

PINEHOUSE

APRIL - JUNE, 2026

Connect

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S MISSION



FROM BOLD PRAYER TO THRIVING COMMUNITY

A LEAP OF FAITH, A PRAYER IN
NUMBERS, AND A CHURCH THAT IS
GROWING BEYOND ITS WALLS



First Thoughts

Welcome to the inaugural edition of **Pinehouse Connect**. This publication is more than a series of updates; it is a living reflection of how God is moving within our church family through discipleship, service, and growth.

At Pinehouse Drive, our mission remains focused on building a Christ-centered community that is resilient, inclusive, and deeply connected. Whether through small groups, mentorship, or outreach like the Lawson Heights Family Nest, we are witnessing our vision in motion, transforming lives and shaping our future.

Ministry here is vibrant and intentional. As we embrace initiatives like **SHIFTING** (Seeking Higher Intimacy and Faithful Transformation with God), specialized small groups, Bible reading, we are reminded that spiritual growth requires our collective participation and prayer.

My prayer is that these pages inspire you to engage more deeply in the mission God has entrusted to us. The work ahead is significant, but we serve a God who is greater. Together, we aren't just witnesses to His work; we are active participants in it.

Pastor Gesklin Etienne, the lead pastor at Pinehouse Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pinehouse Connect April-June, 2026 Edition

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On this day we reflect heaven's design: many nations, one family, and one God we worship together.

THE MIRACLE ON PINEHOUSE DRIVE

FROM BOLD PRAYER TO THRIVING COMMUNITY HUB

BY ELAINE BUBNICK

About ten years ago, members of Victoria Avenue (Central) Church realized they needed a larger worship space as many new families and students were arriving in Saskatoon from other countries. Pastor Rick Harwood and his wife, living in Lawson Heights, noticed the United Church on Pinehouse Drive had very few cars on Sundays. After attending services and building a relationship, Pastor Rick learned the church was for sale. The United Church asked \$1.4 million; the Adventist church chose to offer \$1,400,777 as a faith statement that God could do the impossible. Six weeks later, there were seven offers—and the Seventh-day Adventists' bid, submitted just 15 minutes before closing, was the seventh. This “sevens” experience was seen as a miracle and a renewal of faith and commitment to God and His Sabbath.

“And so today on this Seventh-day Sabbath, as with the Israelites of old, these miracles signify the beginning of a renewal of our faith in Him, and a renewal of our commitment to the Creator God and His Holy Sabbath Day,” Pr. Rick Harwood's Sermon, March 23, 2013.

God heard, and prayers were answered!



"Praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we minister to our community and connect with people who are truly seeking 'Truth' as it is in Christ Jesus! Amen." **Elaine Bubnick**



Defining moments that shaped the church in early years?

The most defining early years were the revamping of the Sanctuary to its current style. The front podium was constructed by the amazing skills of many members, with its beautiful rock/stucco depicting the “three angels” design in stone, and with a baptistry constructed and the walls painted. Following much deliberation and hard work, it all came together in its defining moment. There was much excitement at seeing the work completed in the early stages.



Pinehouse Drive SDA Church Pastors and Elders during a 2025 event

Q

How has the church's vision and mission evolved over the past decade?

Pinehouse church was eager to engage in community involvement through various programs and events. And as more families began to arrive from other countries, each with their unique cultures, this presented a wonderful opportunity to highlight each culture, uniting us in our shared Purpose and Christian values. Eventually, our vision and mission developed as they stand today!

Q

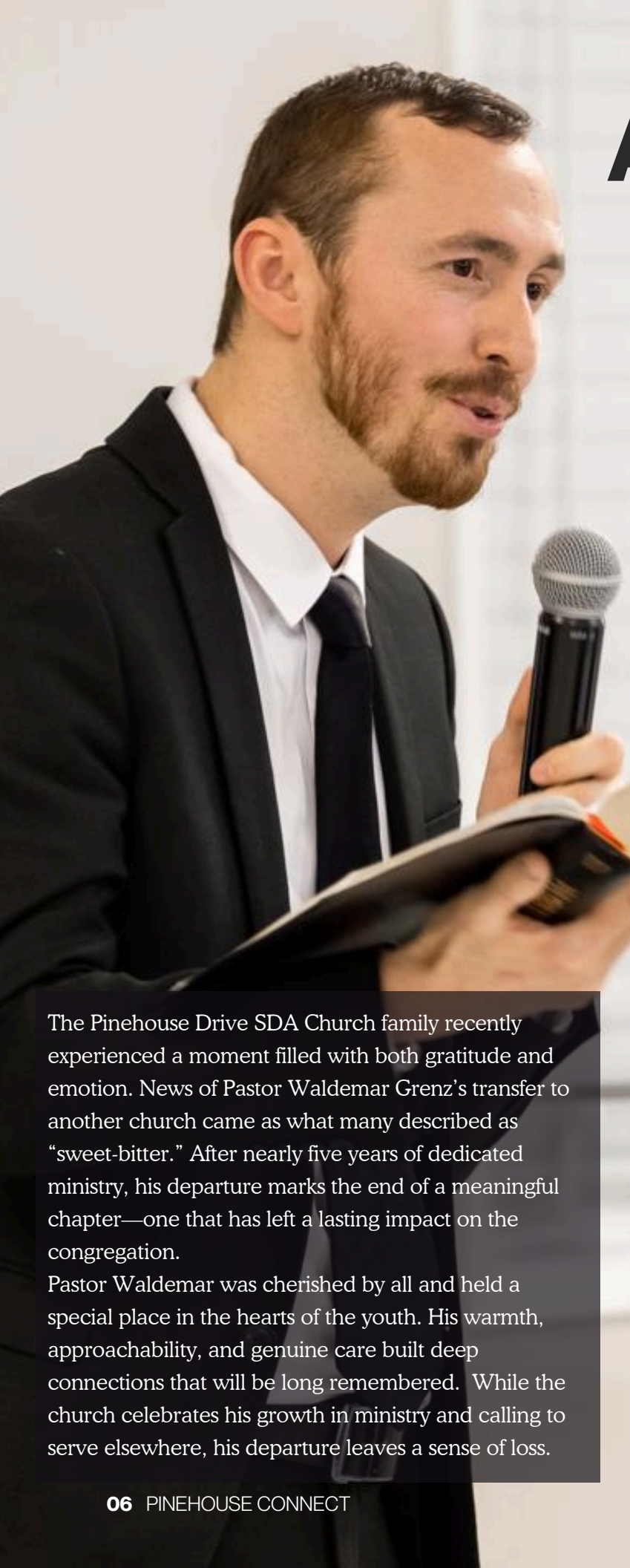
Which events best represent the church's journey and growth?

Currently, our focus is both in-reach, that is, church growth and outreach, which is community involvement. For the past four years, the Health Ministry, in partnership with other church ministries, has organized "Let's Move Day 2km, 5km, and 10 km walks and runs at Meewasin Park, with an emphasis on health and wellness. This is a community-wide event which focuses on family, children's activities, and a health tent managed by health professionals promoting healthy lifestyle choices. Cultural Day and Harvest Celebration are major church and community events that are well attended. The health ministry organizes a weekend with a speaker on healthy living, culminating with a vegetarian cooking class.

Q

What's the focus for the Church in the next 10 years?

Our congregation embraces the "Great Commission" ... Christ is coming. Thus, Community outreach remains the main focus! The "Lawson Heights Family Nest" will soon be operational with emphasis on young families. Programming will begin by providing an after-school program/activities for Children ages 4-12 years. Parents may use this time as respite. The plan is to offer meaningful connections with Lawson Heights and learn ways we can better serve their community.



A legacy of service and love

Pinehouse Drive SDA Church bids farewell to Pastor Waldemar Grenz, celebrating a ministry that shaped hearts and strengthened community.

Memories of gratitude

On Sabbath, March 28, the church came together to honor Pastor Waldemar and his family with a heartfelt farewell program, followed by a fellowship lunch. The atmosphere was filled with appreciation, memories, and expressions of gratitude. Members took time to share kind words, recalling moments of encouragement, spiritual guidance, and personal connection that had shaped their journey at Pinehouse.

A journey of faith

Pastor Waldemar reflected on his journey, offering words that deeply resonated with those present: "My journey with Pinehouse SDA Church began on August 21, 2021. Starting as a 'newbie' far from home, I'd heard reports that might have discouraged others — yet I found no merit in them. Instead, I saw God at work in remarkable ways, meeting new faces and hearing stories that drew me closer to the heart of this church. In these moments of shared life and faith, I've witnessed the transformative power of the Gospel. As Micah 6:8 reminds us, the Lord calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. By allowing us to serve others, He simultaneously shapes us into His likeness."

The Pinehouse Drive SDA Church family recently experienced a moment filled with both gratitude and emotion. News of Pastor Waldemar Grenz's transfer to another church came as what many described as "sweet-bitter." After nearly five years of dedicated ministry, his departure marks the end of a meaningful chapter—one that has left a lasting impact on the congregation.

Pastor Waldemar was cherished by all and held a special place in the hearts of the youth. His warmth, approachability, and genuine care built deep connections that will be long remembered. While the church celebrates his growth in ministry and calling to serve elsewhere, his departure leaves a sense of loss.

Pastor Waldemar leaves behind not just memories but a legacy of service, compassion, and faith. His time at Pinehouse Drive SDA Church will be remembered with deep appreciation, and his influence will continue to be felt in the lives he touched. As a church family, we say thank you—and may God richly bless him and his family in the journey ahead.



"A highlight of my ministry has been soaking up the energy of our youth. Their authenticity and hunger for something real have taught me how the world is changing and, more importantly, what questions weigh on their hearts. Over the years, I've watched our diverse, colorful congregation grow closer by respecting our differences and focusing on one mission. We aren't perfect, but looking at where we started, we can only praise God for His work.

"I often reflect on a quote by C.S. Lewis: 'Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.' He noted that the legacy that matters isn't what you build in the world, but who you raised and whether they felt safe, seen, and loved in your presence. I believe this same principle defines the bond between a pastor and their congregation. Our greatest success is not what we build, but how we love and nurture one another in Christ."

His words captured not only his personal journey but also the spirit of what Pinehouse Drive SDA Church has become—a place of growth, connection, and shared purpose.

Unity and love

The fellowship meal that followed was more than just a shared lunch—it was a reflection of the unity and love within the church family. Around the tables, conversations flowed easily, stories were exchanged, and laughter mingled with a few quiet tears. It was a beautiful reminder of the relationships built over the years and the strong sense of community Pastor Waldemar helped nurture.

As the program came to a close, prayers were offered for Pastor Waldemar and his family, asking God to guide them in this next chapter of their journey. Though they will be greatly missed, the church holds on to the assurance that God continues to lead His servants where they are needed most.



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Mission

On May 14, 2022, my family and I arrived at Pinehouse Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church. A new province, a new city, and new people - it marked a new beginning for us and brought a renewed sense of excitement for Pinehouse. From the very beginning, I saw hope in the members' eyes, and my goal has been to work alongside the existing leaders to help turn that hope into reality. The stakes were high, but we trusted that God was in control. Thus far, the journey has been a tremendously positive and meaningful experience for my family and me.

-Pr. Gesklin Etienne

The year 2025 was a defining chapter for Pinehouse Drive Seventh-day Adventist Church—a season marked by purposeful growth, spiritual renewal, and community engagement. One of the year's major milestones was the establishment of small groups. These gatherings created spaces where members could grow in faith through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Each group became a nurturing environment for spiritual maturity and mutual encouragement. Alongside this effort, mentorship programs were introduced to connect experienced members with younger or newer believers—building meaningful intergenerational relationships that support personal and spiritual growth.

Renewed call to mission

The church also deepened its discipleship initiatives, encouraging members to actively live out their faith through service and leadership. Through structured learning, ministry opportunities, and spiritual training, members embraced a renewed call to mission. To further personal transformation, 2025 saw the continued impact of SHIFTING, a spiritual development program focused on intentional transformation and a deeper connection with God. It equips participants with practices that promote spiritual discipline, emotional renewal, and Christlike living.

The church's Youth Department also remained vibrant, offering programs and gatherings that build community, foster belonging, and inspire young people to grow in faith. These efforts have united the congregation—reflected in increased attendance, stronger participation, and a growing appetite for Bible study among members and visitors alike.

Decade-long vision

As we transition into 2026, our eyes are set on exciting ventures ahead. Chief among them is the launch of the Lawson Heights Family Nest—a dedicated community ministry designed to support families and individuals through holistic, faith-based programs. Alongside this, the multiplication of Bible study-centered small groups will remain a key priority, allowing believers to connect more deeply in smaller, discipleship-driven environments.

Looking further ahead, Pinehouse Drive SDA Church continues to work towards a decade-long vision of transforming the community—helping families facing challenges like mental health, substance abuse, and financial literacy. Our prayerful desire is to remain a church that not only proclaims Christ but also embodies His compassion within the Lawson Heights community. Together, as one family of faith, we celebrate the milestones of 2025 and embrace the opportunities before us—moving forward in hope, faith, and service.

Get Ready... Let's MOVE

A day that gets hearts pumping and spirits lifted

BY CHERI
MARCHUK



Mark your calendar, bring your family, invite a friend—and be part of this exciting movement!

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✓ Family-friendly fun
- ✓ A positive, encouraging atmosphere
- ✓ Opportunities to move at your pace
- ✓ Health resources you can use
- ✓ A chance to connect, laugh, and celebrate together

What happens when faith, family, fun, and fitness come together? Let's Move Day!

Born of inspiration at a health and lifestyle gathering in Orlando, Let's Move Day was created with one simple but powerful goal: bring our church family together to move, laugh, and live healthier—together. What started as an idea has grown into a joyful annual celebration that welcomes all ages and abilities.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

From the moment the event kicks off at 8:30 a.m., the energy is contagious! Set in beautiful Meewasin Park, the morning is packed with activities designed for the whole family:

- Fun run and walk marathon
- Group warm-up exercises to get everyone energized
- Crafts, face painting, and games just for kids
- A bouncy castle that's always a hit
- Friendly competition with medals awarded for top finishers

Whether you're racing for the finish line or cheering from the sidelines, everyone has a place at Let's Move Day.

FELLOWSHIP BEYOND OUR WALLS

One of the most exciting parts of Let's Move Day is the opportunity to connect with other churches and the community. This event is more than physical activity - it's about building relationships, sharing laughter, and strengthening bonds across congregations as we come together with a shared commitment to health, faith, and service.

HEALTH, COMMUNITY & CARE

Health is about more than movement - it's about care and awareness. That's why a Health Tent is set up with medical professionals ready to check pulse and blood pressure, answer questions, and share practical resources on healthy lifestyle choices. It's a relaxed, welcoming space to learn and connect.

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Ask anyone who's attended, and they'll tell you—the most memorable moments come from watching children and youth give it their all, crossing the finish line with huge smiles and sometimes even medals around their necks. Add in cheering crowds, tug-of-war battles, sack races, and plenty of snacks and refreshments, and you've got an atmosphere that feels more like a celebration than a workout.

GROWING TOGETHER

Following the pandemic, this year marks the fourth year in succession of Let's Move Day. While community participation is still growing, there's a strong sense of hope and excitement as the event becomes a familiar annual tradition. Each year builds momentum, connection, and opportunity to welcome more neighbors into the experience.

LOOKING AHEAD

The vision for Let's Move Day continues to grow. Invitations are extended to local city leaders, and partnerships—such as outreach programs supporting families with young children—help ensure the event reflects real community needs and interests around health and wellness.

We're excited to introduce a new and refreshed food menu designed to keep everyone energized and satisfied. With thoughtful, family-friendly options, the food will be just another reason to stay, mingle, and enjoy the day together.





Training young people involves nurturing their character for eternity through balanced education - mental, physical, and spiritual.

Ellen G. White.





Tell the Children Story



A SIMPLE *Corn roast* NOW A CELEBRATION OF GRACE

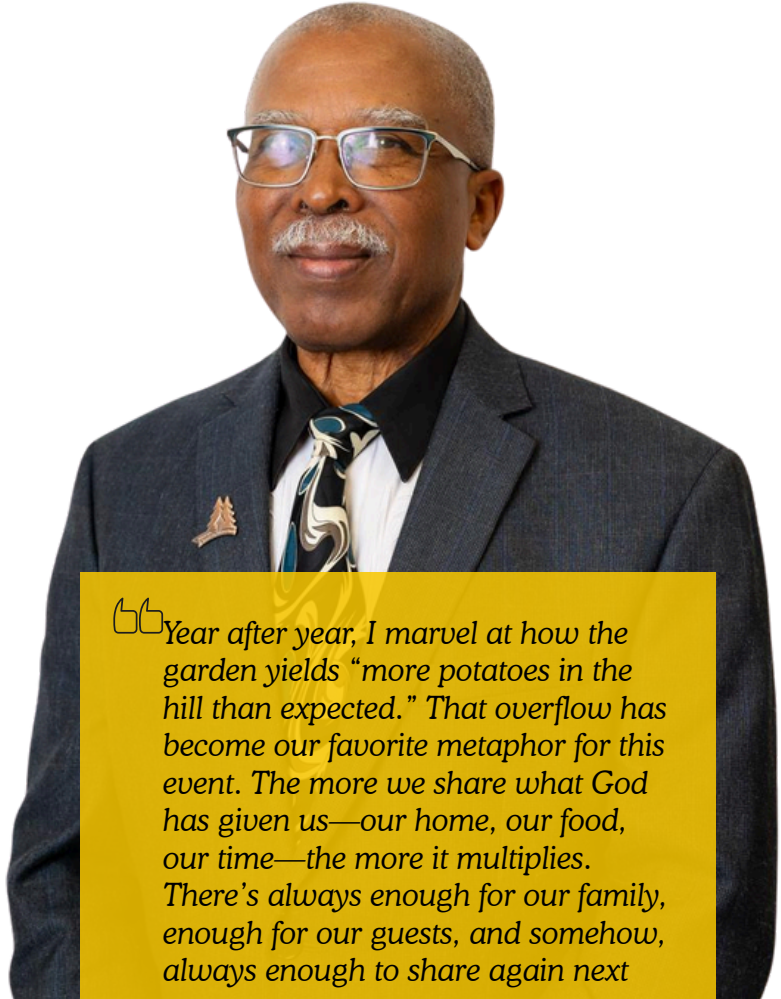
BY ELDER GLYNNE THOMPSON

Every year, as summer softens into fall on the outskirts of Saskatoon, I can smell the roasted corn before I even step outside. The laughter of children, the crackle of a bonfire, and the hum of conversation drift through the evening air. What started as a simple church corn roast more than twenty-five years ago has grown into something far bigger—a gathering where newcomers feel immediately at home, old friends reconnect, and young people discover joy in working side by side.

The tradition didn't begin with my wife, Brenda, and me. It began with Pastor Brian Haas and his wife, Karen, who once hosted a corn roast on their acreage just outside the city. They cooked corn and potatoes right in the fire and invited church families to eat, sing, and share stories under the open prairie sky. When they moved away, Brenda and I couldn't bear the thought of losing that special spark of community. So, we decided to carry it on at our own acreage—close enough to Saskatoon for folks to find easily, but far enough that it feels like a retreat from city noise and traffic.

Labour of love

Preparing for the corn roast has become a labour of love that starts weeks in advance. Out in my garden, I dig up different varieties of potatoes—my favourite being the Purple Viking, which I discovered thanks to a neighbour. I carefully pull them from the soil, check them for blemishes, and let them cure in the sun. These days, I bake them in the oven instead of over the fire. That way, they come out tender rather than scorched. Meanwhile, the corn bubbles away in huge pots, and the garden's tomatoes and cucumbers are sliced fresh for the table. Friends bring salsa, desserts, and all sorts of homemade favourites. Brenda, ever the organizer, spends days shopping for margarine, sour cream, condiments, buns, and those little extras that make the meal feel abundant.



👉 Year after year, I marvel at how the garden yields “more potatoes in the hill than expected.” That overflow has become our favorite metaphor for this event. The more we share what God has given us—our home, our food, our time—the more it multiplies. There's always enough for our family, enough for our guests, and somehow, always enough to share again next year.

Elder Glynne Thompson

Of course, there's a lot that guests never see. Firewood must be chopped and kept dry. The pit needs to be checked for safety, and the fire department always receives a courtesy call—just in case the towering flames near the highway worry passersby. We trim the grass, plan parking, and pray for good weather. Attendance is never predictable—some years we prepare too much, other times we run short—but we always plan generously, trusting that leftover food will be given a home and no one will leave hungry.



The corn roast, in the end, is a living picture of what happens when hospitality becomes a habit—when simple acts like digging potatoes, lighting a fire, and setting out chairs become gestures of love.

Over the years, this corn roast has brought together not only our church community but also neighbors, travellers, and friends from faraway places. We've had visitors from Australia and Brazil; a local banker once planned to attend with his rabbi. Neighbours have opened driveways for parking and often marvel at how peaceful such a large gathering can be—no noise complaints, no trouble, just laughter, music, and the warmth of shared stories. I love watching children race through the fields, older kids tending the fire, and elders leaning back in their chairs to watch the next generation play beneath the stars.

Never fading tradition

Some moments have touched us deeply. A pastor's son once proposed to his girlfriend here, and later, they held their wedding on our lawn. When illness or exhaustion made it hard for Brenda and me to host, others graciously stepped in, so the tradition never faded. Each year, as we ask ourselves if we have the energy to do it again, we hear the familiar question from friends and families: "Are we having the corn roast this year?" And somehow, that's all the encouragement we need.



Our faith has carried us through this event. When weather forecasts threatened heavy rain, Brenda and her students prayed—and while Saskatoon was soaked, our acreage stayed miraculously dry. Other times, dark clouds parted just in time for fires to be lit. We don't see those moments as coincidences. To us, this gathering is a gift entrusted to us by God—our land, our garden, our firewood, and the strength to serve—all meant to be shared. We've never held the event for profit; donations only help cover costs. If we break even, we're grateful. If we don't, people still leave fed, happy, and closer to one another.

Gestures of love

The corn roast, in the end, is about more than food or fireworks. It's a living picture of what happens when hospitality becomes a habit—when simple acts like digging potatoes, lighting a fire, and setting out chairs become gestures of love. Families keep returning. Strangers become friends. Children grow up with warm memories of running under prairie skies. Guests who aren't part of our church get to see what faith looks like lived out: open, welcoming, and full of joy.

Flags, Faith, and Fellowship

The Story Behind Pinehouse Church's Cultural Day



Roxann Clarke narrates how a simple idea grew into a cherished celebration of unity through diversity

The idea for Cultural Day at Pinehouse Church began with inspiration. When I arrived at Pinehouse in July 2014, Sister Samu was then the Women's Ministries leader. One evening, she organized food stations in the church basement, each representing the diverse cultures within our congregation. Standing before dishes from around the world, I was deeply moved. As someone who enjoys creating and planning, I saw an opportunity immediately. Our church was beautifully diverse, yet we had not fully embraced that diversity as a strength. I asked Sister Samu if I could plan a special cultural program for the next Women's Ministries Day — one that included Sabbath School, Divine Worship, an evening concert, and a cultural food display.

She agreed, and that's how Cultural Day was born. Initially, I called it "Mosaic of Colors," but the simple name "Cultural Day" soon stuck. The first celebration took place around the fall of 2015.

Cultural Day was born from a desire to celebrate our differences—our languages, clothing, and home countries—as gifts from God. Early on, I noticed our congregation often sat in small, familiar groups. This wasn't intentional; people gravitate toward those who seem most like them. But I feared that without intentional unity, we would remain separate.

Three themes

Heaven, I thought, would not tolerate such division, so we must learn to worship as one here on earth. Three themes became central: language, clothing, and flags. Language reaches the heart. Inspired by Nelson Mandela's words that speaking someone's language "goes to his heart," I encouraged everyone to incorporate their own languages into the service. Each time pastors greeted the congregation in multiple languages, joy lit up the room. Traditional clothing added another layer of pride and connection. Wearing garments from our home countries reminded us that while we now live in Canada, our cultural roots remain vibrant.

Seeing members dressed in their national attire made the sanctuary blaze with color—it was a visible celebration of identity and belonging. And then came the flags. I invited members to bring them, purchasing those we lacked. To our amazement, 32 nations were represented in our congregation. When children and youth marched in carrying their flags to the song "We Are Marching to Zion," the sight moved many to tears.

A community transformed

In that moment, we witnessed unity through diversity—many nations worshipping one God together. Over the years, Cultural Day has transformed our church community. The once-visible divisions have softened. Members mingle more freely, and visitors often express how deeply moved they feel by the unity they witness. Some have even joined our church because of it. Though I have since stepped back from organizing it, the committees now leading have preserved its spirit beautifully.

To me, Cultural Day is far more than a church event. It is a mission—an opportunity to celebrate uniqueness while building one body in Christ. As we continue learning about one another and bridging cultural divides, we reflect heaven's design: many nations, one family, and one God we worship together.

CELEBRATING

Culture & Diversity



Upcoming Events

The Pathfinder Experience

- North American Division Level
(Finals), April 17-18, 2026

ManSask Women's Ministries

- Man-Sask Women's Ministry
Retreat at Russell Inn, Russell,
Manitoba, May 29-31, 2026

Regular Events

Revelation Bible Study: Check YouTube BibleProphecy201 for a complete Daniel & Revelation series.

Romanian Language Vespers

Friday Nights at 7:00 pm

SHIFTING Classes

Thursdays: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM,

Thursdays: 8:00 PM– 9:00 PM

Pathfinders Club:

Second and Fourth Sabbaths at 4-6 pm

Second and Fourth Sundays 9:30 am -12 pm

Adventurers Club

Third weekend Sabbath 3 pm

Third weekend Sunday 10 am

