

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

JANUARY 2108

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, First Church Folk! It certainly has been an interesting start to 2018 with bitterly cold weather, then freezing rain, and now more cold temperatures. Hopefully, things will moderate soon and make getting out to church and to other activities a little easier.

The transition from one year to another usually leads us to do some reflecting on the year that is finishing and to make plans for the New Year. Sometimes we celebrate the memories and accomplishments of the year past, but often we look back with regret and we resolve to do things differently this time around. Among all the ideas about how to make 2018 better than 2017, I noticed one suggestion in particular: invite people in 2018 to pay attention to the good things that happen in their lives during the year, to write these down on a slip of paper, put them in a jar and then read through them at the end of the year as a reminder of what those good things were.

Inspired by that idea...and as we begin this New Year, I invite you to keep your eyes, heart, and mind open to notice how God is at work in our church, in your life, and in the world around you. I invite you to look, listen, and pay attention for "God Sightings" and write them down. I will provide some little slips of paper and something in which to collect our "God Sightings" and place them in the Narthex. Perhaps by the end of 2018 we will be amazed and encouraged by how much good has happened this year, by how loving and active our God has been in our lives and community!

Sometimes, however, God is harder to see, and we have needs and concerns that we want to express, so I'll also put out a container to gather our prayer requests – the ways in which we are looking for God and for God's help in our lives.

The Season of Epiphany seems like a good time both to "Look for God" and to tell about our "God Sightings." We are celebrating the good news that God came to be with us in the world in Jesus Christ, and that those who look for God, who seek God's presence and help will find God and receive God's blessing. So, let's "look for God" and share the ways in which we are seeing, hearing, feeling, or experiencing God's presence and love.

With your permission, I'll include your "God Sightings" and your prayer requests in the Prayers of the People on Sundays. Let us trust that 2018 will be a year full of God's blessings and God's help in our lives and ministries here at First Church.

Rev. Amanda Currie

SESSION

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and a restful holiday!

In January, mark your calendars for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service being hosted at First Church on January 21 and our Birthday Sunday celebration on January 28.

Coming up in February, the Presbytery of Assiniboia will be holding a seminar on Saturday, February 10 from 10 am to 4 pm at First Church to study the reports on "human sexuality" referred by the General Assembly last June. This gathering is open to anyone who would like to participate. Please let Shirley in our church office know if you plan to attend so that we can include you in the numbers for lunch and setup. Links to these reports are on this webpage:

<http://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2017/2017referrals>.

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

The Regina Council of Churches invites you to join in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, on **Sunday, Jan 21 at 3pm at First Presbyterian Church**, 2170 Albert Street, Regina. The biblical theme for the Week is "Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power" (Exodus 15:6). Selected by the churches of the Caribbean, this theme will be used throughout the world. In Canada, as we reflect on the biblical witness of God's liberating power, we are called to action for reconciliation between our churches and within society, most particularly between Indigenous and other Canadians. Our preacher will be Dr. Michael Capello (U of Regina). Coffee, tea, and educational displays will follow the service. All are welcome.

Further information about the Week of Prayer is available at www.weekofprayer.ca or www.ecumenism.net/wpcu/.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Thank you for your generous Christmas Mission gifts. A cheque for \$1,076.97 will be sent to the Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry from the congregation.

Our annual *Freedom from Freezing* knitting project is winding down. The last batch of knitted items will be taken to Kitchener School on February 1, so please have any remaining knitting in the Narthex bin before the end of January. We are grateful to so many who gave time and love to the school kids - we have supplied MANY dozen mitts, scarves and hats.

Our Annual PWSD appeal is coming in mid-February. Our theme is Education for Every Child - watch for more information next month.

Mary Jesse
M&O Convener

PASTORAL CARE

As you may know, provincial budget cuts have eliminated many of the spiritual care resources

that were previously coordinated in our hospitals and long-term care facilities. There are no longer chaplains funded by the province, and services that helped local congregations to find our members when they were in hospital (i.e. patient lists by denomination) are no longer available. However, your minister and pastoral care volunteers still wish to visit and support you and your family members when you are in hospital. Please let us know if you have an upcoming planned surgery so that we can arrange to visit you. If you find yourself suddenly in hospital, please phone us or ask a family member to phone us. You can phone your elder, a member of the Pastoral Care Committee, the church office (305) 522-9571, or Rev. Amanda Currie directly on her cell phone (306) 580-8095. Please help us to continue this important ministry. Thank you.

Rev. Amanda Currie

FELLOWSHIP

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE! It's that time of year again and Birthday Sunday will be celebrated on January 28, 2018. There will be a free will offering at the door and all proceeds will go towards Canada Youth. Plan to join us after church on the 28th, sit with the others at your "birthday month" table and enjoy cake and fellowship. You are more than welcome to sample cake from other months.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Mark your calendars for the PANCAKE SUPPER – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2018. The supper will be from 5:30pm-7pm. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$5 per adult; all children are free. Plan to join us for pancakes, sausages, strawberries and whipped cream. Sounds delicious! Watch for the signup sheets in the Narthex and in the gym to let us know how many will be attending.

Sheila Wilson
Fellowship Convener

ADULT WALK & RIVERBEND WALK

The Adult Walk resumed on January 9 and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00AM. You are welcome to walk with us for exercise and fellowship in the gym where it is warm, dry and not slippery!

The Riverbend Walk resumes on Thursday, January 11 at 9:45am to 10:30am. You are also invited to come and walk with the Riverbend residents. You can assist with putting out chairs, preparing and serving cookies and juice.

Perhaps we will find a new walking challenge after we all successfully walked from Nazareth to Bethlehem!

Bob Wilson

CAMP CHRISTOPHER

Even though it is cold outside Camp Christopher is gearing up for summer!

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 – May 25-27, 2018 Camp Christopher needs help getting the camp ready for summer. There are all types of jobs, projects and cleaning to do! We will provide food, materials and some camp activities. Please email info@campchristopher.ca for more information or to let us know you are coming!

Open House You are invited to join us for our annual Open House, Saturday July 7th, 2018 from noon until 4pm. 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 2018 in style!

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

Thank you for your support and prayers for this wonderful ministry.

Donna Wilkinson
Camp Administrator

FUNDSCRIP

Here's a little story - On December 4, 13 people placed orders and we topped it up with a \$250 order for grocery cards to have on hand, to bring our order to \$5000. That meant we didn't have to pay the cost of shipping and we made \$174.60 for the church on the order. Now some of the order was for Christmas gifts and some was stocking up for the month, but think of the possibilities if enough people participated to place this size of order regularly! If we could do this on every order, we would make over \$4000 a year!

January 21 is the next order Sunday. If you haven't ordered before, please drop by the FundScrip table in the gym and talk to us - it's easy! When you buy a gift card, you pay the face value and the church gets the percentage listed back. So, you can support the church with your regular purchases. Special promotions for January include: Shell 3%, Chapters and Indigo 7.5% and Starbucks 6%. Visit the FundScrip table after worship.

JANUARY EVENTS

14	10:30 AM	Holy Communion & Sunday School
	11:45 AM	Mission & Outreach
16	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	noon	Freedom 55'ers
17	7:00 PM	Board of Managers
18	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	9:20 AM	Riverbend
	7:00 PM	Choir
21	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
	3:00 PM	Prayer for Christian Unity Service
23	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	noon	Freedom 55'ers
25	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	9:20 AM	Riverbend
	7:00 PM	Choir
28	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
	11:30 AM	Birthday Sunday
30	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	noon	Freedom 55'ers