

Prairie Spirit United Church

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Please call before planning a visit to the church.

Weekly Update – Friday 26 January 2024

Worship is on Sunday, Jan 28th, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

This Sunday's service will be led by Rev. Dr. James Christie.

Sermon Theme: "Parsing Parables"

Our scripture reader is Judy Lawrence.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 111 VU833

Luke 10: 25-37

What's Happening for February

Sunday February 4th, the Worship Team will be leading us in a service prepared by Rev. Paul DuVal with Paul delivering the sermon through a recording.

LENT

Lent is soon upon us this year with Ash Wednesday being Feb 14, 2024.

PSUC will be offering a Lenten study led by Rev. Dr. Jim Christie entitled 'Reading our way through the Passion Week'

Dates/Times: Wednesdays February 21st to March 27th from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Prairie Spirit United Church, in the Kirkfield Park Meeting Room

Resource: Bring your preferred bible with you

Who: All interested folk from St. Charles Headingley, Crestview and PSUC Churches

Refreshments: Coffee & Tea will be available and if anyone wants to bring nibbles or treats they will be welcome

Registration: Please call the Prairie Spirit Office at (204) 832-1000 and leave your name with the Office Administrator, Sherri, so we know to expect you.



MEAT PIES, MEAT PIES, and a few fruit crisps.....

We've been at it again...Friday and Saturday saw a busy bunch working in the kitchen, thanks everyone. This time we have turkey pies and a "new" addition to our menu. Beefsteak pies. We tried these a year ago, and they were a big hit, so we are offering them again.

Turkey Pies \$5.00 each
Beefsteak Pies \$6.00 each

Pies will be available on Sunday or during the week from the office.
Please bring your own bag, as our supply is dwindling.
Heather and the crew.

Tone chimes are similar to hand bells; it takes a team with each player playing 2 chimes to make it work.

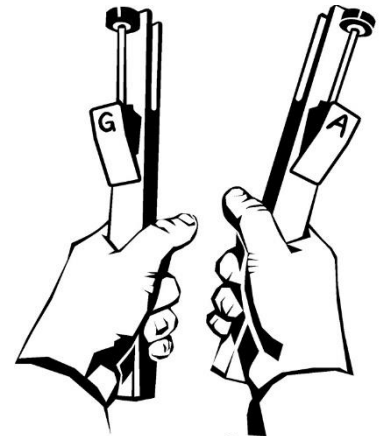
We are looking for some new ringers.

Basic knowledge of music is required, such as note reading and following a score, but no prior experience is necessary.

You can always try it out and see if you like it.

It's a great way to exercise your brain and make music!

This is a low pressure, just for fun group with no performances planned.



Tone Chimes



SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Crestview United Church has invited us to join them for a
pancake supper

Tuesday February 13, 2024 at 6pm

316 Hamilton Avenue

Cost – by donation

Please let Sherri in the office know if you are planning to
attend so we can provide numbers to the planning team at
Crestview.



Prairie Spirit

Social Justice Committee

Spring Plant Fundraiser

Once again this year, we are having a spring plant fundraiser. Please consider supporting our **Social Justice Initiatives** through this plant sale. Avoid disappointment and order early.

Ordering your plants online is the easiest way to show your support.

Go to www.glenleagreenhouses.com starting **Monday January 29th**. Online orders will be accepted until 11:59 pm on **April 15th**.

1. On their homepage select **Spring Fundraiser**.
2. After you are finished shopping, **go to the cart page** and select "to support & pick up at a fundraiser group". Afterwards, **three fields** will appear.
3. Please select from the **Fundraiser Group** dropdown (**Prairie Spirit United Church**)
4. Under **Name of Seller** - leave empty.
5. **Check** the **Checkbox** to confirm all the info in the above fields are correct & click **check out & pay**.
6. Input your email, name, and address. Followed by your preferred payment method.

Payment can be completed by credit card or by INTERAC e-transfer to **Glenlea Greenhouses**.

Shortly after completing the order, an email confirmation is sent to the email address you provided at checkout.

Paper orders can also be made. Paper order forms will be available in the office at Prairie Spirit by the end of February.

Paper orders forms must be in to Prairie Spirit United Church by April 2nd. Cheques are to be made out to Prairie Spirit United Church.

Plants will be delivered MAY 22nd Prairie Spirit United Church-207 Thompson Drive and they can be picked up that afternoon.

We thank you for your support!

Peter Buhendwa's Story - 23 Jan 2024

We were privileged to be formally introduced to Peter Buhendwa on Sunday January 14th, 2024 through a journalistic style interview. Rev. Dr. James Christie interviewed Peter about his journey to arrive in Canada: what brought him to present himself to us almost a year ago in January 2023; to determine he wishes to make Prairie Spirit United Church his church home; and to hear the call of God to become an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Canada.

Peter Mulumeoderhwa Buhendwa is a pastor, community worker and human rights activist who worked for the Durban Holocaust and Genocide Centre in South Africa, as well as being a PhD student at the Durban University of Technology. Peter was ordained in the Pentecostal Assembly of South Africa, an organization focused on action, outreach and justice. Peter was a refugee in South Africa for the past 18 years. He was invited to share his story with and speak to the xenophobia he's experienced in South Africa with the University of Manitoba Peace and Conflict studies Graduate Program students mid-January 2023. While in Winnipeg, Peter's brother in South Africa made him aware of xenophobic threats to him and his family if he were to return therefore he was forced to remain in Canada. Peter is now a 'Convention'* refugee in Winnipeg with Landed Immigrant status.

He is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and he is married to Nsigire Kalunzi (Love), and together they have seven children (2 boys and five girls).



The Congolese Army came to his parent's House in Bukavu, South Kivu and killed his mother, father, and sister due to their family blood line (Tribe of origin through his grandmother).

In 2005, Peter and his family left D. R. CONGO because the army wanted to kill him simply because his grandmother was a munyamulenge (Congolese Tutsi originally from Rwanda before the independence) and Peter's mother wanted to hide her munyamulenge friend when the Congolese army was killing all the Banyamulenge living in Congo/ DRC. Peter made the arduous and dangerous journey first, making his way to South Africa through Madagascar. Through the assistance of a church and its very poor congregants who provided him with \$50, he was able to successfully reach his destination.

When he started working at the Durban Holocaust and Genocide Centre, he began to voice the xenophobia and terror that immigrants have to live through in South Africa and implored the government to respect human rights and punish all these groups attacking immigrants in South Africa. Since then, he became the primary target of the Zulu people (Dudula) who falsely accused him of bringing and supporting refugees who are taking their jobs.

Despite the challenges that pushed him to flee South Africa and separate him from his wife and seven children, his calling to serve God and to stand for others did not leave him. Now he feels called to Ordained Ministry within United Church of Canada that he believes is a justice seeking and inclusive Church. What attracted him to the United Church of Canada was the love he experienced at Prairie Spirit United Church of Canada. He is praying to God that his interview with the Candidacy Pathway Board (13-Mar-24 in Saskatoon) will be successful, and that God will help him find sponsorship for his family and get funds to cover the cost of his family's permanent residence. He is willing to serve God for the rest of his life within the United Church of Canada if given the opportunity.

As his sponsoring church, we are setting up two restricted funds to assist Peter on his journey:

1. Refugee/Settlement Fund: this fund will be available for Peter to apply to access funds that will assist with repatriating his family in Canada and to establish themselves here.
2. Candidacy Fund: this fund will be available for Peter to apply to access funds in support of his educational journey to become a UCC Ordained Minister

Once these funds are established, an announcement will be made on the Sunday morning and placed in the Weekly Update that funds can now be received and receipts for donations generated. An envelope with a directional label where donators can select which fund they wish to support will also be placed in the pews.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact office and they will direct the question/concern to me.

Thanks,
Pat Rothney
Team Chair of the Worship and Faith Formation Team

* What is convention refugee in Canada?

The IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada) decides who is a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection. Convention refugees are **outside their home country or the country they normally live in**. They're not able to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on race and/or religion. (Accessed from <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=canada+convention+refugee> 23-Jan-24)

Stories of Our Mission

Your Generosity Revitalizes Languages

The efforts of Mission and Service [partners to preserve languages](#) unite people in a common passion while rediscovering history.

[Image credit: Haida Gwaii Skidegate]



Sun 28 Jan	9:30am	PSUC Choir
	10:30am	PSUC Worship
Mon 29	9:30am	Oversight Council Meeting
Tues		
Wed		
Thu 1 Feb	1 pm	Tone Chimes
Fri 2	1 pm	PSUC Book Club
Sat		
Regular Office Hours are Tue-Fri 10am-2pm Please call before planning a visit to the church.		

Please submit Weekly Updates to the office by Wednesday morning.

Please send the article as you would like it to appear, include Title, Write-up, files or posters to be included if any.

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 & Executive Minutes, Newsletters & Weekly Updates.

If you would like to sign up for email editions of our Weekly Update, please contact the church office.