

**FIRST THINGS FIRST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA
SEPTEMBER 2021**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Do you remember writing reflections for back-to-school in September with titles something like that? I certainly do. And even if I have great memories of summers at camps with my friends and on holidays with my family, I always enjoyed getting back to school again and sharing about all my adventures with my teachers and friends.

I hope that you had a good summer of 2021, despite the limitations imposed by the ongoing pandemic and the many difficult things taking place in the world including forest fires, earthquakes, and hurricanes, political strife in many parts of the world, a challenging season for farmers in Saskatchewan, and the discovery of unmarked graves and neglected cemeteries on the sites of former Residential Schools across Canada.

I was fortunate to be able to take most of my holidays during the summer (one week in July and three weeks in August) and although there were a few interruptions, I had a pretty good break. It was an enjoyable time, including a long 5-day walk in South-East SK with the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society, some quiet time at home, and a four-day visit home to Ottawa. While we were back in Ottawa, Nick and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. The day included a visit to my home church where we got married, lunch with the current minister at St. Giles, a visit to the digital Van Gogh exhibit, and a nice dinner with most of my family.

During the summer, I also participated in several conversations, email strings, and meetings regarding former residential school cemeteries in Saskatchewan.

In my new role as Clerk of the Synod of Saskatchewan, I began to make arrangements for the educational component at the Annual

Synod Meeting (Oct. 15-16, 2021) to be on this topic. Allyson Carr (PCC Justice Ministries) will be making a presentation about the PCC's responsibility and involvement in healing and reconciliation work, and Sarah Longman (President of the Regina Indian Industrial School (RIIS) Commemorative Association) will be presenting about the ongoing work at the RIIS cemetery here in Regina. I hope you'll consider attending this online event. Details are included later in this newsletter.

In addition to this, I recruited and equipped Presbyterian representatives to attend a feast at the Okanese First Nation in honour of the children who attended and never came home from File Hills Residential School. Thanks to Rev. Roberto deSandoli and several members of St. Andrew's in Saskatoon who represented us on August 20th.

I also accepted an invitation to attend a meeting at Key First Nation with three First Nations in that area regarding several former residential schools, which took place on August 23rd. The PCC operated Crowstand Residential School on the Cote First Nation from 1885 – 1915. I was able to connect with an elder who is leading work on searching the grounds of the former school, and to connect him with PCC Justice Ministries and possible financial support for this work. I expect that the relationship will continue, and there may be opportunities for Presbyterians to participate in this important and difficult work in the coming months.

Finally, during my long walk in South-East Saskatchewan during my holidays, I had the opportunity to stay overnight at Camp McKay, the former site of the Round Lake Residential School which was operated by the PCC from 1885-1925, and then by the United Church of Canada until it closed around 1950. Camp McKay was operated as a summer camp for several decades, and then around 1990 it was

sold to the Ochapowace First Nation. That community continues to operate the site as a camp for their community and local families. I was able to meet an elder, HeadWoman Shelley Bear, and speak to her about the work they have recently begun in searching the property for any unmarked graves.

Finally, I was invited by the Life & Mission Agency Nominating Committee to serve on a small discernment committee to review requests for funds for cemetery commemoration and related work. The first meeting happened earlier this week, and we granted \$40,000 to support the Ground-Penetrating Radar equipment to search the grounds at Round Lake.

As September has arrived, my schedule is filling up with meetings, visits, and church programs getting going once again. It was an absolute joy to welcome a little larger congregation at the church last Sunday Sept. 5th for our celebration of Holy Communion, and I hope to see many more of you again soon (whether online or in person). When I do see you again, I hope you'll share with me about how you spent your summer vacation!

Rev. Amanda Currie

WELCOME BACK TO FIRST CHURCH

Although the fourth wave of the Covid-19 Pandemic has hit Saskatchewan pretty hard, we are carefully open for worship on Sundays at First Church, and other activities will be starting up soon when it is safe to do so.

Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

In-person in the church (masks are required)

Online on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOQAYRsq-jY5M9O4w2HPFbg>

Sunday Coffee Hour at 1:00 pm

Join us by Zoom for a chat:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8084662666>

Meeting ID: 808 466 2666

(We hope that Coffee Hour in the gym will resume soon!)

First Church Choir (Thursday evenings & Sundays)

New members are always welcome in the choir.

Bi-weekly rehearsals resume on

Thursday, Sept. 16th 7-8 pm.

Be in touch with Will Ireton if you would like to join.

Sunday School will resume Sept. 12th

Kids and parents, we'll be in touch with you this week about whether to stay on Zoom for the moment or return to in-person.

Mid-Week Bible Study

Rev. Amanda Currie invites you to join in weekly Bible studies on the lectionary readings.

These will be held by Zoom starting

Wednesday, Sept. 15 at noon.

Join us by Zoom for a chat:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8084662666>

Meeting ID: 808 466 2666.

Be in touch with Amanda if you would like to participate.

Freedom 55ers (Tuesdays @ Noon)

This group for seniors hopes to start meeting again in October. Watch for announcements, and plan to join for lunch, fellowship, and learning.

Pastoral Visits

Rev. Amanda Currie is happy to join you for a pastoral visit at your home, at the church, in a coffee shop, on a walk, by phone or Zoom.

Contact Amanda at 306-580-8095 or revfpc@sasktel.net

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you, Bill! On behalf of the entire First Church music family, I would like to sincerely thank Bill Sgrazzutti for his dedicated service to our church community. Under Bill's direction, the Ministry of Music at First Church has thrived, becoming one of the notable church music programs in the city, known both for its variety and for its quality.

In addition to sharing his own musical gifts during worship, Bill has been committed to showcasing and fostering talent from within our church family and beyond. Bill's genuine nature, his ability to encourage, and his sense of humour

have made being a part of the music program a delight.

Though Bill will no longer be directing music at the church, he will continue to join us in worship, and is welcome to share his musical gifts with us again anytime!

Will Ireton,
Music Director

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

“The Fairest Time of All may be
September’s Golden Days
Press on, though Summer Waneth
And falter not for fear,
For God can make the Autumn
The Glory of the Year”

~ Frances Ridley Havergal

Members of the Worship Committee met on Saturday, September 4th for our first in-person meeting in the Morris Room. We welcomed Will Ireton in his new role as Director of Music. The Committee thanks Bill Sgrazzutti for his many years of dedication and service as Music Director. We are very grateful for his constant and generous contributions.

We celebrated Holy Communion on Sunday, September 5th and were delighted to see members and visitors returning for Sunday services.

Choir will be starting up again and will be leading in congregational hymns on Sunday, September 12th. Special music will continue to be provided by soloists, small groups and the full choir as well during September and going forward.

Thank you to our Welcome Team comprised of Ron Pugsley, Heather Mazurak, Murray Kyle and Alfred Ferozdin. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to Nick Jesson for continuing to stream our in-person services on YouTube.

Lectors are needed to read the Prayer of Illumination, Psalms and Lessons during the months of November and December. Thank you to those who have already made a commitment. Please contact Marianne at marianne@osac.ca.

The Worship committee wishes each of you God’s Blessings. Stay safe and healthy!

Marianne Woods
Worship Committee Convener

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Free Faith Formation Webinar Series

I'm writing to let you know about a *free webinar series* that The Presbyterian Church in Canada is hosting this fall. It is a four-part series on **Faith Formation in a Post-Pandemic World**. The first webinar in the series is happening next week.

Here are the details:

- Designing Hybrid Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World, **September 14** | 1 p.m. (Eastern)
- Formation for Christian Living in a New World, **October 12** | 1 p.m. (Eastern)
- Designing Children and Family Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World, **November 9** | 1 p.m. (Eastern)
- Designing Adult Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World, **December 14** | 1 p.m. (Eastern)

Register for one or all the webinars here: <https://presbyterian.ca/2021/08/26/faith-formation-webinar-series/>

Bette Kelly
Christian Education Convener

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

First Church has three scholarship funds for post-secondary studies and makes awards to students each year. Application deadline is September 30. The criteria and award amounts vary. Applications are available on the church website at www.firstpresregina.ca (click "Who We Serve" and then "Scholarships"), and on the table in the narthex. For further information contact Jim Doolittle. Please submit all applications to the church office at 2170 Albert Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2T9 or by e-mail to firstpresregina@sasktel.net. Applicants must have completed their first year of post secondary education.

Jim Doolittle
Scholarship Committee Convener

zooming with ... SPY

Saskatchewan Presbyterian Youth

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**Friday September 24th, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. -
Saturday September 25, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Interact

*
Icebreakers & digital games with Nicole Lindergren
from Camp Christopher

* Welcome with Martha Fergusson former SYC

* Introduction & Celebration of our new

Synod Youth Coordinator - **Rev Devon Pattemore**

Updates & Special Guest

* Canada Youth ??? - new SPY weekends

* New Ideas for youth ? - LITs at Camp Christopher

Guest interview with PCC CE Leader *Emily Hill*

Reflecton and Learning

with Rev Devon Pattemore & Rev Roberto DeSandoli



ZOOM & CONNECT

TO REGISTER CONTACT

MARTHA_22@LIVE.COM OR TEXT 306- 270 2378



Zoom Link for meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86822433259>
Meeting ID 86822433259

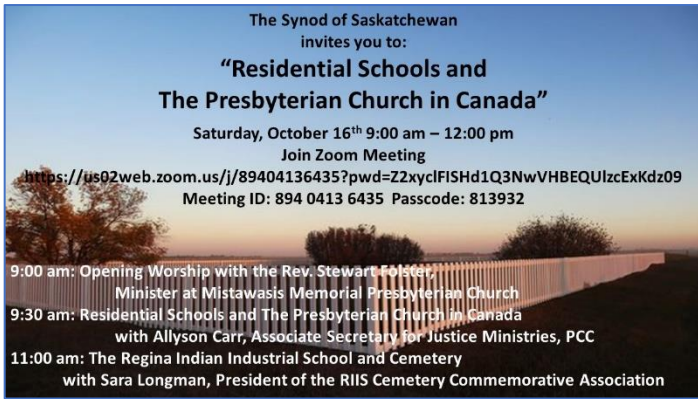


Break out rooms by age- time to
see & chat with your friends
outside of the main event.

Share ideas and feedback on new
events and idesa



SYNOD OF SASKATCHEWAN



The Synod of Saskatchewan will be meeting by Zoom video conference on Friday, October 15th and Saturday, October 16th, 2021. Ministers and representative elders from all the Presbyterian churches in Saskatchewan will be meeting to oversee the work of the Synod, including regional ministries in youth work, mission, and congregational development, as well as Camp Christopher.

You are invited to join us for Public Worship on Friday, October 15th at 7:00 pm. The outgoing Clerk of Synod, the Rev. Bob Wilson, will be preaching. There will be a time of online fellowship and fun following the worship service. You are also encouraged to attend the Educational Component: "Residential Schools and The Presbyterian Church in Canada" on Saturday, October 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

- 9:00 am: Opening Worship with the Rev. Stewart Folster, Minister at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church
- 9:30 am: Residential Schools and The Presbyterian Church in Canada with Allyson Carr, Associate Secretary for Justice Ministries, PCC
- 11:00 am: The Regina Indian Industrial School and Cemetery with Sara Longman, President of the RIIS Cemetery Commemorative Association

The meeting, worship, and educational component will all take place at the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89404136435?pwd=Z2xyciFISHd1Q3NwVHBEQUlzcExKdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 0413 6435 Passcode: 813932
For more information, contact the Clerk of Synod, the Rev. Amanda Currie:
amanda@curriejesson.ca or 306-580-8095.

HOW CAN CHURCHES EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE THE NEW NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION?

St. Andrew's Hall Centre for Missional Leadership (Vancouver) is offering a Zoom call for Pastoral Leaders on Sept. 15 at 12 noon (Saskatchewan time). Join in a conversation with Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred.

<p>CML PASTORAL LEADER ZOOM CALL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 11 AM PT/2 PM ET</p>	
<p>Join us for a conversation with Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred on how churches can effectively engage the new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.</p>	
<p>To register and receive the link please email Mavis Ho at cml@standrews.edu</p>	

Ray Aldred was ordained with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. He is status Cree from Swan River Band, Treaty 8. Born in Northern Alberta, he now resides with his wife in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada. Ray is the director of the Indigenous Studies Program at the Vancouver School of Theology whose mission is to partner with the Indigenous Church around theological education. Formerly Ray served as the Assistant Professor of Theology at Ambrose Seminary in Calgary, Alberta and is former Director for the First Nations Alliance Churches of Canada. He is well known in Saskatchewan as the former pastor of First Nations Alliance Church in Regina.

To register, email Mavis Ho at cml@standrews.edu

Listening to the Land: A conversation on the stewardship of creation



During the Season of Creation, you are invited to participate in a webinar panel presentation on Thursday, September 16 at 3pm entitled "Listening to the Land: A conversation on the stewardship of creation." Our three panelists will reflect on what listening to the land means from their perspective, tradition, and experience; what they hear the land saying and how we might respond.

- **Bishop Chris Harper** is from Onion Lake Cree Nation and served in ministry in the Anglican dioceses of Saskatchewan, Algoma, and Toronto before being elected bishop of Saskatoon in 2018
- **Elder May Desnomie**, Regina Catholic School Board, was born and raised on Wapaskokimaw in northern Saskatchewan, also known as Sandy Bay First Nation
- **Reverend Mitchell Anderson**, minister at St. Paul's United Church in Saskatoon, is dēnesuliné and a member of the English River Dene Nation

Registration required. Free registration at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcu-uopjosGtQNGqLMEtMf77EeV7MZFc6F>

For further information, contact Cheryl Toth, stewardship@sasktel.net

The Season of Creation is observed in many Christian churches from September 1 to October 4 each year. Since 1989, September 1 has been a Day of Prayer for Creation. October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who is for many a patron saint of environmental concern and activism. More information on the Season of Creation and prayer resources are available at seasonofcreation.org.

KAIROS Election 2021 Resource

Federal Election 2021 comes at a kairos time, with multiple crises converging and opportunities emerging for transformational change.

To help you prepare for all-candidates meetings and/or doorstep conversations with prospective Members of Parliament, KAIROS has prepared an election resource with suggested questions for candidates and updates on ecological justice, gender justice, Indigenous rights, and migrant justice issues: https://www.kairoscanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/KAIROS_2021_Federal_ElectionResource_FINAL.pdf

Election day is Monday, September 20.

RELIGIONS AND THE PANDEMIC: Sobering or Hopeful?

LUTHER COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

Virtual
LUTHER LECTURE
September 27 2021
7:00 p.m.

Religions and the Pandemic:
SOBERING or HOPEFUL?

DR. AZZA KARAM
Secretary General of Religions for Peace

For more information and/or to register, please visit
www.luthercollege.edu/luther-lecture.

Presented with financial assistance from the James Kurtz Memorial Trust Fund,
and our sponsors FaithLife Financial and Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

Virtual Luther Lecture - September 27, 2021 at 7pm with Dr. Azza Karam, secretary general of Religions for Peace

Religions for Peace works to transform violent conflict, advance human development, promote just and harmonious societies, and protect the earth.

For more information and to register, visit www.luthercollege.edu/luther-lecture
If you have any questions, please contact Justine Esplen at justine.esplen@uregina.ca

PCCConnect MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Every Child Matters: Video Reflection for Orange Shirt Day Every year - on September 30 - we are called to help build awareness of the inter-generational impacts of Residential Schools through the simple, yet meaningful, act of wearing an orange shirt. For this coming Orange Shirt Day, Vivian Ketchum has shared a video reflection about why she wears an orange shirt, and why it is important for members of the church to mark September 30. You're invited to share this reflection with and in your church community.

Vivian Ketchum originates from the Wauzhushk Onigum Nation of Northern Ontario, and is a member of Place of Hope Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Watch Now: presbyterian.ca/2021/09/08/video-message-for-orange-shirt-day

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has prepared a video that provides a brief overview of the PCC's role in colonization and Residential Schools, along with the ways in which racism and colonial attitudes shaped the church's mission, with devastating consequences. Reflection/discussion questions and links to related resources have also been provided to help people make use of this educational tool within their congregations.

Watch Now: presbyterian.ca/2021/07/20/video-residential-schools-pcc

You can stay up to date on the church's ongoing work toward healing and reconciliation on the Indigenous Justice page of the Social Action Hub: presbyterian.ca/social-action/indigenous-justice

Submit Women's Inspirational Stories of Faith

At the next National Presbyterian Women's Gathering in May 2022 (presbyterian.ca/national-womens-gathering-2022), the WISH Committee of the Women's Missionary Society will be honouring women's inspirational stories of faith. Groups are invited to nominate women from within their church families by sharing their inspirational stories of faith.

The submission deadline is **January 15, 2022**.
Submit Now: presbyterian.ca/2021/08/24/wish-nomination-form

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. 12	10:30 am	Worship with <i>Blessing of the Back Packs</i> & Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sept. 14	7:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering (Zoom)
Sept. 15	12:00 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Sept. 16	7:00 pm	Choir
Sept. 18	10:00 am	Presbytery
Sept. 19	10:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sept. 20		Federal Election (Remember to Vote!)
Sept. 22	12:00 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Sept. 22	7:00 pm	Board of Managers
Sept. 25	10:00 am	Worship Committee
Sept. 26	10:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sept. 29	12:00 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Sept. 29	7:00 pm	Book Club (Zoom)
Sept. 30	7:00 pm	Choir
Oct. 1-8		Rev. Amanda Currie is on holidays.
Oct. 2	10:30 am	Worship & Sunday School
		(No Zoom Coffee Hour today)
Oct. 10	10:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		Thanksgiving Sunday & Sunday School
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Oct. 13		Bible Study (Zoom)
Oct. 13	7:00 pm	Session
Oct. 14	7:00 pm	Choir
Oct. 15-16		Synod of Saskatchewan