

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

**June 2026**

**MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

The beginning of June in The Presbyterian Church in Canada means General Assembly week. Every year since 1875 (except 2020, because of the pandemic), the highest court (decision-making body) of the church has met somewhere in Canada to pray, worship, receive reports, discern recommendations, and decide together. The reports and recommendations come from the standing committees, special committees, boards, theological colleges, and other groups that belong to our denomination. Sessions and presbyteries can request action by the Assembly on various topics of general interest by sending overtures for consideration.

The General Assembly itself is made up of an equal number of elders and ministers who are commissioned by their presbyteries to attend, participate, and vote in the work of one General Assembly. After the meeting, the Assembly is dissolved by the Moderator (convener) until it is time for the Moderator to call together a new Assembly with new commissioners the following year. This year, the Presbytery of Assiniboia (our presbytery) has sent me as the Minister Commissioner, Fran Neuls from Grenfell as the Elder Commissioner, and Aina Ferozdin from our congregation will be the Young Adult Representative. Please pray for us as we participate in this work.

What's on the agenda for this year's Assembly? You can check out the agenda and read any of the reports you're interested in here: <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2026/> But let me tell you about some of the reports that I found quite interesting as I was reading and preparing for the meeting.

Both the International Affairs Committee Report and the Justice Ministries section of the Life and Mission Agency Committee

Report contain significant sections on the current situation in the United States. Justice Ministries proposes a statement on Christian Nationalism and suggests that the church strongly condemn and reject this pervasive ideology which is impacting the U.S., Canada, and other countries of the world (p. 35ff).

In addition to reporting on the ongoing challenges in Cuba, and Israel/Palestine, the International Affairs Committee Report has a section on American Imperialism (p. 7ff) and several recommendations calling on the Moderator and broader church to speak up about the injustice we are seeing. One of the recommendations (for example) is "That members of the church be encouraged to pray for the safety of all who protest injustices, and that they write letters of pastoral support to sibling denominations in the United States, expressing concern for their well-being, and assuring them of our ongoing prayers."

Towards the end of the Life and Mission Agency Report, there is a detailed response to an overture asking the church to prioritize evangelism (p. 90ff). It includes a careful theological reflection on the church's history of evangelism, including the ways we have caused harm through our efforts to convert others to Christianity. However, it affirms the prayer of the overture with the news that a new staff position has been created to support initiatives of evangelism in word and deed within the denomination, and there are several recommendations for congregations and ministers to give priority to the call to humbly share our faith with others.

Another interesting section is the report of the Church Doctrine Committee. It includes a section on MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) which may be somewhat controversial, as well as a response to an overture from St. Andrew's in Moosomin. The Moosomin

overture requests an expansion to the list of denominations from which their clergy would be permitted to lead Communion services in Presbyterian churches. St. Andrew's was looking for some flexibility to allow their usual pulpit supply preachers (often Baptists and others) to share sacraments with them. But the Church Doctrine gives a highly theological and not particularly practical or pastoral response to the request.

In addition, you may find the interim report of the Change Leadership Team interesting to read. This is the group that is working on new models for ministry and potential structural changes to the denomination to better equip congregations for ministry in a changing landscape. Finally, given the feasibility study we have had done on our building and the decisions we need to make for the future of our property and ministry, I suggest reading the report of the Special Committee re Developing a Framework for Use of Property.

The General Assembly meetings will be happening at York University in Toronto, and will begin with a Communion service at 7:00 p.m. (5 pm if you are watching from SK) at Vaughan Community Church in Thornhill, ON. A livestream of the opening worship and of the meetings themselves will be posted on the General Assembly page of the website: <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2026/>

Rev. Amanda Currie

### **SESSION**

As we prepare for a restful summer, there are several things to bring to your attention:

1) Chloe Golden has submitted her resignation as our Music Director, effective at the end of June. Chloe has really enjoyed her time with us, but needs to have weekends available to spend with her family in Swift Current, as her mother is experiencing health challenges. Chloe's last Sunday will be June 14, and we will celebrate and thank Chloe with cake following worship. Chloe has enriched our music program at First and we are sorry to see her go!

Will Ireton has agreed to take on the job of Music Director/Organist effective September 1, so we welcome Will back to this important music position!

- 2) On Sunday, June 21, immediately following worship, the 1080 Architecture team will be at First to present their final report for our Feasibility Study. See more information in the Directions Task Force piece below.
- 3) The youth are holding a hot dog sale on July 4 at the Co-op store on Rochdale. Tickets can be purchased ahead at the FundScrip table, or you can just drop by that day!
- 4) Please note that we will not be having coffee time during July and August as the coffee groups are taking a break for the summer. Thanks to everyone who so faithfully provides refreshments after worship throughout the year!
- 5) Session has approved an alternative process for the offering during July and August. Instead of passing plates through the sanctuary during the service, there will be an offering plate in the narthex where you can place your offering, either coming in or going out. There will still be a time of dedicating the offering (in the plate, by PAR, or by e-transfer) in our worship service. This will begin on Sunday, July 5. If it works well, we will be considering extending the practice into the fall.
- 6) We have become aware of a refugee family in need of some household goods. If you are downsizing, or maybe just replacing some of your kitchen items, and would like to donate to the family, please contact the church and let us know what you have.

Items needed include:

1. Winter clothing and accessories suitable for extreme temperatures - winter coats and parkas, mitts, hats and thermal clothing, boots
2. Kitchen equipment - plates, cutlery, kettle, pots and pans, kitchen utensils, basins

- 3. Bedding - blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, sheets, baby beds

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer. We look forward to gathering again in September for a busy year ahead!

Jo Szostak  
Clerk of Session

**DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE**

As promised, 1080 Architecture will present their final report on the Feasibility Study on Sunday, June 21 following worship. We will have a snack and a drink for you, then the presentation. It will be in the sanctuary so that we can livestream it to those who can't be there.

The report will be very comprehensive with a lot of information for you to digest and consider. This meeting will be informational only. We plan to have a copy of the report for you to take with you to read. No decisions will be made at this time. We will take the summer to consider and reflect on what God is calling First Church to do, then we will have a congregational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 13 to decide how to proceed.

In the meantime, we know that folks will want to talk about the report, the options, the implications for First Church, and how you are feeling about the future of our buildings. If you have questions, we ask that you send them to Shirley in the office ([firstpresregina@sasktel.net](mailto:firstpresregina@sasktel.net)) We will provide answers to the questions asked and share all of the Q and A with the congregation. We have also set up times when you can gather with others and discuss the report. These are not formal meetings but rather informal conversations that provide a listening space for you to share your thoughts and feelings.

These gatherings will be:

- \* Sunday, June 28 during coffee time, in the Kennedy room
- \* Thursday, July 2 at 7:00 pm by Zoom
- \* Sunday, July 19 following worship, in the Kennedy room

- \* Sunday, August 16 following worship, in the Kennedy room

- \* Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 7:00 pm by Zoom

Amanda will circulate the link for the Zoom meetings prior to those dates.

Please plan to be at the meeting on June 21, immediately after worship, so that you can hear from the 1080 Architecture team.

**YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES**

**Vacation Bible School** will be taking place Tuesday, August 18 – Friday, August 21 from 9 am – 12 pm.

Come enjoy fun Bible lessons, crafts, games, music, snacks, and tie-dye shirts.



**Youth Gathering:**

Sunday, **June 28**, from 12:15 – 2:30 pm.

All students in Grades 6 -12 are invited to an enjoyable and meaningful afternoon together — sharing lunch, exploring art therapy, joining in Bible conversations, and enjoying time in the gym. We'd love to have you with us!



## Messy Church:

Mark your calendars and join us for the following Messy Church from 10:30 – 12:30.

- September 26
- October 24
- November 28

These intergenerational gatherings include crafts, songs, stories, and lunch. Everyone is invited - bring your friends, families and enjoy these fun, all-ages events.



## Youth Hot-Dog Fundraiser:

Saturday, **July 4**, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm @ Co-op (Rochdale).

Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy a



hot-dog meal in support of our youth! Our Youth Hot-Dog Fundraiser will take place at the Sherwood Co-op Food Store (Rochdale

Crossing), 5875 Rochdale Blvd. All proceeds support the \$450 registration fee per person for Collective 2026, the Youth Conference happening in Ontario this August. Meal Set: \$5 - Includes a freshly grilled hot dog and a drink of your choice! Stop by the FundScrip table to purchase your tickets. Helpers and Donations Welcome.

Thank you for your support through your time, your gifts, and your prayers.

Rev. Sumi Jung  
Youth and Family Ministry

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- \* FundScrip - Sunday, June 7 is the last order Sunday for FundScrip before the summer. Use this opportunity to stock up!
- \* Singing with the Spirit concert - Thanks to all those who participated in presenting the concert. It was a beautiful concert and very well received! To date, we have about \$1100 to transfer to the Joyful Worship Fund. Thanks for your generosity!
- \* Tuesday, June 9 is our steak night fundraiser at Bushwacker BrewPub at 5:30 pm. Tickets must be turned in this weekend, but there will be a few tickets available at the door that night if you find yourself able to participate at the last minute.

## BOARD OF MANAGERS

- \* A brief financial update: As of April 30 (1/3 of the year), offering totaled \$79,984. Our budget for the entire year is \$300,000. Thank you for your continued generosity.
- \* We are in the final stages of hiring a new caretaker for First Church. A contract will be signed soon, with a start date of June 15.

## MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Saturday June 13 - Regina Pride Parade: First Church is participating along with other welcoming faith communities in the Regina Pride Parade. Our goal is simple: to proclaim publicly that God's Love Includes Everyone. There are a few ways to participate:

- 1) If you plan to walk in the parade, please arrive at the Conexus Arts Centre by 11:30 am for 12 noon start time. Participant parking is on the east side of the Centre, near the parade staging area. Look for Staging #46 when you arrive. We'll have some colourful signs and ribbons for you to carry.
- 2) Watch the parade along its new route. Download a map at [queencitypride.ca](http://queencitypride.ca)
- 3) Enjoy the Out In the Park party behind the TC Douglas building after the parade. Drop by the Welcoming Faiths booth for a glitter blessing. Please contact Donna at [donnaw@sasktel.net](mailto:donnaw@sasktel.net) or 306-535-6916 if you have questions or need more details.

Saturday Lunch Program Volunteers: First Church will host the Saturday Lunch Project at First Baptist on Saturday, July 11. We need 12-14 volunteers to handle all the tasks: 2 to buy groceries for 200 lunches, 4 or 5 to make sandwiches in our church kitchen, and 8-10 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. If you can help that day, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Mary Jesse by July 5. We also welcome your donations of toiletries and new socks (especially for men) for the lunch program. You can drop them off in the blue bin in the Narthex.

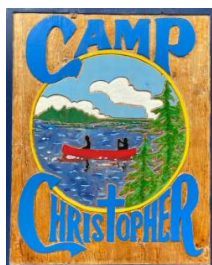
Cathedral Arts Festival May 23: First Church hosted a special Messy Church event during the Street Fair. An enthusiastic group of our children and youth welcomed passers by with chalk art and bubble makers, while inside, we offered a several activity stations that explored the theme of good neighbours. Several families enjoyed their time creating art, listening to stories, and eating snacks. A big thank you to all those who volunteered their time and energy to welcome our neighbours on Street Fair day!

Mary Jesse  
M&O Convener

### **CAMP CHRISTOPHER**

Summer is here and Camp Christopher is looking for your help.

Applications are open for staff for the summer and volunteers and campers are needed. Please look at the information provided in the narthex or email Donna at [info@campchristopher.ca](mailto:info@campchristopher.ca).



Donna Wilkinson  
Camp Christopher

### **SYNOD MISSION FOCUS**

#### **Becoming Intercultural**

“The Intercultural Office guides The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) toward becoming a more inclusive community of

belonging for all God’s people.” It works to “embrace God’s vision for the church.”

In 2024, The Presbyterian Church in Canada



renamed the Intercultural Office and appointed the Rev. Dr. Pablo Kim Sun as the Intercultural Liaison, a general secretary level position.

“In this role, he accompanies church

leaders and congregations in cultivating healthy intercultural communities—places where people engage differences with humility, curiosity, and deep appreciation, and where all can experience true belonging.”

**Pablo will be presenting a workshop at the Synod of Saskatchewan annual meeting in November, 2026.** (Nov. 5-7) It will be held at Calvin-Goforth Presbyterian Church in Saskatoon. Watch for more information!

This video is an introduction to the role of the Intercultural Office.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no9zPZS8gEM>

You can also view the video on the presbyterian.ca website:

<https://presbyterian.ca/gao/io/>

The office is beginning its work with awareness and education, growing leaders by addressing systemic barriers and strengthening support networks, then empowering leaders to drive transformation.

You can sign up to receive the newsletter of the Intercultural Office: **Discover how to Become Intercultural in Changing Churches** <https://i-o.kit.com/39f5a8e653>

One of the first initiatives of the IO was to create an online course called Becoming Intercultural: Renewing the Heart. I was fortunate to be able to join this course February to May, 2026. I was able to work through the course modules independently, and at three times, join with an online group

for discussion. Topics addressed included unconscious bias, power dynamics, and techniques for interacting with others in a way that respects their cultural context. It was a very powerful course and when it is offered again, I would encourage anyone to participate in it. Apparently, it is the first of a 3-part series, so I look forward to the development of the next course!

The Canadian Council of Churches is also very active in Intercultural education. **The Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning (FILL)** is “a Canadian Council of Churches program focusing on developing and networking with Christian leaders in intercultural engagement. Collaborating with denominational leaders, FILL created the “Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry” (DUIM) program. This 5-day interactive, practical program is designed for ministry leaders and community members who want to nurture cultural relevance, understanding, and awareness within their communities. For more information on the program, including upcoming dates, visit [DUIM](#).

FILL also offers a comprehensive list of resources, including reading materials, recommended books, webinars, and videos, to support your learning journey. Visit their [resource page](#) for more details.”

Check out some of these resources and begin your journey in intercultural awareness.

Jo Szostak  
Congregational and Mission Development  
Coordinator  
Synod of Saskatchewan

### **INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH**

June is Indigenous History Month, and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It is an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the diverse cultures, traditions, governing systems, histories, spiritualities, and gifts of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

The best way to learn is directly from Indigenous people:

- read Indigenous authors,
- listen to Indigenous musicians and podcasters,
- view art and film made by Indigenous artists,
- seek opportunities to learn from Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and teachers
- attend events organized by Indigenous nations, organizations or Friendship Centers in your area.

Centering Indigenous voices and experiences, honouring Indigenous identity and resilience contributes to building up a society that actively addresses anti-Indigenous racism, and where all people may flourish.

At First Church, we will mark Indigenous Peoples’ Day on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> in our worship. Throughout the month, check out the display of books by Indigenous authors in the narthex. You may want to borrow one of the books to read this month (sign it out, please) or pick up a copy at the library or a local bookstore.

Learn more about The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s ministries with Indigenous people <https://presbyterian.ca/ccm/indigenous-ministries/> . Learn more about the church’s work for Indigenous justice and healing and reconciliation <https://presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/indigenous-justice/> .

Some special events in Regina will be happening on Friday, June 19, such as the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Network’s big event in Victoria Park: <https://mcos.ca/calendar/join-the-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-networks-national-indigenous-peoples-day/>

### **PRESBYTERY GATHERING**

Due to a lack of participation, the Presbytery Gathering at Crooked Lake on June 20 has been cancelled.

## June – August Calendar

**June 7 10:30 am Worship & Holy Communion**  
 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)  
 2:00 pm Memorial for Dr. Eric le Roux  
 (Conexus Arts Centre Lobby)

June 11 6:30 pm Band Practice (Sanctuary)  
 7:00 pm Choir (Sanctuary)

June 13 11:30 am Meet for Pride Parade (Arts Centre Parking Lot)

**June 14 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
 (Welcome & Inclusion Theme)  
 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)

June 17 7:00 pm Directions Task Force (Morris Room)

June 18 6:00 pm Choir Party (Nick & Amanda's)

June 20 10:00 am Presbytery meeting (Zoom)

**June 21 10:30 am Indigenous Peoples Sunday**  
 11:45 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary & Online)

*Rev. Sumi returns from holidays June 22.*

June 23 7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

June 24 7:00 pm Board of Managers (Zoom)

**June 28 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Gym)  
 12:00 pm Feasibility Report Discussion  
 12:15 pm Youth Gathering

June 29 7:00 pm Christian Education (Zoom)

July 2 7:00 pm Feasibility Report Discussion (Zoom)

July 4 10 – 4 Youth Hot Dog Fundraiser (Sherwood Co-op)

**July 5 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
 July 11 10 – 1ish Saturday Lunch Program

**July 19 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
 11:45 am Feasibility Report Discussion (Kennedy Room)

*Rev. Amanda begins holidays for 3 weeks.*

**July 26 10:30 am Sunday Worship**

**Aug. 2 10:30 am Sunday Worship**

**Aug. 9 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
*Rev. Amanda returns from holidays Aug. 11.*  
 Aug. 12-15: "Collective" – National Youth Event in Ontario with 5 of our youth and 3 adults attending.

**Aug. 16 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
 11:45 am Feasibility Report Discussion (Kennedy Room)

Aug. 18-21 9-12 Compassion Camp (VBS) (Gym)

**Aug. 23 10:30 am Sunday Worship**

**Aug. 30 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
 Sep. 1 7:00 pm Feasibility Report Discussion (Zoom)  
 Sep. 2 7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

**Sep. 6 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion**  
 Sep. 8 1:30 pm Stewardship Committee (Zoom)  
 Sep. 9 7:00 pm Session Meeting (Zoom)

**Sep. 13 10:30 am Sunday Worship**  
 11:45 am Congregational Meeting Re: Building Decisions

