

Church Chat May 29, 2020



PENTECOST

Message from Joanne Scofield

This week Rev. Gary Paterson was a guest speaker on the Pacific Mountain Region Town Hall. He reminded us that God animates us and we embody the image of the holy within us. We are invited to collaborate with the holy, to bring justice and compassion to the world. But there is some responsibility on our part. We need to be open to listen, to hear where we are being led. Rev. Patterson invited us to think about it as an invitation to engage in spiritual practices that work for us. Perhaps it is reading scripture, lectio divina, meditation or daily walks. Find what connects you with Spirit.

The Invitation by Mary Oliver

Oh do you have time
to linger
for just a little while
out of your busy

and very important day
for the goldfinches
that have gathered
in a field of thistles

for a musical battle,
to see who can sing
the highest note,
or the lowest,

or the most expressive of mirth,
or the most tender?
Their strong, blunt beaks
drink the air

as they strive
melodiously

not for your sake
and not for mine

and not for the sake of winning
but for sheer delight and gratitude –
believe us, they say,
it is a serious thing

just to be alive
on this fresh morning
in the broken world.
I beg of you,
do not walk by
without pausing
to attend to this
rather ridiculous performance.

It could mean something.
It could mean everything.
It could be what Rilke meant, when he wrote:
You must change your life

Blessings, Joanne Scofield, Minister Penticton United Church

Worship Update:

May 31 this Sunday: we welcome Rev. Donald Schmidt as he leads worship with us on this Pentecost Sunday.

Just a reminder this is a good Sunday to wear your flame colours.

June 7 – Communion. Join us for our Virtual communion. Come with your choice of bread, cracker, or muffin and juice, or water so that we can share together.

Don't forget to have a candle nearby when you sign on for worship so you can light it when we light the Christ candle.

Online Worship Services: We are continuing to gather for worship, online. You should have received the link to join the church service at 10 am on Sundays, if not please contact the office.

On Line 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.

Prayer list

Condolences: We hold Dyane MacDonald and her family in prayer with the passing of Kim MacDonald this week.

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, Ed Morgenstern, Marj Notenboom, Shannon Oliver, Gwen Owen, Charlotte P., John Roberts, Ray Sommer, Shirley Richardson and Patti Craig.

We remember all those who are affected with the racist activity that we are witnessing on the news.

In our Pacific Mountain Region we pray for the congregation of the Union Bay Pastoral charge in Union Bay, B.C.

Announcements:

Council Update: Skill Testing question from the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

Do you know that some months have 5 Sundays?

Relative to our 0.8 part time contract with our minister, Joanne, we are allowing for her to have the 5th Sunday off, in months with 5 Sundays?

In what other months will this occur in 2020?

Is it possible for the shortest month of the year (February) to have 5 Sundays? When?

Coffee Chats: Please note that we are now only having our **Wednesday** Coffee chat at 9-10 am the link has been emailed out. If you do not have this links please contact the office.

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 if there is a change in how we do this.

Grocery 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" \$422.50 has been raised from March to mid-May.

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)

Community Events

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. Please bring your own reusable face masks. 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

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*)

Chit chat

Safe Sojourns: as we start to go outside more and maybe even meet family or close friends let us share some places that would be good to visit. If you have a favourite walk, place of interest please let the office know and mark the subject This week is Linden Gardens in Kaleden. Enjoy the beautiful blooms and peaceful water. Unfortunately the restaurant is not open but you can bring a picnic and sit on benches or the gazebo.

Headline News: the latest greeting is "Do you have a hair appointment yet?"

Feature UCW United Church Women: this group meets once a month and enjoys fellowship together . They also run a very efficient kitchen and provide coffee after church and sometimes cater at funerals and provide cake for special events.

Ongoing Communication:

Email: punited@telus.net

Mailing address: 696 Main Street, Penticton, B.C. V2A 5C8 (the mail box is secure and mail is being picked up daily.)

Phone: 250-492-2684 (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.)

Website: pentictonunitedchurch.com/blog/

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

Sometimes, miracles are just good people with kind hearts.

Unknown author

Keep safe and take care remember you are not alone.