

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 26 March 2021

Worship Service – Sunday 28 March 2021

Join us for Sunday Service virtually:

March 28 – Palm Sunday – Rev. Deborah Vitt will lead us in worship and communion.

Ken Cade will be our scripture reader.

Luke 19: 29-40 and Luke 22: 7-13

April 2 – Good Friday – Rev. Deborah Vitt will lead us in worship.

April 4 – Easter Sunday – Rev. Paul DuVal will lead us in worship.

All services available via YouTube.

COVID 19 - UPDATES

On March 23rd, 2021 the province of Manitoba announced some revisions to the red restrictions that are to expire on March 25, 2021. Changes to the Public Health Orders effective March 26, 2021 at 12: 01 a.m. that will most directly affect Prairie Spirit United Church are the following:

1. increase in numbers attending weddings and funerals to twenty five people in addition to the officiant and photographer or videographer,
2. increase in numbers for any outdoor gatherings to twenty five people and permission for those attending Drive-In services to be out of their vehicles following all other COVID restrictions.
3. No changes were made to numbers and restrictions around regular worship. The limit is still 25% of capacity or 100 people, whichever is less when adhering to social distancing, masking and all other related protocols. PSUC has decided to continue with on-line services until a greater number of the population is vaccinated.

These changes are in effect until April 15, 2021 in all areas of the province except some Indigenous Communities which may have their own additional restrictions.

Other than for regular worship, access to churches is limited to use for Ministerial staff, Office Administrator, self help groups, schools, health care, child care and social services i.e. food banks. Access for taping of virtual services is permitted. Some faith based communities are still seeking clarification from the government or public health officials around matters such as numbers allowed for meetings.

Current Public Health Orders in Manitoba appear through this link:

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/orders/index.html>

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gerry Langman as he prepares to move to a graduated home in Calgary where he will be close to a son and daughter. If you would like to send him a card of good wishes, he will be at Sturgeon Creek 1 for the next month,
414 - 10 Hallonquist Drive R2Y 2M5

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family and friends of **Rev. John Robertson** whose death we announced last week. An obituary is now available at:
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/winnipeg-mb/john-robertson-10108470>

Sunday After Worship Zoom Chat

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

[Zoom Link to Join After Worship Chat on Sun 28 March](#)

To connect by phone:
204 272 7920
Enter
Meeting ID: 937 5201 7388
Passcode: 007963



Lenten Study

Our Lenten Study Group will be meeting on Thursday mornings. Lenten Study will continue this week **Thursday, April 1st at 10:30 a.m.** The zoom link is below:

[Zoom Link to Join Lenten Study on Thu 1 April at 10:30am](#)

Preregistration is not required, but if you have questions please contact Sherri or Paul.



Are you feeling disconnected from our community of faith?

Serving on an Oversight Council Team would be one way to become involved and feel more connected to others at church. Meetings continue to happen over Zoom and initiatives undertaken. Do you have an interest in Pastor Care? in Congregational Life? In Worship? In Social Justice? In Stewardship? In Finance or Property? If so, please put your name forward for one of these teams. If you would like to discuss this with someone, Rev. Paul DuVal would be happy to speak with you.

Being involved in the life and the work of the church is a great way to get to know others and to make a difference in our community!



'Ask Worship'

Worship Team is preparing a weekly question and response feature for the 'Weekly Update' where you ask questions about Worship and the Ministry & Worship Team reply.

Send your questions to the church office by phone or eMail and the Worship Team will respond to one question a week. If you wish further information on any questions asked, just let the Worship Team know and we will get back to you.

Let us learn together about this significant shared experience of our church life!!

Our sixth question:

What is Holy Week?

Holy week, which begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday, can be observed in this way:

Palm Sunday

All four gospel accounts record Jesus' entry into Jerusalem during the festival of the Jewish Passover on the first Sunday of Holy Week (sometimes called Passion Week). Whether by donkey or colt, many of the observant would recognize and make the connection between what was written by the prophet Zechariah (9:9) "a humble king riding a donkey, a mere colt of a donkeyno more war horses in Jerusalem...."

Why wave palm branches? This according to the great oracle Google:

Palm branches were regarded as tokens of joy and triumph and were customarily used on festive occasions (Leviticus 23:40, Nehemiah 8:15). Kings and conquerors were welcomed with **palm branches** being strewn before them and waved in the air.

Maundy Thursday

This is the day Christians remember the Last Supper, when Jesus gave his disciples bread and wine (communion/eucharist) and washed their feet.

The term Maundy comes from the Latin word mandatum – meaning command – and references Jesus' words to the disciples: "a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another." John 15:12

Good Friday

The day of Holy Week that tells the story of the crucifixion of Jesus. It is the most somber day in the Christian faith story. Many churches use the liturgical colour of black as a symbol of mourning. Candles are sometimes extinguished as the bible narrative is shared and the music selections reflect the sorrowful tone of the service.

Why Good?

For years many have thought (this writer included) that it all started with the understanding it would be called God's Friday – over time it changed much like the phrase Good Bye began its origins with "God be with you". This is no longer the understanding and the adjective "good" in this context refers to a day or season observed as holy by the church, hence the greeting "good tide" at Christmas or on Shrove Tuesday.

Holy Saturday

The final day of Holy Week and it remembers Jesus' followers holding a vigil for him outside of his tomb. In the 2nd Century CE, Christians fasted between nightfall on Good Friday and dawn on Easter Sunday. Some churches hold a vigil starting on Saturday at dusk and the service focuses on the transition from darkness to light, and a new candle is lit on Easter Sunday to represent the new light of the risen Christ.



Fabric Art on Holy Week
Artist: Judy Morningstar, Goodlands, Manitoba

Mark, the earliest of the gospel writers, dedicates a full half of his gospel to the events of these few days. For Christians, this week is central to our understanding of our faith.

The scenes in this banner flow from one to another, giving a sense of the unfolding drama of Christ's Passion. The scene depicts:

- Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday
- The overturning of the tables in the temple
- The last supper
- The prayer at Gethsemane
- Pilate washes his hands
- Simon carries the cross
- The crucifixion

ELEPHANT STEW

Congregational Life

**1 Elephant
Salt & Pepper**

**Brown Gravy
2 Rabbits (optional)**

Cut elephant into bite size pieces. This should take about 2 months. Cover with brown gravy. Cook over kerosene fire about four weeks at 465 degrees. This will serve 3,800 people. If more are expected, two rabbits may be added. Do this only if necessary, as most people do not like to find hare in their stew.



You are now able to start ordering your plants online

[Fundraiser 2021 Home Page – Glenlea Greenhouses](#)

There are also limited 4 page colour paper copies of the flyer now available. We would

ask you to avoid taking one if you have access to the online version. The full **16-page catalogue will still be produced but in digital form only.**

Important Fundraiser dates to remember –

April 5th – paper orders due to the church

April 15th – deadline for online orders

May 19th – ordered plants delivered to Prairie Spirit United Church

Your Zoom Links for the Week:

[Zoom Link to Join After Worship Chat on Sun 28 March](#)

[Zoom Link to Join Lenten Study on Thu 1 April at 10:30am](#)

Please submit Weekly Updates to the office by Wed.

Deadline for the next Newsletter will be March 31st.

If you would like to register for our Member Only area of the PSUC website, please email the office with your name and email address.

In the Member Only section you will have access to past Annual Reports, Governance Structure, Ministry Profile, Oversight and Executive Minutes, Newsletters and Weekly Updates.