

First Presbyterian Church News

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Raymond Reichelt, Clerk of Session

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt, Organist

May 2026

Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Church e-mail address: firstpc@mymts.net

Church Website: www.firstpcportage.com

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Greetings as we finish the Easter season and enter the regular time in the lectionary.

We are coming to the end of the Easter season and the excitement of the appearances of Jesus in various situations. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! Each week we met a different group of people as they experience the risen Christ.

Paul in I Corinthians tells us of the various appearances of Christ, first of all to the two men on the road home to Emmaus, to the disciples, more than 5 hundred brethren at one time, to James and all the apostles and finally to Paul, himself.

We move past Easter to Christ's Ascension and Pentecost and come to what the lectionary calls, 'Ordinary time.' During this time, we will look at Jesus' life in the gospel of Matthew. The Old Testament readings follow Genesis and Exodus. The letters of Paul will be mainly in the letter to the Romans.

As we follow through the various readings, we will explore the life of Jesus and the beginnings of the early church in Romans and the early people of Israel and the exodus.

May this little overview into the readings for the year give you direction as you understand where the readings are coming from and the direction they are going.

As we go into the summer may you have safety in travel remembering to see Christ in creation and others around you and come back in September ready for the fall.

God bless you

Gladys Anderson

Interim moderator

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

a) Regularly-scheduled events:

- Bible study – the study books are back-ordered. Not expected til end of May
- 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 Breakfast – will meet again on May 16th and every other Saturday until end of June

SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen continues to hum along. We received a grant of \$4,000.00 from the City of Portage La Prairie for operational expenses. The soup kitchen was selected as one of the community organizations to receive funds from the Portage MCC. On Apr 28 Soup Kitchen volunteers assisted at MCC for the day. As well, a display board was provided that gave an outline of Soup Kitchen activities. We were presented with a \$4,000.00 cheque. The Soup Kitchen would like to express a large Thank You to both the city and MCC.

About 20 to 30 people per day receive a noontime meal. We have been able to do a number of alternative meals over the past few months, largely due to donations from the community and from Sobeys. The volunteer pool has been steady, but with summer a number of the volunteers take vacation, making for a much smaller volunteer pool.

The Soup Kitchen is represented on the Food Insecurity Committee in the city, developed by the Food Bank (Salvation Army). The committee pulls together organizations in the city that provide free food and/ or meals to the community. This committee allows communication with the member organizations. Organizations represented include First Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen, Food Bank (Salvation Army), Highway Community Kitchen, Portage La Prairie School Division, PCRC, Portage Learning and Literacy Centre, The Friendship Centre, and Family Resource Centre.

OUTDOOR SERVICE

We will once again be holding our **Outdoor Service and Barbecue**. The date is Sunday, June 14th 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.

COMMUNION



Our Communion service will be held on Sunday, June 14th, 2026 at the outdoor service at Sneesby's farm.

SHARED SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

The joint summer worship would begin July 5th and end August 30th (9 Sundays)

- July 5, 12 – McKenzie United Church
- July 19, 26, - St Mary's Anglican Church
- August 2, 9 – First Presbyterian Church
- August 16, 23 – Trinity United Church
- August 30 – Trinity United Church

All services (including St. Mary's) begin at 10:30.

The final service on August 30th will have participation from all congregations.

Regular services for First Presbyterian resume on September 6th @ 10:30 a.m.

While we will have different worship leaders each week and our schedule will move us through all four 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.

FINANCE & MAINTENANCE

The Finance and Maintenance Committee is busy trying to get quotes for work to be done around the church. The steps at the North entrance need to be replaced as they are crumbling and can no longer be repaired. The fascia at the back of the church and the roof over the kitchen need to be repaired (leaking into the kitchen). We are also looking into the sound system. An amplifier was donated a number of years ago but has different connectors than the old system. We are hoping to find out if it can be installed or will need to be installed as part of a new system.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our church and congregation. Your efforts and generosity are what allows us to keep the doors open and spread the Gospel message. Please continue to pray for our church and the wider body of the church or our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you and enjoy the coming summer.

FINANCIALS:

JANUARY – MARCH 2026

FINANCES:

INCOME RECEIVED:	11,946.02
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>9,742.44</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>2,203.58</u>

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for 2026 is \$2,000.00

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>525.00</u>
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FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	1,985.00
EXPENSES:	<u>418.81</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>1,566.19</u>

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

Fall Supper	
Meal In A Bowl	1,824.15
Catering	
Supplies	(257.96)

Your support for our fundraising is appreciated

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT – April 30, 2026**

REVENUE:	MONTH	Y-T-D
High Interest Saving Account – Stride CU	12.86	51.34
Investment Interest – Stride CU		
Share Dividend – Stride CU	17.66	17.66
Investment Redeemed – Stride CU		
Memorial Gifts	192.50	192.50
Honour Gifts		
Offering Envelopes		
Finance & Maintenance		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$223.02	\$261.50

EXPENSES:

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

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

Opening Balance: January 1, 2026	\$ 2,055.01
Total Revenue Year to Date	210.16
Total Expense Year to Date	
Closing Balance: April 30, 2026	\$ 2,265.17

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

Opening Balance: January 1, 2026	\$ 10,392.81
Total Revenue – Year to Date	51.34
Total Expenses – Year to Date	
Closing Balance: April 30, 2026	\$ 10,444.15- Included below **

INVESTMENTS:

DATE	BANK	INVESTMENT	AMOUNT
PURCHASED			
April/19	SCU	High Interest Saving Account **	\$10,444.15 **
Oct 31/23	Westbourne	Due Oct 31/26 @4.50% 400450	1,500.00
June 4/25	GIC	Due May 28/26 @3.40% 110021047813	40,000.00
TOTAL INVESTMENTS			\$51,944.15

HAPPENINGS at FIRST CHURCH



Shauna – Lei Leslie, School Trustee for Portage School Division, was acknowledged for serving 20 years as a Trustee. Congratulations!



Last year Nick Bruinooge made for our church a Nativity silhouette and blocks that read "He is Risen". Thank you, Nick!



Post on Salvation Army's Facebook page:

Thank you to the First Presbyterian Church here in Portage for their donation to the Food Bank and for all you do in the community!
Your generosity and hard work helps so many every day!

