



P.S. NEWS Fall 2021

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HAPPY THIRD ANNIVERSARY PRAIRIE SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH!!!!



As we were unable to celebrate in person at the beginning of October, it has been decided to celebrate on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th. For those who will be attending worship, there will be a "treat" for you to take home and enjoy with us all in the afternoon. For any in attendance, we are asking you to take extra and drop off at others in the Congregation who will not be there. If everyone could take a few extra, we should be able to cover many. Congratulations to us all.

Prairie Spirit United Church

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

prairiespirituc.org

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

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

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OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Oversight Council Members

Val Goodridge (Chair)
Chris Urban (Vice-Chair)
Dennis Bitton

Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk
Marsha Jones
Donna Little
Heather MacMillan

Marilyn McCorrister
John McLeod
Pat Rothney
Linda Uhrich

At the October 26th Oversight Council meeting, it was unanimously decided through motion, that Prairie Spirit would resume in-person worship on October 31, 2021. This decision came after discussions and planning over several months. We acknowledge that attending public gatherings contains some risk, however we have put specific protocols in place to manage those risks. At PSUC we will be following all public health mandates and recommendations. On October 31 those in attendance were happy to gather for our first in-person worship service since September, 2020. We look forward to welcoming more people back into the sanctuary in the coming weeks.

In the months ahead the Oversight Council will be busy reviewing the Governance Document (Constitution) and approving the policies that are being developed for Prairie Spirit. We are exploring some ideas to continue the consolidation of our three founding churches into Prairie Spirit; work that was interrupted by the pandemic closure and lockdown.

As well, the work of the Standing Teams is ongoing. With the prospect of being able to resume more normal activities in the church, it is important that we have an active Christian Education and Faith Formation Team. The mandate of this team is to work collegially with the minister on adult, youth, and children's faith formation programs. We have money in the budget for this work, what is needed are people who wish to become involved. Could that be you?

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Congregational Life Team Members

Heather MacMillan (Lead)	Sharon Fielding	Shirley Hill	Marianne Palmer
Donna Little	Fran Ferguson	Lois Bilesky	Judy Restall
Naomi McLeod	Marj Evason	Gwenda Matieshin	Martha Smith



TURKEY SOUP AND MEAT PIES

Cool weather is here, time to stock up on Turkey Soup and ground beef pies. Call Heather 204-795-5569 to order. Also have 12 ONLY Turkey pies left. First come, first served. Please make cheques out to Prairie Spirit and place cheques or cash in envelope, sealed with your name and phone no. on the outside.

FINANCE TEAM

Finance Team Members

Marilyn McCorrister (Treasurer)	Marg Fisher Mike Hill	Carol Scott
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Financial Overview

As a follow-up to the September newsletter we are providing a monthly financial update. For your information the operating revenue, expenses and shortfall as of October 31 2021 were:

Revenue \$170,788 - this figure includes donations, fund raising, rentals and government subsidies

Expenses \$207,277

Shortfall \$(36,489)

Note: Contributions to and payments from restricted funds: M&S, 1Just City, Portage Avenue Food Bank, Building Fund etc. are not included in these amounts.

It is also noted that the M&S givings for 2021 are currently more than 8% less than the same period in 2020.

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

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)

Christmas Giving 2021

Christmas Giving this year will look very much like 2020. The Christmas Cheer Board and St Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry would prefer monetary donations as they can access more toys and food that way.

If you would prefer...you can send a cheque to Prairie Spirit United Church and let us distribute your givings to the places you wish to donate to.

Please go to the link in this newsletter for the form and return it to the church by Dec 1. If you cannot print the form, you may get one from the church office or at church on Sunday morning.

Stars and Doves, gifts in memory of or in celebration of a loved one or event will continue as usual. You can use this same form to donate and someone will hang the Star or Dove on the tree and names will be read during the weekly service. If you are attending church in person, you can get your Stars or Doves before the service in the Narthex. They will be available until Dec 18. Stars and Doves support 1JustCity .

Our Mitten Tree will be up this year. You can bring mitts, hats, socks, scarves etc. to the church on Sunday Mornings or drop them off during the week. They will be distributed at our Portage Avenue Food Bank which continues to run every 2 weeks.

Completed forms and cheques can be put in the secure church mailbox or put in the collection plate on Sunday morning.

Your Social Justice Team wish you all a peaceful and safe Christmas 2021.

Christmas 2021 Donation Form

Your Name _____

Phone Number _____

I wish to donate to:

Amount

Stars and Doves

Deadline Dec 18th

in support of 1Just City

\$ _____

St. Matthews Maryland Toy Store

Deadline 12noon on Dec 1st

to receive donations at PSUC

\$ _____

Christmas Cheer Board

\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please list the name(s) you wish to have written on a Star or Dove.

Any special instructions?

THANK YOU

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Team Members

Thomas Ormonde
Sharon McIntyre

Pat Rothney

Susan McIlveen
Renate Rossol (Music Director)



Fabric Art: The Prairie Spirit United Church Quilt

Artist: Brenda Barbour, Winnipeg, Manitoba

October 1st, 2021 will mark the third anniversary of Prairie Spirit United Church!! Hallelujah!

In celebration of this occasion, we are dedicating the tapestry highlight to the Prairie Spirit United Church quilt. The quilt was made by Brenda Barbour at the request of the Oversight Council and was completed in September of 2019. The quilt was dedicated on October 6th, 2019 during the first anniversary service by our Chair of Council, Joycelyn Fournier Gawryluk.

In Joycelyn's words:

"Prairie Spirit United Church sits on Treaty 1 land: the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis Nation. At one time this area was part

of the open prairie. Our landscape quilt is representative of this prairie land that we occupy and the roots that we hold dear as flatlanders. Many of us can reminisce about times spent growing up on farms in the middle of the prairie or visiting relatives who lived beyond the city. These are all special memories. As prairie people, these roots and memories run deep, and they are where we find the spirit of God.

The word prairie brings to mind beautiful fields of grain swaying in the breezes, of lazy rivers snaking their way through the land, of quiet and awe-inspiring sun rises and sunsets that bring a close to our days with rich colours of orange, red, pink and purple. We also think of the skies when it comes to our weather patterns. In our landscape quilt 3 white clouds are moving together representative of the three congregations coming together. Skies depict so many emotions; sunny blue ones and gray heavy ones threatening snow or a summer rainstorm.

Prairie is a word that invokes solitude, silence, quiet comfort for us as a people. It is a word that invites the spirit to be a part of our lives as we contemplate our personal lives and the lives of those no longer with us, those living in distant lands and the generations to come who will inherit this land. We give thanks for the prairie and all the beauty it gives us but also the calmness that it brings to mind as we find sanctuary in our church as we worship God.”

The quilt is a wonderful representation of the name of our church “Prairie Spirit”. The depiction of prairie fields and billowing clouds are so apropos. It will be a representation of our church not only today but also in the years to come.

