

The Practical Wisdom of Compassion

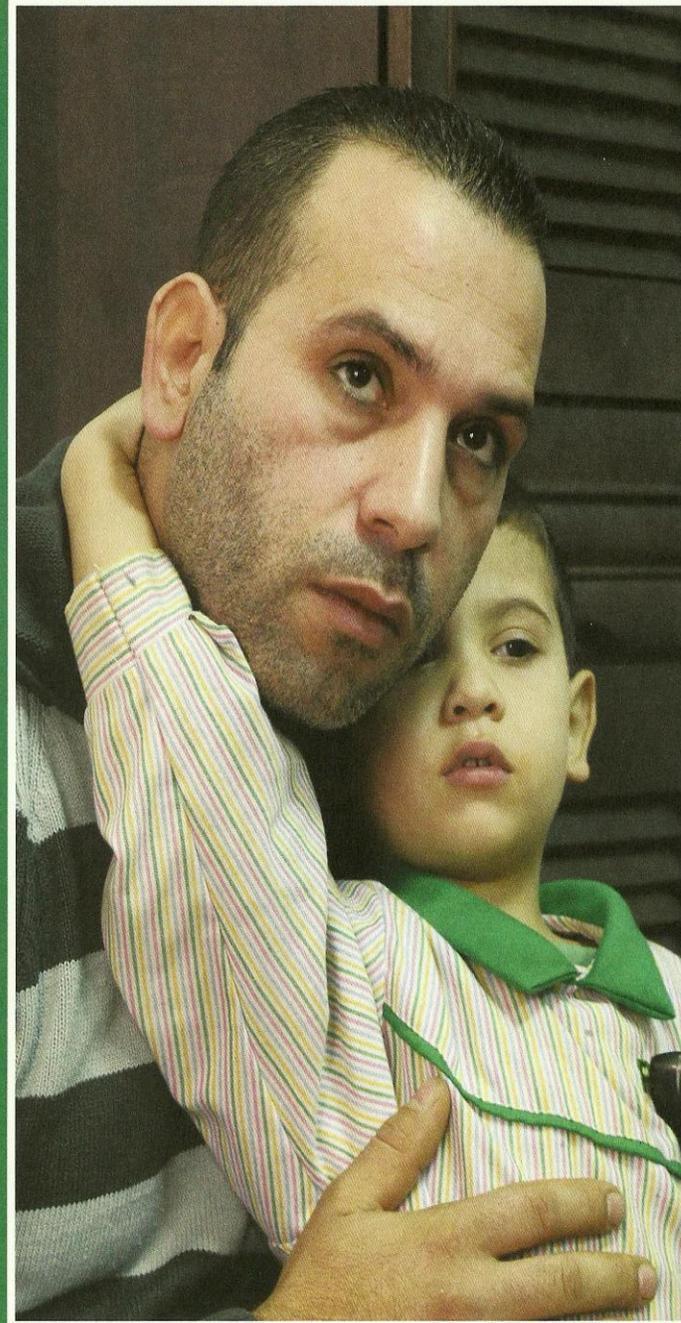
Proverbs is concerned with practical wisdom—it is where abstract ethical principles meet the messy complexities of everyday life. The scripture passages in James, Mark, Psalms and Proverbs are united through teaching the practical wisdom of *compassion*.

As intellectual wisdom, compassion is concerned with justice, fairness and wellbeing. As spiritual wisdom, it is about connecting to our shared humanity in God, and treating each person with the same abundant love that flows from, and connects us to, God. As heart wisdom, it is about overcoming emotional barriers (suspicion, scorn, apathy, fear, distrust, racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism) that prevent the formation of inclusive communities where human dignity flourishes, and where every person can share their gifts of the Spirit and feel a deep sense of belonging.

In compassion, wisdom of the head, heart and Spirit are woven together. Let us exercise compassion with passion.

Katharine Masterton is Program Coordinator for Justice Ministries.

Photo: Latif and son, Syrian refugees, photo courtesy of Canadian Foodgrains Bank



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun., September 6, 2015 @ 11 am

Communion Service

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist - Carol Wehrstedt Music Director- Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

* Entry of the Bible

Introit

Call to Worship

* Hymn: *"I heard the voice of Jesus say"* #671

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, lover of the world: You breathed breath into all that you created, and you are still among us breathing new life. You turn anger into reconciliation, division into union, grief into consolation, and old ways into new life. We confess that we have sinned against you in what we have done and in what we have left undone. We have not trusted in your goodness and have allowed fear to rule us. We have been silent when we should have spoken. We have been deaf to the calls of the poor and unresponsive when we should have acted more decisively. We have not lived with the same grace that you have always shown us. Forgive us and help us to serve you by serving your world with generous spirits. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

* Children's Hymn: *"Give me oil in my lamp"* #655
(last verse to be sung after Children's Time)

Children's Time

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation 452 (v.2)

**Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.**

**"Be Still and Know that
I am God" (Ps. 46: 10)
Please take the time
before the service as an
opportunity to quietly
prepare your heart and
mind for worship.**



Prayer Concerns:

Marie Huffman (Roseview)
Bernice Johnston
Al & Marilyn Miller's daughter-in-law,
Jennifer
Meta Evans' daughter, Carol
Jane Po
Janet Renton
Rose Ducharme (Marg Stein's mother)

Bazaar Update

Our tea and bazaar is less than 7 weeks away on Sat. Oct. 24! This week, we are highlighting the preserves and produce table-while you are enjoying this fall's fruit and vegetables, please keep this table in mind. Homemade dill pickles, salsa and apple or grape jelly are the best. We will have space for squash, carrots, cabbage and other root crops. This is an important fundraiser for our church family!

September 20:



The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to a Welcome Back Luncheon following the worship service. Cold cuts and buns will be provided, but you are invited to bring your favourite salads and desserts to share!

The Board of Managers will be discussing the 2016 budget at their October meeting. To help things run smoothly, it's our policy to receive any 2016 requests for money or expenditures, and budgets for our various groups and committees no later than Sept. 30th. We are trying our best to run a balanced budget, but because of some surprise costs (such as elevator repairs), the Board has deferred some items scheduled for 2015. Any "unfinished" 2015 items can be resubmitted for 2016.

Thank you, Jim Sutton on behalf of the Board of Managers.



Thank you this week to:

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Janet Racey
Fellowship Time: Sharon Hyder and Edna Irwin
Elevator Operator: Doug Brown
Offering Counting: Betty Ann Burn, Ruth George, Beth Workman
Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor
Phoning/Visiting:

Next week's volunteers: Sept. 13th

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Patricia Creed
Fellowship Time: Sandra Allan and Betty Ann Burn
Elevator Operator: Cameron Noy
Offering Counting: Joyce Nystrom and Brenda Snowdon Seabrook
Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor
Visiting/Phoning: _____

Grass Cutting:

August 24 to September 6 - _____
 September 8 to September 30 - Terry Casella

Upcoming Events at First

Wed., Sept. 9th	- Session Meeting	- 7 pm
Thurs., Sept. 10th	- Choir practice resumes	- 7 pm
Fri., Sept. 11th	- Crafts & Conversation	- 1 pm
Mon., Sept. 14th	- Cards afternoon resumes	- 1 pm
Wed., Sept. 16th	- Board of Managers	- 6:30 pm



Thank you so much to everyone who donates to the Food Bank.

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 58: 6-12	P. 688 & 689	O.T.
Psalms 9: 1-10	P. 492 & 493	O.T.
James 2: 1-9	P. 229	N.T.

Gloria Patri:

594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sermon: "Faith in Action"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Response 379 (v.4)

So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone him, each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving. This is our God the Servant King, he calls us now to follow him, to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we are reminded so often in Biblical narration that you are capable of miraculous actions. But your miracles are not limited to those ancient times. People still experience miracles in these ordinary, everyday times. We are thankful for the miracles that we witness each day—miracles both large and small. Today, we offer you this money as a sacred gesture of our gratitude. All praise and honour be given to you! Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

* Hymn: "Let us break bread together" #548

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,

died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Remembering the Meal with Jesus

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

We pray for the world
and with gratitude offer our lives to God.

We celebrate his victory over death
and anticipate the joyous feast we shall have in his coming kingdom.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we give you thanks and praise. Through the words of your prophets you gave your people hope by promising them the Redeemer. And now we rejoice that in your Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour has come and will come again in power and glory making all things new.

Those who belong to Christ come gladly to his table to make a memorial of his life and death, to celebrate his presence, and together as his church offer him thanks.

We thank you for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you he took up his cross and died that we might live.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again**

(Continued on Page 4)

We come to this, His Table, in simple trust, seeking the transforming power of your Spirit: on this assembly of your people, on these words and actions, on this bread and wine, in order that, by the miracle of your grace, we may be united to Christ and to one another – one in body, one in spirit, one in faith.

Be with us now through your Holy Spirit as we celebrate with great joy the resurrection of our Lord, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debtsdebtors)

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* Hymn: ***"For the healing of the nations"***

#736

Blessing

Response:

**Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow.
He has washed and made me white as snow.
I'm redeemed from all my sin and shame.
Now and forever, praise his holy name.
Praise his holy name. Praise his holy name.
To God be the glory now and forever.
Praise his holy name!**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission purpose is to put our faith into action through mission education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad.