



January 2020 Newsletter

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Investing in the Future of PSUC

We are on the cusp of being a dynamic and viable United Church community in St. James. Our mission statement says that we want Prairie Spirit to serve our faith needs and to provide support to others in the community. With a top up of \$5.00 to \$10.00 per week on the part of each donor, we will develop a viable future for PSUC.

At the congregational meeting on January 5th, we made a decision to accept the Community of Faith Profile Team Report. This report recommended that we:

- Hire one full time minister as of July 1, 2020

The minister will then assist in the hiring of the equivalent of a full-time community building/rentals manager and outreach development person as of September 2020 as detailed below:

- Community and Youth Outreach Worker (12 hours per week)
- Communication and Administration Manager (28 hours per week)

With these positions, what will be different?

- Mid week programs supporting youth in the community such as a home work club, drop in centre
- Alternate styles and times for worship such as Messy Church
- Sunday school for children
- Mid-week programs for older adults
- Programs in support of personal wellness: mind, body and soul
- Greater use of our building by outside rental groups
- Increased promotion and information about Prairie Spirit as a faith community centre

We can move forward in a responsible way by beginning a plan today in support of our human resource needs as of September 2020.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The next

SOUPER SUNDAY

will be held on

Sunday, February 23

after the morning service.



SAVE THE DATE!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BASH

Saturday, March 7

More details to come.

Tickets will be on sale beginning February 9.

Cost \$20 per person.

Book your table early (beginning February 9).



Prairie Spirit United Church

207 Thompson Drive Winnipeg, MB R3J 3E2

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm

prairiespirituc.org

Investing in the Future of PSUC (cont. from page 1)

HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

By increasing weekly donations by \$5.00 to \$10.00 per week you take a step up on the following grid from one category to the next.

**Take the challenge:
A step up on this grid!**



JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 AVERAGE MONTHLY GIVINGS TO LOCAL & BUILDING FUND (Does not include givings to M&S, Food Bank + other charities)

Number of Donors **	Average Monthly Giving
1	\$ 500.01 - 700.00
2	\$ 400.01 - 500.00
2	\$ 300.01 - 400.00
3	\$ 200.01 - 300.00
3	\$ 180.01 - 200.00
5	\$ 160.01 - 180.00
7	\$ 140.01 - 160.00
13	\$ 120.01 - 140.00
12	\$ 100.01 - 120.00
20	\$ 80.01 - 100.00
34	\$ 60.01 - 80.00
37	\$ 40.01 - 60.00
41	\$ 20.01 - 40.00
65	\$ 0.01 - 20.00

** Couples are considered as 1 donor

The Finance committee has prepared an initial budget for 2020 which resources our plan for two ministerial staff members. We need to invest in human resources in order to be viable 5 years from now. We can make a decision to increase our donations at this time in the interest of not facing a \$50,000 deficit at the end of this fiscal year. It is hard to believe that only \$5.00 per week per donor would make up this amount of money!



Respectfully we ask, how can you support Prairie Spirit United Church being a center of faith development and community outreach? Would it mean one less Tim's coffee and donut per week? Would it mean walking to a location versus always driving? Would it mean not buying a lotto ticket? Would it mean one less Café latte at Starbucks? Contact the church office to express that you would like to increase your weekly or monthly givings.

It is as simple as this! For further information, speak with Marilyn McCorrister, Mike Hill, Marg Fisher, Carol Scott or myself.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Leadership Team,
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk

An Affirming Ministry?

At our last Leadership meeting, we voted to create a committee to look into becoming an Affirming Ministry.

What is that?

Every faith community or organization that is an Affirming Ministry declares itself to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities - and they back up their words with action. The Affirming Ministries Program encourages ministries of all kinds, in the United Church and beyond, to explore what it means to be publicly welcoming and inclusive.

The program provides support for sexual orientation and gender identity struggles for equity and justice. It also encourages the study of other resources that promote the inclusion of other marginalized groups.

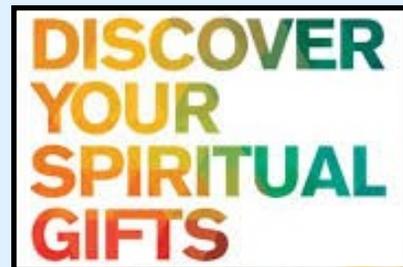


"Since the first day I walked in here, I have been included... this church tells me I am valued. And to be valued is to belong!" - A member of Trinity United, an Affirming Ministry in Vancouver

Spirit Given Gifts

What are your spiritual gifts? Want to go deeper into the searching? Find what you are called to do and be?

Before we finish our work, the Transition Team is hoping to do **SPIRIT GIVEN GIFTS** with Prairie Spirit. It's a list of questions you answer and score and it will then tell you where your skills and interest rest in about 22 different spiritual gifts. Each gift has a separate sheet outlining how to use that gift, how to care with the gift, Bible examples, and other information.



We are looking to see how many may be interested in this. The Team will then discuss when and how to complete the survey. About twelve folks have already signed up.

If interested, call and leave Ken your name and email before February 19. The Transition Team will meet February 20 to discuss dates and times.

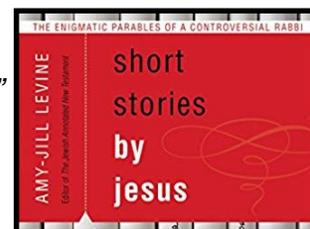
You can also check spiritgivengifts.com for more information.

Lenten Study

"The essence of Lent is that Jesus challenged established habits and norms of the entrenched religious and political interests until those forces retaliated and killed him. Our question for Lent is who's side are we on? and how do our lives reflect that choice?" from Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine (2015: Harper Collins).

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to colour their perspectives.

In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. In Short Stories by Jesus, she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them.



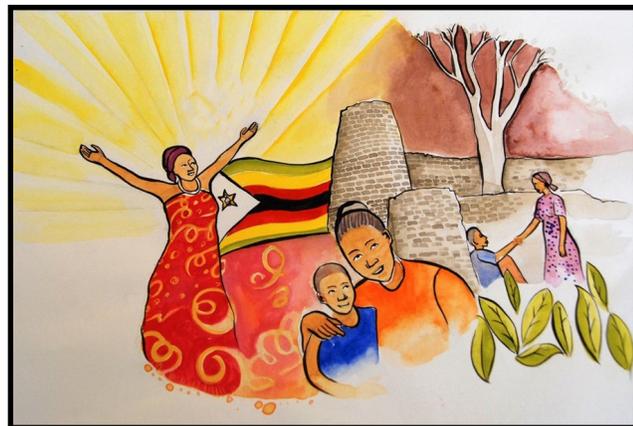
We will meet Thursdays during Lent, February 27 to April 2 at 11:45 am - 1:15 pm. Bring a bag lunch, we will provide drinks. For more information, contact Paul DuVal. The book will be available for purchase for \$20 - please sign up in the Narthex or call the office so we know how many books to have on hand for interested participants.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Each year on this day, Christians of many cultures, traditions, and races, in over 170 countries around the world unite in prayer. It is held every year on the first Friday of March. This year it will be on **Friday, March 6 at 7 pm at Westwood Presbyterian Church** (the corner of Browning and Westwood).

The host country for WDP 2020 is Zimbabwe. The women of this country prepared the material for this service. It is based on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given (John 5:2-9a). Jesus asked - "Do you want to be made well?" with the theme "**Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk**". You are faced with this life-changing question. What are you going to do?

The women from Zimbabwe are taking Jesus' encounter to be a call to act in love for peace and reconciliation. "The action verbs suggest that we should not be afraid to act on the word of God. God is offering us the steps for personal and social transformation." This is the time for change!



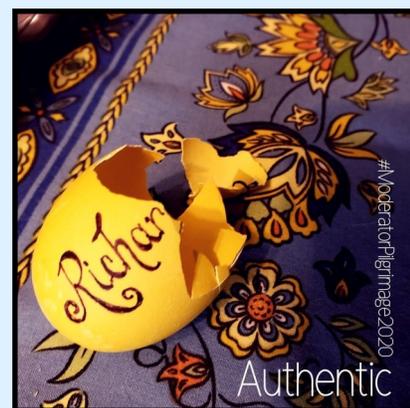
Medical Assistance in Dying

A presentation on the 5 W's of Medical Assistance in Dying (who, what, why, when and where) will take place on **Tuesday, February 4 at 7 pm at Westminster United Church** (745 Westminster Ave.) in the Lecture Hall. Presenters include the Manitoba Provincial Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Clinical Team and Rev. Marc Whitehead (Minister, Crescent-Fort Rouge United Church).

The Manitoba provincial MAiD clinical team consists of several physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, administrative assistants and speech language pathologists who have developed expertise in medical assistance in dying. The team was an initiative of the provincial government including health, justice, the five regional health authorities and the four medical colleges (physician, nursing, social work and pharmacy). The team provides consultation regarding medical assistance in dying to all regions in the province. This includes providing MAiD and supporting other practitioners to provide the service. At present, all requests for MAiD within the regional health authority facilities are being referred to and completed by the provincial MAiD clinical team. On an ongoing basis, the team will (and does) provide support in the areas of education, monitoring and evaluation as well as standards of practice.

Pilgrimage with Moderator Richard Bott

Moderator Richard Bott is taking an "internal pilgrimage" through 2020 and invites you to join him on the journey. Each day of the pilgrimage, the Moderator will use his Facebook page and Instagram to share reflections on the themes and daily scripture readings, along with photographs and other media to illuminate the way. You can join in and share what is happening for you through this pilgrimage experience using the hashtag **#ModeratorPilgrimage2020**. The full schedule of themes for February can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.





Pilgrimage with the Moderator 2020

Exploring: With God
With Each Other
With Ourselves

February

We're taking a five part "internal" pilgrimage this year:

- Part One: Reading through the bible over the year;
- Part Two: Reflecting each day on a focus word;
- Part Three: Entering into intentional conversation with God (through prayer or meditation) about the reading and reflection;
- Part Four: Intentionally living into my discipleship, by daily actions that show love to God, to my neighbours (near and/or far);
- Part Five: Exploring my day through "Examen" questions

If, at any time, you would like to share what is happening on the pilgrimage, or you have questions, you can post a comment on the Moderator's social media, or use the hashtag **#ModeratorPilgrimage2020**. If you've got pictures, writing, or other creative things that the pilgrimage calls out of you that you'd like to share, please make sure you post them!

2/1	creator	
2/2	redeemer	
2/3	longing	Exodus 1-3; Gal 5
2/4	hope-birther	Exodus 4-6; Gal 6
2/5	present	Exodus 7-9; Psalm 105; Ephesians 1
2/6	hope	Exodus 10-12; Eph 2
2/7	peaceful	Exodus 13-15; Psalm 114; Eph 3
2/8	awesome	
2/9	hospitality	
2/10	believing	Exodus 16-18; Eph 4
2/11	strengthening	Exodus 19-21; Psalm 33; Eph 5
2/12	mighty	Exodus 22-24; Psalm 109; Eph 6
2/13	many	Exodus 25-27; Psalm 90; Philippians 1
2/14	encouraging	Exodus 28-31; Phil 2
2/15	compassion	
2/16	helper	
2/17	friend	Exodus 32-34; Philippians 3
2/18	ancient	Exodus 35-37; Psalm 26; Phil 4
2/19	vulnerable	Exodus 38-40; Hebrews 1

2/20	trustworthy	Leviticus 1-3; Psalm 27; Heb 2
2/21	listener	Lev 4-7; Heb 3
2/22	connected	
2/23	rewarding	
2/24	alive	Leviticus 8-11; Ps 110; Hebrews 4
2/25	anti-racist	Lev 12-14; Psalm 111; Heb 5
2/26	courage	Lev 15-18; Psalm 31; Heb 6
2/27	kind	Lev 19-20; Heb 7
2/28	beloved	Lev 21-23; Heb 8
2/29	grit	

The words may or may not connect to the scriptures. They're just another way for one to reflect on God – Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit – or on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

The questions I often find myself asking as I read scripture are:

- What surprises or shocks me as I read this?
- What do I agree with? What do I disagree with?
- How might earlier audiences have understood these words?
- What can I take into my day from what I've read?
- Is there some action I would like to take, out of what I have read?
- Is there something more that I'd like to learn from, or about, this text?
- What do I hear of, or about, God in this text?

**As you wander through your day,
keep your senses open for where you might be meeting God.**

Closer to the end of the day, I'd invite you to reflect on or pray the *examen* questions. Here are the words I tend to use – feel free to change them as you need to.

Thank you, God, for all that is in my life. I realize that everything – all that I am – is part of the gift that comes from you.

Take a moment to speak or write about the things from your day for which you are grateful.

God, open my heart, and all of my senses, so that I can be honest with myself and with you.

Take time to offer what it is that you need from this intentional moment with the divine.

Help me to understand what has been happening in me, through me, and around me, today.

Share with God the moments of joy and the moments of sorrow from your day.

I know that there are times that I stumble, but you lift me with your love, helping me to carry on and grow.

Share with God the choices you made today that you believe were inadequate responses to God's love and call.

God, help me be hopeful about the day to come.

How do you hope to meet God tomorrow?

Sleep well – and let's see where tomorrow takes us.

TOGETHER TIME

An afternoon drop-in for adults

***Prairie Spirit United Church
(207 Thompson Drive)***

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 13, 2020

❄️ (with Valentine's Day treats ♥♥♥)

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF
FUN!**

- Door Prizes!
- Play card games or table games
- Connect with old friends, meet new people
- Enjoy conversation and light refreshments



International Development Week

In Canada and across the world, the United Church and church partners are actively engaged in initiatives that lift people out of poverty, offer sustenance and support to those in need, and care for God's creation. Our faith makes us natural partners in sustainable development.

From February 2 - 8, the Government of Canada, civil society organizations, and communities will be celebrating International Development Week across Canada. This year's focus will be "Go for the Goals" and features the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the core of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs are a shared plan for building a brighter global future for people and the planet by 2030.

Stories will be shared from across the church about the collaboration with Mission & Service partners in work that addresses poverty, hunger, climate change, justice and peace, health, and education on a global and local scale. Follow United Action for Justice's Facebook page and the Stories of Our Faith section of the United Church of Canada website for more information on how your community of faith can learn more, participate, and **#GoForTheGoals**



Disaster Relief in the Philippines

Since late 2019, the Philippines have been ravaged by a series of intense natural disasters. Two earthquakes, two typhoons, and a major volcanic eruption have had devastating impacts on over 6 million people. United Church Mission & Service partners the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and ACT Alliance are responding to the disasters by providing food, hygiene kits, medical supplies, shelter materials, blankets, tents and psycho-social support. Please help by donating to support this life-saving work.



Coronavirus: United Church Response

The United Church of Canada is concerned for all those affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus spreading in China and globally.

United Church Mission & Service partner the Amity Foundation has requested emergency medical supplies (medical masks, goggles, and gowns) for use by medical first responders and communities in Wuhan. As part of a North American ecumenical response, the United Church is collaborating with the American Baptist International Ministries, which is coordinating the provision of these supplies to address the crisis.

Please pray for the sick and those who have lost their lives, as well as the families, caregivers, medical responders, and communities affected by this outbreak around the world.



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