

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

May 2019

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

April was a very full month at First Church. On the first day of April I received the news that I will be the sole nominee for Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. So, I've been getting my head around that idea, beginning to make preparations for the Assembly, and organizing meetings and travel. I'm grateful for the supportive response of the Session and congregation of First Church to this news. You even provided a "Moderator Cake" for me on Birthday Sunday, April 7th. That was very sweet!

April church activities continued and included a good discussion about discovering our mission in life at "Wondering Wednesday," the Palm Sunday procession and the Annual Congregational Meeting on April 14th, as well as a whole line-up of special worship opportunities during Holy Week.

Thanks to members of the Worship Committee for organizing a wonderful potluck supper on Maundy Thursday, and to all those who helped make that meal, and the worship that followed, very special.

The Music Team, Choir, and Contemporary Group worked hard and rehearsed lots to add to the beauty and meaning of our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. Many people helped in other ways with those services too, including some really great readers who shared monologues as part of the Easter message.

It was a joy to receive Bill Sgrazzutti into the professing membership of First Presbyterian Church, and it was very fitting for all of us to profess our faith again and remember our baptisms together on Easter Sunday.

Even after Easter, activities didn't slow down that much. The First Church Book Club got together to discuss *A House in the Sky* by Amanda Lindhout. The following Sunday included the

annual Masonic Church Parade plus the ordination of two new elders! We were very pleased to welcome Heather Mazurak and Aksa Yakemchuk to their first Session meeting on May 1.

Under the direction of Will Ireton, the Chancel Singers have been rehearsing in preparation for their Spring concert at the church on Sunday, May 26th at 7:30 pm. Please mark the date in your calendar and plan to enjoy a beautiful evening of choral music in support of First Church's refugee sponsorship initiative. (See also Chancel Singers Concert, below)

The month of May looks like it will be very full as well. I'm anticipating an exciting and challenging year ahead while fulfilling my responsibilities as Moderator and continuing to serve as your minister at First Church. May God inspire and bless our ministry together in this place so that it will bear good fruit.

Rev. Amanda Currie

SESSION

The Session welcomes Heather Mazurak and Aksa Yakemchuk who were ordained as elders and admitted on Sunday, April 28. Andrew Donovan was re-admitted to another term as an elder. The congregation is fortunate to have these dedicated and gifted people serving as elders!

At the end of May, Rev. Amanda Currie will be leaving for Waterloo to attend the General Assembly where she will be installed as Moderator of the General Assembly. We are thrilled for Amanda and know that she will do a wonderful job. Our prayers and best wishes go with you, Amanda! General Assembly begins Sunday evening, June 2. As all of the sessions will be livestreamed, you can watch these on your computer, tablet, or even your phone! More information closer to the time will be provided,

but presbyterian.ca is the website to go to for access. You can take in the whole General Assembly if you wish!

With the ordination of new elders, the Session of First Church is now at full strength and consists of the following people: Jim Doolittle, Andrew Donovan, Bette Kelly, Margaret MacDonald, Tammy MacDonald, Heather Mazurak, Graeme Mitchell, Doug Stewart, Jo Szostak, Sheila Wilson, Lisa Ann Wood (on leave), and Aksa Yakemchuk.

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee is pleased to host an "ABC's of Dementia" presentation, by the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan after worship on Sunday May 26, 2019. Lunch will be served. Please plan to attend!

Donna Wilkinson
Pastoral Care

FUNDSCRIP

Order Sundays this month are May 5 and May 19. Start stocking up now for summer! Specials this month include Winners/Marshalls 8%, Giant Tiger 5%, and Ultimate Dining 6% (Montana's, East Side Mario's, Swiss Chalet). Support the church - we get the listed % back and it doesn't cost you any extra! Stop by the FundScrip table and place your order or purchase gas and grocery cards. Thanks for your support!

CAMP CHRISTOPHER

Camp Christopher is getting ready to open the doors for the summer. 115 campers are already registered. Here are some ways you can help!

- ◆ Pray for the campers
- ◆ Pray for the staff
- ◆ Visit the camp May 24-26 – as we open it and get it ready for all those campers!
- ◆ Think about coming up for a week and volunteering
- ◆ Donate your Canadian Tire Money – which helps us buy supplies!

Tri 4 Kids is having their triathlon on June 1st. If you would like to sponsor kids to go to camp, please make your cheque payable to the Synod of Saskatchewan and give it to Donna.

The camp is looking for volunteers to help with a week of camp this summer. There is also a need for chaplains (to lead Bible study and support those requiring extra help), for first aiders (to look after health needs of campers), for kitchen help, maintenance help, and craft leaders. If you'd like to spend a week at camp in northern Saskatchewan, please send an email to info@campchristopher.ca.

Thank you for being part of the ministry of Camp Christopher!

Donna Wilkinson
Camp Administrator

CHANCEL SINGERS CONCERT

Requiem – Chancel Singers, First Presbyterian Church Concert - Sunday, May 26 7:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church.

Over the past several months, the Chancel Singers (choir) at First Presbyterian Church have been preparing a collection of pieces for concert performance. Featuring both accompanied and unaccompanied choral works, our concert program is comprised of a range of musical styles. To exhibit recent upgrades to our pipe organ, we have selected several pieces by Mozart and Brahms which feature organ accompaniment. We are also excited to perform a more contemporary work: *Requiem*, by Canadian composer, Eleanor Daley. A multi-movement work, the Daley Requiem dramatically illustrates both themes of grief, and of consolation.

Admission: Free will offering (all proceeds go toward First Presbyterian Church refugee sponsorship)

Will Ireton
Assistant Music Director

YOUTH

Youth will be meeting the following dates in May:



- ◆ Tuesday, May 7th
- ◆ Wednesday, May 15th
- ◆ Monday, May 20th
- ◆ Tuesday, May 28th

Meet at the church at 6 o'clock in the youth room. If you have any questions, please contact Jordan at jordansim64@gmail.com or (306) 716-7489. Mark your calendars!

Jordan Sim
Youth Leader

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBINARS

You are invited to two live, free webinars that will help you better understand the specifics and recommendations of the Doctrine of Discovery report and the Joint Statement on the Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. Reports about both of these items will be presented at General Assembly in June and these webinars are intended to help you prepare for the meeting.

The reports submitted to the General Assembly on each of these topics are available under the title "Preparing for General Assembly" at presbyterian.ca/webinars or under the title "Webinars to help prepare for General Assembly" at presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2019. See the information below about how to join up for the webinars.

The Doctrine of Discovery: Thursday, May 16 from 1–2 p.m. (Eastern)

At General Assembly, Commissioners will vote on a series of recommendations related to repudiating (rejecting) the Doctrine of Discovery, a theological and legal principle from the 1400s that legitimized European colonization of non-Christian lands and peoples.

During this webinar, Justice Ministries staff will answer questions about the Doctrine of Discovery, its influence on the PCC's ministry with Indigenous people, and what repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery means. This webinar is suitable for commissioners as preparation for General Assembly and to other members of the church who are interested in the PCC's ministry of healing and reconciliation.

Joint Statement on the Physical Punishment of Children and Youth: Tuesday, May 14 from 1–2 p.m. (Eastern)

In response to a request from a congregation that the PCC endorse the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth, this webinar will discuss the PCC's study of the Statement. The Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth was developed by a national coalition of organizations concerned with the well-being of children. The study concludes there is clear and compelling evidence that the physical punishment of children and youth plays no useful role in their upbringing, and poses only risks to their development.

Additionally, the General Assembly will be asked to consider requesting the Canadian Government to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada, which allows parents and teachers to use force to correct a child's behaviour. This is in line with the 6th Call to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Join the Webinars:

You can join from your computer, tablet or phone. Find out more and sign up for these free webinar sessions at presbyterian.ca/webinars.

Note: webinars will be recorded and available for playback at presbyterian.ca/webinars/previous-webinars within 2 hours of each session.

Each webinar is free and made possible through generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing.

Terrie-Lee Hamilton
Senior Administrator, General Assembly Office

MAY EVENTS

- 5 10:30 AM Worship & Sunday School**
7 10:30 AM Bible Study
Noon Freedom 55'ers
6:00 PM Youth Group
8 7:30 PM Wondering Wednesday
9 7:00 PM Choir
- 12 10:30 AM Worship & Sunday School**
Guest Preacher: Bert Adema,
Indigenous Christian Fellowship
12:00 pm Mission & Outreach Cmt
- 14 10:30 AM Bible Study
Noon Freedom 55'ers
15 6:00 PM Youth
16 7:30 PM Choir
- 19 10:30 AM Worship & Sunday School**
20 Victoria Day - office close
6:00 PM Youth
- 21 10:30 AM Bible Study
Noon Freedom 55'ers
22 7:00 PM Book Club @ Carole Cann's
23 7:00 PM Choir
- 26 10:30 AM Worship & Sunday School**
Noon Lunch and
"ABC's of Dementia"
7:30 PM Chancel Singers Concert
- 28 10:30 AM Bible Study
Noon Freedom 55'ers
6:00 PM Youth
- 29 7:00 PM Board of Managers
30 7:00 PM Choir

THIS DAY

Make this day, Lord, a step closer
to heaven.

This day, Lord, may I know myself
loved and valued.

This day Lord, may I notice
the beauty around me, in things
great and small.

This day, Lord, may I not miss the
messages of joy, of peace, of hope
that you send me.

This day, Lord, this day... make
the day of my resurrection.

~ Richard Sharples