

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 18 June 2021

Worship Service – Sunday 20 June 2021

Join us for Sunday Service virtually:

June 20 – Pentecost 4 – Rev. Deborah Vitt will lead us in worship.
Sharon McIntyre is our scripture reader.

June 27 – Pentecost 5 – Rev. Paul Duval will lead us in worship.

All services available via YouTube.

Thoughts & Prayers

- **CONGRATULATIONS, 2021 GRADUATES**, parents/guardians, family members, teachers and support staff of all our schools, colleges, and universities!
You have overcome extremely trying times; now, GRAD 2021 signs are blooming in your lawns. A truly memorable milestone!
May you all be gifted with love and blessings beyond measure in the future!
- Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all who are impacted in many ways by our ongoing journey with the **pandemic**. Please encourage family, friends and community members to adhere to the Public Health Orders and get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible.

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 1st, 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 1st, 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 15th, 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 25th 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 25th Weekly Update.



Worship Team invites questions from you about worship practices. Send your questions to the church office by phone or email. One question per week will be responded to by the Ministry and or Worship Team. Once your response is given, if you have further questions, feel free to probe for understanding. You will receive a response from someone on the Worship Team. Let us learn together!

Our seventeenth question:

The question of the day: What is a Covenant

(Gage Canadian Dictionary) Covenant:.....in the Bible, the solemn promises of God to mankind; the contract between

God and mankind. Ok, that seems simple enough although I would use the word humankind.

Ok Google Chrome , how many covenants are there in the bible?

Having just emerged from an in depth, rabbit warren, search, I can assure you this answer is not so simple. It really depends on which faith tradition you ask. Jews, Muslims, Christians.....it seems we all have our definitions and parameters on what constitutes a covenant. Some say 2. Others say 5.....and others say 7.

OK Google Chrome, what does the United Church have to say about covenant?

In biblical tradition a covenant has a much richer and deeper meaning than a written agreement between participants. Covenant in this sacred sense, refers to binding together people in mutual trust and loyalty with God and within the community of faith.

Building on God's ancient promise: I will be your God and you shall be my people (Jer 7:23)

And this from our covenant church partner in the US.....A covenant in an act of faith, a solemn promise to God in response to God's holy Word. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world. (United Church of Christ)

Here are just a couple of examples in the bible

Genesis 9: 12,13 Noah and the Rainbow

And God said: this is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Genesis 17: 2 Abraham and God

And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous. In the New Testament, we learn of the new covenant with Jesus in the sacrament of Communion. For me, it's all about the stated, intentional relationship between the divine and the human. It's a chosen partnership where promises are made and together with God, we work together toward a common goal.

It's more than a contract. It's more than a signed piece of paper.

It's a matter of the heart. It's intentional, prayerful, not entered into lightly but through faithful discernment between individuals and the Divine.

Prairie Spirit has a covenant relationship with the Prairie to Pine Region and soon you will enter into a covenantal relationship with Susan McIlveen, your new minister.

Along with oaths and symbols of the covenant, there is often a celebration! A ceremony! A Party.....and who isn't ready for a party!!

National Aboriginal Day, June 21 A Time of Celebration



Established in 1996, National Aboriginal Day falls annually on June 21; many faith communities celebrate the closest Sunday as Aboriginal Sunday.

Photos courtesy of Charlene Burns

National Aboriginal Day gives all Canadians the opportunity to participate and share knowledge about Aboriginal peoples' values, customs, languages, and culture. It gives Aboriginal peoples an opportunity to showcase the beauty of their cultures and languages.

Although the three Aboriginal groups in Canada—First Nations, Inuit, and Métis—share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. There is much diversity among these peoples.

National Aboriginal Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the unique and outstanding achievements and contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit and to show pride in their accomplishments. The United Church's General Council Office encourages all staff to participate in National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

Learn more on the websites of the United Church (www.united-church.ca) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca).

Our Movements for Justice are Linked
Indigenous justice and reconciliation can only take place in ways
that ensure Black lives matter.



Photo Credit: © THE CANADIAN PRESS IMAGES/Chris Young

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Last year I noticed someone regularly going to the gym the same time as me. He wore a hat with the former logo of the Cleveland baseball team. This logo was an offensive and stereotypical depiction of an Indigenous man, and the name for the Cleveland team was also offensive, as team names in other sports have been. As a Dene man, I have rejoiced as the

Edmonton CFL team, the Washington NFL team, the Cleveland baseball team, and more have stopped using names and practices that are offensive to Indigenous nations. These decisions were the fruit of decades of dialogue and pressure, but a real catalyst event occurred in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd and a renewed attention to questions of racial justice for Black communities. While that work continues, I still celebrate as an Indigenous person and a sports fan that we have set aside some of these team names and logos.

Last summer in a Facebook group for sharing *dēnesuliné* language and culture the question was posed about how we might express that Black lives matter in Dene. One of the suggestions was *dēnē zené daghéna hádorilʔi* – literally “we want Black people to live.” To express this as Indigenous people in our own languages is important because it recognizes that Indigenous justice and reconciliation can only take place in ways that ensure that Black lives matter. Our movements for justice are linked. And sadly sometimes we see them as being in conflict, as if in church or society gains for Indigenous peoples can only come at the expense of Black peoples or the other way around. With this mindset of scarcity we end up seeing ourselves in competition with one another. Scripture tells again and again of God’s intention to heal our ethnic divisions and tensions. In writing to the church in Ephesus the writer emphasized a point throughout scripture that Jesus Christ is our peace, and through his blood on the cross he reconciles divided peoples into one (Eph. 2:11-18). The Spirit moved powerfully to compel the early church to welcome people regardless of ethnic background (Acts 10:44-48), including an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39). God has purchased with the blood of Christ for Godself people from every tribe and tongue and nation and people (Rev. 5:9); God promises to make a house of prayer for all peoples (Isa. 56:7) ending former hostilities and divisions. I believe that movements for reconciliation and justice for Indigenous nations should include and support our belief that Black lives matter, and so on National Indigenous Peoples’ Day as I celebrate our work for justice I will say thank you to the movement of Black lives for raising all kinds of concerns of racial justice. And I will say proudly in the language of my people that *dēnē zené daghéna hádorilʔi*, we want Black people to live.

— Mitchell Anderson is a Dene man and lead minister at St. Paul’s United Church, Saskatoon.

News from the Wider Church

JOB OPPORTUNITY – Westworth United Church
Director of Music (part time – approx. 10 hours/week)

CHURCH SUMMARY: Westworth United Church is seeking a spiritually motivated and musically gifted Music Director. Westworth has a long tradition of high quality musical programs and our congregation values excellence, participation and musical variety in worship. Our congregation currently has 316 members.

POSITION SUMMARY: As an integral member of the ministry team, the part-time Music Director works very closely with the Ministerial staff, Organist and Worship Committee in co-ordinating Westworth's music program. The Director provides musical leadership to the volunteer Senior Choir and works collaboratively with our other volunteer led musical groups, which include a children's choir, and a winds ensemble.

We invite you to view the full job description on the Westworth website at:
<http://westworth.ca/2021/06/westworth-employment-opportunities/>

Applications can be sent by email to eboris@mymts.net, Subject: Music Director Search Committee. Please submit a cover letter and resume by **June 28, 2021**. If you have a link to your video/audio work, this may be helpful but not mandatory.

Please submit Weekly Updates to the office by Wed.

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.

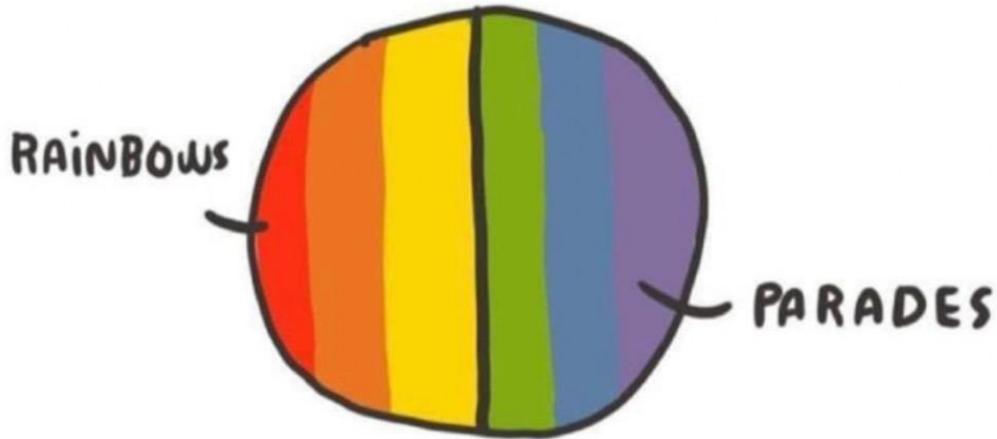
In the Member Only section you will have access to past Annual Reports, Governance Structure, Ministry Profile, Oversight and Executive Minutes, Newsletters and Weekly Updates.

PSUC Office Hours are Tues-Fri 10am-2pm

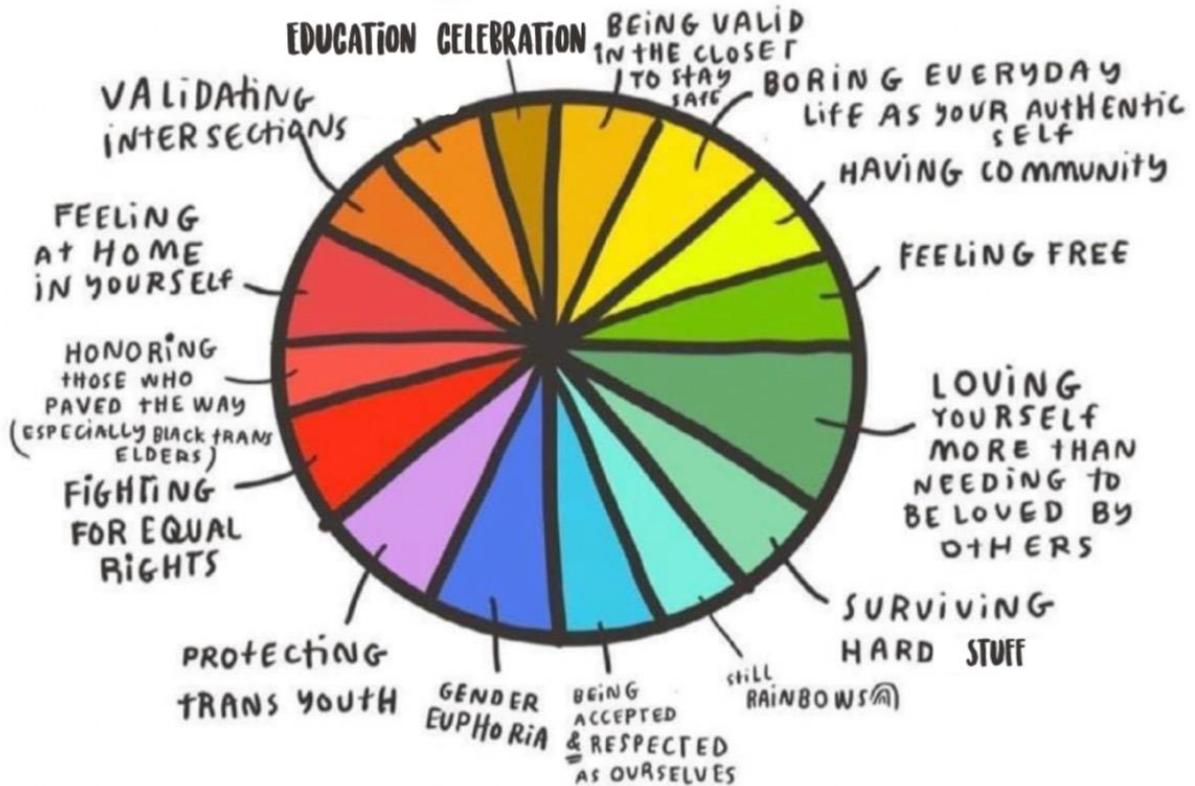
How to Reach us by email:

Rev. Paul DuVal pduval@prairiespirituc.org
Rev. Deborah Vitt dvitt@prairiespirituc.org
Sherri in the Office office@prairiespirituc.org

WHAT PEOPLE THINK PRIDE IS:



WHAT PRIDE ACTUALLY IS:



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
P2P EQUITY AND DIVERSITY ADAPTED FROM BLESS THE MESSY