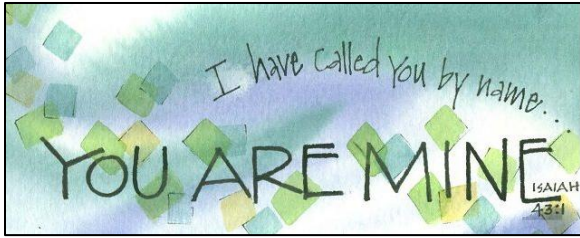


**FIRST THINGS FIRST
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA
October 2025**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



What an exciting time this is in the life of our congregation! As I write this “minister’s message” I am delighted by the knowledge that in a couple of days, I won’t be the sole Minister of Word and Sacraments at First Church anymore!

If you are reading this newsletter shortly after it is published on Friday, Oct. 3rd, I want to invite you to attend the Ordination and Induction of Sumi Jung on Saturday, Oct. 4th at 10:30 am within First Church. The service will be followed by a potluck lunch in the gymnasium.

There are several reasons why I’m happy about Sumi’s ordination and call to First Church. The first is that I have come to know Sumi as a faithful, hard-working, gifted servant of God who has sensed the call to ordained ministry for quite some time. I am honoured to have the opportunity to keep working with her, and to celebrate this important milestone in her journey of faith and service.

I am also very encouraged by the willingness of First Church to proceed with calling a second minister. Although Sumi’s role will be half-time, there is still a significant financial commitment associated with it. The grants we will be receiving from The Presbyterian Church in Canada will help, but we will also be using some of our Planned Giving funds, and part of her stipend will continue to come from our general budget as it did during her time as our Youth Leader.

This call represents the commitment of our congregation to look forward with hope and possibility for the future of the church. We are

investing our time, money, and care in our children and youth, with confidence and expectation that our ministry will continue for generations to come.

While I’m on the topic of “hope and possibility” for the future... We have a very exciting opportunity coming up at First Church with the Annual Synod Meeting happening here in our building from Oct. 16-18, 2025. The Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, most recent former Moderator of the General Assembly, and Hebrew Bible Scholar, will be our guest preacher and workshop leader for Synod.

You are invited to join members of the Synod for three special events on Friday, October 17th:

- Workshop on “Narratives of Hope and Possibility” for the future of the church: 1-4 pm
- Banquet to celebrate The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s 150th Anniversary: 5:30 pm
- 150th Anniversary Worship Service with Rev. Dutcher-Walls preaching: 7:30 pm

The workshop and worship are free, but the banquet tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 6-12 years, and free for children 5 and under. Please register by October 6th for any or all of these events at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/242266058596264>

One of the Scripture readings for Sumi’s ordination will be Isaiah 43:1-7. In it, the prophet reassures God’s people that no matter what happens in the future, God will be with them to guide them and help them through. “Do not fear,” the prophet urges them, “I have called you by name, you are mine.”

On Saturday, we will proclaim these words with Sumi in mind, acknowledging God’s love for her, God’s call to her, and God’s promise to guide her throughout her ministry. But these words are for us as a church as well – for First Church and for The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Our reason to hope and to invest in the future of our

church is because God promises to be faithful.
Let's not be afraid.

Rev. Amanda Currie

SESSION

- Welcome to Sumi Jung, who began her new position on Oct. 1 as the minister for youth and families at First Church. Her ordination and induction will be on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10:30 am followed by a potluck lunch. Be sure to come and welcome Sumi!
- We will be welcoming the Synod to First Church for their annual meeting Oct. 16-18. Come and join us on Friday afternoon for an excellent workshop on Hope and Possibility, then a banquet to celebrate 150 years of PCC, and a worship service. See elsewhere in the newsletter for information on registering.
- Mark your calendar for Oct. 26. We'll be having a congregational meeting following worship. Next week the Directions Task Force will meet with the teams who have prepared proposals for our feasibility study, and the task force will prepare a recommendation for the congregation. Materials will be circulated, and you are invited to be a part of the discussion and decision on Oct. 26.
- Welcome to James Raquion who is our new Music Scholar! Arthur Jack has moved on to other pursuits, and we thank him for his time at First Church.
- Thank you to the members of the Welcome and Inclusion team for their efforts over the last several years. The committee has now been disbanded and we appreciate the work they have done.

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Saturday Lunch Program, November 1
First Presbyterian will be hosting the weekly meal program for neighbours in need on Nov 1. We need 12-14 volunteers to make sandwiches and set up and serve at First Baptist that day. If you can help that day, please sign up in the Narthex or contact Mary Jesse by Oct 19.

We also welcome your donations of toiletries and new socks for the lunch program. You can drop them off in the blue bin in the narthex.



Jubilee 2025 Petition: Turn Debt into Hope

Jubilee 2025 is a global ecumenical initiative that builds on the success of Jubilee 2000, which canceled \$100 billion of debt for 36 low-income countries. In Canada, KAIROS Canada is leading the campaign in collaboration with Christian and civil society groups. They are mobilizing communities of faith and conscience to demand:

- Debt cancellation for unjust and unsustainable debts.
- Global financial reform to prevent future crises.
- A debt resolution framework within the United Nations that is transparent, binding and fair.

More than 3 billion people live in countries that are spending more on debt payments than on vital services like health or education. This financial burden severely hinders sustainable development. For heavily indebted nations, public debt has become an impossible burden, passed down through generations. At the same time, wealthy countries like Canada, and powerful corporations, continue to exploit resources from these countries. The petition demands that public, private, and multilateral creditors cancel or significantly reduce these unsustainable debts.

Please consider adding your voice to this important issue by signing the petition to Turn Debt into Hope. The goal is to collect 100,000 Canadian signatures by the end of 2025. The petition is available for signature in the narthex throughout October, or you can sign online at <https://kairoscanada.org/jubilee-2025-canada/petition-turn-debt-into-hope>.

Mary Jesse
M&O Committee Convener

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Pizza Pasta Fundraiser

Be sure to purchase your tickets for the 4Seasons Pizza Pasta Fundraiser on Oct. 22 from 6 - 8 pm. It's an all-you-can-eat buffet with pizza, lasagna and Caesar salad. Tickets are \$30 and are available at the FundScrip table after worship until Oct. 12. Minors are welcome but they need to eat in the restaurant side. If you have small children, you can order off the menu for them rather than purchasing a ticket.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch takes place every Tuesday, beginning with Forever in Motion at 11:30, followed by lunch at 12 (bring a bag lunch) and program at 12:30. On Oct. 7 we will be playing games, so bring along your favourite game! Also on October 21, Jim Doolittle will share the second part of his travelogue of his trip to Southeast Asia.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30th), I was encouraged to see so many people out in Regina wearing their orange shirts and remembering the Survivors of the Residential School System, the Intergenerational Survivors, and the children who never came home.

At First Church, quite a few people wore orange on Sunday, September 28th as well. I shared the story of Phyllis Webstad's experience of going to Residential School and how they took away her orange shirt. We also sang a Nakota hymn "Many and great, O God, are your works."



It was Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, when we usually focus on the ministry and mission that we do together through our denomination. My sermon focused on the Indigenous Ministries of

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the various ways that our gifts to Presbyterians Sharing support truth, healing, and reconciliation. If you missed it, you can listen to the story, the hymn, and/or my sermon here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0III6sXPaEY&t=638s>

On September 30th, I wore my "orange shirt" pin on the volunteer T-shirt I got back in 2014 at the Saskatchewan National TRC Event. It is hard to believe how long ago that gathering took place, nor the fact that the 94 Calls to Action came out ten years ago in 2015.



The Lunch Bunch gathered, as they always do on Tuesdays. Our program was a time of learning and reflecting on the legacy of colonialism. We focused on the Presbyterian-operated schools in Saskatchewan, and reflected on our church's ongoing response to the Calls to Action.

Here are a couple of the resources we used that you may want to check out as well:

<https://presbyterian.ca/2022/09/13/study-guide-orange-shirt-day/>

<https://www2.uregina.ca/education/saskindianresidentialschools/indian-residential-schools-in-saskatchewan/>

Around the same time, some members of our congregation participated in the feast at the Regina Indian Industrial School Cemetery on Pinkie Road. This is the cemetery that once belonged to a Presbyterian-operated Residential School, where children who died while at school between 1891-1910 were buried. I'm glad that some of our folks were present with Indigenous friends to remember and honour the children with ceremony and feasting.



Rev. Amanda Currie

COME TOGETHER

Dear friends,

How wonderful is God our Creator! The changing of the seasons brings beautiful colours and rejuvenation to our souls! It is good to give thanks!

Let us Come Together to give thanks to God, on Wednesday October 8th, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (SK). We will worship and praise God virtually, and in spirit!

Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Marianne Emig Carr, writer of the worship resource. Come prepared to share in your thanksgiving.

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

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church is an intergenerational program that we enjoy on Saturday mornings in the gymnasium from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

It includes crafts, songs, stories, and lunch together, all centered around a biblical theme.

On Sept. 13th, the theme will be Noah's Ark.

On Oct. 11th, the theme will be Thanksgiving.

WHERE NOW FOR VISIBLE UNITY: A North American Watch Party!



Prairie Centre for
Ecumenism

Come watch and discuss the

plenary sessions of the 6th World Conference on Faith and Order with us!

The World Council of Churches is convening a conference to mark the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the development of the Nicene Creed. This important gathering in the history of the ecumenical movement will be happening near Alexandria, Egypt, from October 24-28.

Though most of us will not be able to attend in person, there will be a livestream. Due to the

time difference between Egypt and North America, a team is working to develop "watch parties" for the plenary sessions. Times are listed below!

- Opening plenary, Fri, Oct. 24 at 10 am CST
- Where now for visible unity?, Fri. Oct. 24 at 2 pm CST
- Faith in the Middle East, Fri. Oct. 24 at 4 pm CST
- Triune God and the Identity of the Church, Sat. Oct. 25 at 10 am CST
- Unpacking Apostolic Faith: Living the Nicene Creed in Context, Sat. Oct. 25 2 pm CST
- The Church in and for the World, Mon. Oct. 27 at 10 am CST
- Mission: Common witness and Apostolic discipleship, Mon. Oct. 27 at 2 pm CST
- Unity: Living and Visible?, Tues. Oct. 28 at 10 am CST
- Living Visible Unity, Tues. Oct. 28 at 2 pm CST
- Ecumenical Future, Tues. Oct. 28 at 4 pm CST

More information about the World Conference is available at

<https://www.oikoumene.org/events/nicaea-2025>.

Register at this link: <https://bit.ly/faith-and-order-conference-2025>.

A PRAYER FOR TAIWAN AFTER TYPHOON RAGASA

Super Typhoon Ragasa struck Taiwan and its neighbouring countries on September 22-23, 2025. Initial reports from Taiwan say that at least 15 people were killed. On the east coast near the 'Amis village of Fata'an (Gwang-fu), 17 people are reported missing after a "barrier lake" nearby overflowed and sent floodwaters roaring through the village. Fata'an is home to one of the largest 'Amis Presbyterian churches in Taiwan and several members of the 'Amis Bible translation team, which the Rev. Paul McLean, retired PCC mission staff, supports. Team members report they are all fine but deeply concerned for people in their village and the surrounding areas affected by the typhoon.

Below is a prayer written by the Rev. Kino Lafin, a member of the 'Amis Bible translation team.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before your throne of grace with both concern and faith. Super Typhoon Ragasa brought strong winds and heavy rains, causing widespread power outages and communication disruptions in the Fata'an area, making life extremely difficult. Low-lying areas have been hit particularly hard by severe flooding. O Lord, we fully understand our human limitations, but you are the Sovereign Lord over heaven and earth, the winds and rains, and the seasons. We earnestly cry out to you.

Please protect the local residents in the Fata'an area, granting safety and refuge for the elderly, children, and the vulnerable in this time of crisis. May your hand support those in urgent need of shelter, ensuring they have a safe place to go to avoid injury or loss. Please protect frontline workers helping with rescue efforts, flood control, and other assistance, ensuring their work goes smoothly and is free from accidents or danger.

Heavenly Father, we know the challenges that will follow this disaster: restoring power and communications, cleaning up the village and rebuilding, and adjusting daily routines. We pray you will be merciful and provide for all needs, enabling churches and communities to support each other and experience practical love in action. O Lord, may this storm, though it has brought trials and testing, also be an opportunity to bear witness to your faithfulness, to demonstrate that your grace is greater than the wind and rain, and that your love cannot be drowned by floods.

Finally, we place the Fata'an region and all those affected by this disaster into your caring hands. May your peace descend upon them, may your protection surround them, and may your comfort fill their frightened hearts. O Lord, we rely upon your word:

*¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.
(Psalm 29:10-11)*

We pray in the victorious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

SASKATCHEWAN PRESBYTERIANS **Celebrate 150 Years of Ministry in The PCC:**

You are invited to join members of the Presbyterian Synod of Saskatchewan at First Presbyterian Church in Regina (2170 Albert Street) as we celebrate our denomination's 150th Anniversary on Friday, October 17, 2025.

Special events will include a workshop on "Hope and Possibility" from 1-4 pm, an Anniversary Banquet at 5:30 pm, and an Anniversary Worship Service at 7:30 pm. (The workshop and worship are free, but the banquet tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 6-12 years, free for children 5 and under.)

Please plan to join us for this special celebration. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Moderator of the 149th General Assembly of the PCC. If you plan to attend, please complete the registration form by Oct. 6, 2025, at this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/242266058596264>.

If you have any questions, please ask Rev. Amanda.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct 4	10:00 am	Presbytery Meeting (Morris Room)
	10:30 am	Ordination and Induction of Sumi Jung
	11:45 am	Potluck Lunch (Gym)
Oct 5	10:30 am	World Communion Sunday
		Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Oct 6	3:00 pm	Directions Task Force (Zoom)
Oct 7	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Oct 8	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	2:00 pm	Directions Task Force (Morris)
	7:00 pm	Mission & Outreach (Zoom)
Oct 9	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Oct 11	10:30 am	Messy Church (Gym)
	1:30 pm	Directions Task Force

Oct 12	10:30 am	Thanksgiving Sunday Intergenerational Service
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Oct 14	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Oct 15	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Oct 16	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Synod Meeting (Gym)
Oct 17	9:00 am	Synod Meeting
	1:00 pm	Hope & Possibility Workshop
	5:30 pm	150 th Anniversary Banquet
	7:30 pm	150 th Anniversary Worship
Oct 18	9:00 am	Synod Meeting concludes
Oct 19	10:30 am	Sunday Worship Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Oct 21	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Oct 22	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	6 - 8 pm	Fundraising Dinner @ 4Seasons
Oct 23	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Oct 26	10:30 am	Sunday Worship Sunday School
	11:30 am	Congregational Meeting Re: Feasibility Study Proposal
	12:00 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)
Oct 28	11:30 am	Forever-In-Motion (Gym)
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Oct 29	12:30 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Oct 30	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Nov 1	10 – 1	Saturday Lunch Program
Nov 2	10:30 am	All Saints Sunday Holy Communion Sunday School
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour (Gym)



A REFLECTION ON GRATITUDE **as we approach Thanksgiving Weekend**

The SALT Blog, which includes weekly reflections on the Sunday readings, also includes blog posts on various topics. As we move towards our celebration of Thanksgiving Weekend, I invite you to reflect on these thoughts about gratitude from the SALT Team.

The Difference Gratitude Makes

...There's perhaps no better day than Thanksgiving to reflect on the astounding power of gratitude itself — and accordingly, to commit ourselves to cultivating it more intentionally in the coming year.

If we think of “gratitude” primarily as a kind of duty to discharge (Now remember to write that thank-you note!), we’re missing the boat entirely, effectively reducing one of life’s wonders to mere good manners. On the contrary, gratitude is vital force in the world, a profoundly dignifying act that builds relationships, communities, and healthy human hearts.

The science on this subject is overwhelming: in study after study, gratitude has been shown to lead to stronger relationships, better sleep, lower blood pressure, fewer trips to the doctor, fewer depressive symptoms, more patience, and more perseverance, among other benefits.

In one particularly intriguing study, gratitude turns out to be a powerful antidote to the [“Headwinds/Tailwinds Asymmetry.”](#) our all-too-common tendency to focus on the obstacles in our lives (headwinds) and overlook blessings (tailwinds), an imbalance that over time leads to feeling aggrieved and resentful. In short, focusing on headwinds breeds bitterness; focusing on tailwinds breeds appreciation — and the act of thanksgiving helps call our attention to the winds at our backs.

Thanksgiving Weekend at First Church will be a good opportunity to count our blessings and cultivate gratitude. Thanksgiving will be the focus of our time together at Messy Church on Saturday, Oct. 11th and the theme of our intergenerational worship on Sunday, Oct. 12th at 10:30 am.

I'll be grateful for your presence and participation! ~ Rev. Amanda Currie