

Church Chat January 8, 2021
Happy New Year



Minister's Message

A new year is upon us. Happy 2021! For most of us, it was a quiet holiday season as we stayed within our family “households” to do our part to help curb this latest wave of the virus. And now we look forward to a new year. I always enjoy the recaps that happen at the end of the old year and opportunity to look forward to what the year might bring. This year, especially, we have big hopes for the vaccine and hopefully opportunities to gather again! And while we look forward with hope for how 2021 will unfold, let us also live in the present – may you be surprised by joy and love amidst some of the challenges we are experiencing.

A New Year's reflection:

Move gently with yourself into 2021,
speaking words of possibility,
committing to that which calls you,
letting yourself be lured by the Sacred
in the direction of your most powerful becoming.
Make only resolutions that will lead to
more flourishing of life, yours and others.

(from “Enfleshed,” adapted)

In response to the violence south of the border this week, Rev. S. Blair Odney, President of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council sent out a pastoral note. He invites us to hold all those in our world suffering under the abuse of political power with loving tenderness. And he reminds us to not be afraid. “When we act in fear, we give ourselves over to the perils of humanity's worst behaviour. Our only response is love. Our only response is to invoke God's agency in a matter consistent with our faith.” His full message has been posted to the blog on our website: pentictounitedchurch.com

Worship Dates (please mark your calendar)

January 10 Wild Church at the Naramata labyrinth. Contact Joanne if you are interested.

January 17 communion service

February 21 communion service

Council Update:

As we approach our Annual Meeting we do need some positions to be filled .

Chair of Building and Property.

Someone to decorate the church for special occasions and the Church calendar year. Our sincere thanks to Cheryl Filipenko who has done this job for years and given us such beautiful visuals for each of the special times in our church.

Every year we have to vote on our Lay Representatives to the Pacific Mountain Region. This is an amazing experience for those who attend. Learning more about the wider church and meeting new friends. If you would like to put your name forward please contact Patti Skinner.

Due to personal commitments Rev. Donald Schmidt is no longer our Pastoral Care Supervisor and Allison Rennie will take on that role. We thank Donald for all his help and support in the past few months.

We extend our thanks to our staff at the church to those who have left and retired and those that carry on with the work of the church.

Our church building is still being used by PlayShare who have been given permission to extend their registration numbers, South Okanagan Volunteer Centre, Federal Retirees and two small community groups we have extended our contract to June 30, 2021 with our new cleaner, Walida Ahmad Jamili .

Joanne has now been with us for a year and we have extended her contract until June 30, 2021. What an extraordinary year this has been for a student minister and thank goodness for her technical skills which we are enjoying!

Announcements:

Condolences to the family of Irene Cantelon. Irene passed away peacefully on Dec. 30, 2020 with her family by her side in Millet, Alberta

Christmas Cards: you can recycle these by dropping them off at the church to be used for Christmas decorations in a local school.

We received Christmas greetings from Kairos, Vanice and Walida, our new cleaner.

Calendars: there are a few left if you would like one please contact the office.

The decorating of the **mitten tree** was well received with many donations of toques, socks, scarves, crocheted animals, gloves and mittens, as well as non perishable food items. Afterwards, all the items were organized and delivered to various organizations. Salvation army food bank received the canned goods, Discovery House was delighted with the warm men's clothing, and the South Okanagan Women in Need Society {SOWINS) sent their van to pick up the bags of children and women items. Well done, everyone. The community appreciates our generosity and care!

Thanks to Joanne for organizing our Zoom service and we are all enjoying the Power Point illustrations. So grateful that she is able to lead us through all this technical "stuff". Thanks to

Orma for her musical contributions and leading us in our hymns and it it wonderful to hear Doug playing the church organ. Thank you all.

Annual Reports to Colin MacDermott by January 9, 2021. Will probably be the shortest reports ever!!!!

Annual General Meeting February 14, 2021 via Zoom after our regular morning service.

Offering: we appreciate your continued support of the work of our church.

GROCERY CARDS: Thank you to all those who participate in this simple, worthwhile fundraising project for our Church. Grocery Cards for SaveOn and Safeway are available by contacting Cheryl at 250-492-2540 or by

Email at talk2ca@hotmail.com to arrange pickup or delivery of cards.

Payment can be made with cash or cheque to PUC.

A prayer list can be found in the Order or Service on the website. Please notify the office and Joanne if you have a prayer request.

Also let Joanne know if you have a favourite hymn to sing during the service. She will try to include all requests. For the next two weeks please leave your request on the office email

Worship Update:

On-line Worship Services: we are continuing to gather at 10 via Zoom for worship on-line. Please use the current link. If you do not have the link please contact the office.

These on-line services are also recorded and posted on our Website and our FaceBook page if you want to watch later.

We are thrilled by how many are joining us this way. We have learned that people from other congregations are watching too.

On the Worship page of our Website (pentictonunitedchurch.com/worship) you can find the Order of Service posted prior to the service.

The recording of Sunday worship posted after each service on Sunday.

Join Zoom Service

<https://zoom.us/j/415999196?pwd=U3FCT0VucXFzZjMweWxVWGcrOURvQT09>

Meeting ID: 415 999 196

Password: 486745

Please note that there is a local phone number to call in with a Meeting ID number and password if you would rather join that way.

©Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada
+1 438 809 7799 Canada
+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada
+1 647 558 0588 Canada
Meeting ID: 415 999 196
Password: 486745

Ongoing Communication:

Email: punitedc@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.)

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

