

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

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The other day I read a colleague's short description of me and my ministry within The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the wider ecumenical church. She said some nice things that boosted my ego a bit, but the phrase that really struck me was that she called me a "lifelong learner." I really liked that, and it also made me think that I want to make sure that I never lose that interest and commitment to continuing learning and growing in faith, in knowledge, and developing gifts for the service of the church and God's mission in the world.

Presbyterians have a long history of valuing education, learning, and scholarship. We've invested in the education of our clergy and provided opportunities for lay people to engage in Bible study, theological education, and other educational programs that equip us all for ministry.

Every year when I prepare specific ministry goals for myself as a leader at First Church, I always plan to offer a few different study opportunities throughout the year. Most of these are not very intense – Wednesday Bible studies on one of the texts coming up for Sunday, seasonal studies during Advent and Lent, and occasional other studies like the one we did on Prayer a few years ago.

I always feel like we should be doing more, but we struggle with finding time in the busy church schedule for more intensive programs, and I know that many of you struggle to find time in your schedules to attend the programs that we do offer.

This Winter and Spring, Sumi and I are excited to be offering a different kind of study opportunity that we hope you'll want to join. Twice a month on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30-8:00 pm we will offer simultaneous programs: Adults and Youth in the Sanctuary, and Children in the Kennedy Room. We will be using "The Chosen" TV Series to explore the Gospel stories

together and go deeper into our faith. (See the announcement below for all the details.)

There are also many educational programs offered through The Presbyterian Church in Canada that you may want to check out. They have varying levels of time commitment, many of them are one-off webinars, and many of them can be watched online at a later date if you can't attend on the day it's offered.

Here are some short descriptions and links for you to check out. I hope you'll join me in being a "lifelong learner," especially when it comes to your faith and the way you live it out day-by-day as a follower of Jesus.

Background and Practical Guidance to Implement BDS as Tools of Peace – Jan. 29:

This webinar follows the adoption of a recommendation by The Presbyterian Church in Canada's General Assembly to boycott, divert and seek sanctions against companies and organizations supporting illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land:

<https://presbyterian.ca/webinars/background-and-practical-guidance-to-implement-bds-as-tools-of-peace/>

Welcoming All Kids: Supporting Children with Autism in Church – Feb. 3: The Presbyterian Church in Canada presents an encouraging webinar on making church more welcoming to children with autism and other neurodiverse needs:

<https://presbyterian.ca/webinars/welcoming-all-kids-supporting-children-with-autism-in-church/>

What We Wish Were There: Biblical Scholarship's Reliance on Stereotypes of Judaism – Mar. 25: In light of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's commitment to address and dismantle anti-Judaism we explore some of the complicated history of Judaism and Christianity with speaker Dr. Patricia Ahearne-Kroll:

<https://presbyterian.ca/webinars/what-we-wish-were-there-biblical-scholarships-reliance-on-stereotypes-of-judaism/>

Intercultural Learning Journey – Winter 2026:
An 8-module online course featuring 5 hours of content that develops intercultural awareness and equips participants with practical tools to deepen knowledge and transform engagement across cultures:

<https://presbyterian.ca/2025/12/05/new-online-learning-becoming-intercultural/>

PCC Webinar Page: Where you can find upcoming and past webinars on many, many different topics:

<https://presbyterian.ca/leadership-webinars/>

Rev. Amanda Currie

SESSION

Congratulations Amanda! The Board of Governors of the **Vancouver School of Theology** is delighted to announce that **The Rev. Amanda Currie** has been selected as a 2026 recipient of VST's Honorary Doctor of Divinity.

This Honorary Doctor of Divinity (HDD) is awarded to individuals who exemplify the values of VST, an internationally recognized theological school known for its innovation and global leadership.

Amanda will receive the degree at the May 2026 Convocation ceremony.

We are blessed to be in ministry with Amanda at First Church and congratulate her on receiving this honour! To read the whole press release, you can visit the VST website and look under News and Events. <https://vst.edu/news-events/>

We are excited that the Moderator of General Assembly, the Rev. Jeff Murray, will be visiting First Church and preaching on Sunday, Feb. 8. That is also our Souper Bowl Sunday, so there are at least two great things to look forward to that day!

The 1080 Architecture team is working on comprehensive building assessments this month and we will have more news about a future gathering next month.

Election of Elders The Session is composed of 12 elders for 6-year terms, with 2 elders elected annually. This year we have one elder completing his term - Jim Doolittle. He is eligible

for re-election. We also have two vacancies, so we will be electing up to three elders. A slate of nominees will be presented for election at the annual meeting. All members of the congregation are invited to nominate members of the congregation to fulfill this role.

The Session is responsible for supervision and oversight of all activities of the congregation. Elders attend Session meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June. Each elder serves on one of the committees of Session. As well, each elder is assigned a group of approximately ten people/couples with whom to maintain contact.

According to the Book of Forms...

"Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation, for service in Christ's Church. Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation only suitable men and women should be considered. They should be committed Christians, in regular attendance at public worship, persons of sound judgment and upright character, and either knowledgeable or prepared to learn of the government of the church."

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Jo Szostak.

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

Moderator Visit to Regina

The Moderator of the 150th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada will be coming to visit First Church on Sunday, February 8th. We have invited the Rev. Jeffrey Murray to preach and share about his experience visiting Palestine in September 2025. Jeff has also been sharing stories about his visit to Palestine in posts on the PCC Website (presbyterian.ca) titled "Moderator Mondays."



The Rev. Jeffrey Murray began ministry at St. Andrew's, Sackville, New Brunswick, following his ordination and induction on February 28, 2007. Recently appointed to serve as Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly, Jeff continues to live and work remotely in Sackville raising his four wonderful children, who offer remarkable insights into the lives of young people. Jeff holds a Bachelor of Humanities from the College of Humanities, Carleton University, a Master of Divinity from Knox College, University of Toronto, and a Master of Arts from the Atlantic School of Theology.

While ministering in Sackville, Jeff served a term as president and board member of Concilio Prison Ministry, Springhill Institution. He was chair of the Program Committee for St. Luke's Renewal Centre at the Springhill Institution where inmates may experience healing, personal growth, and a new vision for life. For seven years, he volunteered with Sackville Fire & Rescue, serving as chaplain, firefighter and president of the Firefighters' Association. He served on the Board of Open Sky Cooperative, which supports young adults living with mental health challenges or social disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder. He was also a founding member of the Sackville Refugee Response Coalition, which came together for four years in response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

In service to The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Jeff has been moderator for the Presbytery of New Brunswick and the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces and served as clerk for the Synod of the Atlantic Province for six years. On the national level, he was on the Grants Committee of Canadian Ministries, served on the Committee on Church Doctrine and Assembly Council, was a listener in the Atlantic region for the Rainbow Communion, and a Young Adult Representative (YAR) resource person at a few General Assemblies.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Souper Bowl 2026! Mark your calendars!!!

Souper Bowl Sunday is coming up on February 8, 2026. This will be a very special event this year as we will have the Moderator of



the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Rev Jeff Murray, with us that Sunday. We need 12 people to bring a pot of soup. We will be serving soup, buns and dessert. Please sign up in the Narthex or the Gym.

Sheila Wilson
Fellowship Committee Convener

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

In November 2025, Movie Night in the church gym was a joyful gathering filled with laughter, good food, and a strong sense of community. Families, friends, and neighbours came together for a relaxed evening of fellowship and fun. A heartfelt thank-you goes to everyone who helped make the night special:

- **Nicholas Jesson and Taeyang No** for handling sound, projection, and the overall atmosphere that set the tone for the evening
- **Shirley Durell** for supplying the DVD that brought us all together
- **Donna Wilkinson** for her steady, cheerful help throughout the event
- **Mary Okumura** for providing a generous assortment of snacks that kept everyone happily munching
- **Rodolfo & Gigi Omolida** for treating everyone to delicious pizza



Your contributions, large and small, helped create a warm, welcoming space where our church family could relax and enjoy time together. Thank you for sharing your gifts and making Movie Night a success.

In November, Amari and Mika treated everyone to a delicious lunch at church. After we ate together, the group had a Bible discussion on the theme 'Being a good friend means meeting needs.' We wrapped up the afternoon with games and a creative art-therapy activity where everyone made a special bracelet to take home.

In December, our Christmas gathering focused on the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The youth shared thoughtful reflections, enjoyed time together, and ended with a fun and lively gift exchange.



Thank you for your continued support of our young people and their growing faith.

Last December our children, youth, and young adults offered a thoughtful and imaginative Christmas presentation titled 'Christmas Eve at Angel School.' Their careful preparation and lovely performance enriched our Advent season and reminded us of the joy at the heart of Christ's birth.

We extend our sincere appreciation to **Nicholas Jesson, Mary Jesse, Emily Ireton, Bette Kelly, DaYoung (Diana) An, NaGyeong (Rina) Lee, Rev. Amanda Currie, and the parents** of all cast members for their guidance, encouragement, and many behind-the-scenes contributions.

We are also grateful for the generosity of our snack providers **Bette Kelly, Nicholas Jesson, Aksa Yakemchuk, and Genalyn Omolida** whose hospitality helped create a warm and welcoming environment for our young performers.

We give thanks for the gifts our children, youth and young adults shared with the congregation and for the joy their presentation brought to our Christmas celebrations.



Messy Church is an intergenerational program that includes a variety of fun Crafts, Songs, Stories, and Lunch together, all centered around a biblical theme. This month's theme is the story of Moses and the escape out of Egypt. Everyone is Welcome!



Saturday, January 31st, 2026

10:30am–12:30pm

First Presbyterian Church
2170 Albert Street

COLLABORATIVE YOUTH OPEN GYM DAY

DAY - Saturday, Feb. 7 from 3 pm to 5 pm

For this month, there will be a Collaborative Youth Gym Day with Regina neighbourhood churches. It would be fun to have more people join in on sports activities and build relationships between our neighbouring church's youth in downtown. All 6th-12th Graders and Young

Adults are Welcome. Bring your friends, a water bottle, and a clean pair of runners!

Calling All Neighbourhood Youth!

YOUTH OPEN GYM DAY

Saturday, Feb. 7
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
2170 Albert St., S4P 2T9

All 6th – 12th Graders and Young Adults are Welcome. Bring your friends, a water bottle, and a clean pair of runners!

Youth and Family Ministry,
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.

"THE CHOSEN" BIBLE STUDY

"The Chosen" Bible Study: You are invited to a special series of Bible studies at First Church based on the TV Series, "The Chosen". It is a television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker, Dallas Jenkins. The series portrays Jesus through the eyes of those who met him.

We will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. We will watch an episode of the program together, discuss our reactions, responses, and questions arising from the show's depiction of the biblical narrative, read and reflect on relevant biblical texts, and relate what we have read and seen to our own lives of faith.

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. Their time together will include watching an episode with popcorn, creative crafts, fun games, songs, and of course snacks!

Join us twice a month on Tuesday evenings: Feb. 10 & 24, Mar. 10 & 31, Apr. 14 & 28, May 12 & 26, Jun. 2 & 16.

MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

A big thank you for your generous giving to the Christmas Mission Project. You donated \$2,365 and a good supply of mitts, socks and winter hats for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry in its ministry to the city.

PWS&D Appeal, Feb 1-15

Our annual Presbyterian World Service and Relief appeal occurs this February, beginning with PWS&D Sunday on Feb 1. Funds raised will be designated to our agency's emergency relief program in Gaza. PWS&D has joined other church agencies and local partners in the region to provide food and water, medical services, hygiene kits and mental health assistance to internally displaced civilians. We will have a special guest at our Feb 8 worship service. The Rev. Jeffrey Murray, Moderator of the 150th General Assembly visited Palestine and Israel in

Fall 2025 and will be sharing his experiences with us.

Mary Jesse
Mission & Outreach Convener

STEWARDSHIP

"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

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is meeting again for the winter/spring session. Coming up on Jan. 20, Sharon Miller will be sharing stories and pictures from their river cruise last year.

Jan. 27, we will be celebrating January birthdays and Amanda will provide a program.

Feb. 3, Mary Jesse will present on PWS&D

Feb. 10, Come and enjoy Elvis Presley activities in preparation for the Feb 14 concert!

Feb. 17, the Fellowship Committee will be providing a pancake lunch for Shrove Tuesday, and Amanda will present a brief program. You don't want to miss this!

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



The Christian calendar sets aside one week in January for prayer for Christian unity. The dates in 2026 will be January 18 to 25.

Ecumenical worship services in Regina "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4)

The service was developed by the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic, and Evangelical churches. They have given the service a title: "Light from light for light". The 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our bond in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

- **Sunday, Jan. 18 at 3:00 pm**
New Hope Lutheran Church, 370 McIntosh St N, Regina
- **Sunday, Jan. 25 at 4:00 pm**
Living Spirit Centre, 3018 Doan Dr, Regina

The origins of the Armenian Apostolic Church are deeply rooted in the teachings of the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew, who evangelized in Armenia as early as the 1st century AD. The Armenian Apostolic Church, recognized as one of the world's oldest Christian communities, has played a pivotal role in shaping the spiritual and historical identity of the Armenian people for nearly two millennia. Established in the early 4th century, with roots tracing back to the Apostolic era, this venerable institution transcends religious organization; it embodies national resilience, cultural heritage, and spiritual fortitude. In addition to offering spiritual guidance, the Church has safeguarded

Armenian traditions, language, and values, especially during periods of adversity and foreign domination.

2026 DE MARGERIE ONE CHRISTIAN RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

"Christian Martyrdom and the Unity of the Church," a two-lecture series with Dr. Jeremy Bergen.

When Pope Francis heard about the 21 Copts killed by ISIS in Libya in 2015, he said this: "It makes no difference whether they be Catholics, Orthodox, Copts, or Protestants. They are Christians!... Their blood confesses Christ." He was tapping into a powerful intuition. There is something in the stories of Christian martyrs—both those killed centuries ago and those killed much more recently—that might inspire, instruct, and draw together otherwise divided Christians.

In the first lecture, we examine the basic claim that a history of martyrdom serves as a resource for ecumenism. By exploring the stories and legacies of some particular martyrs, we can see how unity and solidarity might be expressed, but also some of the challenges and tensions. In the second lecture, we look at one major barrier—the history of Christians killing Christians. During the Reformation, for example, the execution of fellow Christians was justified on theological grounds, and some of those killed are honoured as martyrs by some churches. How do we reckon with this history in ways that do justice to the past, and promote reconciliation and unity in the future?

A poster for the '2026 DE MARGERIE LECTURES ON CHRISTIAN RECONCILIATION AND UNITY'. The title is at the top in white on a blue background. Below it, 'TWO-LECTURE SERIES' is written in white. The main title, 'Christian Martyrdom and the Unity of the Church', is in large, bold, white letters. The central image is a colorful illustration of a group of people in red robes, some with halos, looking up at a bright yellow sun or moon. There are also birds flying in the sky. To the right of the illustration is a small portrait of Dr. Jeremy Bergen. Below the illustration, the details for the two lectures are listed in white text on a blue background.

2026 DE MARGERIE LECTURES ON CHRISTIAN RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

TWO-LECTURE SERIES

Christian Martyrdom and the Unity of the Church

2026 DE MARGERIE LECTURER
Dr. Jeremy Bergen

Lecture 1:
The Ecumenism of Blood: Solidarity in Trying Times
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026
7:00 pm, Campion College
3825 Lee Gren Avenue, Regina

Lecture 2:
Christians Killing Christians: Reconciling Violent Pasts and Conflicting Martyrdoms
Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026
7:00 pm, St. Thomas More College
1437 College Drive, Saskatoon

Lecture 1: The Ecumenism of Blood: Solidarity in Trying Times

We examine the basic claim that a history of martyrdom serves as a resource for ecumenism. By exploring the stories and legacies of some particular martyrs, we can see how unity and solidarity might be expressed, but also the challenges and tensions.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7:00 pm
Campion College (U of R), 3825 Lee Gren Avenue, Regina

- **Lecture 2: Christians Killing Christians: Reconciling Violent Pasts and Conflicting Martyrdoms**

We look at one major barrier — the history of Christians killing Christians. During the Reformation, the execution of fellow Christians was justified on theological grounds, and some of those killed are honoured as martyrs by some churches. How do we reckon with this history in ways that do justice to the past, and promote reconciliation and unity in the future?

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7:00 pm
St. Thomas More College (U of S), 1437 College Drive, Saskatoon

The two lectures complement each other and will be available both **in-person and via livestream at: <https://bit.ly/Demargerie2026>**

Dr. Jeremy Bergen is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. He has written on church apologies, martyrdom, ecclesiology, ecumenism, the Holy Spirit, and Mennonite theology, and is currently completing a book on Christian martyrdom and the unity of the church for Baylor University Press. He is the author of *Ecclesial Repentance: The Churches Confront their Sinful Pasts* (2011), and several articles on church apologies for residential schools in Canada. He is a member of the Faith & Life Commission of Mennonite World Conference and is co-editor of the *Mennonite Quarterly Review*.

The 2026 De Margerie Lectures on Christian Reconciliation and Unity are sponsored by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, St. Thomas More College, Campion College, the Saskatoon

Theological Union, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the Archdiocese of Regina.

For further information, contact Cathryn Wood, PCE executive director, at 306-653-1633 or admin@pcecumenism.ca



de Margerie Ecumenical Lectures on Christian Reconciliation and Unity 2026

CHURCH APOLOGIES

Rites and Wrongs
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS LED BY DR. JEREMY BERGEN

23 January **SASKATOON**
Friday, January 23; 9:30-11:30am
Wildwood Mennonite Church,
1502 Acadia Drive

24 January **REGINA**
Saturday, January 24;
9:30am-11:30am
Holy Trinity Catholic Church,
5020 Sherwood Drive

Church Apologies: Rites and Wrongs: A public workshop led by Dr. Jeremy Bergen

- **Saturday, Jan. 24 at 9:30-11:30 am**
Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 5020 Sherwood Drive, Regina

As churches in Canada and elsewhere address their own legacies of complicity—in residential schools, settler colonialism, racism and white supremacy, hatred or religiously motivated violence against other Christians—many are issuing public apologies as one step along paths of reconciliation. In this interactive workshop, we will explore this practice and consider the implications. What can apologies do? What are some dangers, objections, and challenges? And what do apologies by church leaders mean for Christians and local churches in the ongoing work of repair and reconciliation?

Dr. Jeremy Bergen is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. He has written on church apologies, martyrdom, ecclesiology, ecumenism, the Holy

Spirit, and Mennonite theology, and is currently completing a book on Christian martyrdom and the unity of the church for Baylor University Press. He is the author of *Ecclesial Repentance: The Churches Confront their Sinful Pasts* (2011), and several articles on church apologies for residential schools in Canada. He is a member of the Faith & Life Commission of Mennonite World Conference and is co-editor of the *Mennonite Quarterly Review*.

This workshop is sponsored by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism and the Archdiocese of Regina. For further information, contact Cathryn Wood, PCE executive director, at 306-653-1633 or admin@pcecumenism.ca

THE PCC SENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA
joining with other churches in condemning anti-Jewish violence

In the aftermath of the anti-Jewish violence and the killing of members of the Jewish community gathering to light the first candle of Hanukkah at Bondi Beach in Australia, The Presbyterian Church in Canada expresses its sorrow and condolences to the grieving families and community members in a letter from The Rev. Jeffrey Murray, the Moderator of The General Assembly.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada condemns hatred, racism, anti-Judaism, and anything that destroys human dignity and life as sin.

As The Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay of the World Council of Churches writes, these horrific killings undermine “fundamental principles of human dignity, religious freedom, and social cohesion. It is particularly distressing and unacceptable that this incident occurred at the very beginning of Hanukkah, a festival that symbolizes light, faith, and the resilience of a community in the face of adversity. The fact that the attack took place at a moment when people had gathered to honour a tradition deeply rooted in hope and spiritual endurance renders this act even more egregious.”

We cannot stay silent; we must speak out against sin and violence. However, words without action are empty and meaningless.

Because of the church’s history of anti-Judaism or its silence when scriptures and hymnody are used to justify violence, the church has an added responsibility to speak, learn, and act. All members of the church are called to work towards extending the reign of God, creating a world that is just and safe for everyone, as we would want for the child of God who was incarnate. This week, congregations and parishioners will reach out to Jewish communities and congregations in acts of solidarity and condolence during this season of hope. In addition, the Rev. Jeffrey Murray has also been in touch with synagogues and Jewish organizations in Canada.

ECUMENICAL BODIES CONDEMN US ACTIONS IN VENEZUELA

The World Council of Churches General Secretary, Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay, strongly condemned recent attacks carried out by the United States of America in Venezuela, including the capture and detention of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, describing the actions as “stunningly flagrant violations of international law.” He added that actions such as these “set a dangerous precedent and example for others who seek to shrug off all constraints against the use of armed aggression and brute force to achieve political objectives... In these dangerous and uncertain times, the world needs wise and courageous leaders for peace, rather than the proliferation of conflicts and the normalization of international illegality, risking a deeper descent into chaos. We pray for wisdom and peace to prevail in this context and in other parts of the world.”

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) also issued a strong condemnation of what it refers to as “the illegal act of aggression by the United States of America in Venezuela.” It further expresses deep concern over the growing political, economic, and social pressures facing Venezuela, including the threat of occupation by the United States. It calls for an immediate end to military interventions and for the US to respect international law.

Guided by the [Accra Confession](#), which critiques systems of empire, domination, and exploitation, the WCRC emphasized that

Venezuela's crisis cannot be understood solely as a domestic political matter and calls for a consideration of the global implications of militarization in general and this morning's aggression in particular. The country's vast oil reserves and strategic importance have made it a focal point in global power struggles, increasing the risk that coercion, manipulation, or military threats could be normalized as tools for reshaping sovereign states. Such actions are an affront to human dignity and a direct challenge to God's justice.

The PCC is a member of the WCC, WCRC and ACT Alliance:

Read the WCC's full statement here:
<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/wcc-statement-on-venezuela>

Read the WCRC's full statement here:
<https://wrc.eu/wrc-calls-for-solidarity-justice-amid-venezuela-crisis/>

Read the statement of the ACT Latin America and Caribbean Forum:
<https://actalliance.org/act-news/alerta-por-la-paz-regional-un-llamado-urgente-a-la-proteccion-de-la-vida-la-soberania-y-el-derecho-internacional/>.



January/February Calendar

Jan. 18	10:30 am	2nd Sunday after Epiphany
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	12:15 pm	Youth Gathering (Kennedy)
Jan. 20	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Jan. 21	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Board of Managers (Zoom)
Jan. 22	6:15 pm	Worship Band practice
	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Jan. 25	10:30 am	3rd Sunday after Epiphany
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour
	12:00 pm	Christian Ed. Cmt. (Morris)
Jan. 27	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Jan. 28	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Book Club (Zoom)
Jan. 29	6:15 pm	Worship Band practice
	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Jan. 31	10:00 am	Worship Committee (Morris)
	10:30 am	Messy Church (Gym)
Feb. 1	10:30 am	PWS&D Sunday
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Feb. 3	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Feb. 4	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Session Meeting (Zoom)
Feb. 5	6:15 pm	Worship Band practice
	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Feb. 7	3:00 pm	Youth Gym Day (Gym)
Feb. 8	10:30 am	Worship with the Moderator Rev. Jeff Murray preaching
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Souper Bowl Sunday (stay for lunch!)