

Here's what's up at Prairie Spirit

## Prairie Spirit United Church

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Weekly Update – Friday 25 June 2021

### Worship Service – Sunday 27 June 2021

*Join us for Sunday Service virtually:*

June 27 – Pentecost 5 – Rev. Paul Duval will lead us in worship.  
Bryan Gawryluk is our scripture reader.

July 4 – No Service

*All services available via YouTube.*



**Joycelyn and Bryan Gawryluk**  
**Congratulations on your new Granddaughter**  
**Malia, born June 17.**

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### Can You Help????



Yesterday you should have received an email asking Can you help? .We are fundraising to pay for the moving costs of our new minister Susan McIlveen. We are asking 50 members to donate \$200 each to cover this cost. If you have not received the fund raising email please contact the office. (204 832 1000). If you have received it please respond as you feel called to.

Thank You  
John McLeod

## *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**

[Join Zoom after Worship Celebration Sun 27 June](#)

**Dial by your location**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 954 1078 0027**

**Passcode: 392170**

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.

# COVID-19 Updates

On June 23rd, 2021, announcements were made to the Public Health Orders based on the 4-3-2-1 Great Summer Opening Plan effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 until August 02, 2021. The following are changes that may impact faith-based communities:

- all places of worship can open with to 25 % capacity indoors to a maximum of 25 with mask and other distancing requirements; outdoor faith-based worship and cultural events to a maximum of 50 people
- weddings and funeral: 25 participants outdoors in addition to officiant and photographer; 10 participants in addition to the officiant and photographer indoors
- Outdoors drive in religious services can be held in accordance with specific protocols and restrictions
- Places of worship can be used for private or public school or the delivery of child care, health care or social services. (Order Specific sections of the public health orders address Food Banks)
- use of masks are outlined in the orders (everyone indoors masked except when behind non-permeable barriers or while in indoor public places which members of the public do not normally have access)
- Gathering sizes: outdoors on private property in groups up to 10 people with brief access to indoor spaces; groups of up to 25 people outdoors on public property where not regulated elsewhere in the orders;
- no change to indoor gatherings – still not permitted beyond one's own household with the exemptions in place previously
- persons with proof of full vaccination can visit in personal care homes as well as do other things detailed in the orders.

For full details see: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prs/orders/index.html>

Throughout July there will be further announcements around privileges extended fully vaccinated persons.

If you have questions requiring interpretation of the Public Health Orders please request that clarification through: [engagemb.ca](http://engagemb.ca).

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## **Prairie to Pine Regional Council Annual Meeting Report**

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Prairie To Pine Regional Council was held on Friday, May 28, through Sunday, May 30. The theme was “Our Place in the Rainbow”. The meeting culminated on Sunday with a celebration service of our region becoming an Affirming Ministry. The service was followed by a virtual Rainbow dessert party.

The meeting was well attended with upwards of 200 people present over the three days. Reverend DuVal and Reverend Vitt attended and Val Goodridge, Donna Little and Pat Rothney attended as Prairie Spirit’s representatives.

A new Admittand, Christopher Davis was celebrated and three retirees were honoured: Nelson Hart, Susan Tilleman and Jenny Sprong.

Since the last Annual Meeting, thirteen churches have completed the work to be in a covenanted relationship with the Region. These churches were celebrated. Prairie Spirit had completed their work earlier and was celebrated at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

As well as dealing with the business of the meeting, including passing the enabling motions, the reports from the various committees and the financial report, there were several interesting presentations.

**Vickie Nelson**, who is the Stewardship Animator for the Region presented a study program being offered in August entitled, "Called to Be The Church: The Journey" that looks at three phases of encouraging giving - Inspire, Invite and Thanks. She provided ideas on how to invite people to be generous with their treasure as well as their time and talents by placing giving and generosity alongside spiritual practices. Stewardship Teams and interested congregants are invited to participate in this program.

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/stewardship/called-be-church>

**Gloria Cook**, Community Capacity Development Coordinator for the Keewatin Circle of Indigenous Churches, gave an informative presentation on the journey of Indigenous communities from settlement to the present. She spoke of the indigenous experience from four perspectives, Who We Were, What Was, What Is and finally Who We Are. This presentation is available to congregations and would provide an excellent focus for a study session. Although not part of Gloria's presentation, the news of the 215 children who were found in a mass, unmarked grave on the grounds of the former Kamloops Residential School gave us an opportunity to reflect on our sad past with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

The Mission and Service Fundraiser held over the two days featuring the "Masked Singers" was a hit, raising over \$8,500 for the Mission and Service Fund.

The 44th General Council will be held on line on July 22-26, 2022. This will be the first time in the church's 97-year history that the triennial meeting will not be in person. Education sessions on the business coming to the 44th General Council will begin in February 2022.

The Commissioners to the 44th General Council from the Prairie to Pine Region were presented and approved by motion.

**They are:**

Elizabeth Brown	Christopher St George Davis	Ken DeLisle
Diane Dwarka	Lesley Harrison	Donna Kennedy
Hope Mattus	Cyndi Price	Heather Sandilands
Anna Stewart	Karen Tjaden	Erica Wiebe
Taeil Yang	One youth Representative To Be Announced	

**Alternates are:**

Linda Buchanan	Betty Kelly	Ila Swain	Tessa Blakie-Whitecloud
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The 2021 Annual Meeting was a success. Many thanks to all those who planned and worked hard to make it run so smoothly.

Val Goodridge, Donna Little, Pat Rothney



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 eighteenth question and last question until the Fall:

**How and when were the seasons of the church year determined?**

I must admit this is a complex question and challenges my understanding of church history and requires more research than I have been able to invest.

Let me begin by saying two things. First, the complex rhythms of the church year were not decided overnight, but evolved through long years, primarily in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox branches of the Christian Church.

These practices, the use of lectionary readings, liturgical colours for specific seasons, the dates of observances, were confirmed at what were called Church Councils. The most recent of these was the second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church convened by Pope John the 23<sup>rd</sup> and held from 1962-1965 in Rome.

Second, the Reformed wing of the Church (that's us) adopted and tweaked those practices as we discovered that worship could be enhanced by symbolism and repetition, colour and ritual. Our understanding was increased by ecumenical conversations with Anglican, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic churches through greater interaction between churches after World War II.

I'll share two examples of the development of special days in the early church. For the earliest Christians, gathering involved a meal, prayers, and a sermon or reading from one of the letters of the Apostles. Every Sunday was a celebration of Jesus and his resurrection. Fairly early, by the end of the second century (CE 200) Easter was being observed annually. This is not surprising since the Jewish Synagogues marked Passover, which was associated with Jesus crucifixion. It was easy for Christians to mark their corresponding celebration.

Christmas, the birth of Jesus came a little later. It seems that Constantine the Roman Emperor initiated that celebration during the 300's, and the birth of Jesus was separated from his baptism. These two celebrations later evolved into the feasts of Christmas and Epiphany.

The observance of Advent, Lent, Pentecost developed through church practise over the years since.

## Stories of Our Mission

### WHERE FOOD AND COMMUNITY GROW

Over 200 families, many of whom live in poverty, grow their own nutritious food through Mission & Service partner Fred Victor's extensive gardens. But the food itself isn't the only benefit of the gardening program. As Canada celebrates Multiculturalism Day today, **learn more** about how your gifts support gardens that not only feed people but also bring them together—and then share the story with someone you know.



[Photo credit: Melanie Gordon Photography]

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Please submit Weekly Updates to the office by Wed.

The pieces for the Summer Newsletter have a deadlines of July 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 Summer Office Hours in July are Tues-Fri 10am-2pm**

Rev. Paul DuVal [pduval@prairiespirituc.org](mailto:pduval@prairiespirituc.org)

Sherri in the Office [office@prairiespirituc.org](mailto:office@prairiespirituc.org)