



Pinegrove United Church
100 Highway 130
Rosslyn, ON
P7K 0B6

Phone/Fax-(807) 939-1364

E-Mail:

pinegrove@tbaytel.net

Website:

www.pinegroveuc.org

Find Us on Facebook



Visit our facebook page.

Pinegrove United Church

New Address?

If you have a new address, please let the church secretary know. Call, email or drop off a change of address card.

Email Listing

If you would like to be added to the Pinegrove email listing, please send your request to Joan Bailey, Communications – bailey@tbaytel.net

Pinegrove Website

For further info about upcoming events, please check out our website: www.pinegroveuc.org



Pinegrove Post

"Reaching Out to Others With God's Love"

Spring 2016 Edition

An Easter Message from our Pastor - Hubert Den Draak



No Nonsense!

*"In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."
(Natalie Sleeth, 1986, Voices United # 703)*

Why can't Easter just make up its mind and simply pick a fixed date? It not a problem for Christmas; at least Christmas is always on the same day: December 25, so we know what to expect and plan for it. But why does Easter always have to move around?

There are all kinds of good historical and theological reasons as to why Easter became a "moveable" feast. There's something about the "surprise" element that makes Easter unique. It moves around, so it always seems to catch us unaware, unexpectedly... it's not easy to prepare for Easter, it can throw you off. It's the same for its message of resurrection: new life is always a surprise. It is unexpected... it can throw you off because it goes against everything we think we know about life and death.

For those women who went to the tomb on that first Easter morning, it would have come as a huge shock when they were told "Why do you look for the living amongst the dead? He is not here, he is risen!" According to Luke, even when they did share this good news, everybody thought it was nonsense (Luke 24:11).

Maybe that's our challenge at Easter - to be surprised by new life, and not write it off as nonsense. Let God's alternate reality break into our limited reality. Look around for its signs and be amazed by them. See the flower in the bulb, the apple tree in the seed, as Natalie Sleeth's song above this article reminds us.

New life is also happening in the midst of the ministry in this congregation. Some of it has been through new friendships, and new experiences. Some of it has been through unexpected new opportunities for ministry and service. And some of it has been through finding new hope and new beginnings after a period of grief and endings.

And more is about to happen, as our new outreach initiative "Café del Soul" will open its doors this year, offering a place of unconditional welcome to those who need it. That's no nonsense, that's God at work right here at Pinegrove, inviting all of us to join in.

As we prepare for Easter and celebrate Christ's resurrection, we give thanks to God who keeps throwing us off with new life and new hope where we don't expect it.

Easter blessings,
Pastor Hubert

Holy Week Services

March 25 - Good Friday



GOOD FRIDAY

12:30 p.m. - Walk

A meditative walk with the cross begins at Pinegrove and concludes at St. Mark's Anglican Church.

2:00 p.m. - Service

Joint Good Friday service at St. Mark's Anglican Church with Rev. Charlene Scriver and Hubert Den Draak

March 27 - Easter Sunday



9:00 a.m.

Sunrise Service at Pinegrove followed by a light breakfast for all.

10:30 a.m.

Festive Easter Sunday Service at Pinegrove with Worship Leader Hubert Den Draak

*"As the mountains surround
Jerusalem, so the Lord
surrounds his people both
now and forevermore."
~ Psalm 125:2*

EASTER GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD



Spring is a time of new beginnings - we so look forward to the warmer weather, the green grass and perennials popping up in our gardens.

Join us at Pinegrove this Easter season to renew your spirit as well! We welcome one and all to share our faith journey.

Your Board has been busy as we move into a new Church year. We are looking for a person to take over our envelope secretary job. This would involve making entries into an existing computer program specifically for that purpose. It would involve a couple of hours per week perhaps on your own time at the Church. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact me to discuss it (475-5173). We would be prepared to pay for your time.

Congratulations to Hubert as he enters the home stretch of his studies. We are pleased that he has indicated that he would like stay on with us at Pinegrove on a half-time basis, and the proper forms and documents have been submitted to Presbytery and Conference for his appointment which begins July 1, 2016.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Blessings
Claire Belluz, Chair

Easter Greetings from your Pastoral Charge Supervisor!

I am writing this little message as Winter comes in to haunt us for a few more days. When the weather changes so suddenly we really are baffled, not to mention a bit irritated, since some of us were getting used to mud and the beginnings of green shoots, and warmer temperatures. And here we are again: something below C', snow and ice on the road, shovels getting dragged back out of the shed, big coats, hats and mittens retrieved from the back of the closet. Sigh.

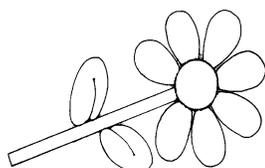
Just as we struggle with unexpected changes in the weather, I wonder if we ever get used to the suddenness of the changes in our lives? Or maybe we actually do learn to be flexible and to cope with whatever comes our way?

Here at Pinegrove the spring season of growth and green really is unfolding and you are exploring new ways to connect with the surrounding community in a possibly deeper, richer way - with conversation and shared mealtimes. You will also connect with one another as you explore your feelings about this project and work together to help it succeed. 'Where two or three are gathered ... I am there'. This wonderful comment by Jesus helps keep us grounded in whatever work the Spirit guides us to attempt.

May this Easter Season be a time of renewal and encouragement for the congregation and for your community. May you recognize God's grace in one another and live accordingly! You are blessed and all you do is worthy. Celebrate!

~ Christina Stricker

Green Thumb Tea



Pinegrove's annual Green Thumb Tea is coming soon! May 18th is the date set, so just around the corner, and spring will arrive hopefully soon! As a topic and speaker have not yet been arranged, if you have any ideas, please contact Marion Wilson at 939-2966.

GIVING BY PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) - PAR is a programme administered by The United Church of Canada that allows you to contribute to your church through a monthly withdrawal from your bank. You can designate your gift to local church expenses, the Mission & Service Fund or another area. This is a convenient way for you to support your church and the church appreciates the regular income for ongoing weekly commitments. You can join Par at any time by contacting the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card number.

HELP FOR REFUGEES



We all see the pictures and hear the terrible stories of refugees who have lost literally everything because of war. Many people are saying: What can I do? This is a chance to do something concrete to help. An active Inter-church Refugee Committee in Thunder Bay is currently pooling resources and skills from many different churches to help sponsor a refugee family.

There are two parts of the sponsorship process:

- 1) raising the funds, and
- 2) helping integrate the families into the community.

The group is not asking for money from Pinegrove. The people of Thunder Bay and surroundings prove to be extremely generous with their financial support, and right now it looks like it will reach its target of \$25,000 to sponsor 8 refugees (the federal government will match that amount to make it \$50,000). Yet, even though money is not the biggest issue, every dollar donated will be of great help.

What is needed even more now is a few good people who want to be involved in volunteering for the second part, the community integration part. Once the refugees are here (and that will be soon!), they will need help in learning how things work here. Learn English. Learn how to get groceries and how banks work. How to deal with our climate. How to get a SIN number or a driver's licence. Things we take for granted but that are bewildering for people from a different culture.

Please have a look at the large sign-up board in the Narthex and see if there is anything you might be willing to help out with. It's not often that we get this opportunity to make meaningful connections with people from a different continent and to get to know each other's stories! And remember, Pinegrove has some history in helping out refugees.

You can always ask pastor Hubert if you'd like to know more about how to help.

Holy Week Ponderings: Dipping in to the gospel of Luke

- Monday: Read Luke 22:24 What are some disputes in your life that keep you from being true to the teachings of Jesus?
- Tuesday: Read Luke 22:35 What things might you need to let go of in order to be faithful to Jesus?
- Wednesday: Read Luke 23:8 What could the spirit of Jesus do through you this week?
- Thursday: Read Luke 23:28 What things about your faith cause you to weep?
- Friday: Read Luke 23:42-43 What do you want to remember from this Holy Week? How will you help yourself to do so?
- Saturday: Read Luke 23:47 What would you say to Jesus on this reflective pause between Good Friday and Easter morning?

"Become an Easter Poet"

Write an Easter acrostic poem for yourself, or your family! Place the following letters down the left side of your paper:

EASTER MEANS LOVE

Using the first letter as your starting point, add a line that describes your feelings, observations, in a single line. When you have completed your 'poem' share with others.

The Prayer of St. Patrick

*As I rise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before
me,
the ear of God hear me,
the Word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.*

*Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

Amen.

Flourless Chocolate Cake

- 1 19-oz. can chickpeas, drained
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 4 large eggs at room temperature
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2/3 cup cocoa
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda

In a blender or food processor, blend chickpeas and orange juice. Place in a mixing bowl. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat. Add brown sugar, cocoa, baking powder, and baking soda. Beat together until mixed thoroughly. Bake in a 9" round cake pan at 350° for about 50 minutes. Serve warm or cold as cake. To serve as dessert, garnish with fruit and/or whipped cream, or serve with a berry or chocolate sauce.

Sierra Nuggets

(Country Style Chocolate Chip Cookies)

- 1 cup butter (softened)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 c. white sugar
- 3 T. milk
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 c. corn flakes (crumbled)
- 3 c. oatmeal (any type)
- 1 1/2 c. flour
- 1 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. mace
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp. powdered cloves
- 1 c. shredded coconut
- 2 c. milk chocolate or semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 c. chopped walnuts or pine nuts

Lightly grease cookie sheets. Pre-heat oven to 350°F. Cream the butter and sugars together. Add milk and vanilla. Beat in eggs; stir in cornflakes and oatmeal. Sift dry ingredients together; then add to mixture and combine thoroughly. Stir in coconut, chocolate and nuts. Drop by well-rounded teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets. Bake for 10 minutes; let stand 2 minutes before removing from cookie sheets. Recipe makes about 8 dozen.

Finnish Pancakes were back on the menu on February 21 at Pinegrove. A full house enjoyed pancakes galore and unlimited sausages - we had guests from many other churches. Profits will be put to good use. Thanks are extended to all who came to eat!



OUTREACH PROJECT

In the near future, Pinegrove will be sending a box or two of much-needed clothing to a Northern reserve. This particular reserve is one of the poorest. We have helped in the past by sending boxes of clothes, for which we have received notes of thanks. We used to be able to send up to eight boxes with free shipping, but that offer from Wasaya Airlines is no longer in place so we will now have to pay the freight. However the budget for the Outreach Committee is only \$100 and that won't go far, so we are putting out an appeal for help. If you feel that you would like to contribute to help defray the cost of freight, place your donation in your offering envelope and mark it "Outreach" to ensure that it gets to the right place. There will be a list of needed items posted in the vestibule of the church. Some warmer summer clothes are also needed. If you have any questions, talk to Marion Wilson (939-2966).

IT'S A SIGN!



Isn't it a beauty? Pinegrove's wonderful new church sign does more than just inform the general public. It brought people together in making it happen. It triggered some amazing generosity as folks donated their time, money or materials. It makes a clear statement, saying: "Hi there! This is a lively, welcoming community of faith. Check us out!" And people are noticing it, as we've been getting positive feedback from passers-by.

Of course signs cost money. So we've started the "Buy A Letter" fundraiser campaign. You can now buy a letter for only \$2 each! Just fill out your name and address on the simple form in the narthex and leave it in the basket - or give it to Joan Bailey (who is heading up the fundraiser), Claire Belluz or pastor Hubert.

Need inspiration? How about the names of your (grand)children? Your spouse? Favourite colour? Favourite food? Your pets? You get the idea! To make it (even) more fun, you can cross out "your" letters on the big board in the narthex so everyone can see how the campaign is doing. Donations of \$10 and over will receive a tax receipt.

Don't forget, you can also donate securely online via our website's DONATE button here: www.PinegroveUC.org and click the "DONATE" tab. In that case just send us an email where to send your receipt. Thanks so much!

A big thank-you to all who have already donated. Your generosity is very much appreciated. And if you haven't donated yet: start thinking up some fun words or names, "buy" those letters, and be part of Pinegrove's sign for all to see!



YES! I'M BUYING THE FOLLOWING LETTERS TO HELP FUND OUR NEW CHURCH SIGN*: Letters: _____

Total number of letters: _____ @ \$2.00 per letter = \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt. Thank you!