

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church
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Minister's Musings

God is at work

1 I believe God is at work in the world now. You might want to
2 ask, "This kind of world?" A world that has war, a world that
2 has murders, worldwide threat of diseases, assaults, guns,
nuclear bombs, famine, genocide, this is all the stuff we get in
the daily news. And now the Corona virus!
2 And so, in this world we are saying that God is at work. We
2 are saying this, not in that make-believe world, but in the real
2 world, the world where we live mostly staying home, cannot
even worship at the church. In that world, God is at work. We
2 do not have to be afraid of being realistic, because the Bible
is realistic.
3 When we face a difficult ordeal or trial, it is easy to look back
3 on simpler times and think that life would be much easier if it
3 "was like how it was back then." When we are feeling as
3 though our situation is too difficult or that the challenges are
too much for God, we need that reminder of what God has
done in the past.

We have this reminder to serve as a way forward in the situations and difficulties of the present and future, especially in those moments where we feel God is not at work. This is the reminder that God's actions in the past serve as a word of hope in those times. For just as God has worked in the past, so is God at work today.

God never stops working. The everlasting God is alive and working today and doing the work that we need. There is not a moment, a struggle, a challenge, a difficulty, an obstacle, or an issue that is too big or even too small for God. God can handle anything. That includes whatever struggle or difficulty we face today. God is at work. The work that God is doing today is still the work of creation. God is at work in recreating the world into his image and bringing forth the promises of a new heaven and new earth. It is the work of redemption and reconciliation. It is the work of renewal and second chances. It is the work of transformation and new energy. It is the work of hope and love. My friends, God is at work today in every situation.

People who believe with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength that no matter the challenge or difficulty, God is alive and well. That is the message we need to share with our friends and neighbors in our community. God is not finished. God is not done with me. God is not done with you. God is not done with Centennial. In fact, God is constantly at work bringing about something new and beautiful in the struggles and challenges that we face.

That gives me hope today. I pray it gives you hope as well. At the heart of our faith is the deep reality of the possibility of experiencing God at work in our lives. Christian history is punctuated by such testimonies. It is not just each of us who need that hope. It is not just our church that needs to experience that hope. I think our neighbors are looking for that hope too. I believe our neighbors are looking for people who believe that God is at work today.



As newsletters are being emailed at this time, for those who do not have email addresses or have not provided one a physical copy of the newsletter will be mailed.

June Newsletter submission deadline is June 30.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Well, the Loft has some exciting news and big changes for the upcoming church year. Doug Zacharias has been given an exciting opportunity to teach Band at a new school ... in Abu Dhabi!!! He will be working with Canadian International Schools there, taking over for the Band teachers who are retiring! Lauren and I will be staying here as it is her grade 12 year. He will be back for Christmas break and for the summer. We will have the opportunity to go visit him during the year as well.

What does that mean for the choir? We may have to try some easier selections as we will not have his expertise to guide us through the more difficult choices as we continue on with our part in the weekly service.

Carla Zacharias, Music Team Leader



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 7, 14, 21, 28

Virtual Coffee Hour

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This week there Pentecost colouring pages attached to the email of the newsletter.
Christian Education Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

We will be continuing with virtual worship for a time yet, but we are beginning to consider what worship will look like once we are able to meet again physically. We are considering a number of options given the restrictions we will face. Be assured that we will provide a means of participating for those who are unable or uncomfortable to be with us at the church. We value your input particularly in these matters and will consider all comments on how worship might look in the new 2020. Please continue to let us know your upcoming family celebrations so that we can acknowledge them in the announcements.

We will begin a new aspect to our virtual worship on June 07. We will be having a virtual coffee time at 11:00 am each Sunday. Detailed instructions on how to participate will be sent to you the first week of June. We encourage you to watch the online worship at 10:30 so that we have a sense of community in that we are participating at the same time. Immediately following you are encouraged to join the Zoom virtual coffee time.

So far have not received any response from our call for additional volunteers for the audio/visual system, both in operation and in preparation. We will need at least five additional volunteers to make this work efficiently. If you are interested in operation of Powerpoint and/or audio or if there is a younger member of your household (that's not in Sunday School), please let us know at office@centennialchurch.ca or broad2well@shaw.ca. You will be provided with training in how to participate.

We received positive response to our Anniversary service. The video of the photo archive has been posted separately on our YouTube channel. The link to watch it is: <https://youtu.be/VpwWhMe6Dm4>

Please remember our upcoming services:

Stampede July 12 Yahoo?! even if no stampede further details will be sent in the July Newsletter.

Jim Broadwell

Chairman, Worship Committee

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

We keep a potato masher in a drawer because sometimes it's fun not to be able to open that drawer!

PEWS NEWS

We celebrate with Okelo and Kwo on the arrival of their baby girl Rhema in May.

Please keep those members of our church family who are ill or in need in your prayers. Keep John and Jennifer Legge in your prayers as John goes through his treatments.

Birthdays to celebrate in June!

Cherry Mae Arguilles, June 1; Pat McKinnon, June 6; Ana Colina-Carter, June 7; Reymund Arguilles, June 19; Akosua Oppong, June 22; Carolen Arguilles, June 24.

PRAYER CALENDAR

The prayer calendar that is normally handed out for the first of each month will now come out as an attachment to the newsletter email, the last Sunday of the month. Please continue to pray for each of our members on the calendar.

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.

FROM THE SESSION:

At our last meeting we had a presentation on the Cyclical program sponsored by the Presbytery. This initiative is intended to support growth and new worshipping communities. The Anyuak group at our Church may be able to get support from this program to be able to reach out into their community to grow in size. We are working on a new Covenant with the group to align expectations.

The online Zoom service was tested and did not work well due to weak audio and video with the pre-recorded portions such as the music and readings. The next step is to have a Zoom coffee time at 11:00 AM on Sundays after the pre-recorded service. This would need people to watch the service beginning at 10:30 as if it were a normal Sunday morning. If this coffee time works well, we will look at having a live Communion service online on July 5th at 11:00 AM following the taped morning service.

Jacob Segui's district has been re-distributed as Jacob has been unavailable for some time. Those in his district should hear from their new elders soon. Please be sure to inform your elders of any concerns you may have.

Ojulu Ogwok of our refugee family now has a job. Indications are that there will be a delay in the arrival of the second family to arrive due to Covid-19 issues but the government has not given any timelines so far.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Did you know that if you were unable to cook for yourself due to illness, injury, weakness or any other cause that we have a group of people involved in Love on a Plate. We can arrange to bring you hot meals so that you don't have to worry about it.

If you are a caregiver and need help or need a break, just to run out to Tim's for a coffee, that there are people who will come help you. If you are unable, or concerned about going out for medications, or groceries, please email the church office or the Pastoral Care Team, call the church (403-285-7144) or Carla Zacharias at home (403-285-9516) to request help.

If you need someone to pray with, our prayer team can help and give you a call. If you are sick and would like prayers of the congregation, let us know! We will only share the information you want shared. When we know there is need, we can step up and give help.

Remember to check in on each other. Random calls from people are sometimes all it takes to brighten someone's day!

Carla Zacharias, Pastoral Care Team Leader centpastoralcareteam@gmail.com

FROM THE OFFICE

Just a quick reminder, please remember to write "Envelope Secretary" on your envelope when mailing in your offerings.

While lots of work is being done remotely, phone and email messages are being checked several times a week, and mail is being picked up and sorted once a week.

As we continue to improve our communication and our delivery of the worship service, your announcements are very welcome! If your team is planning to hold a zoom meeting, that can still go in a calendar for the newsletter and weekly service announcements.

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.

We will be sending out regular emails with service information each week. Go to our website, centennialchurch.ca and check

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR!

Starting June 7 we will be hosting a Virtual Coffee hour so that we may all come together to see one another and visit. Tune into the church service at 10:30 and then afterwards, click on the link and meet up for coffee. Bring out your best and favourite coffee mugs, taunt everyone with your delicious snacks and catch up.

The information you need is:

Dates and time: June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19 at 11:00 am (if the service goes long, or your coffee isn't quite ready, just jump on the call when you can!)

Zoom Call link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84847896374>

Meeting ID: 848 4789 6374

If you don't have a computer, you can call in at 587 328 1099 84847896374# Canada

If you have any difficulties, please contact Jim Broadwell and he can talk you through it.

There is a letter that will be sent out with the Sunday morning service on May 31 with more details. If you don't get your information via email, there is a physical letter that is mailed out the first week of June.