



## P.S. NEWS June 2021

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## Prairie Spirit United Church

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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

It's been a wonderful experience sharing in ministry with Paul, Sherri and all of you in these crazy Covid times. I am very aware I haven't met many of you in person. I have only attended meetings on Zoom. You graciously provided me with an office and a computer but I can assure you I haven't spent much time checking out that comfy chair. These days we all have learned the art of the Pandemic Pivot.

In the short time I have been with you, I am grateful for the creative ways you have supported the ongoing ministry of this church:

- You supported the provincial restrictions around gathering sizes which I believe is a faithful, loving response to caring for one another and the community.
- The Food Bank continued on with the dedication and support of many volunteers
- Cookies continued being delivered via the cookie train! Chew chew
- Plants were ordered and funds were raised
- 13 people attended the first Affirm information gathering and you are well on your way to creating a welcoming community of faith where everyone can find their place in the rainbow
- Your creative response to my request to see more of you in the pews, was met with picture perfection! lol



.....these are just a few of the ways Prairie Spirit has embraced living out your call to ministry in these times.

Walking this path of justice and living into right relationships is an ongoing call to faithful living.....

As I write this, the news is breaking from the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation and the discovery of the remains of 215 children who died at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. My heart is breaking and I am sure yours is too. Many here at Prairie Spirit have been intentional about learning what it means to live into right relationship with one another. I would encourage you to keep sharing what you have learned, keep reading and acting on the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and continue the dialogue about what it means to be a Treaty People.

I am so deeply appreciative for these past 4.5 months. I pray God's blessings on you and in your future ministry. In closing I leave you with a favourite of mine:

"I'm so glad we had this time together – just to have a laugh and sing a song  
Seems we just got started and before you know it  
Comes the time we have to say – so long"  
(ear pull 😊)

Blessings always  
Deborah Vitt

## OVERSIGHT COUNCIL / MINISTRY SEARCH TEAM

At a Community of Faith meeting on Sunday, June 6, the Ministry Search Team presented Susan McIlveen as our candidate for the full time ministry position at Prairie Spirit United Church (PSUC). Three motions were moved, discussed and voted upon by the 54 participants on the zoom call. These motions were all carried unanimously. The required documents were sent to the Pastoral Relations Commission Meeting on June 8 and approval was given for Susan McIlveen to begin as our full time minister at PSUC effective July 1, 2021.

Susan is currently organizing her move to Winnipeg from Clinton, Ontario which is an hour outside of London, Ontario. Summer is a very difficult time to book a move and the earliest we can expect her to arrive is the first week of July. Unless the Public Health Orders are changed by then, she will have to quarantine for two weeks upon her arrival. If all goes well Susan will preach her first service on July 25. Susan is very excited to be starting this new chapter in her ministry with us at Prairie Spirit United Church.

### **Presenting Susan McIlveen**

For those of you who were not able to attend the Community of Faith meeting the Ministry Search Team is pleased to introduce Susan McIlveen.

Susan has completed the Master of Divinity degree requirement at the Atlantic School of Theology, and completed two supervised ministry experiences over the past five years through the Atlantic School of Theology field Summer Distance Programme. In the past five years the ministries that Susan has led are in smaller communities (Foam Lake, SK and Londesborough, ON), where she was asked to lead in various roles within the ministries she served.

Susan has a background in social work and teaching, and holds a Bachelor of Education and Master of Arts, English Literature. Her career has consisted of editing and teaching, she has served as a staff associate and community outreach worker, as well as worked in community-based ministries. Susan has served 20 plus years in lay positions of congregational and Presbytery administration prior to coming to ministry.

Susan lived and worked in Manitoba from 2010 to 2014, where she served in various roles including pulpit supply, editor and community outreach. She has published a number of articles in Atlantic School of Theology, Canada Lutheran, and Wood Lake Publishing.

In our conversations it was apparent, Susan's diverse background in many areas in social work and ministry has given her the knowledge to look at things in many different lights, often opening our eyes to different perspectives. Susan is very passionate about asset-based community development, both within the church and outside. She enjoys working with various groups across the community.

The Search Team saw that Susan has a strong commitment to faith and a belief in God. She is invested in learning and inquiring about spiritual growth and how to help others grow in that space. Susan was able to share ideas of different ways of worshipping and she is very open to working with the congregation to explore various worship styles. She is willing to work towards goals in collaboration with the congregation.

Susan hit the mark on all the keys areas we are looking for, Worship, Community Outreach and Social Justice, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation and Christian Education and Leadership. She is organized, detailed oriented, humorous, very confident in her abilities, and passionate about our journey and how to help others.

The Search Team is very pleased to welcome Susan McIlveen as the first permanent minister at Prairie Spirit United Church.

Shaun Cross  
Val Goodridge  
On behalf of the Ministry Search Team

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On behalf of the Oversight Council and the community of faith, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the members of the Ministry Search Team who began their work in early January, 2020 and are still in the stages of wrapping up their work. As Chairperson of the Oversight Council until April 2021, I can attest that this has been a faithful 18 month commitment to the life and work of our faith community. Members on the team met weekly or bi-weekly over this time period and between meetings researched potential candidates on Church Hub (our United Church online resource for hiring Ministry Personnel). There was also the process of interviews and reference checking. The Team worked with diligence and professionalism throughout the process. I would like to thank Shaun Cross, Fran Ferguson, Val Goodridge, Deborah McAlpine, John McLeod and Thomas Ormonde for their commitment to their responsibility and for setting the foundation for our future as a vibrant and viable church presence in the St. James Community.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk



Bouquets:

- Thank you to all those who offered to serve as leaders of our Community Connection Groups!! You will be contacted shortly with regard to your phone list and further information will be shared in September.
- Thank you to everyone who purchased the Memory Stones which will be placed at the front of our church! Your generosity and commitment to PSUC is recognized and appreciated!
- Thank you to the folks who have redesigned and replanted our Memorial Garden in the interest of it being a reverent place to honour those whose ashes have been scattered there.

## *It's Time to Celebrate Ministry at PSUC!*

We have been blessed to have had the Ministry Leadership of Rev. Ken DeLisle, Rev. Paul DuVal, and Rev. Deborah Vitt since becoming Prairie Spirit United Church (PSUC) October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Ken led the hard work of examining, exploring and determining our vision, mission and values to carry us forward and define our Ministry. Paul was/is our rock, providing grounded leadership in pastoral care, administration, worship and Bible study. Deborah has been our spirit of change and challenge in the past four plus months as we explored mission, supporting our greater community, and experienced moving worship and visual depictions of our message during worship.

All this was accomplished while enduring the last 16 months of a Global Pandemic and pivoting our congregational presence to online services, with Zoom meetings, Bible study, Happy Gang, and 'Let's Talk Books.'

All this work has led us to the joyous Call of a full time Minister, Susan McIlveen, for PSUC starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Sadly, that means acknowledging that our relationship with Ken ended 30-Jun-20 and will end with Deborah 30-Jun-21, and Paul 31-Aug-21.

You are invited to join a Zoom after Worship Celebration of Ministry time on  
**Sunday June 27, 2021 at 11:30**

There will be a few speakers from PSUC to briefly share our gratitude with time for the Ministers to respond. Then its chat time when others can share their thoughts and wishes.

What you can do to prepare:

- **Mark your Calendars and Plan to be there: Sunday June 27, 2021 at 11:30 on Zoom!**
- Drop into the vestibule by the office at Church to sign colourful post-it notes with your greetings for the ministers
  - **Starting Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>, the clipboards will be available during office hours – **Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 2pm****
  - There will be a clipboard for each Minister with post-it notes on each
  - The last day/time to sign will be Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm
  - It is requested that the members of the Oversight Council, Transition Team, Worship Team and M&P be sure to sign the notes.
- Bring Cake and Coffee to the Zoom time!

**Zoom link** will be sent in the June 25<sup>th</sup> Weekly Update.

## FINANCE TEAM

### **Finance Team Members**

Marilyn McCorrister  
(Treasurer)

Marg Fisher  
Mike Hill

Carol Scott

We are sending out a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to support Prairie Spirit United Church during the pandemic whether through Envelopes, One time donations, PAR, United Way, E-transfer and CanadaHelps.

If you are not already on PAR you might want to consider providing post dated cheques/envelopes to the church. They could be dropped off at the church or mailed in.

This also might also be a good time to consider going on PAR if you are not already making your donations via this service. There are PAR forms at the church or it can be found at:

<https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/par-brochure.pdf>

In these uncertain times surrounding the COVID19 virus, please remember that the expenses of the church continue year round regardless of whether the church is open or closed. Dennis and his Team have done their best to minimize the operating expenses but we still have expenses such as property taxes, insurance, national assessment and salaries which still have to be paid.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter.

Hopefully things will get back to normal soon!!!

# MEMORIAL GARDEN

## Memorial Garden Team Members

Judy Restall  
Marg Fisher

Linda Bitton  
Val Goodridge

Did you know that there is a Memorial Garden at Prairie Spirit United Church? You didn't? Well you are not alone! Since Prairie Spirit is an amalgamated congregation we are still learning about each other and the traditions we bring from our founding churches.



Many years ago, a group of congregants at Sturgeon Creek United Church (SCUC) decide they wanted to have a place for people to scatter the ashes of their loved ones. They worked very hard to obtain all the legal documents that allowed for the development of the Memorial Garden at SCUC. That Garden was created in the backyard of the church by this dedicated group. Over the years it was looked after by different people but eventually it became neglected.

This spring, with financial support from the Oversight Council of Prairie Spirit, and the leadership of Judy Restall, Linda Bitton, Marg Fisher and Val Goodridge, the Memorial Garden has been refreshed. A landscaper was hired to do the difficult work of digging out all the unwanted plant material, saving the plants that could be reused. Following our design he built a low stone wall that now separates a dedicated scattering area from the rest of the garden. Seven Sky Bound cedars were planted on the east side that will eventually provide privacy for the Garden. Six new hydrangeas were planted and all the perennials were dug, divided and replanted. Annual flowers are starting to add colour to the Garden. In a few weeks a multi-stem Amur Maple tree will be planted just to the south of the Memorial Garden which will add shade and fall colour.

The Memorial Garden now offers a quiet, meditative space for our congregation.

# PROPERTY TEAM

## Property Team Members

Dennis Bitton (Team Lead))  
Bob Bilesky

Don Orchyk,  
Randy Palmer

Jim Poole  
Christine Urban  
Mike Hill

## **Introducing PSUC's Custodian Emmanuel (Manny) Kambale**



Emmanuel, who prefers to be called Manny, arrived at PSUC as our new permanent custodian in early May. He has been working hard ever since, bringing the building up to his very high standards of cleanliness. Not having a regular caretaker for four months was beginning to take its toll on the state of our church, despite COVID restricted entry regulations.

Manny arrived in Winnipeg in 2010 from the Congo via Uganda as a refugee. Just imagine his first Manitoba winter! Brrrr! However, the cold and snow didn't deter him from getting his Grade 12 diploma from Collège Louis-Riel and then going on to study as a microcomputer system technician at Winnipeg Technical College. Manny is fluent in English, French and Swahili.

While completing his studies at school, a certain lady caught Manny's eye and on August 24, 2013, Micla and Manny were married. They have four children, Deborah, Dorcas, Daniel and David. Dee-lightful!

Currently, Manny works Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This may change once PSUC is back to normal operations. And when we *are* back to normal and you happen to be in the church when Manny is working, be sure to say hello... or bonjour... or hujambo... he'll happily respond to all three!

# 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 5)

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.



### HONESTY

***Facing a situation is to be brave, but having the courage to not only do the right thing, but also saying it, is honesty.***

We must allow truth to be our guide. We must first be honest with ourselves. This will allow us to be honest with others. We must give full value to both the efforts of our own and others. When we walk through life with integrity, it is then that we know honesty. Be truthful and trustworthy. We must also remember to accept and act on truths through straightforward and appropriate communication.

The Sabe represents honesty. The Sabe is a huge furry creature. Elders say that when a person is honest and has nothing to hide their spirit grows to the size of the Sabe. When one lies or cheats the spirit is not allowed to grow. It eats away at the spirit (conscience). To be Honest means to keep promises made to Creator, others and self.



**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON  
BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI**

A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

# In Loving Memory of the 215 First Nations children that never returned home from Kamloops Indian Residential School.



This past week we learned of the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children on the grounds of the Kamloops Residential School. Our hearts break for the families and survivors from the Tk'emlu'ps te Secwe'pemc First Nation. Prime Minister Trudeau stated "this discovery is a painful reminder of that dark and shameful chapter of our country's history".

The Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) report of 2015 calls on the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Indigenous healing centers to address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harms caused by residential schools. The Indian Residential School Survivors Society is calling on the federal government to take action. (CBC Canada).

**The Prairie Spirit United Church Social Justice Team urges you to hold our Members of Parliament accountable for action. Thoughts and Prayers are not enough.**



A Virtual Tour "Gardens of Scotia Heights" See the beauty of the gardens and enjoy conversations with the gardeners. Release date early July.

# 2021 Urban Retreats Virtual Garden Tour Video

Raising essential funds for St Matthews Maryland Community Ministry. Every day we offer love and support to West End families, some of the most vulnerable people in our city. These families need our help now more than ever.

Since COVID the number of people we are feeding has doubled. By supporting our Virtual Garden Tour, you will be keeping West End families from going hungry.

Make a donation (\$20 suggested) to get the link to the video sent to you. [1JustCity.ca/garden-tour](http://1JustCity.ca/garden-tour) (see the [Video Trailer here](#))

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**Paul Sinclair**



# WORSHIP TEAM

## Worship Team Members

Thomas Ormonde  
Sharon McIntyre

Pat Rothney  
Gerry Varnes

Paul DuVal (Minister)  
Renate Rossol (Music Director)



### **Fabric Art on The Prophets**

**Artist: Judy Morningstar, Goodlands, Manitoba**

The images of the great prophet of Isaiah are central to this banner. Isaiah is pictured on the left at the beginning of a path ("make God's paths straight"). Above him, an eagle flies ("Those who wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint"). The images of children and animals are part of the peaceable kingdom in which the lion shall lie down with the lamb, and little children shall lead them.

Top left hand scene is of one of the earliest prophets, Elijah, who challenged the priests of Baal and his offering miraculously struck by lightning.

offering miraculously struck by lightning.

The top picture on the right, show goods being carried into the city.

Then comes Johan and the whale, followed by Daniel in the lion's den.

The bottom right shows two versions of the prophet Amos. Waters of justice rolling on like a mighty river and God's plumb line, measuring our integrity.

The bottom left shows Jeremiah watching the potter at the wheel and reflecting upon how God is like the potter, and we are like the clay. Even when a vessel has a flaw in it, the potter does not throw it out. Instead, he reworks the clay into a better design. Beneath that scene are the dry bones of Ezekiel's vision.

The three circles show:

1. Beating swords into ploughshares
2. Angels watching over you
3. Hands ("I will hold you in the palm of my hand... The hands that do the work.")

The banner shares the basic prophetic questions: What does the Lord require of you? And on the bottom is the answer: To seek justice, and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.