

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

April 2017

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

On the weekend of April 22nd and 23rd the Reverend Dale Woods, Principal of the Presbyterian College in Montreal, will be visiting First Church. All are invited to attend his talk on Saturday, April 22nd at 2 pm in the gymnasium. Rev. Woods will be speaking about the work that the College is doing on congregational renewal and new church development, as well as a number of other initiatives the College is hoping will strengthen congregations.

Rev. Woods will be the guest preacher on Sunday, April 23rd.

Rev. Devon Pattemore

SESSION

The "call papers" for the call from First Church to Rev. Amanda Currie have been completed and forwarded to the Presbytery of Assiniboia. A presbytery meeting will be held by conference call on April 18 to examine the call.

At our annual meeting, a motion was passed to develop a plan for the long-term future operations of the church. Session and Board were asked to come up with an implementation plan involving the wider First Church community. At the April 5th meeting of Session it was decided that a small committee would be created by the Session and Board to explore options. If anyone in the congregation is interested in being considered for this committee, please submit your name to Shirley in the office.

Also at the annual meeting, the congregation approved proceeding with an application to sponsor four members of Nyabani Mathiang's (Ngor) family who are currently refugees in

Sudan. We are proceeding with the necessary paperwork and waiting for a response. A financial campaign will be announced in the fall.

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Easter Season and holiest time of the Christian year is upon us. With its arrival, the Worship Committee would like to remind you of the upcoming observances.

The week starts with Palm Sunday. We look forward to our children entering the sanctuary waving palm branches in remembrance of Christ's final entry of his life on earth into Jerusalem.

On April 13th, we will observe Maundy Thursday with a pot luck supper followed by a Communion service that has become a special tradition at First Church. This marks the start of Easter and the events that unfolded in the life of Jesus. Supper is at 6:00 pm. Everyone who is able, please plan on attending.

The Good Friday service is at 10:30 am on April 14th.

The Easter Sunday service on April 16 is also at 10:30 am and you can expect the sanctuary to be appropriately decorated with flowers donated by congregants in memory of loved ones. Excess funds will be given for the work of Carmichael Outreach.

We invite you to participate in these special services.

Lectors are needed for the month of June, and greeters and ushers for May, June, July and

August. Please speak to Marianne if would like to be a lector or are able to usher. If you are able to greet, Wendy Prior would be pleased to hear from you. Remember, it makes work so much lighter for Marianne and Wendy when you volunteer. Our thanks to all who participate in this way.

Joyce McKersie
Worship Committee

INDIGENOUS GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Blair Stonechild, Professor of Indigenous Studies, First Nations University of Canada (FNUC), has kindly accepted an invitation to speak at First Church on Sunday, May 7, on the topic of "reconciliation" during the coffee hour immediately following the morning service.

Blair is a member of the Muscowpetung First Nation and is a residential school survivor. His research interests include Indigenous spirituality and Indian residential schooling. He has recently designed a new course on residential schooling and reconciliation which he will be teaching at FNUC. His book, *The Knowledge Seeker: Embracing Indigenous Spirituality*, was published last year by the University of Regina Press.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about "reconciliation" from a First Nations perspective, and how churches might respond to or help advance the processes of reconciliation.

Also, Sunday, May 7, has appropriately been designated by Session as our Healing and Reconciliation Sunday for this year

Please make a note of this date and, if at all possible, plan to attend both the service and the talk by Professor Stonechild that immediately follows in the gymnasium.

A light lunch is being planned for the occasion.

Doug Stewart
Editor

CAMP CHRISTOPHER

Camper registration forms are now available. Get yours today!

Volunteers Needed

Camp Christopher is in need of volunteers! Each week we need a chaplain, first aider, kitchen and maintenance helpers. Have questions? Let us know! Send us an email at info@campchristopher.ca

Work Weekend

Camp Christopher also needs help getting the camp ready for summer. There are all types of jobs, projects and cleaning to do! The work weekend will be held May 26-28th. Please contact Robb for more information at robbs@sasktel.net or (306) 229-0743. Bring food and we will work together.

Open House

You are invited to join us for our annual Open house, Saturday July 8th, 2017 from noon until 5pm. Join us for worship as we commission the summer staff, spend time on the beach, meet the staff, visit old friends or introduce camp to a first timer. There will be a BBQ at noon followed by the Commissioning Service at 3pm. All you need to bring is your appetite to help us launch the summer of 2017 in style!

Canadian Tire Money

Your Canadian Tire Money is greatly appreciated at Camp Christopher! When it is all added up we can buy amazing things for yhr Camp from kayaks to craft supplies to kitchen pots and pans.

Donna Wilkinson
Camp Administrator

FUNDSCRIP

The order Sundays for this month are April 2 and 16. April promotions are Giant Tiger (5%) and the Ultimate Dining Card (5%). Visit the FundScrip table after church to place your order or buy gas and grocery cards on hand. With your support, this program can raise significant funding for the church.

APRIL EVENTS

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| 9 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. Bob Wilson)
& Sunday School |
| 11 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 9:30 AM | Riverbend Walk |
| | 7:00 PM | Contemporary Practice |
| | 7:45 PM | Choir Practice |
| 13 | 6:00 PM | Maundy Thursday
Potluck & Communion |
| 14 | 10:30 AM | Good Friday Service |
| 16 | 10:30 AM | Easter Sunday Service |
| 17 | Easter Monday - Office Closed | |
| 18 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | noon | Freedom 55ers |
| 19 | 7:00 PM | Board of Managers |
| 20 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 9:30 AM | Riverbend Walk |
| | 7:00 PM | Contemporary Practice |
| | 7:45 PM | Choir Practice |
| 22 | 2:00 PM | Rev. Dale Woods
Presentation |
| 23 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. Dale Woods)
& Sunday School |
| 25 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | noon | 55ers |
| 27 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 9:30 AM | Riverbend Walk |
| | 7:00 PM | Contemporary Practice |
| | 7:45 PM | Choir Practice |
| 30 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. Bob Wilson)
& Sunday School |