

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

**MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Just a few weeks ago, the lectionary gave us a text about the first Christian congregation to reflect on in our worship. Acts 2:42-27 describes the earliest church as devoted to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. This first church did not have a building, but they met in public places for teaching and gathered in their homes to share food and fellowship. They loved one another, took care of each other, and their community grew.

When I was talking with the children during worship on that Sunday (April 26), I showed them my "first church" – a little model of a classic church building given to me before I went to seminary. I invited the children to compare my little church with the building we have at our First Presbyterian Church here in Regina. They said it looked pretty similar, except that we have an extra building with a gym and classrooms, and we don't have a steeple on our church. I guess they liked the look of the steeple, because they suggested we should build one for our church!



One thing I can say with a high level of certainty is that First Church has no plans to add a steeple to our church building. But we are soon going to need to make some pretty big decisions about what to do with our aging and expensive buildings. Those of you who attended the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> are very aware of how much money we spend on heating and maintaining the building, as well as the ongoing challenges with deferred maintenance that we cannot afford to do.

As you keep reading through this newsletter, you'll find an important update from the Directions Task Force, which includes a summary of an interim report from 1080 Architecture with what they have been learning from their investigations with regard to our building. There will be more information coming soon, and an important congregational meeting will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> to receive the final report and recommendations.

I was talking with a colleague this morning and mentioned to her that we recently received an interim report from our feasibility study. She commented that this is the kind of work that they didn't prepare us for in seminary, and I agreed. But then I realized that on another level, they did start preparing me for this kind of situation many years ago in Sunday School. Back in the 1980s when I learned the song "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together..."

Even though so much of what we do together as a church happens inside this building that was built by those who came before us in 1926 and in the 1950s, the building is not the church. We are the church together when we come together to study scripture, to share fellowship, to break bread together, and to pray for one another and the world. We are the church when we spend time together and look after each other. We are the church when we praise God together, seek the Spirit's guiding, and walk together in the way of Jesus.

I know that the reports about the state of the building and the possibilities for renewal of the building itself will be disheartening for many of us. But I want to invite you to look forward with hope and anticipation for the possibilities that are still before us. The continuing ministry and mission of our congregation is my first priority, so I hope that whatever decisions we make about the building going forward will be guided by that purpose. How can we best use the

resources, land, and buildings that we have been given to continue our mission in Regina?

My “first church” might have been a little model of church building. But the church that really matters to me today is you – the people of First Presbyterian Church – together with all those who will be welcomed into our community in the years to come as we devote ourselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Rev. Amanda Currie

### SESSION

First Church continues to be a busy place!

- The 1080 Architecture team will be presenting their final report of the feasibility study regarding our buildings at a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 21 in the gym following worship. Please plan to be there so you can hear the information and ask questions. See the update provided in this newsletter.
- Congratulations to Rev. Amanda Currie, who will be attending the Vancouver School of Theology convocation on May 12 to receive an Honourary Doctor of Divinity degree! First Church will celebrate this achievement with a cake on Sun. May 24.
- First Church will be involved in the Cathedral Village Arts Festival on May 23. See the information in this newsletter.
- Taeyang has donated an electronic drum set to the church. We appreciate this generous gift. Thanks, Taeyang!
- There are two memorial services coming up. The service for Ethel Shuba will be held on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the Regina Funeral Home and Cemetery. The service for Eric LeRoux will take place on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the Conexus Arts Centre Theatre Lobby.
- First Church will be holding a fundraising concert, "Singing with the Spirit" on Saturday, May 30 at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend and share the invitation with others. If you would like

to participate, please contact our Music Director, Chloe Golden.

- There will be a congregational barbecue on May 31 near Candy Cane Park, as the Sunday School winds up for the year. Watch for more information.
- The Presbytery of Assiniboia is holding a congregational Outdoor Worship and Fellowship event on Saturday, June 20. See the promo page in this newsletter and plan to attend this fun event at the lake!
- The youth will be holding a hot dog fundraiser at the Rochdale Sherwood Co-op on July 4. Watch for more information!
- We have 6 youth and 3 adults who will be attending the Collective national PCC youth event in August!
- And for those who like to plan ahead, mark your calendars for the Welcome Back potluck supper on September 20!

Jo Szostak  
Clerk of Session

### DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE

Last year, we celebrated 100 years of the First Church congregation. We have a strong and active congregation, and our future is full of hope. We also live in aging buildings, so two years ago we began a process of exploring options for the future of our buildings.

Last October, we agreed to contract with 1080 Architecture to conduct a feasibility study on different approaches to dealing with our buildings. They have completed a comprehensive assessment of our buildings and are working on fleshing out a few of the best options for going forward. Regardless of which path we ultimately choose, the future will be challenging.

The 1080 Architecture team will present their final report at **a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, June 21, following worship.** Please plan to attend this meeting so you can be fully informed about the challenges we face and the possibilities for the future.

The 1080 Architecture team has provided the following update to inform you of their current progress.

## **First Presbyterian Church Facility Renewal & Future Planning Update**

Over the past several months, First Presbyterian Church has been working with 1080 Architecture and Holterman Waller Strategy to better understand the long-term future of our facilities and property. This work has included building condition review, site appraisal, financial analysis, developer market engagement, precedent research, and consideration of potential funding opportunities.

The project team and Directions Task Force have now completed an initial review of several potential paths forward for the church. These include:

- **Optimized Current State**
  - Retaining and renewing the existing facilities while expanding partnerships and shared use opportunities.
- **Partial Sale – North Building**
  - Selling north building to support capital funding for renewal.
- **Full Site Sale or Redevelopment**
  - Demolition of both buildings to either generate sale proceeds for relocation or for equity to build a new worship space on site that would be part of a major residential development.
- **North Building Redevelopment**
  - Collaboration with a development partner on a residential development that could lever non-profit status to generate long-term revenue.

At this stage, no decisions have been made regarding a preferred direction. The purpose of the current phase is to better understand the opportunities, risks, costs, and long-term sustainability implications associated with each option.

A number of important realities have emerged through the work to date. The church buildings will require significant future capital investment to extend their useful life, and the congregation's current operating model does

not support sufficient financial investment in long-term renewal. Preliminary developer engagement and scenario modelling has also noted limitations with the north building site relative to alternative development sites in Regina.

Over the next six weeks, the project team will continue due diligence work, including refinement of capital renewal costs, additional partner and redevelopment discussions, and further financial analysis. A final recommendation on the path forward will be finalized during this time with a full presentation to the congregation planned for June 21<sup>st</sup>.

We are grateful for the thoughtful engagement, care, and prayers that members of the congregation have already brought to this important conversation. The goal of this process is to ensure that First Presbyterian is positioned for a sustainable and mission-focused future.

### **YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES**

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

**Celebrating the End of Sunday School:** Sunday, **May 17**, during the worship service. Our Sunday School will offer a brief presentation during the service, including a video highlighting the year. We will express our gratitude to all volunteers and supporters, and each child will receive a Sunday School binder to collect memories at church. (FYI, there will be Sunday School classes until May 31!) As we look ahead, we will begin to gather volunteers for next year's program. New and returning helpers are warmly welcomed.

### **Youth Gathering:**

Sundays, **May 17 & June 28**, from 12:15 – 2:30 pm.

All students in Grades 6 -12 are invited to an enjoyable and meaningful afternoon together — sharing lunch, exploring art therapy, joining in Bible conversations, and enjoying time in the gym. We'd love to have you with us!



**Church Family Picnic:** Sunday, **May 31**, meeting at 12:30 pm @Candy Cane Park.



**Youth & Young Adult Volunteering:**

Saturdays, **May 23 & May 30**. Youth and Young Adults are encouraged to take part in two meaningful service opportunities this month.

**May 23:** Support our Messy Church event during the Cathedral Village Arts Festival by helping with preparation, set-up, clean-up, or hosting activity stations.

**May 30:** At the Singing with the Spirit fundraising concert, youth can serve as ushers and assist with concession sales during intermission.

If any of our youth are willing to support these projects, please let Sumi know or sign your name on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you to our young people for sharing their gifts and welcoming our neighbours with joy.

**Messy Church with Cathedral Village Arts Festival:** Saturday, **May 23**, from 1 – 4 pm.



Join us for Messy Church as part of the Cathedral Village Arts Festival. This intergenerational gathering includes crafts, songs, stories, and snacks, all centred on this month's theme: "Who Is Our Neighbour?" based on the Good Samaritan parable. We'll also be creating chalk art on the sidewalk as we welcome our neighbours and celebrate community together. Everyone is invited - bring your friends, families and enjoy this fun, All-Ages Event.

Join us for our Sunday School wind-up and congregational picnic. We will try and secure a picnic spot just to the east of Candy Cane Park, near the washrooms. Hot dogs, condiments, and juice boxes will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and anything else you may like.

**Youth Hot-Dog Fundraiser:** Saturday, **July 4**, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm @Co-op (Rochdale).

Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy a



hot-dog meal in support of our youth! Our Youth Hot-Dog Fundraiser will take place at the Sherwood Co-op Food Store

(Rochdale Crossing), 5875 Rochdale Blvd. All proceeds support the \$450 registration fee per person for Collective 2026, the Youth Conference happening in Ontario this August. Meal Set: \$5 - Includes a freshly grilled hot dog and a drink of your choice! Stop by the FundScrip table to purchase your tickets. Helpers and Donations Welcome.

Thank you for your support through your time, your gifts, and your prayers.

Rev. Sumi Jung  
Youth and Family Ministry

## **BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Adnan Saleem will be leaving the position of caretaker as he has a full-time job and is finding scheduling to be a challenge! Adnan will continue to work until we find a replacement. The position has been posted on SaskJobs.ca. It is Job Order #6298445. Please share the posting with anyone you think might be interested.

A quick financial update... We don't have the April financial report yet, but at the end of March (Quarter 1) we had received \$56,000 in identified contributions, compared to \$40,000 at March 31, 2025. Our budget is \$300,000. Thank you for your generous offerings and we look forward to a better year this year!

## **2025 FINANCES**

At the annual meeting on May 3, a question was asked about the deficit for 2025. Now that I've had a chance to collect my thoughts, I'd like to offer a better answer.

Most of my time is spent dealing with the day-to-day operations of the church, through our Operating Fund, paying bills and meeting the payroll. So, the 2026 budget that appears in the annual report is an Operating Budget. I had indicated that we had transferred \$95,000 from our investments in 6 transfers to cover cash flow in 2025 and that is correct. On page 41 of the annual report, in the Statement of Operations, you will see that the first column is titled Operating Fund and at the bottom of the column, the decrease in net assets for the Operating Fund is \$92,437, which aligns with the \$95,000 that was transferred to cover expenses.

The rest of this statement deals with our investment funds. At the bottom right corner, under Total 2025, you will see that, when looking at our total 2025 financial picture, there was a deficit for the year of \$35,034. So that figure considers the Operating Fund and all of the investment funds. At the top of the statement, in lines 2 and 3, you can see the income to the investment funds. Our investment funds have dropped in total value because of the large transfers to cover expenses. I also mentioned that the stock

markets have been up and down over the last few years. We have still earned on our investments - line 3 shows that investment earnings in 2025 were \$49,275, which is significant. It just couldn't keep pace with the \$95,000 withdrawal. You can see that the 2024 earnings were \$5000 higher, and prior to that year, even more.

So our operating deficit in 2025 was \$92,437, but with the additional bequests and investment earnings, the total deficit for our finances in 2025 was only \$35,034. So that's the relationship between those two numbers. I hope it makes sense!

As a result, we're not using up our investments as quickly as it might seem. However, it is still urgent that we address our deficit, and it is our hope that our building initiative will provide a solution that is sustainable for the congregation.

Jo Szostak  
Treasurer

## **MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Sandwiches for Waterston House, Sunday, May 17: Twice a year we supply 20 loaves of sandwiches to Waterston House shelter. Next Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> is our turn. If you can help, please let Mary Jesse know ([marycjesse@gmail.com](mailto:marycjesse@gmail.com)). Drop off the sandwiches at the front entrance when you come to worship and we will deliver them. Thanks!

May 23 Street Fair: First Church is joining the Cathedral Village Arts Street Fair on Sat. May 23. We are hosting a Messy Church event in the gym from 1-4 pm along with chalk art on our sidewalk. It's an event for all ages, with the theme of "who is our neighbour" based on the Good Samaritan parable. Bring some friends and enjoy stories, art, crafts and a snack. We also need volunteers to help with some preparation ahead of time (cookie bakers needed), hosting the activity stations, and event set up and clean up. If you have an hour or two to help with this community event, please speak with Mary Jesse or Sumi Yung or use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



small Synod of Saskatchewan. The presbyteries and synods certainly pull above their weight in terms of service to the wider church, for which we should all be grateful. For example, four of the nine committee members who undertook the work of carefully writing “The apology of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for Its Complicity in Colonization and the Residential School System” are from Saskatchewan. You will note that in the first paragraph of the apology, five of the schools that the Presbyterian Church ran were in Saskatchewan. In my limited time with the members of the Presbyteries of Assiniboia and Northern Saskatchewan, the five fundamental commitments in the PCC’s apology were clearly being lived out in ongoing relationships



Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and others with the opportunity to record their stories and voices for family members and to archive knowledge to be passed down to future generations.

I am grateful to have had the chance to visit with the ministers, elders, and staff in the Synod of Saskatchewan during this moderatorial year, and I thank you for your ministry in the province and your service to the church.



of support, solidarity, and learning, enabling more fully engaged work of reparation. The first place I visited while in the area was the Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry (SNCM), operating in Saskatoon’s inner city. It is a place where people can find refuge, a warm place from life on the streets, something to eat, and a place to gather for worship that upholds Indigenous spiritual practices through which the love of Christ is shared. I was honoured to hear about the personal life and faith journeys that led Dylon Nippi, the Director, to serve in this ministry, as well as those of Stewart Folster, the former Director, who is now serving at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church. SNCM supports people from many nations and works with those on the margins as Jesus did. One interesting feature of SNCM’s ministry is a recording studio. The room is set up as a welcoming, comfortable space, providing



**MODERATOR-ELECT – Rev. Lara Scholey**

The Committee to Advise with the Moderator will present the Rev. Lara Scholey as the nominee for Moderator of the 2026 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Lara grew up in Brampton, ON, and attended St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. She received a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) from Queen’s University (1994) and a Master of Divinity from Knox College (1997), and was ordained by the Presbytery of Brampton in 1997.

Lara began her ministry at Rockwood/Eden Mills Presbyterian Churches in Ontario, then served as a Parish Associate in Purcellville, VA (PCUSA), and later was called to Bethel/Burns Memorial/Knox, a rural charge in the Presbytery of Pictou, NS (2001-2017). She currently serves St. Columba by-the-Lake Presbyterian Church in Pointe-Claire, QC (a suburb of Montreal) since 2017.



In the greater church, Lara has served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Pictou, and Moderator of the Atlantic Synod. She was a member, then Convenor, of the Presbyterian World Service & Development Committee (2009-2016), which included monitoring trips to Malawi, India, Afghanistan and Haiti. She served on the Life and Mission Agency (2014-2016) and is currently on the Grants Committee of the Congregational and Community Ministries. Lara has been the PCC representative on the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy since 2021. She serves as Convenor of Mission Committee in the Presbytery of Montreal, since 2018. Lara enjoys attending an ecumenical, lectionary Bible Study, and served on the board of Dix Mille Villages in Pointe-Claire, fair trade store begun by churches.

Lara is passionate about creative worship, community building, intergenerational mentoring, and social justice.

She is married to Dr. Carl Adams. They have triplet, young adult children, Matthew, Isaac and Charlotte.

We wish Lara all the best as she prepares for this important role in serving The Presbyterian Church in Canada over the next year.

In Christ,

The Rev. Victor Kim,  
Principal Clerk of The General Assembly  
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

### May/June Calendar

<b>May 10</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Christian Family Sunday</b> Intergenerational Worship
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
May 12	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
May 13	7:00 pm	Mission & Outreach (Zoom)
May 14	6:30 pm	Band Practice (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
<b>May 17</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Ascension Sunday</b> Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	12:15 pm	Youth Gathering (Kennedy)
May 20	12:30 pm	Bible Study with Sumi (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Board of Managers (Zoom)
May 21	6:30 pm	Band Practice (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
May 23	1-4 pm	Messy Church (Gym)
<b>May 24</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
May 26	6:30 pm	"The Chosen" Bible Study (Sanctuary/Kennedy)
May 27	7:00 pm	Book Club (@Heather's)
May 28	7:00 pm	Dress Rehearsal for Concert (Sanctuary)
May 30	3:00 pm	"Singing with the Spirit" Fundraising Concert (Sanctuary)
<b>May 31</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday/Camp Sunday</b> Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	12:30 pm	Congregational Picnic (@ Candy Cane Park)

June 2	1:30 pm	Stewardship Committee (Zoom)
	6:30 pm	“The Chosen” Bible Study (Sanctuary/Kennedy)
June 3	7:00 pm	Session Meeting (Zoom)
June 4	6:45 pm	Band Practice (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
<b>June 7</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)

### **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.

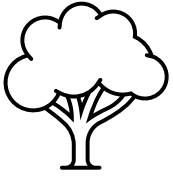
How to:

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” – and you are done!

Please talk with Bette Kelly or Rev. Sumi if you have any questions. If you would like to arrange for a pick up, please contact the church office.

**You are invited!**

**The Presbytery of Assiniboia is holding a congregational outdoor worship and fellowship event on Saturday, June 20, 2026**



The day begins with worship at 11:00 am followed by a potluck lunch and afternoon activities at the lake. (There will be a Presbytery meeting from 10 to 11.)



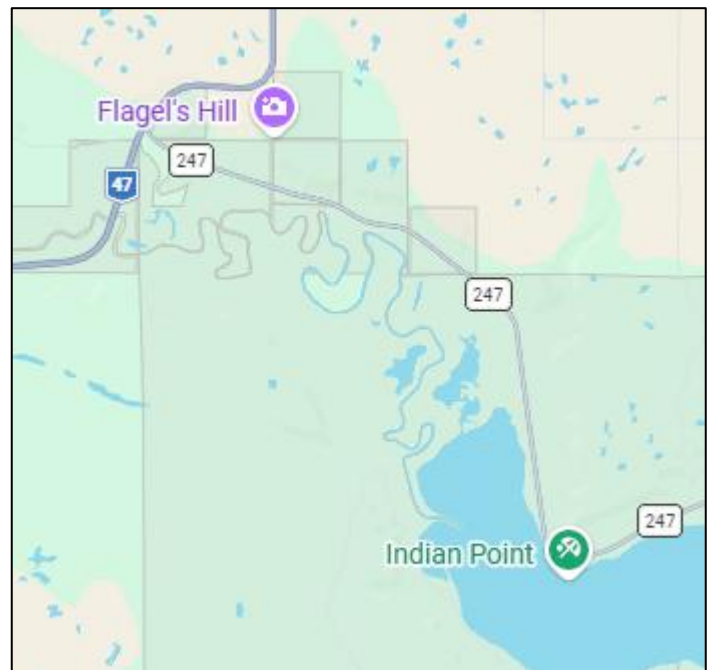
We will be hosted by Heather and Ken Neuls at their cottage on Crooked Lake.

The Neuls' cottage is right on the lake with a dock, a large lawn and a deck.

Directions: From Grenfell, proceed north on Highway #47 for 30 km. Turn right onto Highway #247. Proceed 11 km east and then turn right onto Moose Road. Continue another 450 metres to lot #248 on your left. (It is east of Indian Point which has been renamed Yellow Calf Place)

**Mileage will be paid by the Synod of Saskatchewan, so fill your car and come!**

- Worship will have a creation theme, and music will be provided by Rev. Amanda Currie playing her guitar.
- Please bring your lawn chairs and something to share for a potluck lunch. Heather will provide coffee, tea, iced tea and water.
- Possibilities for the afternoon, weather permitting, include a pontoon boat ride around the lake, fishing off the dock, Maui mat (large floating mat) for the kids, kayaks, paddle board, corn hole game, ladder golf, lounging on the deck, roasting marshmallows at the firepit, parachute activities, a scavenger hunt...



Please RSVP to Rev. Devon Pattermore ([devonpattermore@gmail.com](mailto:devonpattermore@gmail.com)) by June 1 with the number of people coming and if there will be children.