



P.S. NEWS May 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:	Pg. No.
COVID-19 Update	1
Oversight Council	2
Let's Talk Books	3
Memory Stone Pavers	3
Affirming Ministries	4
Social Justice Team	5
Worship Team	6

COVID-19 Update

New Public Health Guidelines came into effect on May 9 and will end on May 30. Here are the orders that will affect Prairie Spirit.

1. All places of worship are closed to the public.
2. Staff and a very limited number of congregants may enter to do maintenance and checks of the building.
3. Staff may work as long as physical distancing can be maintained and masks are worn.
4. Worship services may be taped in order to be shown online.
5. Funerals and weddings may be held with 10 people plus the officiant and a photographer or videographer in attendance.
6. Self-help groups may meet at 25% of room capacity or 10 people, whichever is less.
7. The Portage Avenue Food Bank may continue with special attention paid to numbers, physical distancing and masks must be worn at all times.
8. All voice, music and dance classes held in the building are cancelled.

Everyone at Prairie Spirit is working together to follow these new Public Health Orders. Stay safe out there!

Prairie Spirit United Church

207 Thompson Drive Winnipeg, MB R3J 3E2

Office@PrairieSpiritUC.org • 204-832-1000

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday • 10 am - 2 pm

prairiespirituc.org

[facebook.com/ PrairieSpiritUC](https://facebook.com/PrairieSpiritUC)

[instagram.com/ PrairieSpiritUC](https://instagram.com/PrairieSpiritUC)

[twitter.com/ PrairieSpiritUC](https://twitter.com/PrairieSpiritUC)

REPORT FROM THE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

For a church that has been closed to in-person worship for over a year, things have certainly been busy at Prairie Spirit United Church!

On April 18, our Annual Meeting was held via Zoom with 46 people in attendance either on line or by phone. Considering that it was our first time holding a large, virtual meeting, it ran surprisingly smoothly. The reports proved that a lot of work was accomplished in 2021 even while the church was closed. If you have not had a chance to read the 2020 Annual Report, please request a digital copy or pick up a hard copy from the office. Thank you to all who planned, organized, and participated in order to make the Annual Meeting a success. Thank you to everyone who agreed to take on a leadership role at Prairie Spirit during the year ahead. I am honoured to become the Chair of the Oversight Council and I am excited to be working with all of you.

There are still several important positions that are currently vacant and volunteers are needed.

1. At the Executive level, we desperately need a secretary and a Regional representative.
2. On the Standing Teams, Ministry and Personnel, Pastoral Care and Christian Education and Faith Formation need more members.

The work of these teams is extremely important to our church. If any of these teams interests you, please contact the office for more information. Your participation would be warmly welcomed.

The church may be “closed” to in-person worship but we are by no means closed in the usual sense of the word. The Oversight Council continues to meet virtually every month and the work of all the Standing Teams is ongoing. The building is being maintained and renewed, the staff is being supported, our outreach to the congregation has become a major focus, and we are finding new ways to support our inner city ministries. Worship is central to our life as a Christian congregation. Our ministerial staff, the music director and the tech team are working together to create inspirational worship services for us that are professionally delivered on-line. We have truly proven that a Christian community can thrive even under difficult circumstances.

Blessings,
Val Goodridge

Let's Talk Books

will meet at 1:30 pm on Friday, May 14.

At each meeting participants bring one or two of their favourite books to share with the others.

A complete list is sent out after the meeting.

Use the link below to join our zoom chat.

Everyone is welcome.



[Zoom Link to Join Let's Talk Books on Fri 14 May](#)

Have You Purchased A Memory Stone Yet? Deadline for Orders is 15 May 2021

Have you been thinking of donating a Memory Stone?

Then please, don't put it off another day! **May 15 is the deadline for orders.**



A Memory Stone is a perfect way for your family to commemorate a loved one, an important memory, a short Bible passage or an inspirational quote or word. Your stone will be installed in the walkway leading to the main doors at Prairie Spirit United Church.

An 8x8 inch, paver, engraved with your choice of lettering, will be available for a donation of \$150.00. Donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt and will be added to your church givings in 2021.

Information and an order form are linked below. Contact the church office at office@prairiespirituc.org or (204) 832-1000 if you need more information.

If you haven't taken advantage of this unique opportunity to have your memory set in stone don't miss out! Act now!

Please click [here](#) for a Memory Stone Order Form.
Please click [here](#) to read Frequently Asked Questions.

Affirming Ministries

What is an Affirming Ministry?

Affirming Ministries are communities of faith within the United Church that publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Affirming Ministries not only make an explicit statement about issues of sexuality and gender, their commitment to justice is far broader. Affirming Ministries work in many different ways toward the healing and wholeness of creation by challenging bias and discrimination based on appearance, ability, culture, class, or age; working to end racism; promoting economic justice; increasing accessibility; or caring for the planet. These ministries declare, in words and actions, that God loves and celebrates all people. And they call upon the rest of the church and society to do the same.



How Do Communities of Faith Become Affirming?

Any church interested in becoming an Affirming Ministry will need to work through a multi-step process. There is no timeline. The affirming process will take as long as it takes!

Encountering the Need is the first step in the process.

Before amalgamation, Sturgeon Creek had begun the journey towards becoming an affirming ministry but the steps were never completed. At Silver Heights and Kirkfield United there had been conversations but no formal steps were taken.

At the January 21, 2020 meeting of the Oversight Council Worship brought forward a motion requesting that Prairie Spirit begin the steps to become an affirming congregation. This motion was carried. With that motion we move ahead.

Discerning is the second step.

Prairie Spirit is in the discerning stage. Contact was made with the Affirming Ministry program coordinator asking for advice and support in the process. On May 6 thirteen people attended an information meeting where Reverend Deborah Vitt led us through a discussion of the steps in the process and with conversation, our next steps were defined. The discerning step requires time for those interested to come together, gather information and develop a plan for our community of faith.

Embarking is the third step.

At this point a motion will be taken to the Oversight Council to formally enter the affirming process. This is when the real work of engaging the congregation will begin!

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Social Justice Team Members

Linda Uhrich
(Team Lead)
Betty Rogers

Val Goodridge
Sharon Thom
Marsha Jones

Chris Urban
Heather Friesen
(Mission Enthusiast)

SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS (PART 4)

MAY 2021

The Seven Grandfather Teachings have always been a part of the Native American culture. Their roots date back to the beginning of time. These teachings impact our surroundings, along with providing guidance toward our actions to one another.



TRUTH

Truth is having the knowledge of our cultural teachings.

It gives us the ability to act without regret. We must understand, speak, and feel the truth, while also honoring its power. Truth should not lead us to deceptions. We know who we are in our heart. By knowing that, we also know the truth. Our emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual gifts will guide each one of us in our journey.

To know truth is to know and understand all of the original laws as given by the Creator and to remain faithful to them. It is said that in the beginning when the Creator made man and gave him the seven sacred laws, the Grandmother Turtle was present to ensure that the laws would never be lost or forgotten. On the back of a Turtle are the 13 moons, each representing the truth of one cycle of the Earth's rotations around the sun. The 28 markings on her back represent the cycle of the moon and of a woman's body. The shell of the Turtle represents the body and real events as created by the Higher Power serving as a reminder of the Creator's will and teachings.



**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON
BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI**

A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Team Members

Thomas Ormonde
Sharon McIntyre

Pat Rothney
Gerry Varnes

Paul DuVal (Minister)
Renate Rossol (Music Director)



Fabric Art – Judges and Kings **Artist: Judy Morningstar, Goodlands, Manitoba**

Here you will see various scenes depicting the life of the Hebrews, once they have crossed the Jordan River and entered the promised land (top scene). In this time of Judges and Kings you will see the boy Samuel being called in the middle of the night.

In another scene the adult Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel.

Later a young David would play on his harp to soothe a tormented Saul.

King Solomon was known for his wisdom, including his handling of a case in which two women claimed to be the mother of the same child.

The scenes depicted are as follows:

- Hebrews crossing the Jordan River
- Jericho, the promised land
- Philistine army and Goliath
- Samuel called by the Lord
- Samuel anoints Saul to be King
- David and his harp with Saul
- Absalom tests the rulers
- Deborah and Ruth working in the fields
- King Solomon's judgement on the baby's Mother