview: It is time to renew your Broadview subscriptions. We are collecting subscriptions differently this year with challenges of COVID-19. Cost is the same as last year. Please put a cheque (no cash) for \$25 made out to Penticton United Church as we receive a group discount price. You can either put your cheque in the post (696 Main Street, Penticton B.C. V2A 5C8 or in the secure mail slot on the door of the church. On the envelope please mark Broadview so there is no confusion with regular offerings.

Thank you and take care, Marion Kozier (our Broadview representative)

Givings: Again, we want to thank all those who have continued to make their offerings as they are able or by mailing in your cheque. Our church maintenance and ministry keeps going even though there is a change in how we do this.

Prayer list

So that you can include these people in your prayers. ***Please notify the office if we can remove anyone or add to it or you have a specific prayer request.***

We pray for all who face health challenges and treatment including: Shelly Campbell, Susan Davies, Carol French, Eleanor Jones, Kim MacDonald, Ed Morgenstern, Marj Notenboom, Shannon Oliver, Gwen Owen, Charlotte P., John Roberts, Ray Sommer, Shirley Richardson and Patti Craig.

The family, and friends of Capt. Jennifer Casey who was killed in that tragic accident last Sunday and all her Snowbird family.

In our Pacific Mountain Region, we pray for the congregation of the Mount Paul United Church in Kamloops.

Weekly Communication Reminder

Online Worship Services: You should have received the link to join the church service at 10 and for coffee times, Monday and Wednesday at 9, if not please contact the office.

Services are also recorded and posted on the website and our FaceBook page if you want to watch at a later time. We are thrilled by how many are joining us through these. Each week the order of service is also posted on our website.

Coffee Chats: Next week is the last of our Monday chats but we will continue with the Wednesday one. Our Monday and Wednesday Coffee chats are at 9-10 am the link has been emailed out. If you do not have these links please contact the office. Please note that each day has its own link!

Ongoing Communication:

Website: pentictonunitedchurch.com/blog/

Please Like our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PentictonUnitedChurch1/>

Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.

The best sermons are lived, not preached...

Keep safe and take care remember you are not alone.