

Here's what's up at Prairie Spirit

Prairie Spirit United Church

207 Thompson Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3J 3E2

Phone: 204-832-1000 Email: office@prairiespirituc.org

Weekly Update – Friday 12 February 2021

Worship Service – Sunday 14 February 2021

Join us for Sunday Service virtually:

Feb 14 – Rev. Deborah Vitt will lead us in worship.

Pat Rothney will be our Scripture Reader.

All services available via YouTube.



Sunday After Worship Zoom Chat

Please join us anytime after the end of Worship until 12:30pm

[Join Zoom Meeting on Sun 14 Feb](#)

Meeting ID: 937 5201 7388

Passcode: 007963

The Search Team is pleased to announce that Rev. Deborah Vitt is joining us at Prairie Spirit as a 1/2 time Gap Minister until June 30, 2021. The Search Team made the recommendation, unanimously, having used a collaborative approach to arrive at the decision. She will be teaming with Rev. Paul DuVal to share duties.

With the departure of key staff since the Fall, the work required of the Worship Committee has been extensive. The committee has had to take on more of the responsibility associated with on-line services, as well as making sure that we have had pulpit supply ministers lead us for the services when Rev. DuVal is not with us. Thankfully, the addition of Rev. Vitt can lessen the load and re-create more connection amongst congregants, moving forward.

Rev. Vitt brings experience, energy and enthusiasm along with a strong sense of healthy boundaries, expectations, and effective communication skills. She has expressed interest in Pastoral Care and Faith Formation, in addition to leading worship services. We look forward to Rev. Vitt sharing her spiritual leadership and skill set so that we can continue to progress as a faith community.

Shaun Cross, Fran Ferguson, Val Goodridge, Deb McAlpine, John Mcleod, Thomas Ormonde

In Memoriam

With great sadness we announce the sudden death of Tony Keck, on Wednesday February 10. Tony is the husband of Eileen Keck. Our sincere condolences are extended to Eileen and her family.



Ash Wednesday Zoom Chat

In lieu of an Ash Wednesday service, we are pleased to offer an Ash Wednesday "chat" February 17th at 7:00 p.m. for about an hour. We will read the Ash Wednesday traditional readings, look at the history of Ash Wednesday, and see if it is an observance that has significance for us today.

All are welcome at the Zoom link below.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Lenten Study

Our Zoom Lenten Study will begin Wednesday February 24th 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. It is open to all, if you are interested in receiving personal reminders, call the church office and leave your phone number and email address. Watch this space next week for the zoom link and further details.

More questions? Call the church and leave a message for Paul he'll get back to you

This past Dec. Harvest Manitoba asked each Food Bank to nominate a volunteer extraordinaire. The Portage Ave. Food Bank had the privilege to nominate DORIS ORCHYK.

The contributions Doris has made over her many years of service and continues to make were highlighted in the nomination.

CONGRATULATIONS to Doris who goes above and beyond.



A Desperate NEED for Toques and More

We've nearly run out of cold weather supplies (except for socks) and people are in need everyday! Please do a collection, donate today or start knitting!!! Details on where to drop off for St. Matthew's Maryland, Oak Table and West Broadway can be found [here](#).

Or bring your articles to the PSUC and we can distribute them.



Girl Guide Cookies

Thank you for the carton of Girl Guide Cookies that was dropped off at the church on Thursday morning.

The Cookie Train would like to make sure that the cookies go where they were intended. Please call the office if you can help solve the mystery of The Girl Guide Cookies.

Thriving Churches Webinar #3

Again this last Wednesday night, 5 people from PSUC participated in a webinar on thriving churches. The webinar is based on work done by two ministers, Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd and Tammy Allan during their sabbaticals. They visited United Churches deemed to be thriving to see what was working. They developed a list of practices that thriving churches have. In the last webinar they discussed:

- Radical Hospitality
 - Balancing welcoming vs overwhelming newcomers
 - Membership model (building numbers) vs discipleship model (building active members)
 - Opening ourselves to having newcomers change us.
- Mission Focus
 - Engagement with the wider community
 - Clear sense of mission
 - Be clear about it, have clarity of vision
 - Attractional model (brings people in) vs missional model (takes church out of the building).
 - Both are needed
 - With missional we must remember God's work is bigger than us, must include other denominations and faiths
- Offering Public Witness
 - Be a spokesperson to the community
 - Use media releases, don't buy ads, be the news
 - Along with news coverage comes risks
 - Others may attack your statements and beliefs.

During the breakout session one church mentioned that they distribute their services on DVDs to members who do not have internet access. They can be viewed by anyone who has a DVD player.

These 3 webinars are available at

<https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings>

Note the third one will be posted sometime in the week of Feb 15th.

If there is interest, we may discuss as a congregation how this learning can be used by PSUC.

John McLeod



Becoming an Anti-Racist Denomination

Adele Halliday, the Anti-Racism and Equity Officer in the Office of the Moderator and General Secretary at the General Council Office, joined us to discuss The United Church of Canada's 2020 commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination.

History: The United Church of Canada has a long history of anti-racism work that dates back to the 1960s. This includes policies, programs, resources, and more. However, as Adele reiterated, anti-racism work is an ongoing process. We still have a lot of work to do.

Commitment to Becoming an Anti-Racist Denomination: The newest commitment (adopted October 2020) to becoming an anti-racist denomination has three key aspects:

1. Make a very clear statement that commits the United Church to becoming an anti-racism denomination. The wording "becoming" is intentional as it implies a journey with continuous and ongoing work.
2. Empower the General Secretary of the General Council Office to implement the necessary frameworks and strategic direction for involvement of the whole church.
3. Request the General Secretary to offer annual updates on the progress of the commitment. This provides accountability and transparency of the ongoing work in the whole church.

What does this mean for me? As taken from the document "Working Towards Becoming an Anti-Racist Denomination":

"An anti-racist denomination is one that actively works at dismantling racism and White supremacy at all levels of the church, continues to work at decolonizing its theology, and strives to redistribute racial power more fairly. It does this anti-racism work so that people from all racial backgrounds can participate in the church's life fully and freely". (page 2)

Moreover, intentionality and action are crucial to the commitment. Adele discussed the following seven named intentionality and actions listed in the document.

- continuous effort
- all parts of the church
- equipping leaders
- engaging with anti-racist practices
- building on history
- reflecting on theology
- a concrete strategy

Next Steps: A video series, and a study guide for anti-racism work, are among the initial resources and materials that are in development.



In addition, Adele is working with the newly-established Anti-Racism Common Table (a diverse national committee) to create a national anti-racism action plan for the United Church – you will have many opportunities to engage with this part of the work.

Watch the full [EDGY Conversation](#) with Adele!