

First Presbyterian Church News

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Raymond Reichelt, Clerk of Session

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt, Organist

June 2024

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

Minister's Musings

Several years ago, I listened to a comedian who talked about the need to have “a place to put your stuff.” He said a house was basically a big pile of all your stuff with a cover on it. We gather things throughout our lives and we need somewhere to keep them. Some of these things like beds and chairs and dishes enable us to live more comfortably. Some of our things remind us of places we’ve been and people we’ve known. And a lot of it is clothing. He went on to say that you need a place at work where you carve out your “own space” by marking your territory with some of your stuff. And when we travel we need to decide how much of our favourite stuff to take with us. I have read of wealthy people in the past who would take furniture with them along with bedding and clothing and toiletries and their favourite servants. But for the most part, for us it’s not that elaborate.

It makes a difference where you are going and when you are going and for how long you are going. But surprisingly not that much difference. I have been pondering this because I’m going to British Columbia for several weeks. At the beginning, I will be staying in the Greater Vancouver Area caring for a relative recovering from an operation. Later, I will be on Vancouver Island visiting friends and relatives, helping my parents with yard work and hopefully doing some camping. Maybe I will go to the Stonehenge exhibit at the museum.

When I first began to think about this, I considered that it doesn’t matter if you are going for a week or six weeks, you can use the same stuff. Except that when I’m trying to disguise myself as a fancy city lady in Vancouver, I will not be wearing the same clothes or shoes as when I’m weeding my mother’s blackberry jungle. So there are different scenarios when I might need to have different things. And what about the weather? It could be 16 degrees Celsius and rainy for a couple weeks. Or it could be plus 35. I looked at a long-range forecast. For the next 30 days, they say coastal weather will average 21 degrees – cooler than normal but that is just fine. But what happens after that? Does the temperature pop up? And that was coastal weather. Part of my big adventure this summer is that I am going to take the train back to Manitoba. This means that while it may be 21 degrees on the coast, who knows what the weather will be as the train goes through the Rockies and crosses the Prairie. So, packing for my trip seems quite complicated.

But it’s only complicated because I have a lot of choices and the leisure to ponder them.

When I was in Kenya years ago, I met some Maasai people who had only two outfits. The one they were wearing and the other one. The dirty one would be washed as necessary and then the other one would be used. The previously dirty (now clean) one would be kept until it was needed. In the one house, there was a

rush mat for a bed with one blanket. Such a contrast to my collection of items I felt I would need in Kenya (or in BC)!

I think of this because I'm preparing to go on a trip. But we might also think about our stuff if we are planning to change houses, especially if we plan to downsize. We might think about it as a congregation just as easily. I have been involved in closing or moving churches and I am always surprised by how much a congregation accumulates. Just the Sunday School supplies alone are amazing when you must pack them up. Recently, in Ontario, a church burnt down. They lost some lovely murals in their sanctuary which they will mourn. But they know that the building is not the same as the congregation.

I don't know what plans you have for the summer. Perhaps you are going on a trip? Or preparing to change houses? - Or thinking about it. It's a matter of deciding what defines you. One thing I'm definitely doing is giving thanks to God. I'm struggling with my decisions but it's only difficult because I have been blessed. I have a lot of stuff. I have a lot of friends and relatives I plan to visit. So many things I want to do while I'm away. How to fit it all into one bag and how to fit them all into one trip? But this is a struggle of abundance.

My prayer for you this summer is that you rejoice in God's blessings and you wisely use the time and resources you have received to bless those around you. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

~~ 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!

On June 30, July 7 and July 14 –we will be at McKenzie United (85-11th St. NW); July 21, July 28 and August 4 - First Presbyterian; Aug 11, Aug 18 and Aug 25 - Trinity United (15 Tupper St. S.). We are back in our own Church on Sept 1. 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:


Will resume in the Fall

- By Zoom – Bible Study - Tuesday evenings at 7:00
- Finance & Maintenance – 2nd Wednesday at 6:30
- Session – 4th Thursday at 7:00
- Men’s Breakfasts – will resume in the fall

b) One-time events:

- Communion Sunday – June 23
- Summer Service – June 23rd at Sneesby’s

COMMUNION



Our Communion service will be held on Sunday, June 23rd, 2024 at the outdoor service at Sneesby’s farm.

SOUP KITCHEN REPORT

25-35 people (averaging 30) continue to eat at the Soup Kitchen Monday- Friday. This has continued despite the opening of an alternate meal program at Highway Pentecostal Church, which is open at the same time as FPC Soup Kitchen. Donations of food/ bread/ desserts have been amazing. We have had adequate numbers of volunteers, but still could have 1 or 2 more soup kitchen leaders.

We have been quite successful in raising funds for the general operation of the Soup Kitchen. Fundraising is an ongoing function throughout the year. There is an upcoming Fundraising Day at MCC Thrift Shop on July 30, where we have the opportunity to raise awareness of the Soup Kitchen to the community. MCC donates a set amount to the Soup Kitchen for taking part in the Fundraising Day. If anyone has any donation items that could be put out for July 30, please take them to MCC, marked with “Soup Kitchen”. Volunteers from the Soup Kitchen will be assisting at MCC on that day and will be available to answer questions about the Soup Kitchen.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the many people and organizations that assist in the ongoing operation of the Soup Kitchen. Without them the Soup Kitchen would not be able to provide a daily meal.

FINANCE & MAINTENANCE

Not much to report from the Finance and Maintenance Committee. Thanks to everyone's donations to the church, we are doing ok. The boiler has been replaced, so hopefully we will not have any more issues next winter. Please continue to keep our congregation in your prayers as well as our community and nation.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT – May 31, 2024**

REVENUE:	MONTH	Y-T-D
High Interest Saving Account – Stride CU	58.67	315.01
Investment Interest – Stride CU		
Share Dividend – Stride CU		97.68
Investment Redeemed – Stride CU		
Memorial Gifts	150.00	868.12
Honour Gifts		
Offering Envelopes		
Finance & Maintenance		
TOTAL REVENUE	208.67	1,280.81

EXPENSES:

Bank Charges – Stride CU
Investment Purchase
Finance & Maintenance
Miscellaneous
TOTAL EXPENSES

BANK: STRIDE CREDIT UNION (SCU) (Chequing Account)

Opening Balance: January 1, 2024	\$ 9,446.92
Total Revenue Year to Date	965.80
Total Expense Year to Date	
Closing Balance: May 31, 2024	\$10,412.72

BANK: STRIDE CREDIT UNION (High Interest Saving Account) – Included Below **

Opening Balance: January 1, 2024	\$ 39,325.06
Total Revenue – Year to Date	315.01
Total Expenses – Year to Date	
Closing Balance: May 31, 2024	\$ 39,640.07 - Included below **

INVESTMENTS:

DATE	BANK	INVESTMENT AMOUNT	PURCHASED
April 2019	SCU	High Interest Saving Account**	\$39,640.07 **
Oct 31/23	SCU	Westbourne Due Oct 31/26 @4.50% 400450	1,500.00
		TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$41,140.07

OUTDOOR SERVICE

We will once again be holding our **Outdoor Service and Barbecue**. The date is Sunday, June 23rd and Bruce and Lisa Sneesby are hosting 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. If raining the service will be at the church.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 2024

JANUARY – MAY 2024

FINANCES:

INCOME RECEIVED:	30,142.96
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>32,001.46</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>(1,858.50)</u>

The income reported above includes \$5,000.00 transferred from the Replacement Fund to help pay for the Church’s new boiler. The expenses includes the payment for the new Boiler.

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for 2024 is \$2,000.00

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>970.00</u>
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FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	4,533.35
EXPENSES:	<u>1,168.43</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>3,364.92</u>

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

Spring Dinner	
Fall Supper	
Meal in a Bowl	3,198.73
Catering	773.09
Supplies	(606.90)

~~ Your support for our fundraising is appreciated ~~

Happenings at First Church.....

Congratulations !!



Lalaine Buan received her 10 year acknowledgement from Early Childhood Education in Winnipeg recently. She is employed at Westend Daycare.

Grateful for ten years that went by in a breeze and looking forward with anticipation to more years in the Early Childhood Education. Thank you, Westend Daycare, for opening your doors for me in 2014. ❤️ ~ Lalaine as per Facebook



Ruth Buan graduating from Grade 12 at PCI and has been accepted to University of Manitoba in the Bachelor of Nursing program.

Congrats Ruth!



Branden Leslie, MP for the Portage-Lisgar Riding, volunteered at our Soup Kitchen, recently. Branden is pictured here with Margaret McNutt – Reichelt, Soup Kitchen Coordinator.

Branden was a Sunday School student, in his younger years, here at First Presbyterian Church.