

First Presbyterian Church News

17 Royal Road South, Portage la Prairie, MB

Telephone: [204-857-4351](tel:204-857-4351)



Laura Hargrove, Interim Moderator

e-mail : hargrove@mymts.net

Phone – 204-727-5874 (church) or 204-573-4360 (cell)

Raymond Reichelt, Clerk of Session

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt, Organist

June 2023

Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Church e-mail address: firstpc@mymts.net

Church Website: www.firstpcportage.com

We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 1 territory, and that the land is the traditional lands of the Anishinabe and Dakota Nations, and the homeland of the Métis Nation

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Here we are in a new season in the life of the world: it seemed just a few weeks ago that spring would never begin. Now, suddenly, it is summer. Or at least it feels like that to me. Universities have had their graduations. Schools will finish soon until September. Seeding and calving have happened. Harvest will come later. Many groups are rushing to have their final meeting or celebration before they take a break. Perhaps plan a summer picnic. We will have our outdoor worship on June 25 complete with communion out at Sneesby's farm.

Because it is not only the weather that changes with seasons: so do our activities. We have things we do in the winter and quite different things we do in the summer – whether you are thinking of things around the house or hobbies and sports or even work – everything seems to change with the weather.

And it always seems to me that summer is slower. Because of the warmer weather and no school, many people take time to travel to visit friends and relatives or to go camping or sightseeing. So, now everyone is around during the summer. Perhaps that is why so many of our meetings stop? But whatever the reason, there is a pause. In a way, summer can be a sort of Sabbath.

I hope you will intentionally take some time to practice Sabbath keeping. Sabbath is a time when we are invited to rest just as God rested on the 7th day of creation. Sometimes we think of that in terms of stopping doing certain things. And it is a time to worship. But it is also a time when we are invited to celebrate. I hope you will take some time to enjoy the friends and family you have around you. That you will eat fresh seasonal food and feast your eyes on the beauty of nature as you ponder God's goodness to us.

I won't see as much of you over the summer. But I will pray for you and hope you will pray for me. May you be blessed this summer.

~ Laura Hargrove ~

Shared Summer Services

Once again, we will be sharing worship this summer with our neighbours in Christ: Trinity United Church and McKenzie United Church. I was pleased to find that all three churches worship at 10:30. That makes things so much less confusing!

We will be at McKenzie on July 2nd, 9th, and 16th (85-11th St. NW) we will all worship here at First Church on July 23rd, 30th, and Aug 6th (17 Royal Rd. S.). Then we will be at Trinity August 13th, 20th, and 27th (15 Tupper St. S.) While we will have different worship leaders each week and our schedule will move us through all three church buildings, our faith in God will draw us together.

There are many benefits to such sharing:

- We get to hear a variety of preachers
- We enjoy worship in a larger group
- We may expand our musical repertoire learning new hymns and singing old favorites
- We experience other ways of doing things in worship
- We build relationships with our brothers and sisters in other churches
- We see how others use their buildings
- We learn about the mission and congregational life of other congregations

You will be able to make your weekly or monthly offering just as if we were worshipping here at First Presbyterian Church. Just put your envelope in the plate and it will be given to our offering counters. Or, you can pop it into the church mailbox. Or you can make your offering electronic. The needs of the church are ongoing through the summer and we greatly appreciate your continued support.

We hope you will be able to join us in worship this summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

a) Regularly-scheduled events:

- Bible study - Tuesday evenings at 7:00 - by Zoom - will resume in the fall
- Finance & Maintenance Committee - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. - by Zoom (except July and August)
- Session meetings - 4th Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. - by Zoom (except July)
- Men's Breakfasts – will resume in the fall

b) One-time events:

- Communion Sunday – June 25th
- Summer Service – June 25th at Sneesby's

SUMMER ENVELOPE

For those who receive a printed copy of the Newsletter, the annual **Summer Offering envelope** is enclosed with it. For those who receive their Newsletter by e-mail, the summer envelope is being mailed out separately.

COMMUNION



Our Lent Communion service will be held on Sunday, June 25th, 2023.

SOUP KITCHEN REPORT

The Soup Kitchen has seen a marked increase in use over the past 3-4 months. Previously an average of 25-30 people was served, where now 40-45 meals are served. At the same time the amount of day old bread and desserts available from the grocery stores has dropped. The Soup Kitchen now has to buy bread and desserts. There is an ongoing problem with theft of toilet paper and paper towels. The fridge recently became problematic, requiring the purchase of a new fridge.

Over the summer a number of kitchen leaders and volunteers have requested the summer off, so the Soup Kitchen finds itself quite short of volunteers. If anyone is available to help contact Shelly at 204-470-9386 or 204-239-4199 (leave a message if no answer).

FINANCE & MAINTENANCE

We are looking for someone to mow the grass at the church, as needed. If you are willing to help out with this or know of someone – please call the church and leave a message. Mardine or Keith will get back in touch with you. Please continue to pray for the church.

OUTDOOR SERVICE

We will once again be holding our **Outdoor Service and Barbecue**, The date is Sunday, June 25th, and Bruce and Lisa Sneesby have invited us once again to hold it at their farm (78115 Highway 50, just north of Highway 16, past Westbourne). The service will begin at our regular time of 10:30 a.m., and will be followed by a barbecue.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 2023**JANUARY – MAY 2023****FINANCES:**

INCOME RECEIVED:	27,735.11
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>19,875.79</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>7,859.32</u>

Included in the above income is: \$5,000.00 from the Endowment Fund

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for 2023 is \$2,200.00

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>1,110.00</u>
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FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	4,374.00
EXPENSES:	<u>1,726.29</u>
SURPLUS:	<u>2,647.71</u>

Summary of the surplus (deficit) – the amounts are included in the above year to date information:

Spring Dinner	893.20
Fall Supper	
Meal In A Bowl	2,273.24
Catering	
Supplies	(518.73)

Your support for our fundraising is appreciated!

Happenings at First Church.....



Margaret Dunn delivered the cookies and ice cream pails to Gwen Henwood at Westwood Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg on June 14th. Gwen will arrange for them to be taken to Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church as part of Westwood's mission to assist that congregation. Thanks again to those who contributed.