



## P.S. NEWS Summer 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:	Pg. No.
Minister's Message	2
Oversight Council	3
Survey	4
Worship Team	5
Finance Team	6
Social Justice Team	9



## 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](http://prairiespirituc.org)

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

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

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

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### “She’s Here--Now What???”

Grace and peace to you, friends, in the name of Jesus Christ! I’m so pleased to be with you in the Prairie Spirit United Church family at long last. Your outstanding Search Team introduced me to some basics about your community of faith and I’m gradually meeting you, one by one, as circumstances allow. I’m trying hard to remember names and the masks don’t help with recognizing faces, but bit by bit I’ll get there. I appreciate your patience.

Rev’d Paul DuVal has been showing me the ropes and answering my many questions with great patience. The Oversight Council Executive, Worship Team, your Music Director Renate, and the production team for online worship have been very helpful and I’m feeling more at home in the church with every passing week. I lived in Winnipeg from 2010 to 2014, but this is a new part of the city for me so I’m getting to know the neighbourhood around the church, too, and again the Search Team have been most helpful. I’m grateful for all this support and wisdom.

My ordination is scheduled for Sunday, September 19 at 7 p.m. at Churchill Park United Church. This beautiful, joyful community of faith sponsored my candidacy in 2013, and prayed for and encouraged me at every stage of the ministry formation process. It isn’t yet decided how attendance at that service will be handled, but we’re hopeful that a video link of some kind will be available for those not able to be there in person.

Returning to in-person church life in the fall will include new things for all of us, I imagine. What remains unchanged, however, is our shared commitment to celebrate God’s presence and walk the path of Jesus. As we gather for worship, work, and fun in new ways, we’ll **lean into love**, caring for one another and our community by keeping each other safe and well. I look forward to this newest stage in our shared faith story, full of fresh possibilities.

Please feel free to reach out to me through the office (204-832-1000) or by email ([susan@prairiespirituc.org](mailto:susan@prairiespirituc.org)). For pastoral emergencies outside of office hours, I can be reached at home at 204-896-5984 where you can also leave a confidential message. For the remainder of August, my office hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to noon. I would love for you to call or drop by and introduce yourself.

You’re in my prayers each day. If there is a particular prayer need you have or if you would like a pastoral visit (following public health guidelines), please let me know.

My priority for the coming year is on affirming and building relationships in the Prairie Spirit community of faith. If you have ideas for how we might improve communication, be more inclusive, or get to know one another better, this is your year! Look forward to more on this ministry priority each month through 2021-2022.

Blessings to you all,  
Susan McIlveen



## OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Although we are in the lazy, dog days of summer, the work of the church goes on. With guidance from M&P we have welcomed Susan McIlveen as our new minister, Reverend DuVal, the Worship and Tech Teams have been busy planning and taping Sunday services. The Congregational Life Team has continued with the Cookie Train. The Memorial Garden Team has been diligently watering and weeding in the heat of June, July and August. Property has coordinated the renewal of the front sidewalk. Sherri has been hard at work in the office, and Manny, our custodian, has been deep cleaning the building. As the days grow shorter, we look forward to fall and the prospect that our congregation may be able to begin worshipping together in our Sanctuary.

As you have probably heard, the provincial government has loosened the COVID-19 restrictions effective Saturday, August 7. Our relatively high vaccination rate has resulted in a drop in COVID-19 cases in Winnipeg over the summer. The Public Health Orders that most affect Prairie Spirit are the following:

1. Worship services may be held with up to 150 people or 50% of room capacity, whichever is greater, in attendance. Physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained between households.
2. A wedding, funeral or other organized gathering may take place in our sanctuary, if the number of people attending does not exceed 50 or 50% of the capacity of the premises, whichever is greater. Physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained between households.
3. A banquet or reception may be held indoors if it complies with all requirements of these Orders. The number of persons attending a banquet or reception must not exceed 50 persons or 50% of the capacity of the premises, whichever is greater.
4. Masks are recommended but no longer mandated inside all public spaces.

At our August 3 meeting, the Oversight Council Executive discussed how we will move forward based on these new regulations. Just like every other church in Winnipeg, we are looking at how and when we will return to in-person worship safely. Some issues we are grappling with concern mandating masks, vaccination status and contact tracing. All decisions we make and procedures we put in place will be to ensure that our members, staff, renters and visitors feel safe and welcomed when they come to Prairie Spirit.

Before the final decisions on reopening for in-person worship are made, we need your feedback. All comments will be considered as decisions are finalized.

In closing, thank you for your input and be assured that your Oversight Council will continue to take a thoughtful and cautious approach to reopening our building to members, renters, as well as visitors and our sanctuary to in-person worship.

Val Goodridge

Oversight Council Chairperson

## SURVEY

**You can complete this page and return to the PSUC MailBox for an anonymous response.**

The responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will only be used to guide our plan for reopening our sanctuary to in-person worship.

1. Given that safety protocols (physical distancing, registration for services, no singing, extra cleaning etc.) such as we had in September 2020, will be put in place, are you planning to return to in-person worship when available?

Yes

No

2. PSUC is considering mandating that everyone wear a mask when in the building. Do you agree with this?

Yes

No

3. Do you think that being double vaccinated needs to be a condition of attending in-person services?

Yes

No

4. If you answered Yes to #3, how do you think we might lovingly serve and stay in relationship with others. There are worshippers who are not yet vaccinated, unable to be vaccinated, or not yet comfortable with large groups in unpredictable settings/circumstances.

Comment:

5. As the Oversight Council wants to be supportive of the community of faith, we are wondering if we can be of help. If you are not vaccinated and are hesitant to do so, what might help you to get vaccinated?

Check any of the initiatives below, that might be supportive/helpful for you.

- information on the efficacy of the current vaccinations
- an opportunity to talk to someone who has been vaccinated
- a ride to a vaccination centre
- an opportunity to attend an informational meeting with a medical expert

6. Do you have comments or any other information that you wish the Oversight Council to consider as the reopening protocols are developed?

Comment:

# WORSHIP TEAM

## Worship Team Members

Thomas Ormonde  
Sharon McIntyre

Pat Rothney  
Gerry Varnes

Paul DuVal (Minister)  
Renate Rossol (Music Director)



### **Fabric Art on The Ministry of Jesus Artist: Judy Morningstar, Goodlands, Manitoba**

The main scene is of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee calling his first disciples. There were two pairs of brothers: Andrew and Simon Peter & James and John. Now they would become fishers of people. How do you experience Jesus' call to discipleship?

Other scenes from Jesus' ministry, as viewed clockwise from the bottom left:

- The paralytic is lowered down from the rooftop by his friends
- Jesus encounters the Canaanite women at the well
- Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River

- Jesus' first miracle: turning the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana
- The loaves and fishes feed the multitude
- Jesus walks on water; Peter sets out to meet him
- Jesus welcomes the children
- Jesus invites Zacharias to come down from the tree
- As Lazarus' sisters Martha and Mary look on, Jesus raises him from the grave
- Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John

## FINANCE TEAM

### Finance Team Members

Marilyn McCorrister  
(Treasurer)

Marg Fisher  
Mike Hill

Carol Scott

### **LETTER TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO PSUC FROM JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2021**

During the last week of July, donation statements and a letter went out to everyone who donated to PSUC between January 1 and June 30 of 2021. The Oversight Council Executive requested that the Finance Team communicate the information contained in that letter to everyone in the community of faith. There are several individual/families who have not contributed to PSUC in 2021, or in some cases not donated since March of 2020 when COVID started.

The letter began by thanking those who had donated for continued contributions to the life and work of PSUC especially during this stressful and unusual time of the COVID19 pandemic.

### Financial Overview

For your information the operating revenue, expenses and shortfall as of July 31, 2021 were:

Revenue \$128,688 - this includes donations, fundraising, rentals & government subsidies

Expenses \$142,407

Shortfall \$(13,719)

Note: Contributions to and payments from restricted funds: M&S, I Just City, Portage Avenue Food Bank, Building Fund etc. are not included in these amounts.

For the months of July and August we will have increased ministerial salaries. For two months PSUC will have 1.75 ministers up from two half time ministers from mid February to June. Rev. Paul Duval was previously approved to move to .75 time as of July 1. Paul's term will end as of August 31. We also had to pay some moving expenses for Susan in July. It is noted and appreciated that members of the community of faith donated half of the money required to pay these moving expenses but the balance shows up as an increase in operating expenses for July.

The Federal and Provincial governments have both greatly contributed to the revenue of Prairie Spirit United Church over the past year and a half. We have received \$42,212 Wage Subsidy money from the Federal Government and \$20,000 Manitoba Bridge Grant from the Provincial Government over that period. As we start to come out of the pandemic these funds are drying up and we can't expect much more will be available to us.

The contributions from our members for general operating funds for the first seven months of 2021 have decreased 11.2% over the contributions received for the same period in 2020. We are hoping that once the church is open again for services that these contributions will increase.

We anticipate that rental revenue will begin to increase as it has been reduced as well. We have been fortunate to have several renters who have continued to pay rent during COVID even though they were unable to access the building.

We provide you this information with a feeling of great hope. With Susan McIlveen arriving to be our first called minister, we can now begin to look forward to the future. There will be many new initiatives and projects embarked upon as we begin this new relationship. What do we envision for our future? What will we take on to be a vibrant and viable presence in St. James community? What are your hopes? How will the funds currently in investments from the sale of the two church buildings impact on these decisions? Are the funds going to be slowly eaten up maintaining our current building or are they going to be put to another use such as an outreach project or some combination of the two? This will be a decision made by the entire community of faith.

Making an offering is an important part of our worship time together. Your ongoing support funds the operation of the church as well as supports local outreach to the community such as The Happy Gang and the Portage Avenue Food Bank.

Thank you for your continued support of Prairie Spirit United Church.

Carol Scott Mike Hill Marg Fisher Marilyn McCorrister - Treasurer

## **HUGH AND MARGARET CAMPBELL CHARITABLE FUND GRANT TO PRAIRIE SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH**

The July general revenue included a grant of \$5,317.15 from the Hugh and Margaret Campbell Charitable Fund. The fund was set up as a donor advised fund through Mackenzie Investments in 2007, before Hugh died in 2009 at 98 and Margaret a few years later at 102. A sizeable amount from Margaret's estate passed into the fund. The fund is endowed and will make annual contributions in perpetuity to a number of charities including PSUC. The amount of the grant varies somewhat from year to year with the success of investments.

Hugh Campbell was a long time treasurer at Sturgeon Creek United Church and both he and Margaret were active in the church. We are very fortunate to be beneficiaries of this generous annual grant. Is this something you would consider as part of your estate planning?

## GIVINGS

The Finance Team has started to review all givings for cash flow and budgeting purposes. It has been reviewing PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) givings and has noticed that 52 of 84 individuals/families currently on PAR have not revised their giving since the amalgamation on October 1, 2018.

For those not on PAR and have not donated in 2021 or since COVID began in March 2020, and to those on PAR who have not reviewed their givings in a while, we ask you to review your financial situation and to consider increasing your donations in support of the life and work of Prairie Spirit United Church, if able. Your contribution will make a big difference!

If you are not already doing so, we are encouraging people to sign up for PAR.

PAR:

1. is convenient
2. ensures regular monthly givings to help our church's ministry even when you are away.
3. provides our community of faith a dependable flow of contributions, which increases our overall financial stability.

PAR donations can be specified as local, building capital fund, Portage Avenue Food Bank, Mission & Service, World Development, 1 Just City, Agape Table, Oak Table, Harvest Manitoba, general outreach or any combination of these. As of July 31, 20.7% of PAR givings go to outreach projects and 79.3% go to local and the building capital fund.

If you want to donate through PAR, modify your donation, change how it is designated, or change your information at any time, please contact Sherri in the church office, [office@prairiespirituc.org](mailto:office@prairiespirituc.org) or 204-832-1000 and she will be glad to help you.

Marilyn McCorrister

## 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 6)

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.



#### HUMILITY

***Humility is to know that we are a part of creation.***

We must always consider ourselves equal to one another. We should never think of ourselves as being better or worse than anyone else. Humility comes in many forms. This includes compassion, calmness, meekness, gentleness, and patience. We must reflect on how we want to present ourselves to those around us. We must be aware of the balance and equality with all of life, including humans, plants, and animals.

The Wolf represents humility because of its giving nature and devotion to the protection and the good of the pack. The Wolf mates for life and is a generous and loving parent. The expression of humility is manifested in the consideration of others before ourselves. Wolves bow their heads in deference in the presence of other wolves. After the hunt the Wolf allows the pack to feed before feeding itself.

“Being humble means recognizing that we are not on earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others.” George B Hinckley



**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON  
BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI**

A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT