



News for the Pews

The Newsletter for Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church
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March 2023



Barry's Blog

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the Light of the world..."

On Being Salt & Light

If you want to know what it looks like to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, look for those who are helping others, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, sitting with the broken, and giving of themselves, without judging the worthiness of the recipient.

Regardless of your opinions, observations, or objections, this is a testament to, and an embodiment of, what you do when you truly believe that you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. You just do it. You don't debate it. You don't second-guess it. You don't wonder about it. You just go and be it. That's Jesus' point in this passage. Jesus doesn't say think about it. He doesn't say you will be, you may be, or try to be. No, you just are. You are salt and light. Period.

We need to be assured of this truth these days, especially in these polarizing times, when we are asked to take "sides". The question is, do you know you are? Do you believe you are? Or do you doubt Jesus? Do you speculate that Jesus could not have possibly meant you? Do you think that Jesus might have been mistaken? Do you hesitate, wondering whether or not this is the right time or the right place? Have you convinced yourself that your voice can't make a difference?

The truth is... We can no longer stand by and let the Gospel be taken over by those who seem to have a louder voice... We can no longer hide under

a bush afraid of what people might think... We cannot just get over it... We cannot succumb to "this too shall pass." We cannot be consoled when we hear hate filled speech and hate filled national policies, by "*it doesn't affect us.*" We must refuse to be placated by, "*it's just words.*"

My Gospel does not include hate... I believe in a Gospel that tells me I am enough and insists that others are as well. The Gospel that says God needs me to be the salt of the earth. The Gospel that encourages me to speak up for those who have been silenced or have yet to find their voice. The Gospel that won't let me stand on the sidelines but pushes me out into the world God loves... so that others might know they are loved and welcomed and worthy.

The Gospel that is not a viewpoint. Not an opinion. Not an alternative fact.

It is love in action... It is knowledge of God lived out... Salt and light are essential to life... They are rarely, if ever, not present. And if they are absent, something is drastically wrong. Both are necessary to bring about the Kingdom of God in our world... It is not enough to know about God. As disciples, we have to be the **activity** of God in the world. We are called to live out our identity as salt and light. How are we being salt, flavoring the lives of those around us? Where is our light dispersing darkness?

Blessings,
Rev. Barry Doner





Financial Update



Thank you for your continued support for this congregation, it's ministries, and outreach to this community. Your continued support is much appreciated whether through your weekly offering, PAR givings, special gifts, etc.

Congregational Life

Meat Pie Fundraiser – The meat pies will be available for pick up on March 21st from 9:30 – 11 a.m..

Coffee Hour – If you haven't made your way down to the Lower Fellowship Hall following our weekly worship we invite you to do so. Each Sunday Coffee, Tea and Goodies are supplied. Can you lend a hand after coffee hour with some clean up? There is a sign-up sheet downstairs to help! We would appreciate the help!



St. Patrick's Day Potluck
Wed March, 15th
6:00 p.m. – Lower Hall

Wear your green, bring your favourite dish!
Bring a friend and invite a neighbour!



World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 3rd

Topic: Praying for Taiwan

Where: Prince of Peace Church, Wasaga Beach.

Time: 2:00 p.m.



All are welcome to attend!

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can join in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is *Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action*. Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.



March Birthdays

Patrice McCammon, Mary English, Daye Warren, Lorraine Ogilvie, Blair Clark, Ruth Currie, Rev. Mitch McVeigh, Rev. Barry Doner, Robert McNabb, Vicky Nunnaro

March Anniversaries

Alex and Lois Boyter

** Blessings to all who are celebrating this month **

Worship

Opportunities to Serve

Minister Assist: Each week during the announcement time, the Minister Assistant welcomes the congregation and visitors to worship. They give any pertinent announcements and also read the responsive Psalm. A good, strong, clear voice, and a love for people helps us to start the worship service off right. A sign up sheet is located at the back of the sanctuary or please speak with Rev. Doner or any of our Elders about this opportunity.

Sing a Song! Like to sing beyond the shower or car? Do you have a nice, clear, strong singing voice. We would love for you to join our worship leaders at the front on a Sunday morning or help provide a Sunday of special music. A couple of you have mentioned your interest but we could certainly use more participation. We hope to begin this in the spring.



WEEKLY LENTEN REFLECTIONS-

Rev. Barry will be doing a weekly Zoom Lenten Reflection time every Wednesday of Lent at 10am. Beginning Wed, March 1st at 10 a.m.

Watch the announcements on Sunday morning for more information or contact Rev. Barry for more information 705-429-9963
barry.doner70@gmail.com



The Ministerial Food Bank

The food bank is in need of hygiene items, pet care items, and peanut free school snacks.

If you place your donation in the box at the back of our sanctuary a representative of our congregation will make sure they are delivered to the Foodbank.

Or better yet. Go and see for yourself what it is the great volunteers of the Foodbank do. Get involved, donate not only your items but your time.

For more information on how you can get involved contact Christine at 705-429-6464.



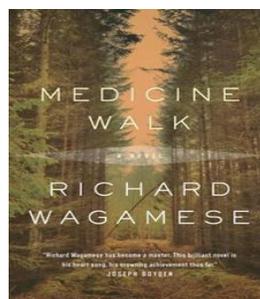
Books by the Bay Book Club



Meets – The Last Tuesday of each month via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Read a variety of genres, join in lively discussion, read something you thought you may never have read!

This month's book: *Medicine Walk* by Richard Wagamese



"A novel about the role of stories in our lives, those we tell ourselves about ourselves and those we agree to live by." --Globe and Mail

For more information and to sign up to be a part of our discussion please contact Heather Doner 705-429-9963 or by email doner.heather@gmail.com. A Zoom invitation will be given to you for each of our discussion times.



Worship Services

We invite you to join us for worship every Sunday morning at 9:30am! The services will be both **In-Person**, as well as **Online/Livestreamed**. We look forward to seeing you in whatever way you can!

Upcoming important dates



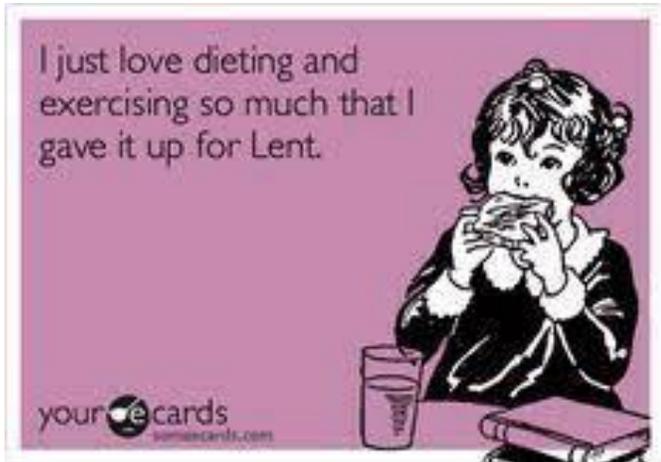
Sun, March 5th – Annual Meeting – **Come and celebrate our Church and God’s goodness.**

The meeting will take place immediately following the worship service.

For all the challenges we may have faced, for all of the loses we may have endured, an Annual Meeting is a moment to pause and celebrate our past and present and look ahead with hope to the future.

COME WITH A THANKFUL HEART and CELEBRATE GOD’S GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS to the Congregation of Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church.

Lenten Funnies



Lent is the best time of the year to run a marathon. (Because that’s when you fast.)

I’m giving up negativity for Lent..We’ll see how long that lasts.

ONE MAUNDY THURSDAY

