

CENTENNIAL HOTSPOT

Centennial Presbyterian Church

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Minister's Musings

"IF only" and "Next time"

1 If only! We hear it all the time. If only I hadn't had that acci-
1 dent. If only I'd lived in some other place. If only I were more
2 beautiful. If only people were friendlier to me. If only I had
2 more money. If only I were younger. If only I were older. If only
2 I had a different kind of job. If only people really knew my abili-
2 ties. If only--and it goes on and on. If only.

2 Let's think about it in the context of an alternative
3 stance: next time. There's a world of difference between "if
3 only" and "next time." "If only" looks backward; "next time" is
3 a look forward. "If only" is a word of defeat; "next time" is a
3 word of hope. "If only" with its expressions of regret, and self-
3 pity is a protest against God. "Next time" is a vote of confi-
4 dence in the future and an affirmation of faith in God who is
4 always doing a new thing.

Listen as Isaiah quotes God speaking, "Behold, I am doing a
new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive and know
it, and will you not give heed to it? I will even make a way in to
the wilderness and rivers in the desert." So it's against this

background of God intervening in history, a God who is always doing a new thing--it's against that background that I want us look at these two approaches to life--if only/next time.

I hope you get the picture: the contrast between an "if only" and a "next time" approach to life. No matter what happens, no matter what our circumstances, we can affirm with conviction "next time" because our God is a God who is "doing a new thing," making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

The power to live by "next time" rather than "if only" can only come from God. God is more interested in your future than in your past. God is more concerned about what you can yet become than what you used to be. God gives us a mission and a purpose as he calls us to be his witnesses of this joyous news to all the world.

What might that be? God's new activity with us will involve reaching out with our message to the community in new and fresh ways even as we press on with renewed worship, revitalized learning, building renovation and reorganizing for mission. God's new activity with us will involve creative new ways of faith formation in the lives of all our people, but especially our young. God's new activity with us will involve fresh forms of worship that engage all of us in song, reflection, and praise. God's new activity with us will include being open to new ideas that none of us have had yet.

God gives us the gift of a future that can be free of "if only's" and filled with "next times." It's a future filled with joy that continues with Christ on through eternity. Prepare to let go and let God take control over your worries. Prepare to make rivers in the desert, make all things new. Stop the "if only's" and start to prepare for the "next times!"



PEWS NEWS

Birthdays to celebrate in November!

November 2, Bradley Anung, Francis Djakan; November 7, Jalie Serina; November 8, Maya Ayongwa; November 15, Rosalinda & Richard Carter; November 16, Doug Zacharias; November 19,

Lindsay Zacharias; November 24, Sam Kiplagat; November 29, Doug Bonar, Brad Kriwoken, Loveline Emeh; November 30, Ann Laverty.

Please continue to keep each other in prayer.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

November is a month of remembering. November 8 we will have a Remembrance ceremony in our service. Before he left, Doug recorded Last Post, the moment of silence and Rouse.

Not much else going on at the moment. Lauren and I continue to record and we are coordinating with Bruce to get together for future recordings.



Carla Zacharias, Music Team Leader

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 Communion Service via Zoom
November 8, 15, 22, 29 Virtual Coffee Hour

Meetings:

Mission Team November 4, 7:00 @ church
FISH Network November 18, 7:00 pm via Zoom
Worship Committee November 24, 4:00 pm via Zoom
Session November 24, 7:00 pm @ church

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

As case numbers rise, we will be continuing with virtual worship. Consequently, we are preparing to execute more of our traditional plans in a virtual format. We continue to 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

By the time you read this we will already have had our first virtual communion service. We trust this will have been a spiritually uplifting time for you.

We will be continuing our tradition of participating in Presbyterian World Service and Development Advent liturgies in conjunction with the lighting the candles in our Advent Wreath. This will be done in the sanctuary and the liturgies will be presented in our virtual services beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 29. Thanks Gwyn Crowe for coordinating this.

In addition to our pandemic friendly plan to continue with our Mitten Tree and White Gift traditions for Centennial we are pleased to report that we are also continuing our support of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child with the packing of shoe boxes. The boxes are available at the church and must be returned prior to November 16. Details on how to pack your box can be found in the announcements each week, by visiting their website samaritanspurse.ca/occ or by calling the church office. The request for a \$10 donation to cover the shipping and administrative costs is not required as this cost is included in our Missions budget. However if you wish to offset this cost to the congregation, you may make a designated donation to Centennial to cover it. Please continue to watch the announcements for additional details.

We are extremely pleased to welcome Annie Edie and Mary-Claire Chesami to our roster of readers for virtual worship. I know this is a repeat from last month's newsletter, but I realized I'd forgotten to include Mary-Claire's last name.

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. If you have difficulty with joining, please call Jim Broadwell at (403) 285-2976 for help.

Jim Broadwell
Chairman, Worship Committee

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today." After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee. Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: "It's right here—HEBREWS."

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.

December Newsletter submission deadline is November 25.

FROM THE SESSION:

A proposed renewal of the 2016 covenant between the Anyuak Ministry and Centennial has been provided to the Presbytery for their purveyance and will be shared with the congregations once affirmed.

The Leading with Care committee has received a copy of the procedures and guidelines that Westminster Presbyterian Church put in place prior to their reopening a few weeks ago. These are being evaluated to see what fits for Centennial. The consensus is that it will be some time before we reopen for services due to the increase in Covid numbers.

It has been almost a year since our first refugee family arrived (Nov. 6, 2019) which means Centennial will not be financially responsible for them going forward. They have been financially independent for the last six months.

The Session has recommended Okelo Aballa as a Candidate for Ministry to the Presbytery as he seeks to gain admittance into the program to become an ordained Minister.

The Session is considering delaying the Term Elder elections scheduled to take place early next year due to the pandemic and ensuing communication difficulties.

Doug Bonar
Clerk of Session

FROM THE OFFICE

The **Today books for November/December** are in, as well as the new edition of the **Presbyterian Connection** If you would like to pick yours up, Carla will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10:30-12:30 and Friday mornings from 9:30-12:00.

If your team is planning to hold a zoom meeting and you either need help, or would prefer the office to set it up, **please submit your zoom meeting information, including attendees, for the announcements and for setting up the call** to the office at office@centennialchurch.ca.

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.

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!

November 1 will be our Communion service. Please follow the same steps as for our coffee hour. The information is below.

The information you need is:

11:00 am on November 1,8,15,22,29 (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=Ri9JTUorNFRKeWNDUlpUK2xUQWREQT09>

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.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

As we head into the winter months, isolation can be a bigger challenge, and with our current situation, it can be even worse than usual. If you know of anyone who lives alone or could use a helping hand, reach out to the Pastoral Care Team so we can coordinate some relief.

Assistance is available in many ways: coffee, a meal delivered, a ride to an appointment 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 support.

We are always looking for people to join our Prayer Chain. Prayer concerns are shared with the people on the chain, only approved details are shared with the request for prayer.

November's challenge: Arrange to bring a meal or have coffee, either safely in person, or over the phone to a neighbour in the church or your community.

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

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

The **FISH Network** has initiated a pilot of Centennial Presbyterian’s prayer partner program. We had introduced you to the concept in the last newsletter. The intent is that you would have someone – a specific someone – from our Centennial Presbyterian Church congregation who is praying for you each day, every day and who you are praying for. With the success of the pilot program (and we ask that you pray for the success of the prayer partner pilot program), our intent is to put the prayer partner program into action with the congregation early in 2021. More details to follow!

At our recent **FISH Network** meeting, we discussed friendship. What a friend we have in Jesus! Imagine – Jesus wants to be your friend. That is so powerful! Prayer is powerful. Pray for friendship, for developing friendships within our congregation and with Jesus. Pray to God for His wisdom, understanding and blessing.

Our **FISH Network** focus on Friendship continues. Have you received a call from one of our **FISH Network** -- Annie Edie, Carla Zacharias, Jean Tupper, Jin Woo Kim, Phyllis Russell, Simon DeVries? If you haven’t heard from us ... you will! Meanwhile, feel welcome to reach out to us or feel inspired to call anyone at Centennial to check in and see how they are doing.

Jean Tupper

