Jan's Journal

Summer officially begins on either June 20th or 21st, at the summer solstice. This year it will be Friday, June 20th. Welcome Summer!!

June 21st is also National Indigenous People's Day. This is a day recognizing and celebrating the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada. The day was first celebrated in 1996, after it was proclaimed by Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, to be celbrated annually on June 21st. This date was selected due to the cultural significance of the summer solstice, and also the fact that it is a day on which many Indigenous communities traditionally celebrate their heritage. There will be celebrations in Spencer Smith Park from 9 am to noon on Saturday. The celebration will include a Solstice Ceremony, performances by Indigenous artists, an opportunity to experience smudging, drumming, traditional dance instruction and activities for children.

Thank you to everyone who stayed following worship last Sunday for the dedication and blessing of the Affirm Sign. Thank you to members of the Affirm Team for providing refreshments.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the de-commissioned oil tank will have been removed and you will see a huge hole adjacent to the north side of the building. Soil samples will have been taken and sent to a designated lab for testing. Hopefully, our prayers will be answered, and the soil will show either no hydrocarbon contaminants, or contaminants at a level lower than 98 parts per million (ppm). If that is the test result, the hole can be filled and the new sidewalk can be put in place. If that is not the result, further excavation will need to take place until a level is reached where the level of contamination meets the requirements.

The Coffee and Conversation Group will meet for the last time on Tuesday morning, before taking a summer hiatus. This group will begin regular meetings again in mid-September.

The Lunch and Lectionary Group will meet on Thursday and then they too will begin a summer hiatus and re-commence in September. Perhaps you would be interested in joining one of these groups in the fall? All are welcome!

The letter written to MP Karina Gould on behalf of the congregation of East Plains, to express concern about **Recommendation 430** from the Standing Committee on Finance, tabled in the House of Commons last December, will be available for signature following worship on Sunday. If you have not yet had an opportunity to read the letter and sign it, please do so on Sunday. This will be your last opportunity to do so, as the letter will be delivered this week.

I will be on vacation during the month of August. As we have done in the past, worship will be suspended for the five Sundays in August. Barb and Sam will also take their vacation time during this period. This is an opportunity for you to visit other churches for worship.

You can reach me at: revjanmcc@gmail.com or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Pastor Jan