

**FIRST THINGS FIRST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA
November 2025**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As I write this message for the November edition of "First Things First," I'm in a hotel in Charlottetown, PEI, having just finished two and a half days of meetings of the Life and Mission Agency Committee of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. I'm nearing the end of my 6-year term of service on LMA, and I'm feeling grateful for the opportunity to serve. In addition to the joy of meeting and connecting with friends and colleagues from across the country, I've appreciated the opportunity to be well-informed about the many ministries, resources, and mission priorities of our denomination as a whole.

The LMA Committee oversees a wide breadth of the church's work in programmatic areas. It includes Congregational and Community Ministries (including Indigenous ministries), Christian Education & Formation, International Ministries, Ministry and Church Vocations, Stewardship, Presbyterian World Service & Development, and Sexuality and Inclusion. As a committee, we hear from the staff in the various areas, give feedback and direction, help discern new ministries, consider and approve the annual budget, and both report to and receive direction from the General Assembly.

Through my involvement in LMA over the years, I've also been invited to serve on some other committees. Currently, I'm on the "Honouring the Children Discernment Group" that makes grants to communities for grave searches near former Residential Schools, as well as for healing initiatives in relation to the harm caused by the Residential School System. I'm also on the Special Committee that wrote the 2024 Apology to Indigenous People in relation to the Residential Schools and Colonization. That committee continues to work on how the church is building relationships with Indigenous communities and presenting the Apology to Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors.

On a very different topic, I recently joined a new stewardship committee that has the task of approving grants to congregations and ministries to support redevelopment of buildings and properties. Yes, that's the same committee to which First Church is applying for funding for our feasibility study. I will declare my conflict of interest and step back from the decision-making on our grant, of course!

One of the topics that is almost always discussed at LMA meetings is "Presbyterians Sharing," especially when we are looking at the budget or hearing from the Associate Secretary for Stewardship. You see, most of the ministry and mission that is accomplished by our staff in all these various areas is directly funded through gifts from congregations and individuals to "Presbyterians Sharing." Every congregation across the country is asked to contribute to the work that we do together as a denomination, and the expectation is that we strive to give 10% of the money we spend on our local ministry to "Presbyterians Sharing."

Over the years, I've occasionally heard people refer to it as a "tax," even though it's actually a voluntary contribution that congregations are asked to make because they belong to the denomination. And when we're at LMA meetings, we often discuss how to make congregations more aware of the value and importance of "Presbyterians Sharing" and to encourage them to make it a priority in their giving.

In those conversations, I feel quite proud of First Church in Regina, because even though we have our share of budgetary challenges, you continue to support "Presbyterians Sharing" at 10% or even a little more. I think you understand how important it is to participate in the ministries we share as Presbyterians, and you recognize the amazing resources, training, support, and even funding that we receive from our denomination as well.

In 2025 alone, First Church has received a grant of \$10,000 to support our new Minister for Youth and Families, the Rev. Sumi Jung. We are applying for a grant of \$75,000 to cover our feasibility study for redevelopment of our church building. We have also benefitted from a grant of \$8,000 given to our Presbytery that is supporting Messy Church programming in three congregations. We are blessed to belong to a national church with a culture of giving and sharing with one another for the sake of the gospel!

When you give your offerings to First Church, you support the ministry we do here in Regina together, and you also support the ministry of Presbyterians across the country and around the world. Thank you for your generosity!

Our congregation's monthly newsletters, bulletins, emails, seasonal letters, and annual reports should keep you informed about the impact of your gifts to our congregation. If you'd like to be reminded of the impact of your gifts to "Presbyterians Sharing," here's a little video you can watch: <https://youtu.be/17QTrtUONAw>.

Rev. Amanda Currie

THE ORDINATION OF SUMI JUNG

On Saturday, October 4TH, the Presbytery of Assiniboia ordained Sumi Jung as a Minister of Word and Sacraments within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and inducted her as the Assistant Minister for Youth and Families at First Presbyterian Church. The service was well-attended by folks from First Church and Norman Kennedy Church, as well as friends and colleagues from the wider community. Following the service, the Fellowship Committee hosted an abundant potluck lunch as we continued to celebrate this joyous occasion.

Sumi's ordination was a significant moment in her life and vocation to ministry, but it was also an important moment for our congregation. By calling a second minister, even on a half-time basis, we have taken a leap of faith that we can sustain this expansion in ministry. We have also expressed our hope that God will equip us to minister to the younger generations within our church family, as well as to younger people in our community who are not yet connected to a faith community.



Rev. Sumi is brimming with ideas and energy for new programs and outreach initiatives that I hope our community will appreciate, and to which you will feel inspired to invite your friends, family, and neighbours. Let's pray for and support Sumi with our prayers, our openness, and our participation as she both shares and develops her gifts for ministry among us.

Rev. Amanda Currie

A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Last year 2024, in May, when I heard about a youth leader position at First Church, I was, of course, grateful and excited, but not sure I was ready. When I thought about myself and my situation at that time, I often wondered if I was truly the right person for this job.

Starting in September, to be honest, I just did what I needed to do. Now I can say that before I met our youth, I was scared because... they are teenagers... hmm... However, I've been meeting, talking with, and doing activities with youth. They were so lovely, funny, and more thoughtful than I expected. Along with the connection with their parents, it gave me a lot of encouragement. Since the beginning of this year 2025, we've had a variety of activities that I have never experienced before! Such as Escape Room, Basement & Exterior Painting Project for the Community, Gym Day, Volunteering, and even canoeing at Wascana Lake! I do look forward to the next step with God with our youth.

Furthermore, until the journey of the ordination, I've been deeply honoured to witness the hard work and dedication of Rev. Amanda, the Session, and all the congregation members. Since the various meetings last year, the Annual Meeting, and the discussions, as well as hearing my name called every week during the announcements this summer. I do not know how to express... As I began to hear my name every week, I tried to wake myself up with confidence, 'Oh, yes, right, that's me.'

In such moments, I also sometimes doubted whether I could honestly do well when I see myself. However, when I look around, I can see that it's not just from me, but from God our Father, and the people, the family of God.

I was deeply impressed by the church community here, which was 'planted' and 'built' upon through the bright smiles, encouragements, and concerns for one another, as well as support in various ways for the ministry—the unseen acts, both large and small, and the warm hands that reached out to others.

Rev. Amanda Currie, my Theological Field Education mentor in 2024 and now a part of the ministry team, has consistently encouraged and inspired confidence in me since we first met. It is truly an honour and a great blessing to now serve together as a team.

Lastly, every moment of the ordination service, the scriptures, Rev. Amanda's sermon, and the heartfelt support in many ways from the congregation, family and friends have been a significant source of strength, courage, and nourishment for the next chapter of my life journey. I greatly appreciate...!

With sincere gratitude,

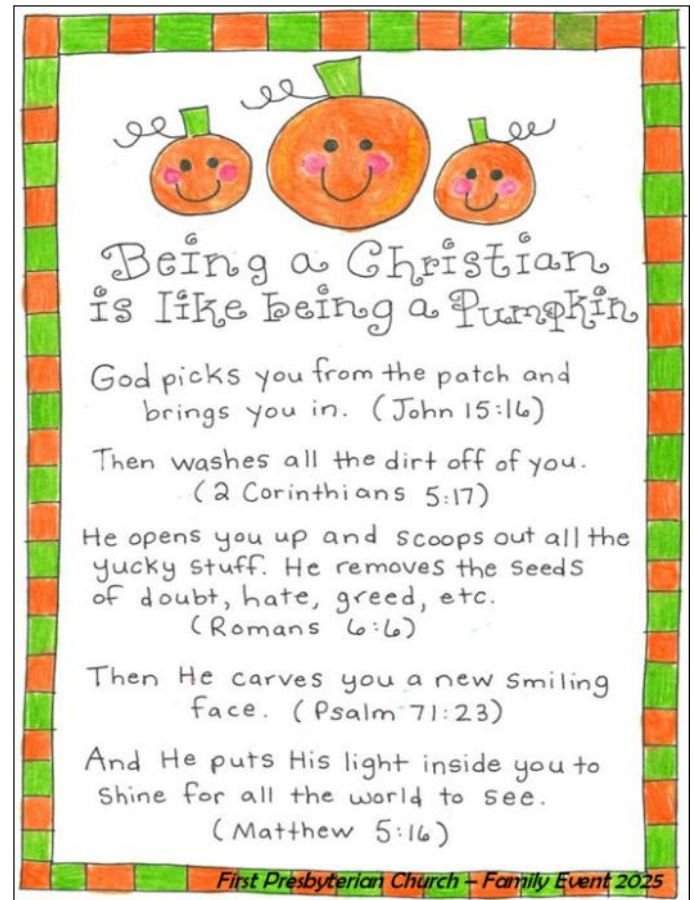
Rev. Sumi Jung

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are so blessed by the thoughtful volunteers in Sunday School this year. On September 7th, the Sunday School year started with an orientation session led by Rev. Amanda, who distributed and explained the volunteer job descriptions, the child safety policy, and documents related to the implementation of the Leading with Care policy for the volunteers. We also reviewed the resources and curriculum that will be used throughout the year.



The Sunday School classes consist of preschool through youth. All classes start with singing and memorizing Bible verses, followed by an engaging lesson. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, prayed, and supported us—your involvement makes a difference for the next generation.



This year's Youth Gathering began on September 28th. We plan to gather on the third Sunday of each month, including Lunch, Art Therapy, Bible Discussions, & Gym Time! The dates might change depending on the circumstances. Pencil in your calendar so you don't miss out!

2025: Nov. 16 / Dec. 21

2026: Jan. 18 / Feb. 15 / Mar. 15 / Apr. 19
May 17 / June 21

October 26th was a delightful day! It started with a Youth Bible skit during worship and with each child and youth showcasing unique and adorable costumes that brought joy to everyone. The pumpkin-carving activity during Sunday school was also a memorable experience, bringing fun to all involved. A quote we shared on that day was, "Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin," which made this event meaningful for everyone.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Come, have a fun family night out.
Enjoy watching a movie on our **Large Screen**.
Put on your comfy clothes, bring a small blanket to sit on, and snuggle under.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 2025 | START AT 6:30PM

FREE ENTRY

Popcorn and concessions will be available for everyone. You are invited to make a donation to the Youth and Family Ministry.

First Presbyterian Church's Gymnasium 2170 Albert Street, Regina S4P 2T9
 438-2222 • info@firstpresregina.ca

**COLLABORATIVE YOUTH OPEN GYM DAY -
Saturday, Nov. 29** from 3 to 5 pm



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PRESENTATION -
Sunday, Dec.14, at our 10:30 am Worship Service



Please keep our next generations and families in your thoughts and prayers and give them plenty of compliments and encouragement for their participation.

Youth and Family Ministry,
Rev. Sumi Jung

As we move into November and December, it is exciting to see all the plans being developed by the various committees. Be sure to read through the newsletter and plan to participate!

At the congregational meeting held on October 26, approval was given to accept the proposal by 1080 Architecture for a feasibility study on the potential options for our church buildings. We have asked the presbytery for approval to apply for a PCC grant to fund the study, and we have prepared a grant application. We are looking forward to moving ahead on this project!

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



*"I will remember
the deeds of the
Lord; yes, I will
remember your
miracles of
long ago."*
~ Psalm 77:11

As we gather for Remembrance Day, we reflect deeply on the significance of remembering. In the Bible, remembrance serves as a crucial act that helps us connect to our faith and understand God's love.

The Worship Committee met on Saturday, November 1 to prepare for the November services, the Season of Advent and Christmas.

Scripture readers are needed for the month of December and going forward into 2026. We are very fortunate to have many members of our church family who are willing to read on a regular basis. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marianne at 306-541-9358 or mariannewoods1955@gmail.com

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. I will be contacting First Church families to participate in the Advent readings. If your family has never participated and you would like to be involved, please contact me at the above phone number and e-mail. Your family will be provided with a copy of the reading in advance. Thank you.

Two greeters are needed each week from 10:00-10:30 am, to welcome those attending and make them feel 'at home'. If you would be willing to

participate, please contact Wendy Prior in person at kwprior@gmail.com. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you God's blessings,

Marianne Woods
Worship Committee Convener

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

For this year's Advent Bible Study, we will be using a resource called "The Text Behind the Tunes" which was prepared by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, the 149th Moderator of the General Assembly and former Professor of Hebrew Bible at the Vancouver School of Theology.

We will be exploring the Old Testament texts that underlie the many beautiful hymns that the church sings during the season of Advent. Our sessions will include reading the biblical texts, learning about their historical context, reflecting on them together, and singing some of the Advent hymns that were inspired by them.

Pick up a copy of the Bible study booklet in the narthex at the church or download it when Amanda emails it out.

Join us in the Morris Room, Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 pm, starting on Nov. 26 until Dec. 17. If you are unable to come to the church, connect by Zoom at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82913240286>
Meeting ID: 829 1324 0286.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Pizza and Pasta buffet in October. We raised \$726 for the Youth and Family Ministry. Special thanks to Ron and Bonnie Pugsley for donating their Western Final tickets for a silent auction!

At the annual meeting in May, the congregation approved Identified Contributions of \$306,579 to balance our budget. At the end of September, we had received offerings of \$161,585. While those givings are generous, they represent just over 47% of the approved budget at the end of September, when we were 75% of the way through the year. Let's see if we can have a positive impact on our budget by the end of 2025!

LUNCH BUNCH

Since Remembrance Day falls on a Tuesday this year, we won't be having a Lunch Bunch gathering that day. On November 18, Jo will share a presentation on the 2025 EarthShot Prize winners (solutions for climate change.) On November 25, we will celebrate birthdays, and Amanda will share a program. That will be our last gathering in 2025. We'll take a break for December and start again on Tuesday, January 13.

FUNDSCRIP

The next order Sunday for FundScrip will be Sunday, December 7. Plan ahead to order gift cards for Christmas!

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is an intergenerational gathering to explore a Bible passage through crafts, singing, stories, and prayer.



The next Messy Church program is planned for Saturday, November 29th from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, including lunch. Feel free to invite your friends and family to come with you! The theme this time will be Advent - a time of waiting, hoping, and preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving funds available: Do you have an idea for a project that supports one or more aspects of our First Church mission to be:

- joyful in our worship
- tender in our lives together; and
- daring in our outreach

Help may be available to support your initiative. Our Planned Giving Program is accepting applications for funding. **The deadline for applications is January 15, 2026.** Applications will be considered by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting in spring 2026.

If you have received this church newsletter by email, we have attached a Planned Giving application form to the last page of the newsletter. Application forms are also available from Shirley in the office and will be available on the table in the Narthex. Once you have

completed your application, please submit it to Shirley, either by

- email to firstpresregina@sasktel.net or,
- by dropping your application off at the church during office hours. Sunday mornings, you can leave your application in the mail holder on the outside of the office door.

We welcome your proposals to further the mission of First Church!

Stewardship Committee

KAIROS CANADA



KAIROS Canada
faithful action for justice

Fires, Jubilee and Coal: Making Connections
KAIROS Prairies North annual gathering



Sat., Nov. 15 from 10 am to 3 pm
Holy Child Parish, 2636 7th Ave E, Regina and
Online

This year's KAIROS Prairies North annual gathering will focus on what it means for people of faith to connect to Jubilee, which is reconciliation with God and caring for our neighbours, near and far and caring for creation. Speakers will discuss the biblical elements of Jubilee and delve into how these elements connect with ecological justice concerns.

KAIROS Prairies North is a regional group including Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Northwest Territories. All are welcome to attend.

Jubilee 2025 is a global ecumenical initiative that builds on the transformative success of Jubilee 2000, which cancelled \$100 billion of

debt for 36 low-income countries. Why Jubilee Matters Today: the Global South and Indigenous communities face a devastating debt crisis, with many nations spending more on debt repayments than on healthcare, education or climate action. Debt cancellation and systemic financial reform are not just economic solutions; they are a moral imperative rooted in the theological principle of justice for all.

KAIROS' Jubilee 2025 campaign emphasizes ecological justice and the urgent need to address ecological debt—the exploitation of resources and lands in the Global South and Indigenous communities worldwide. Amplifying Indigenous voices, the campaign also calls for land restitution, climate justice, and the transformation of exploitative systems to uphold dignity, equity, and sustainable development for all. Learn more and sign the petition here.

Register here:

<https://secure.kairoscanada.org/civicrm/event/register?id=405>

COME TOGETHER NOVEMBER MEETING

The Women's Missionary Society invites you to the next Come Together event which will be on Wednesday November 12th, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm (SK). Our special guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, former moderator of General Assembly. Come and hear Pat share about her experiences during her moderatorial year. It will be a time of learning about our church and also the international community.

Please contact me at skim@presbyterian.ca if you would like the Zoom link, and I will be glad to send it to you.

Sarah Kim, Executive Director
Women's Missionary Society

PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT

Caribbean Relief: Hurricane Melissa, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the Atlantic, has caused devastation across the Caribbean. Strong winds and heavy rain left houses destroyed, roads submerged and bridges collapsed. Dozens of people across Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica have lost their lives.

Damage assessments are taking place and ACT Alliance members in Cuba and Haiti are

evaluating next steps. In the immediate term, access to food, shelter, water and hygiene supplies, and psychosocial support will be essential. Longer term recovery will have to include livelihoods support and reconstruction.

PWS&D is able to respond through our partners at ACT Alliance. To donate and support recovery following Hurricane Melissa, mark your donation as "PWS&D: Caribbean Relief".

MASJID OPEN HOUSE

Dear Faith Representatives, and Friends,

On behalf of the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan – Regina (IAOS), in collaboration with ICNA Sisters Regina and Islamic Relief Canada (IRC), we are pleased to invite you to our Masjid Open House in celebration of Islamic Heritage Month.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for non-Muslims and individuals of all backgrounds to connect with the local Muslim community, explore Islamic culture, and engage in open, respectful dialogue.

Event Highlights: Enjoy an afternoon of learning, connection, and cultural experiences:

- 🕌 Guided Mosque Tours
- 🗣️ Conversations with the Imam – Explore Muslim values and everyday life
- 🧠 Islamic Health & Wellness Workshop + Hijama (Wet Cupping) Demonstration
- 👤 Try on a Hijab and Abaya – Experience traditional modest attire
- 🖋️ Arabic Calligraphy & Henna Art
- 🍲 Free Cultural Foods from around the world

Event Details

- **Date:** Sunday, November 9, 2025
- **Time:** 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Location:** South Mosque of Regina – 3273 Montague St, Regina, SK
- **Admission:** Free and open to **non-Muslims**

We look forward to welcoming you for a day of friendship, learning, and shared humanity. Please feel free to bring along friends, family, and colleagues.

Warm regards,
Islamic Association of Saskatchewan

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov 9	10:30 am	Remembrance Sunday
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Nov 11	No Lunch Bunch Today (Remembrance Day)	
Nov 12	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Mission & Outreach (Zoom)
Nov 13	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Nov 15	10:30 am	Presbytery Meeting (Zoom)
Nov 16	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
	12:15 pm	Youth Gathering (Kennedy)
Nov 18	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Nov 19	No Bible Study Today	
Nov 20	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Nov 21	6:30 pm	Family Movie Night (Gym)
Nov 23	10:30 am	Reign of Christ Sunday
		Baptism of Ariel Arawatigi
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Nov 25	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Nov 26	12:30 pm	Advent Bible Study (Morris)
	7:00 pm	Book Club (Zoom)
Nov 27	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Nov 29	10:30 am	Messy Church (Gym)
	3:00 pm	Youth Gym Day
Nov 30	10:30 am	1st Sunday of Advent
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
		Tree Decorating (Sanctuary)
Dec 3	12:30 pm	Advent Bible Study (Morris)
Dec 4	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Dec 7	10:30 am	2nd Sunday of Advent
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Advent Party (Gym)

Growing our Vision: Seeds of Abundant Joy

Application Process

- This process is designed to align with the annual congregational planning process.
- Applications are to be received in the Church office by January 15, 2026.
- The Stewardship Committee reviews applications, considers money available, and develops recommendations.
- The Stewardship Committee presents all applications, with recommendations, to the joint Board/Session meeting in early 2026.
- All applications are forwarded from the joint Board/Session meeting, with recommendations, to the congregational Annual General Meeting (AGM) in spring 2026.
- Applications are considered for approval by the congregation at the AGM.
- Other applications arising during the remainder of the calendar year may be considered as funds are available. For amounts up to \$2000, the Session may approve projects. For amounts over \$2000, congregational approval is required.

**Growing our Vision: Seeds of Abundant Joy
Application Form for Funds**

Name/Group _____

Contact: (Person Responsible) _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Project: _____

Describe your Project: (Attach supporting documents if necessary)

How does this further the Mission of the Church:

Joyful in Worship_____ Tender In Life: _____ Daring in Outreach_____

Amount requested: _____

Signature

Date

Forms due January 15, 2026, to the office of First Presbyterian Church,
2170 Albert Street, Regina SK S4P 2T9. Completed forms can also be emailed
to firstpresregina@sasktel.net