

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church
103 Pinetown Place NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 5J1 403-285-7144

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Minister's Musings

Today

1 In 1 Peter 4:7, the Apostle Peter says, "The end of all things
1 is near." For some, like the persecuted church that first
2 received Peter's letter, this is good news. If you are struggling
2 through a hard time, if you hate your job, or if you are almost
2 done with chemotherapy, it's encouraging to know that the
2 end is near. For others, though, it sounds discouraging to
2 hear that they are near the end. If you are in love, if you are
2 moving away from friends, it makes you sad to know the end
2 has come.

2 All things come to an end: bad things, good things, dull
3 things, beautiful things, and especially all living things.
3 Anything that doesn't come to an end is not a creation, but a
3 god. The end of all created things is near. Maybe even nearer
3 than we think.

3 So, what is Peter's next thought? Peter says, "So take the
3 day seriously. With discipline and prayer." It's another way of
3 saying, "Pay attention to the day you have." This is one of

the most important insights we have about God's calling in our lives. It is always focused on the present tense. The gifts God has invested in your life are not about the future. You don't know about the future. The end may be nearer than you think. All you have is today.

As one who has had the privilege of standing beside many deathbeds, I have discovered that is always what people are thinking about when the end is near. No one is thinking about their work. Everyone always thinks about the people they love. So, it should not surprise us that Peter goes on to say, "Above all, maintain constant love for one another for love covers a multitude of sins." So, before we can even begin to talk about your gift as a musician, teacher, baker, or farmer, we must remember that the primary gift of God is people to love. Today.

As we take seriously the questionable nature of the future, and as we receive the gift of the day we have, we can choose to be a glorious gift of God in all the things that make up the life we have today. So, we are not called just to use our gifts, but to be a gift. Be God's gift to the people we find in a day: in a committee meeting or a minivan, in the office or the grocery store, in the places of conflict or the places of delight. Not only are the people around you God's gift to us, but so are we God's gift to them, today.



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.

Please continue to pray for each of our members on the calendar, and in general as we learn about our new normal.

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.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Our Praise Team has been recording an anthem for each week, relating to the theme of the message. My great thanks to all their time, talent and efforts to help make it all happen.

From the choir selections throughout the year, you may notice that I have a soft spot for gospel style music. The title of this selection struck me this week as being appropriate. Please enjoy this selection, "Til the Storm Passes By", by the Gaither Vocal Band <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpr5HPyI4z8> . And a more contemporary selection, "Resurrection Power", by Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxH8Q8ue65o> .



Carla Zacharias, Music Team Leader

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 10 Mother's Day
May 25 Anniversary Sunday

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Lord, help us be the people our dogs think we are.
Adam & Eve—the first people to not read the Apple terms and conditions.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

As it appears we will be continuing with virtual worship for a while yet, we continue to refine to make it as full as possible. We value your input and will consider all comments, criticisms and suggestions as to how we can improve. Among other things, let us know your upcoming family celebrations so that we can acknowledge them in the announcements. At Centennial we have always considered the celebration of significant family events as part of worship and certainly don't want to give that up just because we are not gathering physically.

So far have not received any response from our call for additional volunteers for the audio/visual system. 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. Office@centennialchurch.ca or broad2well@shaw.ca

As communicated in the April Newsletter, we are looking for someone to take on the role of preparer of the PowerPoint presentations for Sunday worship. Preferably on a full time basis, or initially on a shared basis as I could continue.

The task involves receiving the service information each week from Jin Woo and Carla (for hymns), sending the scripture reading to the reader, receiving the announcements information from the office, preparing the two PowerPoint presentations and forwarding them to the operator for the week. He/she then is responsible for uploading them to the church computer and the presentation.

Please remember our upcoming services:
Anniversary May 25 – looks like may be virtual
Stampede July 12 – Yahoo?! even if no stampede

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This week there is a colouring page from the story of Noah!

Christian Education Committee

PEWS NEWS

This past month we had several families that experienced a loss of a family member. Please keep these families in your prayers: Jean & Loring Tupper on the loss of Jean's father; Linda Tynan on the loss of her brother; Pam Flim on the loss of her mother; Nuvella Fusianka-a on the loss of her grandmother. Please keep our health care workers in your prayers during this challenging time to keep them safe.

Please keep Priscilla Towers in your prayers. She is in the South Health Campus having suffered congestive heart failure/atrial fibrillation. She has stabilized and is recovering. She cannot receive visitors but can receive phone calls at 403-956-0832.

Birthdays to celebrate in May!

Phyllis Russell, May 14; Ama Oppong, May 15; Catherine Mbanwie, May 16; Lucy Mungi; Charles Carter, May 25; Colleen Doyle, May 29

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 May 27.

FROM THE SESSION:

The Session met on Tuesday using the Zoom application. We hope and pray that all are making it through this tough pandemic time. To date we have not heard that any of our members have contracted the virus.

One of the discussions was regarding the possibility of holding live Church services on Sunday's at 10:30 AM using Zoom. This would be more like our regular morning services. Session is requesting that the Worship committee, along with 2 of our tech savvy elders, will look into this possibility. More information to follow.

The church has signed up for a monthly Zoom subscription so any committee or group wanting to hold an online meeting should talk to Rev. Kim and he will help you set up and get going.

Richard Crowe will be our Representative Elder to the Presbytery for another term. Thank you Richard.

As to be expected without regular services, our financial situation is not what it would be normally. We have started to receive income from mailed in cheques and e-transfers and have applied for all available government supports but still expect to have to withdraw money from the Presbyterian Church fund we opened at the end of last year.

We have seen the preliminary report from the Presbytery visitation committee and are awaiting the final report from Presbytery; however we are beginning to work on renewing the covenant with the Anyuak Ministry to clarify expectations as this is one of the proposed recommendations.

Doug Bonar, Clerk of Session

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Are you getting bored? Hands getting fidgety? This is a perfect time to knit a prayer shawl or two while hanging out at home! There are lots of patterns for prayer shawls. The basic one we have is Knit 3, Purl 3, odd multiples of three, so 45, 51, 57 etc. and about 60 inches long before the fringe so that it wraps completely around the recipient. Really, any favourite shawl pattern you have would be wonderful. Just make sure it is big enough to wrap around someone to give them "hugs" from their church family.

If you are unable, or concerned about going out for medications, or groceries, please email the address below, 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. During this time, we would also ask that the members of the congregation call each other and check in, just even a quick hello, we're thinking of you and want to make sure you're ok kind of call.

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

FROM THE OFFICE

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 out our newsletters, services, and other updates. The COVID19 tab is your one stop shop for all the news at the moment!



Do you know where Noah kept the bees?
In the Ark hives.

