

**FIRST THINGS FIRST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA
MAY 2022**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As Spring arrives in Regina and we all begin to look forward to the activities of summer, I am remembering that it has been less than a month since we gathered for special worship services together during Holy Week. Remember all the snow we received that week? It kept our gatherings on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday a little smaller, but by Easter Sunday morning the weather was a little bit improved, and we had a wonderful attendance and a joyful celebration of the Resurrection together at First Church.

It was lovely to welcome some of you back to worship in the building for the first time in two years. It was also great fun to run around the church with children, youth, and adults together searching for all the Easter Eggs that I enjoyed hiding. Everyone did really well, and every group was able to put together the full Easter story of Jesus' death and resurrection once they opened up all their eggs to find the story pieces inside. It is possible that we missed an egg or two. So, if you find any little plastic eggs in the sanctuary in the coming weeks, feel free to open them up and enjoy the contents while the chocolate is still reasonably fresh!

Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for organizing a great coffee hour in the gymnasium on Easter Sunday too, with the special treat of hot cross buns, combined with the really great gift of sharing food and fellowship together again in person.

Since Easter Sunday, our attendance in person has been a little lower. I do hope that if you're comfortable coming back that you'll make worship a part of your regular weekly routine again soon. Our worship and fellowship is greatly enriched by your presence and participation. Of course, do stay home if you are sick, and join us online if you are able to do so.

If you have been worshipping with us online, you'll know that we've had some technical

difficulties lately as well. We replaced one part of the hardware (the encoder) a few weeks ago when it seemed to be failing. Unfortunately, we had major difficulties again on Sunday, May 8th and we're still trying to figure out what is causing the problems so we can fix them. Please do hang in with us! We want to include everyone in our worship whether you can come to the building or not, and we're not giving up on providing a good, reliable livestream.

In the coming weeks, you can look forward to some meaningful and fun things happening at First Church. New member classes begin this Sunday, May 15th at 1:00 pm. Be in touch with me if you would like to join in. Sunday, May 29th will include a focus on Camp Christopher, with the Camp Administrator Donna Wilkinson, sharing about plans for in-person camping ministry this summer at Christopher Lake. Sunday, June 5th is Pentecost Sunday and our celebration of Holy Communion. On Sunday, June 19th we will be ordaining our new elders and admitting them to the Session of First Church, and I hope that we will be ready to officially welcome some new members that Sunday as well.

In-person worship, Sunday school, and coffee hour will continue each Sunday as we go forward. Come and join us soon! If a little biblical inspiration would be helpful, consider Hebrews 10:23 which says this: *"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Rev. Amanda Currie

SESSION

We are pleased to welcome Mary Jesse, Ron Pugsley, and Al Yakemchuk as new elders! Doug Stewart and Jo Szostak are returning as

elders for another term. The service of ordination and admission will be held Sunday, June 19.

June 19 will be a big day in our church life, as we will also be welcoming new members and presenting Bibles to students who have completed Grade 6 over the past two years!

First Church will be holding an in-person Vacation Bible School July 4 - 7, 9am - 12pm. so mark your calendars for your children and grandchildren to participate! Rev. Devon Pattermore and the Synod summer student will be helping with the event, and Rev. Amanda will be involved. We'll need other volunteers to help out and provide snacks. If you're available to help, please let Amanda know.

Jo Szostak

INTERESTED IN CHURCH MEMEBERSHIP?

Membership classes are starting Sunday, May 15th. They will explore the basics of the Christian faith including God, the Trinity, the Bible, practices of worship, prayer, stewardship, justice, and mission.

Sessions will be on Sundays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm on May 15, 22, 29, and June 12. Be in touch with Amanda if you are interested in participating online or in-person. Anyone in grade 9 and up are welcome!

Rev. Amanda Currie

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Here's an update on our two refugee families:

1) The Mathiang family is still living in Khartoum while Nyabani's mother receives medical care. The family recently had their medical exams, which is a good sign. Nyabani tells us that when they receive their medical certificates, they are only good for six months, so we anticipate there's a good chance the family may come within the next six months.

At the end of 2021, we had about \$45,000 in the fund for the Mathiang family. Our budget was \$60,000 but we know that prices have gone up during the last four years, as we waited, so the actual amount needed for the family's first year will be more than that. We have received another \$1000 in the first

months of this year, so currently we have about \$46,000 of the amount we need.

2) The Saleem family is still living in Malaysia. We have had a request for clarification from the Singapore visa office, so we know that their paperwork is being processed. Waiting is difficult for us, but it is very depressing for these families, so please hold them in your prayers. We had a donor contribute the funds needed for the Saleem family and they are invested, so we currently have \$63,577 available for this family.

Please continue to pray for both of these families and we hope that we may soon have them living in our midst!

Jo Szostak

MISSION & OUTREACH

Thank you First Church! You contributed \$2,730.30 towards Ukraine relief through PWS&D during our Easter In Memoriam project. These funds will be used to give cash assistance, emergency mental health support, and food aid, hygiene kits and medical supplies to refugee families.

Mary Jesse
Mission & Outreach Convener

CAMP CHRISTOPHER

Camp Christopher is looking forward to having campers back on site this summer, running six weeks of camp and looking at having most weekends rented out. Our theme this summer is *What's in a Name?*

Camp is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church and there are a few ways you could help this summer:

- Pray – pray for the staff, the campers and all who come on site this year
- Tin Cans – camp needs about 250, clean tin cans (size doesn't matter) please put in tub in back of narthex
- Picture Frames – any random picture frames you are not using, (any size welcome) please put in tub in back of narthex
- Canadian Tire Money – you can still give Canadian Tire Money to the Camp by using the phone number 306-982-4534

- Furnace – we need to replace the camp furnaces and are working on a grant that will match what we raise 3-1 So Camp is looking for about \$10,000 and the grant will give us \$30,000
- Volunteers – we need first aiders, chaplains, cook's helper (or a cook) and have many maintenance projects to complete!

Thank you for your continued support and don't hesitate to give me a call if you would like more information or have questions at 306-535-6916

Donna Wilkinson
Camp Administrator

PALM SUNDAY PICTURES

We had a great celebration on Palm Sunday with music, branches, and a parade around the sanctuary. People of all ages took part, but the star of the show was one of the youngest members of our church community, Lucas Pockett.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2022 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada will be online from June 5 until June 8. This virtual gathering provides an opportunity for the church to consider matters affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination.



Commissioners, who are responsible for the business of Assembly, will discern and make decisions. At Assembly, commissioners, young adult and student representatives will welcome ecumenical and interfaith guests. The Assembly will open with worship Sunday afternoon and will gather for worship daily.

Reports to the 2022 General Assembly are posted on [PC-Biz](#) for both commissioners and others to see. There are a small number of the reports that will be posted in the coming days. Anyone can visit PC-Biz at [assembly.presbyterian.ca](#) even without needing to log in to an account. Simply visit the 'Committees' tab and use the drop down menu to see each committee's report, summary and recommendations.

Watch the live stream of the 2022 General Assembly on YouTube. The live stream starts with opening worship on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern). Opening worship will be preached by the Rev. Dr. Daniel Scott. Subscribe to the PCC's YouTube channel to be notified when live streaming begins.

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, Stakeholder Relations Team:

COVID-19 continues to be a serious health threat. Evidence indicates that the vaccines used in Canada are very effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Over time, protection from COVID-19 vaccines can decrease and vaccines have been less effective against the currently circulating Omicron variants. A booster dose increases the immune response and helps improve protection against severe outcomes by 90% or more.

While it is possible to get sick with COVID-19 after getting a booster, it helps:

- strengthen your defenses against the virus
- protect you against severe illness and hospitalization
- potentially reduce the risk of developing post COVID-19 condition, even if you are infected.

While previous COVID-19 infection can provide some protection, up-to-date vaccinations, including booster doses, offer longer-lasting protection and better effectiveness. That's why it's important for people to get their booster doses as soon as they are eligible in their province or territory.

In Saskatchewan, all individuals 12+ are eligible for a third dose at this time, and all residents 50+ are eligible to receive a fourth dose.

MAY EVENTS

May 15	10:30 am	Sunday Worship (In-Person & Online)
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour in the Gymnasium
	1:00 pm	Membership Class (Morris Room/Zoom)
May 17	12:30 pm	Freedom 55ers (Zoom)
May 18		No Bible Study Today
May 19	7:30 pm	Choir
May 22	10:30 am	Sunday Worship (In-Person & Online)
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour in the Gymnasium
	1:00 pm	Membership Class (Morris Room/Zoom)
May 24	12:30 pm	Freedom 55ers (Zoom)
May 25	12:00 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Book Club (Zoom)
May 26	7:30 pm	Choir
May 28	10:00 am	Worship Committee
May 29	10:30 am	Sunday Worship (In-Person & Online)
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour in the Gymnasium
	1:00 pm	Membership Class (Morris Room/Zoom)
	3:00 pm	Welcome & Inclusion Team (Zoom)
May 31	12:30 pm	Freedom 55ers (Zoom)

JUNE EVENTS

June 1 7:00 pm Board of Managers (Zoom)

June 2 7:30 pm Choir

June 5 10:30 am Sunday Worship
(In-Person & Online)
Pentecost & Communion
Rev. Bob Wilson preaching

11:45 am Coffee Hour in the
Gymnasium

1:00 pm Membership Class
(Morris Room/Zoom)