

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

May 2023

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

“April showers bring May flowers” was the phrase that kept coming to mind over the last month. Although we got more snow than rain this past month in Regina, I was sprinkling a lot of water on little ones being baptized at First Church.

On Palm Sunday, April 2nd we baptized Samuel, infant son of Nauman Naeem and Armaan Nauman. On Easter Sunday, April 9th we baptized Sharon, infant daughter of Suleman Naeem and Mehwish Suleman. Then this past Sunday, April 30th we baptized Lucas and Emily, children of Heather and Mitchell Pockett. Since Lucas was a little older (2 ½ years) we had a baptism rehearsal with him (much like we often have wedding rehearsals for couples getting married). That was great fun, and a very effective way of preparing a little boy for what would happen on his special day. He did so well!



*Mitchell, Heather, Lucas, and Rev. Amanda
with Emily*

It was a very joyful month at First Church, not only because we had all these baptisms, but also lots of youth involvement in worship, lots of gatherings to share food and fellowship, and a general sense of church life getting “back to normal” post-pandemic.

But I think the best thing about this past month was that it helped us all to start feeling hopeful about the future. “April showers bring May flowers” and little ones being baptized, parents bringing their children to church, and young people getting engaged in their faith all point to a fruitful future for the church’s ministry in this place.

As I preached last Sunday, baptism is not just a ceremony that happens once, often when we are tiny, and then it’s done. Baptism is also a sending, a commissioning, and an empowering with God’s Spirit for us to join in Jesus’ mission of love in the world.

All the baptisms this month give us hope because there are more disciples being formed, and more people of God being commissioned and sent to share God’s love in the world. These baptisms can also be an opportunity for us to remember our own baptisms, to remember that we are also beloved children of God who have been showered with blessing, equipped by the Holy Spirit, and sent to engage in Jesus’ mission of love in the world.



*Armaan, Nauman, and Rev. Amanda
with Samuel*



*Shazia, Mehwish, Shalom, Suleman, and
Rev. Amanda with Sharon*

I wonder what flowers will spring up this month in our city. I expect that there will be physical flowers coming up that will grow and brighten our neighbourhoods. I pray that there will also be spiritual flowers that will grow through the love, witness, and care of each of you, God's baptized children, living, loving, and serving in the world. I'll be watching for the flowers. I think it's going to be spectacular!

Rev. Amanda Currie

MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who made a donation to the Easter In Memoriam project. You raised \$4955 for our Refugee Fund!

Camp Sunday will be held on May 28 with our annual Camp Christopher fundraiser taking place on May 28 and June 4. This year the Camp will use congregations' donations to give a T-shirt to each camper.

Mary Jesse
Mission & Outreach Convener

SASKATCHEWAN PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH (SPY)

Thanks to the Session of First Church for allowing the Saskatchewan Presbyterian Youth to gather at First Church on the weekend of April 28-30. This was the first in person SPY gathering since before the Covid-19 Pandemic, and it was a success! In addition to the nine youth from First Church who participated, five others joined us from Dundurn, Saskatoon, Rosthern, and Prince Albert.

Our theme was "When Did We See You?" based on Matthew 25:31-46, and was presented by the Rev. Devon Pattemore, Synod Youth Coordinator for Saskatchewan. Nicole Lindgren, Camp Christopher Director also assisted with leadership, and brought youth to the event in the Camp van. We worshipped together, explored the theme with various activities, shared food, played games, and went bowling at the Golden Mile.



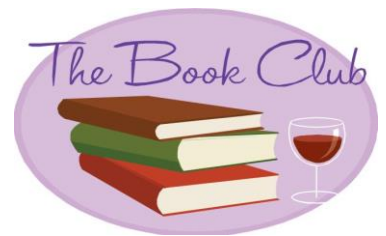
Dramatic Gospel reading – SPY weekend

Special thanks to Jim Doolittle, Sheila & Bob Wilson, and the Yakemchuk Family for billeting youth who were visiting us from out of town. Your willingness to open your homes and provide hospitality and welcome is deeply appreciated. Thanks also to the parents of First Church youth who supported the event by driving young people to and fro all weekend, thereby allowing them to participate.

Finally, thanks to the youth of First Church and beyond who participated in our Sunday worship on April 30th by leading prayers and presenting a dramatic version of the Gospel reading.

BOOK CLUB

Read with us! The First Church Book Club Since the summer of 2018, a group of First Church women has been gathering almost every month to discuss a book. (No, the Book Club isn't just for women, but we have yet to



welcome our first male participant.) For a couple of years, we met at the homes of various members and besides the discussion about the book, we enjoyed food, wine, and growing friendships. Once the Pandemic started, we switched to meeting by Zoom video conference, but the reading and the conversations continued.

The book choices each month come from the members, with various people making suggestions and taking turns in leading the discussions. We read lots of fiction and occasional non-fiction. Sometimes we read light-hearted novels and often we read challenging stories that get us thinking about life,

relationships, human nature, God, and much more. We rarely agree about whether we liked a particular book, but we almost always have good discussions, and there's always another opportunity to read another book if we didn't enjoy the last one.

In recent months, I've gotten into the habit of choosing the audio book format for many of the books we are reading together. I love hearing the stories come alive in audio, especially when the author is the reader. There is also the benefit of being able to multi-task while listening.

We would welcome other interested readers and listeners to join us. We usually meet on Wednesday evenings by Zoom, though I expect we might try for some in-person gatherings during the summer when we can meet outside on someone's deck.

Our next gathering is planned for Wednesday, May 31st when we will be discussing *The Girls in Navy Blue* by Alix Rickloff. It's described as "A gripping and compelling dual-timeline novel about three women who joined the Navy during World War I to become Yeomanettes and the impact their choices have on one of their descendants." Other books on our list coming up include *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, and *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant.

Rev. Amanda Currie

CAMP CHRISTOPHER

It's that time of year again, as we prepare for summer at Camp Christopher! Staff applications, camper brochures and applications are available in the narthex. You can apply online at www.campchristopher.ca.

Work Weekend Camp Work weekend is happening May 19 - 22 and we would love your help! If you can come for a day or the whole weekend that would be great! We will have a list of items that need to get done to open camp and projects we would like to complete. All supplies will be provided. For more information call Donna at 306-535-6916.

Men's Camp: May 25 - 27 at Camp Christopher. You are invited to the inaugural Men's Camp weekend at Camp Christopher! This retreat-style

weekend is hosted by Rev. Roberto DeSandoli of St. Andrew's Saskatoon and Dylan Nippi of Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. The theme of this weekend is "*What's Your Story?*". Drawing on Philippians 1:1-12, we will explore what it means to live our stories as disciples of Jesus Christ: Where have we been? Where are we going? Where is God in it all? Come to hear and tell stories, work together, reflect in nature, and go deeper in faith. Cost is \$65. Register by emailing your name, contact information and any allergies to info@campchristopher.ca or call Donna at 306-535-6916.

Donna Wilkinson
Camp Christopher

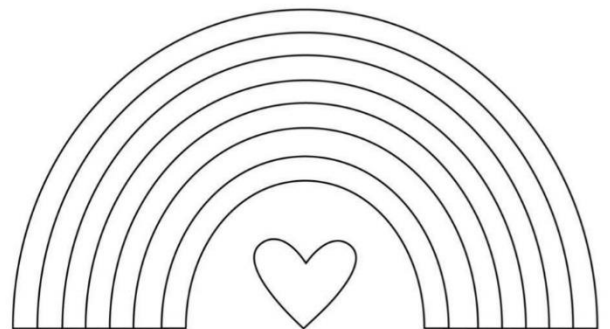
PRIDE PARADE

First Presbyterian Church has signed up to be part of the Pride parade June 10th at 12 noon. There are a variety of ways you can be involved. Please contact Donna Wilkinson at donnaw@sasktel.net or (306-535-6916) if you would like to participate.

1. Walk in the parade (more details to follow).
2. Provide hospitality at the church, serve cookies, water and lemonade, directions to bathroom, hold signs in front of church.
3. Colour rainbows to decorate the church or to put in your window at home.

Pick up a colouring sheet in the narthex today! Have fun colouring at home, and bring it back to decorate our church windows on Albert Street.

GOD'S LOVE
INCLUDES EVERYONE



May Calendar

**May 7 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday of Easter**
(In Person & Online)
11:45 am Lunch & Annual
Congregational Meeting (Gym & by Zoom)

May 9 11:30 am "Forever in Motion"
exercises
12:00 pm The Lunch Bunch (Gym)
7:00 pm Pilgrimage Book Study
(Zoom)

May 10 1:00 pm Bible study (Zoom)

May 11 7:00 pm Choir

May 12 2:00 pm Pilgrimage Book Study
(Hybrid)

May 13 10:00 am Worship Committee
(Morris Room)

**May 14 10:30 am Worship
Sixth Sunday of Easter**
(In Person & Online)
Donna Wilkinson preaching
(Amanda will be at St. Andrew's in
Swift Current)
11:45 am Coffee Hour (gym)

May 16 11:30 am "Forever in Motion"
exercises
12:00 pm The Lunch Bunch (Gym)
7:00 pm Pilgrimage Book Study
(Zoom)

May 17 1:00 pm Bible study (Zoom)
7:00 pm Board of Managers (Zoom)

May 18 7:00 pm Choir

May 19 2:00 pm Pilgrimage Book Study
(Hybrid)

May 21 10:30 am Worship
(In Person & Online)
Jo Szostak preaching
Special Focus: Grow Hope
Saskatchewan
11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

May 25 7:00 pm Choir

**May 28 10:30 am Worship
Pentecost Sunday/ Camp Sunday**
(In Person & Online)
Donna Wilkinson preaching
11:45 am Coffee Hour (gym)

May 31 7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Jun. 1 7:00 pm Choir

**Jun. 4 10:30 am Worship with Holy
Communion
Trinity Sunday/ Inclusion Sunday**
(In Person & Online)
11:45 am Coffee Hour (gym)

Jun. 7 7:00 pm Session Meeting (Hybrid)

Jun. 8 7:00 pm Choir

Jun. 9 7:00 pm Youth Group:
Cookie-making (Kitchen)

Jun. 10 Regina Pride Parade

Jun. 11 10:30 am Worship
(In Person & Online)
11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

Jun. 12 9:30 am Pastoral Care Committee

Jun. 17 10:00 am Presbytery in Whitewood
2:00 pm Funeral for Marion Baller
At Trinity Presbyterian Church, Grenfell

Jun. 18 10:30 am Worship
(In Person & Online)
11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

Jun. 21 7:00 pm Board of Managers (Zoom)

Jun. 25 10:30 am Worship
(In Person & Online)
11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

Jun. 28 7:00 pm Book Club