

Pioneer Memorial-Stoney Creek United Churches

Two Churches - One Heart - One Community

eNews - Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Join Us For Worship!

We hope you will join us for worship at our Stoney Creek location, Sunday at 9:30 a.m.!

**** PLEASE NOTE - WORSHIP IS NO LONGER BEING SHARED ON ZOOM!**

An audio recording of the worship service is available on YouTube and is accessible via the Stoney Creek UC website at stoneycreekunited.ca **



The Bible Study group has resumed their regular meetings, Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. The group will continue to use the **OLD** Zoom link: 424-263-1461 and the password: grace.

Guitar Sing-Along

All are invited to an evening of music, fellowship and fun, Mondays at 7:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room at Stoney Creek United Church. You are welcome to bring your guitar - but it is not required!

In Memoriam

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Geraldine Chiahotny and family on the death of her husband, David, on January 21, 2026. David was a very involved member of St. Columba and Grace Community and will be greatly missed! The funeral service was held today, January 28, with Rev. Mark Winger presiding.

From the Minister's Desk...

"What's your story?"

For a lot of people, the month of February marks important milestone moments, stark reminders and awareness activities like: *World Wetlands Day* (2), *World Cancer Day* (4), *Bob Marley Day* (6), *Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Day* (12), *Valentines Day* (14), *Random Act of Kindness Day* (17), *Single's Awareness Day* (20), *World Day of Social Justice* (20), and *Human Trafficking Awareness Day* (22). For others its not just about singling out a

day to remember to commemorate events and encourage activity, but the opportunity to celebrate the achievements and advancements of a people, like the celebration of *Black History Month*.

Like many, I agree that a month cannot adequately tell the story of a people who have so much history and so much to tell...to re-write the history from the lens of experience. So, "black history as black story" must be an ongoing voicing of history emphasizing and telling the experiences, culture, and achievements of people of African descent from their own perspective, centering their narrative rather than a white-centric view, revealing a richer, more accurate picture of history including triumphs, struggles, joy, and resistance, often highlighting lesser-known figures and events to reclaim and expand the historical record. It's about recognizing black history as integral to all history, focusing on black joy and resilience alongside oppression, and understanding it as a continuous story of humanity, not just a footnote. UNICEF Canada Youth Advocate Blanche Monabeka, writing on her Canadian journey, notes that, "*Black history is an important part of the mosaic of the Canada we know today. The thing is, if we leave a gap in the story, it leaves a gap in the truth. The truth is, Black people, whether enslaved, free, unintentional settlers, or new to the country, have played a role in shaping the story of a nation. This nation. Our imperfect, constantly changing nation.*" Her thoughts resonate well with the greater understanding that the narrative we tell must reflect the tremendous achievements even in the face of overt and covert resistance.

Monabeka further noted that, as blacks we have to own our story, because, "*Black history is our story. The story of generations, peoples and nations. It is more than a month and more than a celebration. It is the embodiment of Black joy, Black hope, and Black ashes turned into beauty. It is love for one another and tears cried together. Black history is parents bringing their children to a country they've only heard of, to struggle for a better life, trying to build a legacy, with their children becoming part of the Black Canadian story. Black history is maybe not knowing your ancestry, but knowing you come from greatness, and from a community that never gives up. Black history is breaking through the glass ceiling, going faster and further than anyone thought possible.*"

Resources on Black History and Black History Month are available from the United Church of Canada website.

Blessings!

Lennox

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

As settlers, we continue to benefit from the land and its gifts. As settlers, we must ask ourselves how or if we have shared and cared for the earth and its gifts. Facing the truth is hard. Truth must come before reconciliation.

