

**FIRST THINGS FIRST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA
February 2026**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Beginning just a few days from now (on Feb. 10th) we are going to begin a very special Bible study at First Church, using the TV series *The Chosen*, as a way to enter into the gospel story. You may notice that we're not planning a specific Bible study for the Season of Lent this year, as this program will begin before Lent and take us through the Season of Easter as well.

If you haven't watched this TV series already, which was created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker, Dallas Jenkins, check out the official trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1-FoFj8Jbo>

It's a creative and engaging portrayal of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, inspired by the four Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The title *The Chosen* reflects the show's central theme: the people Jesus selects—disciples, followers, and even unlikely outsiders—who become part of his mission. It highlights both Jesus as *the* Chosen One (the Messiah of God) and the individuals he chooses along the way.

The show spends a lot of time exploring the personal stories of the disciples—fishermen, tax collectors, outcasts—who are *chosen* by Jesus

despite their flaws. The title emphasizes that their calling is intentional and transformative. The creators have said the title also invites the audience to see themselves in the story—people who are imperfect yet still called to something meaningful.

And that's what I hope we will do together as we watch each episode together, study the Scriptures that inspired it, and consider how it relates to our lives as Jesus' followers today. As we sang recently from a hymn by Daniel Charles Damon, Jesus says to each one of us and to all of us together as the church:

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.*

We will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Youth and adults are encouraged to participate in this program in the sanctuary while there is a simultaneous program for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6 taking place in the Kennedy Room. Join us twice a month on Tuesday evenings: Feb. 10 & 24, Mar. 10 & 31, Apr. 14 & 28, May 12 & 26, Jun. 2 & 16.

Rev. Amanda Currie & Rev. Sumi Jung

"The Chosen" Bible-Study

TWICE A MONTH ON TUESDAY EVENINGS 6:30 - 8:00 PM
: FEB. 10 & 24, MAR. 10 & 31, APR. 14 & 28, MAY 12 & 26, JUN. 2 & 16.

Pre-K to Gr. 6
: @ Kennedy room

- **Watching** an episode with popcorn!
- **Creative Crafts**
- **Fun Games**
- **Songs**
- **Snacks**



Youth & Adults
: @ Sanctuary

- **Watching** an episode with popcorn!
- **Discussing** our reflections and questions
- **Exploring** related Scripture
- **Connecting** the story to our own faith.



You're invited to a Bible study series at First Church inspired by "The Chosen", the drama that tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of those who met him.

SESSION

We have an exciting month coming up! We're looking forward to having the Rev. Jeff Murray, Moderator of General Assembly, with us on Feb. 8. That's also Souper Sunday, so you can enjoy a bowl of soup and have a visit with Jeff! Our Rory Allen concert, A Celebration of Love, is coming up on Feb. 14. Be sure to get your tickets now!

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3, following worship. Lunch will be provided. Mark your calendars and plan to be there!

The 1080 Architecture team is busy on the initial stages of our Feasibility study. They are currently assessing the condition of our buildings and will provide us with a report before we move on. We've had a property appraisal done on the buildings as part of this process.

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

"A Celebration of Love" Fundraiser Concert



First Church is hosting a fundraiser Rory Allen concert on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 7:00 pm. Rory Allen is an Elvis Presley tribute artist. This Valentine's Day concert is called "A Celebration of Love." Share this information with your family and friends. Tickets are

\$30 each. You can pick yours up at the FundScrip table following worship. They can also be purchased from Shirley in the office. Thanks for your support.

We're looking for volunteers to help with greeting and ushering on Feb. 14, from 6 to 7 pm, prior to the Rory Allen concert. If you are available and willing, please contact Jo.

Jo Szostak
Stewardship

THE SEASON OF LENT

(Feb. 18th – April 4th)

Shrove Tuesday - You're invited to a Pancake Lunch on Tuesday, February 17th at 12:00 pm in



the gymnasium. Join the Lunch Bunch for this Mardi Gras meal on the Eve of the Season of Lent. The cost will be \$5/person.

Please let Sheila Wilson know that you plan to attend so we're sure to make enough pancakes.

Ash Wednesday - The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18th.

We will be marking the beginning of this penitential time in the Church Year with an Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary and online at 7:00 pm on February 18th. It will be a reflective service with prayer and singing, as well as the imposition of ashes. You can choose to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead or hand as a reminder of your human frailty and an assurance that you are a beloved child of God.



MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Christmas Mission Project: Over \$2700 and a large box of winter mitts and toques were delivered to Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry in January. The following card was sent to the church recently:

*"Dear Mission and Outreach Committee,
On behalf of Dylon Nippi and the SNCM Board, thank you so much for your generosity. The money you have donated will go to three programmes at the mission: Elders, story recording and archiving equipment, and the clothing room. We appreciate your support of donations and prayers.
Blessings, Anne Drover, SNCM Chair."*

Presbyterian World Service & Development

Gaza Appeal, Feb 1-15: Two million Gaza citizens have been dealing with enormous losses for two years and are living in desperate circumstances. Your donations will help PWS&D, and its on-site partners continue to get food assistance, medical help, temporary shelter, and clean water to the people who need it most. There are challenges to get

humanitarian aid through to Gaza, but PWS&D is committed to getting these urgently needed supplies through Gaza civilians, focussing on the most vulnerable. Please consider giving to this appeal.

Mary Jesse,
Mission & Outreach Convener

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

February is a month that emphasizes love and encouragement, making it a great time to reflect on the following verse:



“Fear not, for I am with you,
be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will
strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold
you with my righteous right hand.”

– Isaiah 41:10

This verse serves as a powerful reminder of God’s presence and support in our lives. The Worship Committee met on Saturday, January 31st to make plans for upcoming services. The Season of Lent begins on Sunday, February 22. I have been in contact with several families in our congregation to read. Thank you for your willingness to participate. As you may have been aware, First Church Youth have been participating as Readers on a monthly basis. Beginning the first Sunday of March and continuing through to the first Sunday in June, First Church youth will be reading. Thank you to Rev. Sumi Yung for organizing this. Scripture readers are still needed for other dates from March-June. Please contact Marianne Woods at 306-541-9358 or mariannewoods1955@gmail.com if you are willing to participate.

Large print hymn books are now available in the Narthex for those who need them. A greeter will be pleased to offer you one. Two greeters are needed each week from 10:00 - 10:30 am, to welcome those attending and make them feel ‘at home.’ If you would be willing to participate occasionally, please contact Wendy Prior in person at kwprior@gmail.com . Your help would be appreciated.

Many of you have heard that Murray Kyle has relocated to B.C. to be with his family. Murray has been a devoted member of First Church and a long-time usher for our church services. We

thank Murray for his many years of service as an usher and wish him the very best!

Ron Pugsley and his team of ushers - Alfred Ferozdin, Keith Prior and Andrew Donovan - do a splendid job of assisting with the elevator and chair lift, supporting worshippers with mobility needs, and gathering the offering during worship. If you would like to volunteer as an usher, please contact Marianne or Ron to assist. There are times during the year when your help would be appreciated, and there is ‘on the job’ training!

Thank you to all of those who provided musical offerings during the Christmas season and in January. This includes the choir, our music scholars, and soloists. Our Thursday choir rehearsals have resumed, beginning at 7:30 pm. New members are welcome, please come by if you are interested!

Wishing each of you God’s Blessings!

Marianne Woods
Worship Committee Convener

FIRST CHURCH BAND

You may have noticed that we've added in a little more variety to our musical leadership over the last few Sundays. Rev. Sumi Jung has been working with our Music Team to build a band with piano, guitar, and percussion to lead the congregation in singing some more contemporary hymns and songs.



This won't replace traditional hymns with organ or piano accompaniment but will be a nice supplement to our music program. Thanks to Will, Sumi, Taeyang, David, and Daniel who led us in singing "Sent out in Jesus' name" on Feb. 1st. You can expect to see more musicians join them in the future, and if you're interested in participating, reach out to Sumi for more information.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Upcoming Events! For any questions regarding the events listed below, please contact Sumi.

Youth Volunteering: Grade 6 to 12
Saturday, **Feb. 14**, from 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm @
First Church - Fundraising Concert
Youth volunteers are invited to assist with concession sales (water and cookies) during intermission and to serve as ushers; welcoming guests, guiding them to their seats, and as needed, checking tickets at the door etc. Let's welcome our neighbours with warmth and hospitality!

Easter Choir: Children & Youth
Practices start Sunday, **Feb. 15**, during Sunday School in the Kennedy Room.



Children and youth are invited to join this year's Easter Choir. This ministry offers a meaningful opportunity for young singers to grow in faith and confidence and contribute to our Easter worship celebration. We warmly welcome all young voices to join us!

Youth Gathering: Grade 6 to 12 Sunday, **Feb. 15**, from 12:15 – 2:30 pm

Youth are invited to participate in an afternoon of lunch, art therapy, Bible discussions, and gym time! We'll also be exploring a range of engaging youth activities planned for this year.

Bowling Day: Youth & Young Adult
Saturday, **Mar. 7**, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Get ready for an afternoon of energy and connection! Join us for a fun bowling outing with our youth and young adult community. Bring a friend and come enjoy the laughter and fellowship.

Coffee Time: Young Adults
Middle of March @ CozyHaus Desserts & Coffee (2245 Albert St.)

Young adults are invited to join us for a gentle pause in the week—sweet desserts, good coffee, and even better company. Settle in for relaxed conversation and a chance to connect in community. Come just as you are and make yourself at home with us. The exact date and time will be shared soon in Sunday's bulletin.

Messy Church: All Ages

Saturday, Mar. 14, from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm in the church's gym



Messy Church is an intergenerational program that includes a variety of fun crafts, songs, stories, and lunch together, all centred around a biblical theme. Everyone is welcome!

Early Notice: 2026 Youth Conferences
Please see the youth conference information for 2026 outlined below.

Woven With Wonder



Junior High Youth Event;
Grade 6 - 9
Dates: May 15-18, 2026
Location: Camp Kannawin at Sylvan Lake, AB.
Registration Fee: \$85
Registration: <http://campkannawin.ca>

Possible program and activities include: Bible Study, Escape Room, Crafts, Canoeing, Robotics, Wide Games

Collective 2026 - (em)brace for impact

Ages 14 +
Dates: August 12-15, 2026
Location: Brock University, St. Catharines, ON.
Registration Fee: \$450
Registration: <http://www.collective-gathering.ca>

A sampling of available workshops: Critical Hope, Youth Advocacy, Climate Motivators, Political Leadership, Choir, Tie Dye, Ukuleles, Photography, Improv, Cookie/Cupcake Decorating, Knitting, Blanket Exercise, Life Mapping, Poverty Walk, Bird Watching/Hiking, Life Size Board Game



Collective has three streams:

- 1. Youth (ages 14-17)
- 2. Young Adults (Ages 18-25)
- 3. Youth Leaders (Ages 18+)

Youth and Family Ministry,
Rev. Sumi Jung

SARCAN Donations for Youth

The church has set up a "drop 'n go" account so people can make donations for the First Church youth group at SARCAN without having to wait for bottles and cans to be counted.

The church's code is **FC1925**. You need this code to make sure that the church gets credit for your donation.

How to: 1. take donations to SARCAN



- 2. enter through the "drop 'n go" door if there is one, or just go inside
- 3. enter code FC1925 into computer and follow instructions - the printer will print out labels
- 4. attach labels to bag of bottles/cans
- 5. put donation in bin marked "drop 'n go" - done!

Please talk with Bette Kelly if you have any questions. If you would like to arrange a pickup, please contact the church office.

Youth and Family Ministry,
Rev. Sumi Jung

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Moderator Monday: On Non-Violence

One could write several reflections on violence in Israel and Palestine in recounting the history, commenting on what has appeared in the news over the last few years. For that matter, I could write several reflections on violence and threats of violence based on the events that occurred during the eight-day pilgrimage the PCC sent me on as Moderator of the General Assembly. We saw numerous Israelis carrying assault rifles in restaurants and bars and even walking with their children through the Old City of Jerusalem. And then there were threats of missiles and missile attacks fired from outside Israel and Palestine that terrorized everyone. These events and images all entrench opponents in the ongoing conflict and set the holy city of Jerusalem on edge.

However, I wish to conclude these reflections on the visit to Palestine and Israel by focusing on the non-violent resistance we observed and highlighting the organizations of Israelis and Palestinians working together for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing violence. In many respects, all the organizations we met and the people we interacted with were engaged in some form of non-violent resistance that breached the Israel-Palestinian divisive walls, both literally and figuratively, through peaceful advocacy and programs.

On our first day in Jerusalem, we met with Omar Haramy, the Director at Sabeel, the home of Palestinian Liberation Theology. He brought us to the Armenian Patriarchy, where we met some of the young men who built an encampment to preserve and defend land that Israelis seek to confiscate in the Old City following a series of shady land deals made with the Armenian Patriarch.

On our way to check in at the hotel near New Gate, we came across The Gateway Bookstore and Café. We spoke with the café owner, Anton

Sabila, who had recently been released after days in police custody, on the condition that he stay away from his café for two weeks. We arrived on the day his café reopened. Israeli police had raided the Palestinian Christian bookstore/café, arrested Anton, and transferred him to the Qishla police station at Jaffa Gate in occupied Jerusalem. Israeli authorities claim that the library contained Palestinian books that allegedly “incite” against the occupation. While bookshelves were cleared of books, clever stickers with slogans like “During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act” were posted in protest.

We met with [Rabbis for Human Rights](#), an organization comprising rabbis and rabbinical students from diverse Jewish traditions. Some of their work is to provide a protective presence by accompanying Palestinian farmers during the olive tree planting and olive harvest to provide Palestinians safe access to their lands, to help prevent violence and harassment from settlers and to call attention to this ongoing settler violence that threatens the livelihood of the farmers and their families.

[B'Tselem](#), The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, is an organization with half of its staff being Israeli and the other half Palestinian. During our visit, Sarit Michaeli from B'Tselem discussed their report “[Our Genocide](#)” with us. While commenting on the disconnect between Jewish religious principles and the actions of the current government in Israel, Sarit confesses that her personal inclination is to say that this is not done “in my name”. However, she says, “but it is done in my name” because she pays taxes; she and every Israeli citizen must accept the moral responsibility for what is done by the current government of Israel.

[Defence for Children International](#), Addameer, and [HaMoked](#) were other organizations we held conversations with. They collect data and track details of detentions. At the time of our visit, the number of people taken captive by Israel increased from just over 5000 to over 11,000 since October 7, 2023. Most of these prisoners are from the occupied West Bank – 400 of them are children. Israel has disappeared Palestinians under “Administrative Detention”, which means,

INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM & 2026 PARTICIPANT ASSEMBLY

among other things, that a person is held without trial without having committed an offence, on the grounds that he or she plans to break the law in the future. These organizations provide legal services to detainees advocating for the right to a defense. Some of these organizations continue their work despite the limitations placed on them for being labelled as a terrorist organization by the government of Israel, even as they are lawyers working within Israel's legal system.

In total, we met with 15 organizations representing hundreds of staff and volunteers, and held several casual conversations with Palestinian and Israeli citizens engaged in various forms of non-violent resistance.

I am grateful to my fellow pilgrims, the Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon and the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald (General Secretary, Life and Mission Agency), to our guide Yusef Daher (WCC-Jerusalem), and my thanks to the following persons and organizations who shared their work and offered their reflections with us:

[Kairos Palestine](#)

[Parents Circle—Families Forum](#)

[Wi'am](#)

Dr. Mazin Qumsieh at the [Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability](#)

[The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees](#)

[Sabeel](#)

Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah

[World Council of Churches – EAPPI](#)

[Sabeel](#)

[Rabbis for Human Rights](#)

Advocacy officer of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate

[Defense for Children International](#)

Addameer

[HaMoked](#)

Rev Dr. Fadi Diab, and the congregation of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ramallah

Jerusalem Waqf Director

[B'Tsalem](#)

[UN-World Food Program](#)



Dear Friends,

The Canadian Interfaith Conversation warmly invites you to an important Interfaith Symposium exploring faith community concerns and responses to Quebec's Bill 9, alongside the 2026 Participant Assembly.

Interfaith leaders and representatives from diverse faith traditions will share perspectives, reflect on the implications for religious freedom and public life, and engage in respectful dialogue. This event is open to the public and welcomes community members, faith leaders, educators, and all who value thoughtful, constructive conversation.

Date & Time: Wednesday, February 12, 2026

1:30 PM EST ... (11:30 AM CST- Amanda is this right?)

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Register here:

https://interfaithsymposium_assembly.eventbrite.ca

Please share this invitation with your networks and join us for this timely and meaningful conversation.

Warm regards,

Setri Dzivenu

Program Coordinator

Canadian Interfaith Conversation

setri@interfaithconversation.ca

February/March Calendar

Feb. 8 10:30 am **Worship with the Moderator Rev. Jeff Murray preaching**
 Sunday School
 11:45 am Souper Sunday (stay for lunch!)

Feb. 10 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch
 7:00 pm "The Chosen" Bible Study (Sanctuary/Kennedy Rm)

Feb. 11 12:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom)

Feb. 12 6:15 pm Band Practice (Sanctuary)
 7:00 pm Choir (Sanctuary)

Feb. 14 7:00 pm Rory Allen Concert (Sanctuary)

Feb. 15 10:30 am Transfiguration Sunday
 Sunday School
 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)
 12:15 pm Youth Gathering (Kennedy)

Feb. 17 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch
 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch

Feb. 18 12:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

Feb. 19 6:15 pm Band Practice (Sanctuary)
 7:00 pm Choir (Sanctuary)

Feb. 22 10:30 am 1st Sunday in Lent
 Intergenerational Service
 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

Feb. 24 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch
 7:00 pm "The Chosen" Bible Study (Sanctuary/ Kennedy Rm)

Feb. 25 12:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
 7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Feb. 26 6:15 pm Band Practice (Sanctuary)
 7:00 pm Choir (Sanctuary)

Mar. 1 10:30 am 2nd Sunday in Lent
 Holy Communion
 Sunday School
 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

Mar. 3 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch

Mar. 4 12:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
 7:00 pm Session Meeting (Zoom)

Mar. 5 6:15 pm Band Practice (Sanctuary)
 7:00 pm Choir (Sanctuary)

Mar. 8 10:30 am 3rd Sunday in Lent
 Sunday School
 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

