



Peninsula United Church

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Ministers:

The Reverend Janice Young

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Pastoral Letter to the people of Peninsula United Church

November 16, 2017

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

Over the next few weeks we are taking some significant steps in our journey together.

On November 26, at the end of our Sunday morning worship service, we walk together out of a building that has housed Sunday worship services since 1956. We've planned worship services that recognize and celebrate the gifts of God poured out for us and for those who've gone before us in this place. We hope you will join your sisters and brothers in celebration, grief, and journey together.

We recognize that the people from the founding congregation of Sunnyside United have already experienced this walking away from Sunday morning services in a beloved sanctuary. And they have seen the changes, as the church offices have filled every spare corner of the building. (In addition, starting in December there will be two congregations worshipping at the Sunnyside site on Sundays—Southpoint Church and the South Fraser Unitarian Congregation which is moving over from the Crescent site.)

On December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, we find each other again as we gather for worship in what we have been calling the Crescent site, which will be our church home for at least the next two or three years. The CaféChurch community will join us for that first service in our new home. This is the first building we enter that has the name of Peninsula United Church on its signs as we arrive. So in some important ways, this is our new church and we enter it with all the hopes of new beginnings.

Your Ministers, Worship Committee and Council wanted us to experience this next step together as we continue to build the relationships that knit us together as a community of faith. Some will expect this move to feel like a home-coming, back to familiar surroundings. For others there will be a wrench, letting go of what has been home. For all of us there will be a continual letting go of our former ways of doing things and creating new ways that fit with this larger body, and that honour the new things that the Spirit is doing among us.

Since there are limited parking spaces available at the Crescent site we strongly urge you to car-pool on Sunday mornings and to leave the parking lot available for those who require easy access to the building. Leaving our car at home, sharing rides and parking down the street will be important acts of hospitality we can extend to each other.

This letter is an invitation to walk gently and hospitably with each other through these days of letting go and reaching towards our new shared life together.

In peace,

Louise, Bruce and Janice
Your Ministry Team