

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church

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Minister's Musings Prayer is living

Many books on prayer will tell us that prayer should be the main business of our lives, and they will then go on to list inspiring examples of people of prayer. Jesus rightly tops the list, and the gospels certainly record his prayer habits: sometimes he would stay up all night to pray, often he rose early in the morning to pray, but most important of all, he was always in communication with his Father, for he said: "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing" (John 5:19). In other words, Jesus prayed without ceasing, every moment of every day he was in contact with his Father. Following his death and resurrection, Jesus' disciples showed that they had learned from his example when they said, "We must devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word" (Acts 6:4)

Great Christians throughout history have also emphasized prayer. Martin Luther declared: "I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer." John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer." David Brainerd is best known for his devotional life, and he has inspired generations of Christians by the words he printed in his diary, words like this:

"I love to be alone in my cottage where I can spend much time alone in prayer." Or: "I set apart this day for secret fasting and prayer to God" (Quotations as recorded in Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster, p. 34).

"Praying is living," Henri Nouwen says. Prayer is not something that is done only before meals or during church services. It is not limited to bowed heads, clasped hands, and closed eyes. Since praying is paying attention to God (listening, watching), we really can "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6). In whatever we do, we do it with the awareness that God is present. We can simply ask Him, "God, how would you like me to act in this situation?" or "God, how should I respond to that comment?" We ask God to show us what He is doing, and how He would have us join in the process. In prayer, God invites us to participate in His world and operate our lives in His ways. As we practice this discipline, we will be able to see more clearly what God's will is so that we will know how we should pray (Romans 12:1-2).

Now let me give you a few practical suggestions. 1. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it. Set at least one time during the day to talk to God. 2. Make prayer a top priority in your life. 3. Find someone to be your prayer partner. Hold each other accountable for praying and pray together. 4. Use a prayer journal. Write down your prayers. Go back and write how God has heard your prayers. You will be amazed at the effectiveness of prayer

Have high expectations for prayer. Expect prayer to change things, including you. Especially you! Allow God into your being, open yourself to be a channel for God. Pray for others. Pray for healing. Be a blessing. Be bold. As we follow Jesus to the cross, it is prayer, it is the relationship with God that sustains us. Thanks be to God.



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 26

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

We, along with the other Presbyterian churches, received an invitation to submit a music video for consideration for inclusion at General Assembly this year. After some discussion we submitted two anthems, Follow Me To Jordan and O Happy Day. I'm not sure when we will hear back regarding the selections, but it is an exciting element for General Assembly!



Carla Zacharias
Music Team Leader

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

A return to actual physical worship is getting closer to a reality. If the provincial government's goal of vaccination being available to everyone by the end of June and if we can achieve a 75% vaccination rate, we may be back in the pews in July. We continue to pray that to be the case.

Given that a return is now sooner rather than later, we ask that you review your commitment to Centennial with respect to volunteering and prayerfully consider where you can help. Within the mandate of the Worship Committee we will be looking for volunteers in the following areas:

1. Lay reading
2. Powerpoint preparation
3. Sound operation
4. Slide show operation
5. Video operation (we are planning to record our services)
6. Ushers
7. Greeters

We are planning Music Appreciation Sunday and Anniversary Sunday both in the month of May. Please be sure to tune in and watch these special services.

Virtual communion services are continuing and will be celebrated by Zoom the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 am. After some delay due to compassionate circumstances the new screen at the rear of the church has been installed. It is now ready and operational for our return to the sanctuary.

Also, please continue to let us know your upcoming family celebrations so that we can acknowledge them in the announcements.

We continue with virtual coffee time at 11:00 am each Sunday (following communion on those days.) If you have difficulty with joining, please call Jim Broadwell at (403) 285-2976 for help.

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

Jim Broadwell
Chairman, Worship Committee

PEWS NEWS

Birthdays to celebrate in May!

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

Please continue to keep Wilson Anojoh and Shirley Bates in your prayers with the loss of their family members.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR!

Our Virtual Coffee hour continues! It is an easy way to connect with others from the congregation. You can stay for five minutes, half an hour, an hour! Come say hi!

11:00 am on May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (if the service goes long, or your coffee isn't quite ready, just jump on the call when you can!) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83259579765?pwd=Ri9JTUorNFRKeWNUUlpUK2xUQWREQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 5957 9765 Passcode: 369315 One tap mobile +1 647 374 4685 .. 83259579765#

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

FROM THE SESSION:

There will be no Communion Service the first Sunday in May as Rev. Kim will be awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test. The Session is working on establishing priorities for Centennial's ministry going forward. A workshop was held on April 24th to identify ministry needs and concerns and was led by Rev. Jean Morris who is the General Presbyter for our Presbytery. The next steps are to establish priorities and then generate a three year ministry plan to address these priorities.

We hope to hear about our requested grant from the Chisholm Fund for the wall repairs at the upcoming meeting of the Presbytery on Tuesday, May 4th.

The possibility of reopening for live services is discussed at every meeting. It is still expected to be some months before this will be possible.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours:

Rev. Kim will in the church office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30—4:00.

Carla will be in the church office Thursdays 10:00 –12:00 and Fridays from 10:00—12:30

The **Today magazines** for May/June are in! Pop by anytime during office hours (↑) to pick yours up!

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.

Just a quick reminder, please remember to write **"Envelope Secretary"** on your envelope when mailing in your offerings. Offering envelopes are counted the last Monday of each month.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This month has been busy with prayer shawls! A total of 7 were sent out throughout April. Three are a direct result of sending one to my friend in Winnipeg.

I received a request for one for a former soccer coach who was dying of cancer. She said he was an important figure in her life playing soccer and as adults they had become close friends and that he only had weeks left. I found a red shawl as she had requested at the church and got it out within 24 hours of talking with her. As you may know, Canada Post cannot really give an approximate delivery time anymore because of all the protocols in place at the moment. I expected it would take a week, like the last time. Near the one week mark I checked in with this lady to see if it had arrived yet. She was very excited to say it arrived on the Monday! I only sent it on the previous Friday. 3 days it took. Then she says the prognosis had been updated, he now only had days, maybe a week. I do believe there was some divine intervention there. He loved it and wore it every day after he received it.

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

FROM THE BOARD:

Beloved in the Lord,

Please permit me use this platform for its wider audience to amplify an announcement thats already in circulation. As we all know, The Board via Tony had scheduled a General Church Cleanup for Saturday the 1st of May 2021 at 10:00 AM. Its not only for Board members but for the entire Congregational members. Please lets all mark our calendars for this important event and be ready to show up and act up.

Pride Muma
Chairman of the Board

PRAYER 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.



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.”

FISH Network mission, Ephesians 4:15-16

FISH Network: Friendship Inspiration Sharing Hospitality

Friendship, inspiration, sharing, and hospitality were experienced at our April FISH Network meeting. Yes! We continued to practise what we have been preaching! Discussion topics included questions that would be presented at a meeting Session would be holding with Rev. **Dr. Jean Morris** from the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod. Questions pertained to the mission, vision and plans Centennial Presbyterian Church may have for the next three years. Consideration was given to building upon the church's strengths and addressing challenges. In addition, discussions ranged from sharing thoughts about reopening the church to inspiring engagement with church-related initiatives and various small group activities including the introduction of a walking group.

As we continue to pray for one another, we encourage you to continue to communicate with one another. Keep in touch. Make a call. Send a text or an e-mail. Reach out in friendship. Be a Centennial friend. Please feel welcome to contact our FISH Network -- Annie Edie, Carla Zacharias, Israel Ayongwa, Jean Tupper, Jin Woo Kim, Phyllis Russell, Shirley Watts, Simon DeVries. If you are uncertain how to reach us, please call Centennial Presbyterian Church (403 285-7144) or reference your annual report church directory. We are a resource for you – one of Friendship, Inspiration, Sharing, Hospitality.

Jean Tupper and the FISH Network

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Q: What season is it best to go on a trampoline?

A: Spring time!

Q: Why is the letter A like a flower?

A: A bee comes after it!

Q: When do monkeys fall from the sky?

A: During APE-ril showers

Q: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

A: Pilgrims!

Q. How excited was the gardener about spring?

A. So excited he wet his plants.

Q. What's Irish and comes out in Spring?

A. Paddy O'Furniture

Q: What do you call a grizzly bear caught in the rain?

A: A drizzly bear.

Q: What type of bird should you never take to the bank?

A: A robin.





WORLD'S BEST VOLUNTEER

this certificate is awarded to:

Daniel Edie

in recognition, of

Setting up our Zoom Coffee Hour

FISH Network

May 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Virtual Coffee Hour
May 9 Mother's Day
May 16 Music Appreciation Sunday
May 23 Anniversary Sunday

Meetings:

May 19 FISH Network at 7:00 pm
May 25 Worship Committee Meeting @ 4:00 pm
Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm