

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church

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IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Musings	1
From the Loft	2
Worship Committee	2
Pews News	2
Upcoming Events	2
Prayer Calendar	2
FISH Network	3
Stewardship	3
Session	4
From the Office	4
On The Lighter Side	4

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

"We are Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!" These are words that come to us from St. Augustine, who uttered them over 1500 years ago. He was expressing the joy that's unleashed with the resurrection of Christ, the joy that comes from knowing that the stone has been rolled away and the tomb is now empty.

Because of Easter, death's dominion has been broken, and the door to eternal life has been thrown open. At Easter, Alleluias tumble from our lips as we give praise to God and raise our Easter song. Easter not only brings us joy, it changes us. As we celebrate Christ's victory over death, we discover the possibility of sharing in that victory ourselves. We ourselves can participate in the new reality that bursts into our world like a violent earthquake. We ourselves can take part in the Easter that God has inaugurated.

Easter now defines who we are. Easter should infuse every corner of our being. Then, instead of just telling the Easter story, we can live with that story imprinted on our hearts. Then, instead of just

celebrating Easter Sunday, we can live as Easter people. When dawn breaks on Easter morning, and the sun seems to shine directly into our souls, living as an Easter people feels like the easiest thing in the world to do.

We all, I'm sure, want to be Easter people. We all want Easter to be an ongoing, present reality in our lives. But even as we bask in the glories of Easter Sunday, complications can arise. The difficulty, as someone has pointed out, is that we are Easter people living in a Good Friday world. Easter has come, but Good Friday hasn't yet passed away. The world of Good Friday still stares us in the face. Jesus is raised, but the Romans are still in charge. Human suffering still prevails. Poverty and hunger still claw at human souls. Injustice and violence still practise their indignities. Disease and pain still imprison many lives. Loneliness and grief still bruise many hearts. For all of our talk of Easter, the calendar seems perpetually stuck on Good Friday. Being Easter people does not mean an escape from the Good Friday realities of the world in which we live. Christ is risen, but the wider world remains the same. The world around us looks as broken as ever. Struggles and disappointments still clutter our days. We may be Easter people, but that doesn't mean our lives are free of tears.

But as we live in this Good Friday world, with all of its troubles and trials, we do so as Easter people. We do so as people for whom the story of Christ's resurrection is not just a tale from the ancient past, but a present reality, blessing us in the present moment, and affecting our lives in the here and now. Being Easter people means Christ's resurrection has touched us too. It means that the new life – the abundant life – that God has raised up with Christ is now available to us. And we can experience in our own hearts the joy that's unleashed when Easter becomes not just a day on the calendar, but a way of life. We can find ourselves singing unceasing praise to God for the new life he's given us – a new life that fills us with numberless blessings - a new life that's strong enough to withstand even the worst troubles and trials. With Christ living in us, infusing us with resurrection life, we truly can say, "We are Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!"



Newsletters will continue to be emailed, for those who do not have email addresses or have not provided one a physical copy of the newsletter will be mailed.

May newsletter deadline is April 29.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

We were thrilled to have our Cameroonian brothers and sisters lead us in Dancing up the Offering on Easter Sunday and will get to enjoy them again on April 7.

Before 2020, we hosted an annual Carol Festival the Saturday before the start of Advent. As we move forward, we would like to start that again.

If you have a gift or passion for singing, please reach out so we may be able to restart a choir. It may look a bit different than previous choirs, and that's ok!

For convenience, our rehearsals would resume after our church service, so that another one of your evenings during the week aren't taken up.

Carla Zacharias
Music Team Leader
cyz@shaw.ca



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

With great joy and thanksgiving we welcome Rev. Jin Woo Kim back to full time ministry at Centennial. We are pleased to be blessed with his continuing in leading the congregation and preaching.

We have celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and look forward to continuing spring activities. May 12 is Mother's Day, May 19 Music Appreciation and May 26 our 49th Anniversary.

We have contacted service providers to obtain quotes with respect to replacing the projectors at the front of the sanctuary.

We are considering whether we should continue audio recording. If you are using this service or believe it is important for the archives of the congregation and would like to continue, please let us know.

As always, we value your input on all matters pertaining to worship. Please direct your comments to us at office@centennialchurch.ca or broad2well@shaw.ca

Jim Broadwell
Chairman

PEWS NEWS

Birthdays to celebrate in April:

April 1, Nyagoyni Changach; April 4, Nyajab Changach; April 5, Krystal Oben; April 6, Josh Flim; April 8, Belinda Njohjam; April 13, Bernadette Fonmedig; April 14, Olive Lewis; April 15 Rameses Rivera; April 27, Curtis Chesami

Anniversaries to celebrate in April:

April 27, Eric and Marie Gichuki

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2	Stewardship Committee, 7:00 pm, zoom
April 7	Holy Hilarity Sunday, Potluck & Hats Dancing up the Offering
April 16	Board, 7:00 pm, zoom
April 17	FISH Network, 7:00 pm, zoom
April 21	Food Bank Sunday Blue Jean Sunday
April 30	Worship Committee, 11:00 am Session 7:00 pm

PRAYER CALENDARS AND PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer concerns that arise, please contact the office and we can include these in our prayer chain. If you would like to be part of our prayer chain, please contact the office and have your name added to the list. Updates will be given via text or email as is suitable for you.

Do you wonder how you can reach out to others in the congregation?

- Every day on the prayer calendar is a person or family to pray for that day. Look them up in the directory and give them a quick call to say hello! It's a small gesture that could go a long way.

- Check the Pews News section and make Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary calls!

The 2024 Prayers Calendars have a new addition! The prayer calendar has the regular groups and families to pray for, along with a daily devotion on the first page. The second page, for those who may be interested in "Reading Thru the Bible in 52 Weeks", has more substantial readings for each day.



The FISH Network

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:15-16

FISH Network: Friendship Inspiration Sharing Hospitality

Marjorie Halliday was introduced and welcomed at our March meeting as the newest team member of the **FISH Network**.

April 7 is Holy Hilarity Sunday. Potluck & Hats that bring you joy! Your **FISH Network** is inviting you to **share** in **friendship, hospitality**, and celebration. Please bring your favourite food dish for the potluck that will be held after church service on April 7. In the spirit of the day, everyone (young and young at heart, adults, children) is invited to wear a hat during church service and the potluck. Be **inspired!** Choose a hat that brings you joy (and perhaps joy to others as well!) -- a fascinator, spring hat, ball cap, cowboy hat, silly hat – your choice!

Schedule of upcoming events:

Dates	Events	Activities	Elder Sponsor Sign Up
Apr 7	Holy Hilarity Sunday	Help with potluck, i.e., set-up,	Israel Ayongwa
May 26	Centennial 49th Anniversary	Help with set-up, clean-up,	
June 23	Promotion Sunday - Joint Service	Help with set-up, clean-up, kitchen,	CE Committee, Doug Bonar, Ana Colina-Carter
July 14	Stampede Sunday	Help with set-up, clean-up,	
Sept 22	Birthday Cake Sunday	Help with set-up, clean-up,	Simon Tibui
Oct 20	Sharing Our Gifts	Help with set-up, clean-up,	Annie Edie
Nov 24	International Sunday	Help with set-up, clean-up,	Daniel Edie

Reach out in **friendship** to your fellow congregants. Call. Text. Email. The church directory is a great reference for names and numbers.

Please feel welcome to contact your **FISH Network** -- Annie Edie, Charlene Christian, Israel Ayongwa, Jean Tupper, Jin Woo Kim, Marjorie Halliday, Phyllis Russell, Shirley Watts. If you are uncertain how to reach us, please call Centennial Presbyterian Church (403 285-7144) or reference your annual report church directory.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Centennial's Happy 50th Anniversary Committee

You are needed! It's time to join Centennial's Happy 50th Anniversary Committee. Pat McKinnon has volunteered to co-chair the committee. Committee members and a co-chair are needed to support Pat and the celebration activities. Please speak with Pat or Jean Tupper regarding your interest in joining the committee.

Thank you for continuing to support Centennial's 50th Anniversary fundraising initiative. Please continue to wear jeans (or not wear jeans!) to church on the third Sunday of each month. In addition to your regular offering, please designate \$5 per person for wearing/not wearing jeans and make note on your envelope that the additional \$5 per person is for our 50th Anniversary fund. Choose to use your regular offering envelope or a separate envelope noting your envelope number. If you are not in attendance for the third Sunday of a month, please consider designating \$5 per person for the fund at any time – in advance or after the third Sunday or combining a number of months.

Stewardship Sunday March 10 . . . such a success, thanks to you!

Sincere appreciation to all those who helped support the March 10 Stewardship Sunday activities throughout the church service, workshop, and coffee time. Karen Plater, Associate Secretary for Stewardship & Planned Giving from The Presbyterian Church in Canada provided an inspiring message entitled "From a Little Bit of Oil – Using our Gifts in God's Mission" which included her personal journey and stories. In addition, Karen led the "More than you can imagine: Learning the advantages of different ways to give and why you might be able to give more than you think" workshop. "A Guide to Planned Giving" pamphlets are available from the brochure carousel in the narthex.

Your Stewardship Committee encourages you to continue to support Centennial Presbyterian through your regular offerings, by participating in the special initiatives, and offering your time, talent, and treasure to Centennial.

We thank God for your generosity.

Alan Christian, Annie Edie, Israel Ayongwa, Jean Tupper, Omot Ochudo, Rev. Jin Woo Kim

SESSION NOTES

The Session met on March 26th and would like to note the following:

Rev. Kim has been cleared to return to his full duties as our Minister by his doctors and Presbytery has approved his returning to full time ministry. He will be leading the service on March 31st and is officially assuming his duties as of April 1, 2024.

A Congregational meeting has been called for April 14, 2024 following the service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the financial statements for 2023.

A year has passed since William Okal, who is our most recently sponsored refugee, arrived. This means Centennial is no longer responsible for any costs. All the sponsored refugee families have jobs and are doing well.

A Fire Drill has been mandated to happen in the near future at Centennial. More news to follow.

The Session thanked Rev. Mark Tremblay for his dedication and guidance as Interim Moderator during the period of Rev. Kim's recovery.

FROM THE OFFICE

Rev. Kim has returned to full duty! Welcome back!

Office Hours:

Carla will be in the church office Fridays from 9:30—12:00, and working from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-12:00.

Over the next few weeks, Rev. Kim will determine his office hours and we will post them here.

If you have **upcoming birthdays and anniversaries** you would like us to celebrate as we do every Sunday, please send the dates to office@centennialchurch.ca or call Carla Zacharias and we will get them in for celebrating.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

How excited was the gardener about spring? So excited he wet his plants.

When do monkeys fall from the sky? During APE-ril showers

What's Irish and comes out in Spring? Paddy O'Furniture

It's allergy season again?! You've got to be pollen my leg.

Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? She always ran away from the ball.

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims!

When is it impossible to plant flowers? When you haven't botany.

What do you call two young married spiders? Newly webs.

What did the seed say to the flower? OK, Bloomer!

What do you call a mushroom who is the life of the party? A fun-gi.

What do you call a girl with a frog on her head? Lily!

What do you call it when worms take over the world? Global Worming.

What is an herb garden's favorite singer? Elvis Parsley

Did you see that all the snow and ice are melting? Yes, I thaw!

