

**FIRST THINGS FIRST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA
September 2024**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

It's September and the beginning of another active season in the life of the church! All our regular programs and groups are starting up again this month, and there are special events happening as well. It's an important time to pay attention to the announcements, read the newsletter, and plan to get involved in the ministry and mission that we share at First Church!

First and foremost, I hope you won't miss the chance to get your photo taken this weekend for our new church directory. Photo sessions are only 15 minutes, and there is no cost to you unless you want to purchase photos. If you're reading this newsletter on Friday evening or Saturday after the church office is closed, contact Sheila Wilson (306-536-6742) to book a last-minute time slot. And come to worship this Sunday, Sept. 15th so you can be in the congregational group photo we will have taken right after the service.

I was recently reminded, however, that the church is not all about programs and events. Sometimes the announcements make it seem like programs are our top priority. But in fact, programs and special events are just a medium for bringing us together to be the church community that we are called to be.

I often talk about our congregation as a family – the First Church Family – because our community really does feel like a family to me. When I recently celebrated a milestone birthday, I felt surrounded by your love as you celebrated with me. When one family in our congregation experienced a tragic loss recently, others rallied around them to offer support and care. We don't always do this perfectly and sometimes we miss an opportunity to care for one another through the ups and downs of our lives, but this is the kind of community that we are striving to be.

Over the next several weeks, our Sunday services will include readings from the Letter of

James to the early Christian Churches. James' letter includes lots of really practical advice for those earliest church families on how to live out their faith and enact God's love in the world.

James is very clear that being a Christian is not just about believing certain things or being assured that we are saved by God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. Being a Christian means living a transformed life, and the Christian community or the family of the church is the best place to learn and practice that way of living that we first saw demonstrated in the life of Jesus.

Consider these lovely words from James 5:13-16. In the midst of whatever programs and events we share this Fall together, I trust we'll also be learning to be there for each other like this:

“Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”

We are blessed to have you in our church family, whether you are at the programs and events, worshipping on Sundays in the sanctuary, or joining us online. Please never hesitate to share your joys and struggles with your church family so that we can pray for you, share your burdens, and grow in faith and love together.

Rev. Amanda Currie

SESSION

Welcome to Sumi Jung who began work as our Youth Leader on Sept 1. We look forward to working with Sumi throughout the year!

Canadian Trivia Night - Be sure to attend this fun event on Sunday, Sept. 22 from 5 to 7:30 pm. Supper will be provided, and the program will include a collaborative team trivia game. There is a freewill offering, with proceeds to our refugee sponsorship fund. You don't want to miss it!

Mission discussion - We have established a Directions Task Force to explore options for our congregation in our church building. The building we need and use should reflect our mission focus as a congregation. We will be having a discussion time after worship on Sunday, November 3 to explore our congregational mission. Lunch will be provided. Please mark your calendar!

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

October offers two opportunities to help our neighbours.

Saturday October 5: It's our turn to host the weekly Saturday Lunch Program, held at First Baptist Church. We need 14 volunteers to handle all the tasks: 6 to make sandwiches in our church kitchen, and 8 to set up, fill lunch bags and serve guests at First Baptist. If you've joined in before, you know it is a rewarding, enjoyable time. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Mary at maryciesse@gmail.com.

The Saturday Lunch Program also shares a table of toiletries and hygiene items with our guests. You can help by bringing a few of the following items for the blue bin in the Narthex. We will take them along on October 5.

- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- alcohol-free mouthwash
- tums/rolaids
- bar soap
- shampoo
- deodorant
- feminine hygiene products
- 1/4 cup portions powdered laundry detergent in Ziploc bags.
- reusable shopping bags
- No clothing please, except for new socks, mitts, toques, scarves, men's gloves

Sunday, Oct 20: It's our turn to supply 20 loaves of sandwiches for Waterston House, a local Salvation Army shelter. City churches take turns providing this simple meal every Sunday morning. If you can bring one or two loaves of sandwiches to the church that morning, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Mary at maryciesse@gmail.com.

Mary Jesse
Mission & Outreach Convener

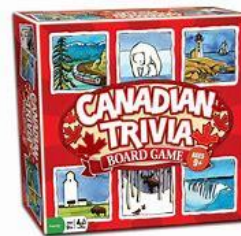
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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 Andrew Donovan. 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.

Andrew Donovan
Scholarship Committee Convener

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**Canadian Trivia Night FUNdraiser –
Sunday, September 22 at 5 pm**



You're invited to celebrate this country we're proud to call home at a FUN First Church event! The Stewardship Committee is organizing a Canadian Trivia Night FUNdraiser, featuring:

- a simple Canadian supper
- a singalong of classic Canadian folk songs; and
- a Canadian Trivia Game everyone will enjoy! Here's a question to get you thinking about Canadian facts and figures: **What is the only Canadian province without a natural border?**

Trivia Night admission is by donation. There is no set price. We are raising needed funds to complete our commitment to our second refugee family. Consider donating an amount you would normally spend on dinner out and an evening's entertainment. Join us September 22 prepared to enjoy fun, food and fellowship. You're sure to learn something new about Canada!

GABE'S FAREWELL

On Sunday, August 18, 2024, we said farewell to our long-time Music Scholar and Accompanist, Gabe Omolida. Gabe is off to Edmonton to begin his Masters Degree in Music at the University of Alberta. We'll see him again when he's home to visit, but we'll miss having him leading us from the piano for the next while. We'll be praying for you, Gabe!



*Gabe Omolida, Rev. Amanda Currie, Will Ireton
on August 18, 2024*

FUNDSCRIP

We will place a large monthly order on the first Sunday of each month. Our next order Sunday will be Oct. 6. You can also purchase grocery and gas cards at the FundScrip table in the gym any Sunday after the service. The church makes money on every purchase, and it costs you nothing extra. Consider buying gift cards for your regular grocery trips! It adds up quickly for the church.

GROW HOPE SASKATCHEWAN

In her sermon last week, Amanda talked about helping others. Over 800 million people in the world go to bed hungry. You can't help them all, but you can make a difference for a few families. Farmers have been growing crops for Grow Hope on 410 donated acres. Your donations pay for the seed and fertilizer to make those crops possible. The harvest is looking great this year! Proceeds from the crops go to the Canadian Foodgrains bank to support hunger projects of Presbyterian World Service and Development. Crisis projects are matched 5:1 by Global Affairs Canada. So even a small donation makes a big difference. To donate, you can send an e-transfer to synodsaskgrowhope@gmail.com or send a cheque to Grow Hope Saskatchewan, 1-2338 Assiniboine Ave E., Regina, SK S4V 2E9.

REGINA INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

**REGINA INDIAN INDUSTRIAL
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL
MEMORIAL FEAST**

September 30th, 2024
Pipe at 9:00 a.m.
Feast to Follow
Pinkie Road Cemetery

**Thank you to our friends at
SaskEnergy**

*Cultural protocols are in place, we ask that you attend with
this in mind.*

UPLIFT 2024

A wonderful group from First Church was able to attend the UPLIFT Youth Conference organized by The Presbyterian Church in Canada together with The United Church of Canada in the first week of July 2024. Our group included 6 youth, 3 young adults, 2 adult guides, and 1 conference staff.

Thanks to First Church and the Synod of Saskatchewan for helping to fund their participation! It was a great opportunity to connect with younger Presbyterians from across Canada, and share in worship, learning, play, and social justice.

Members of our group will have an opportunity to share about their experience at UPLIFT at a worship service this Fall. We'll let you know which Sunday that is happening so you don't miss it!



On the bus from the Toronto Airport



Worship in the Congregation at UPLIFT



First Church Crew at Brock University



Saskatchewan Crew at Niagara Falls



Donna Wilkinson on staff at UPLIFT

COMPASSION CAMP VBS

We had a wonderful week this summer at our Compassion Camp Vacation Bible School program! Thanks to the Rev. Devon Pattemore, Alicia Monson, and Sumi Jung for leading the program, with assistance from Taeyang No and Rev. Amanda Currie. The children had fun learning, playing, singing, crafting, and eating together. Our theme was "Every Living Thing Needs" and we're sharing some of the great songs we learned in our worship at First Church this fall.



Snack time at Compassion Camp



Compassion Camp Group Photo



Games with Sumi Jung!



Parachute Games!

UPCOMING WEBINAR:
The PCC, Colonization and Residential Schools

September 30th marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day): a day created to honour residential school Survivors as well as those children who never made it home. In preparation for marking this day, come and learn about the church's role in colonization and residential schools, the ongoing effects the schools have caused, and ways in which the PCC is engaging in reconciliation today.

A webinar titled The PCC, Colonization and Residential Schools will take place on Thursday September 26th at 1pm Eastern as part of the church's continued response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action # 59, which calls on churches to educate their members about the role churches played in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools and why apologies to former residential school students, their families and communities are necessary.

The webinar will take a look at some of the PCC's history, setting it in the context of broader history and the Doctrine of Discovery, and will also look at the effects of trauma and intergenerational trauma the schools caused. It concludes with information about some of the things the PCC is doing today in its ongoing work toward truth, healing, and reconciliation in order to better equip people within the PCC to engage in reconciliation.

Date: Thursday Sep 26, 2024, 11am-12:30 (SK time)

Register here:

<https://presbyterian.ca/justice/webinar-the-pcc-colonization-and-residential-schools/>

SASKATCHEWAN PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH

01 **When?**
October 25-27
*beginning at
7pm on Friday

Come Join Us!
Join us for a weekend of friends, fun, games and an exploration of the Beatitudes of Jesus.

The Beatitudes
2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5: 2-3

02 **Where?**
First Presbyterian Church,
2170 Albert St.
Regina

03 **Who?**
Youth
aged 14+

Registration
Registration Fee: \$50 per youth
Billets will be provided for out of town youth.
For registration forms, use the QR code to access the SPY web page or ask your local youth leader!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Devon at
sasksynodyouth@gmail.com

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.

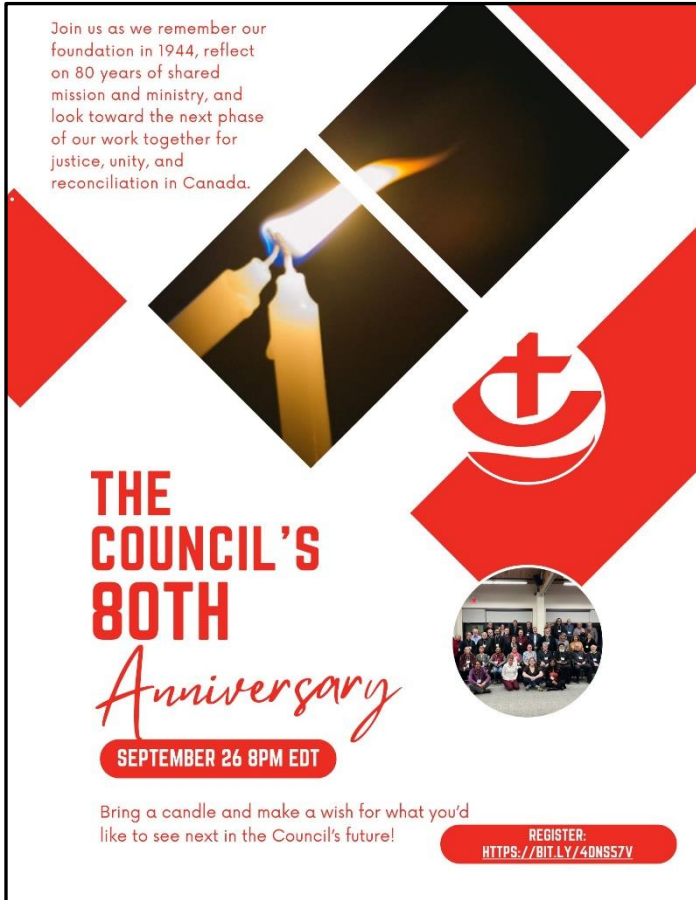
- How to:
1. take donations to SARCAN
 2. enter through the "drop 'n go" door if there is one, or just go inside
 3. enter code FC1925 into computer and follow instructions - the printer will print out labels
 4. attach labels to bag of bottles/cans
 5. put donation in bin marked "drop 'n go" - done!

Please talk with Bette Kelly or Tammy MacDonald if you have any questions. If you would like to make arrangements for a pickup, please contact the church office.

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Celebrates its 80th anniversary this year

Join us as we remember our foundation in 1944, reflect on 80 years of shared mission and ministry, and look toward the next phase of our work together for justice, unity, and reconciliation in Canada.



**THE COUNCIL'S
80TH
Anniversary**

SEPTEMBER 26 8PM EDT

Bring a candle and make a wish for what you'd like to see next in the Council's future!

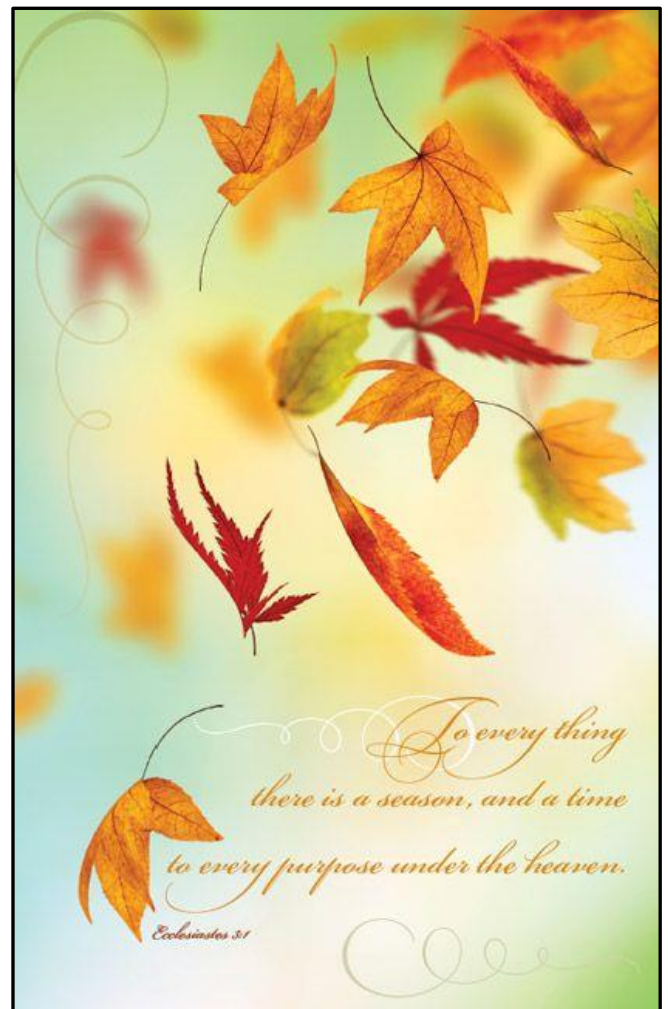
REGISTER:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/4QNS57V](https://bit.ly/4QNS57V)

The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) invite you to join them online on September 26, 8:00 pm EDT, to celebrate their 80th birthday. The 60-minute virtual evening event in English and French will include the launch of the CCC's anniversary fundraising campaign launch, provide an opportunity to remember the organization's foundation in 1944 and reflect on 80 years of shared mission and ministry. The event will also give time to look toward the next phase of the CCC's work together for justice, unity, and reconciliation in Canada.

Bring a candle and make a wish for what you'd like to see next in the Council's future!
Date & Time: Sept. 26, 2024, at 6 pm (SK time)
Register for the event at

<https://councilofchurches.ca/campaign-launch/>

The Canadian Council of Churches is pleased to announce that The Rev. Amanda Currie (Presbyterian Church in Canada) has been elected and installed by the Governing Board as President of The Canadian Council of Churches for a 3-year term running to 2027. On Friday, July 12, we interviewed the President about her new role. Read the full interview on our website! <https://councilofchurches.ca/news/an-interview-with-the-rev-amanda-currie-president-of-the-canadian-council-of-churches/>.



September Calendar

Sept 13-15 Photo Sessions for new Directory

Sept 14 11:00 am Directions Task Force (Zoom)

Sept 15 10:30 am 17th Sunday after Pentecost
(Sanctuary & Online)
Sunday School

11:45 am Congregational Group Photo

12:00 pm Coffee Hour (Gym)

Sept 17 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion Exercises

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch (Gym)

7:00 pm Board of Managers (Zoom)

Sept 19 7:30 pm Choir

Sept 20 3:00 pm Anniversary Committee

Sept 21 10:00 am Presbytery @ NKP Church

Sept 22 10:30 am 18th Sunday after Pentecost
(Sanctuary & Online)
Sunday School

11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

5:00 pm Canadian Trivia Night Fundraiser (Gym)

Sept 24 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion Exercises

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch (Gym)

Sept 25 7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Sept 26 7:30 pm Choir

Sept 29 10:30 am Presbyterians Sharing Sunday
(Sanctuary & Online)
Sunday School

11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

Oct 1 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion Exercises

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch (Gym)

Oct 3 7:30 pm Choir

Oct 5 Saturday Lunch Program @ First Baptist

Oct 6 10:30 am 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Sumi Jung Preaching (Sanctuary & Online)
Sunday School

11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

Oct 8 11:30 am Forever-In-Motion Exercises

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch (Gym)

Oct 10 7:30 pm Choir

Oct 13 10:30 am Thanksgiving Sunday

