



News for the Pews

The Newsletter for Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church

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Barry's Blog

Why Should I Forgive?

Jesus tells us, *“Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another.”* (John 13:34) So how do we love one another, especially those who have hurt us deeply... those who have hurt us, yet have not even apologized? This aspect of loving is not easy! While loving the people who show us love is easy, we also have to love all the others who we find difficult to love. How do we do that?

We have to learn how to forgive. We can never have the capacity to love until we recognize ourselves as sinners and forgive others, just as Christ has forgiven us. (Colossians 3:13) By forgiving, we don't mean forgetting how we got hurt. We don't excuse or justify their actions. However, the truth is, we are the ones who receive the most benefit from forgiveness, not the other person. Forgiving others releases us from anger and allows us to receive the healing we need.

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.” — Lewis B. Smedes

Forgiving others starts as a decision of surrender... an act of *our* will. This surrender invites God to begin working in our lives on a deeper level, allowing God to heal us. Remember, forgiveness does not justify the actions of the other person. While nothing can undo the past, we can do something about the condition of our own present and future. Forgiving others makes a way for our own healing to begin. Forgive others... Why? Because God has forgiven you!

The more we internalize the reality that God has forgiven us, the more we are able to forgive those who have wronged us. Forgiveness of this kind does not usually happen quickly. Nor is it saying *“That's okay”* or *“I understand”* or *“No problem.”* On the contrary, forgiveness assumes that a genuine wrong has been committed. It doesn't minimize either the wrong or the painful results. Rather, forgiveness says, *“Though I was truly wronged, I will not allow that wrong to rule my life. Though I was deeply hurt, I will not allow the hurt to harden my heart. Instead, I will release the wrong. I will give it to God.”*

Forgiveness does not always mean reconciliation...sometimes reconciliation isn't possible in this life. Nevertheless, when we forgive, we allow God to touch our hearts. We invite God to heal us more deeply. We let the love and grace of God pervade our lives, so that we might live more fully as forgiven people. Is there a person in your life whom you have a hard time forgiving? Have you asked for God's help?

Blessings, Rev. Barry Doner



IMPORTANT Financial Update



This 2024 we are continuing to trust God with our Church finances. We need your help. Most Churches post pandemic are operating with a deficit. As a congregation we are as well but not to the level as many other churches even within our area.

It is coming to a critical time in our Church finances in order to be able to meet our congregational obligations. As numbers in our congregation are at a low over the winter months and more people choose to watch via their living room, weekly offerings are low.

Please pray about how each of us can help our Church to sustain its financial obligations. Can you give that extra this month? Would you consider signing up for PAR? This gives our church a more reliable income week to week. For those on PAR can you increase your giving's weekly?

For those who wish numbered offering envelopes for this year please remember to speak with Ruth Currie.

We are trusting God to meet us at the point of our need.

ANNUAL MEETING: Sun, Feb 25th – Following the Morning Worship Service.

Congregational Life

Meat Pie Project - A special thank you to Nancy Thatcher and Lee Gosse and all the volunteers who have made this fundraiser a resounding success. You are amazing!
The next round of Meat pies will be made in April.

To date: The Meat Pie Project has made approximately \$5365.00



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

Following the Worship Service. Join us for pancakes, sausage, muffins, coffee and tea. Freewill offering to cover the cost.

Upcoming...Put it on your Calendar

**St. Patrick's Day
Potluck
March 13th 6 p.m.**



With a wee bit o'luck this will be an amazing evening!
Wear green!

Wasaga Beach Foodbank and Outreach in our Community



The Ministerial Food Bank: The food bank is open to receive donations Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10AM to 1PM and Thursday evenings from 6:30P to 8PM. It is run 100% by volunteers and solely funded by donations from the Wasaga Beach Community.

Needed: Peanut Free snacks for children's lunches.

Monday Night Community Dinner

Monday Night's 5-7 p.m.
Wasaga Community Church

Each week anyone in need in the community is invited to a free dinner.

As part of the Community Ministerial we have been invited to participate in this ministry by helping to donate the following:

Disposable cups, large and small plates, disposable soup bowls, plastic cutlery, serviettes, take out containers, perked coffee and bottle juices.

It is all potluck so anyone wanting to make a crockpot of food or aluminum container of food for any Monday it is appreciated. Anyone wanting to help out on a Monday can show up after 4 p.m. to set up or if picking up your crock pot after 7 p.m. can also help at that time to put everything back in

the church. For more info please speak with Ruth Collette or Heather Doner

Village of Hope

A new initiative has also begun in Wasaga Beach to help our unhoused, tent cities, and lower income population.

A couple of times a week brown bag lunches are available for pick up at the Superstore bus stop and at the Garden Centre side of Walmart.



As well as lunches a variety of items are made available such as hygiene kits. Here is a list of items they need for their Hygiene kits:

Toothbrushes, razors, soap, combs, feminine products, and hand warmers

Please place your donations in the box at the back of the sanctuary and we will make sure they get to the organizers. For more information on the hygiene kits please speak with Mary English or Heather Doner.

For information on the Wasaga Beach Village of Hope initiative can be found on Facebook.



Celebrations

January and February Birthdays

Helen Turnbull, Jack McKinley, Joanne Saunders, Linda Norton, Ivy Wilson, Doreen Playter, Alex Doner, Mike McLeod, Dave Williams



January and February Anniversaries

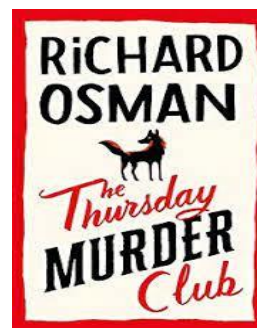
If you have an Anniversary in January or February please add it to our book at the back of the Sanctuary.



Books by the Bay Book Club

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

February Book:



To join and for a list of our books for the 2024 season just email Heather Doner at doner.heather@gmail.com or give her a call at 705-309-6111,



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Begins Wednesday, February 14th
10:00 a.m.

Looking at the Various Faiths of the World





Valentines Day Jokes



- "Why shouldn't you trust a pastry chef on Valentine's Day?" "Because he'll dessert you."
- "What do you give your Valentine in France?" "A big quiche."
- "What do you tell a pig on February 14?" "Happy Valen-swine's Day!"
- "Do you have a date for Valentine's Day?" "Yes, it's February 14."
- "What did the tortoise say on Valentine's Day?" "I turt-ally love you."
- "How did the squirrel get his Valentine's attention?" "He acted like a nut."
- "How do you keep a jewelry store save on Valentine's Day?" "You locket."
- "What do you call sweets that can keep a beat?" "Candy rappers."
- "What do you call a romance that starts at the aquarium?" "Guppy love."
- "How do vampires know if they had a successful Valentine's Day?" "If it's love at first bite."
- "Why should you date a goalie?" "He's a keeper."
- "What did the painter tell his girlfriend?" "I love you with all my art."
- "What did the man with the broken leg tell his Valentine?" "I have a crutch on you."

Happy Valentine's Day !

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| crush | cupid | date | diamond | envelope |
| fairy tale | February | flowers | friend | gifts |
| girlfriend | heart | hug | kiss | lace |
| letter | love | love song | poem | ring |
| rose | serenade | sweets | teddy bear | valentine |

