

FIRST PRESS

FALL NEWSLETTER

2017



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Friends:

I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

Perhaps it's because of my many years spent in school, university, and seminary, but I always feel like September is the start of a new year. As our church groups and committees begin meeting again after a couple months of rest, I feel an energy of renewal.

There is one particular area in which I believe God is calling us, as a church, to be renewed. I believe God is calling us to be people of prayer.

We are very good at doing things. We have willing volunteers; we have people who are great at organization and logistics. This makes our events like our Tea and Bazaar, Chuckwagon Dinner, Tartan Week Fundraising Concert, and more, such lovely experiences and great successes. We have financially generous people; people who are free with the monetary blessings that God has given them, who reassess their giving regularly to see if they can afford to give more, who are giving even at the moment of their death through their stated wishes and legal wills. We have kind people, who are attentive to the needs of others; who visit and call to check in with one another; who provide drives and help with all manner of needs. And I do know we have prayerful people. I've done a book study and a workshop on prayer that were well-received. I've had conversations about prayer. I've had people pray for me and I've witnessed them pray for others. But what would it mean for us to be a prayerful community? A community that is *intentional* about prayer?

I'm interested to know your thoughts.

Perhaps being a prayerful community would mean having a prayer group that meets together at a stated time at the church. Or, having a group of prayer warriors that covenant to pray at a certain time of day, wherever they are, if they're able. Maybe it means having more interactive events where we learn various ways to pray (studies/workshops). Perhaps it means inviting different voices to write and lead prayers in our Sunday worship services. Maybe all of the above!

Prayer is so important and so powerful. It is our way to connect with what God is doing, and wants to do, through the Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit who works in the hearts of people, touching the issues that sit at the very core of a person. It's the Holy Spirit moving in a person that makes them fall in love with God, makes them want more of God, and finally frees them from their habits that are not life-giving. Imagine the changes that could take place in our church and our city if the power of God was channeled through so much prayer!

But it's not up to me; discernment is done in community. If you feel that God is calling our church to pursue prayer intentionally, let's talk with each other. Let's see where God might be leading us—what transformation God might have in store for us, as individuals and as a church.

Grace and peace,



WORSHIP NEWS

- Fri Oct 6/17 – Church decoration party for Thanksgiving. We would welcome any decorations (they will be returned or course) of produce, preserves, flowers etc.
- Sun Oct 8/17 – Thanksgiving Worship (Susan away)
- Sun Oct 15/17- Arin's Baptism (Caitlyn an Bryan's daughter)
- Sun Oct 29/17 – Pinewood Court Service 2 pm
- Sun Nov 5/17 - Remembrance Day Service
- Sat Dec 2/17 - Christmas Church decoration 10:30 am
- Sun Dec 3/17- First Sunday in Advent
- Sun Dec 24/17 -Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve
 - Family Service 7 pm
 - Communion Service 11 pm
- Sun Dec 31/17- New Year's Eve – All ages Worship
 - Pinewood Court Service 2 pm

CHUCKWAGON DINNER

Nov. 4 at 5 p.m. – Details to Follow

TEA AND BAZAAR

Our Annual Tea and Bazaar is Sat. Oct. 21/17 from 2:00-4:00pm. We will have baking, crafts, preserves and produce and silent auction tables, so we would appreciate your donations. We will also be asking for ingredients to make sandwiches and lots of volunteers. Sign-up sheets, posters and an info. sheet will be available soon.

Dates to remember - for this event

Thurs. Oct.19/17 8:00pm Table setup and deadline for sandwich ingredients and silent auction items.
Fri. Oct. 20/17 9:00am Make sandwich fillings.
Fri. Oct. 20/17 6:30pm Make tea sandwiches.
There will be more announcements in the future about the Tea and Bazaar.

CARDS AFTERNOON

Join us Sept 25th at 1:00pm for 2 hours of cards, games and fellowship we'll continue to meet every second and fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 pm, starting Oct 9th.

CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION

Come and join this lively group on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 1:00 in the John Currie room. Bring your own project to work on or come for the conversation and a cup of tea!

MTM

MORE THAN MISSION

The More Than Mission group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. These meetings are held at 1 p.m. in the John Currie Room from September through June of each year.

We begin each meeting with a devotional time. This is a very important aspect of our group.....we are MORE than just a fundraising group. We attempt to have a guest speaker on every alternate month. We are presently in the process of looking for some new organizations that we can assist. Last year we began the practice of choosing a project for which the proceeds of our monthly muffin sale were designated for. We have contributed to many groups within the community of Thunder Bay. Knitting articles of warmth for the cold Thunder Bay winters have been distributed to Shelter House, Salvation Army, Faye Peterson Transition House and several area schools. We also have assisted with needed supplies for John Howard Society and The Seafarers.

We encourage any woman who believes that helping the less fortunate, both within our community and worldwide, to come and join with us. Did I mention that we have dessert and tea at our meetings?

GLAD TIDINGS MISSION STUDY

You are invited to attend the final study of Freedom in Christ: From Slavery to Empowerment on Tuesday, October 17th at 1:30 in the John Currie room. Come and learn about the Tumekutana gathering of women in Africa and how they have come together to respond to slavery.

A new study series will begin in November. Noel and Dorcas Gordon have written a four-part study on Palestine.

Do you want to learn more about mission and Presbyterian mission staff? Glad Tidings, the magazine of The Women's Missionary Society, contains articles, worship resources and reports that inform the entire denomination about mission. Subscription cost is \$16.95. Please make your check out to Glad Tidings and return to Ruth George by November 1st.

SCOUTS TRIP TO NOVA SCOTIA

Dear Members of 1st Presbyterian Church;

On July 13th the 15th Scouts and Venturers returned from Nova Scotia, our week went by so fast. We cannot thank you all enough for all the help everyone gave us to get there. Another added bonus just before we departed is one of our Scouters surprised us with matching group jackets and tilly hats through a last-minute sponsor and kept it a secret till we arrived at the Airport to board our plane.

The youth enjoyed seeing Peggy's Cove, visiting a beach and swimming in the Ocean which none of them have ever seen or done before, collecting Oysters in the sand then cooking them up to try, Lobster Dinner again a first for them, visiting the Harbor Front and taking one of the tours which told them the history of Halifax over an hour of driving around the streets with the end result of the tour bus driving into the Ocean and becoming a boat that toured the Ocean for another 30 minutes, and the highlight of this whole trip going to the Canadian Scout Jamboree Site and taking part in Canada's 150th Birthday celebration, where youth made a leather item, traded badges, attended many workshops throughout the day as well as so many more stops and site seeing we did. We also met a father of another scout at the Jamboree who owns a company that makes the Candy for a popular game youth play online called Candy Crush, he was so impressed with our youth and group he promised to send us two cases of the Candy Crush Candy which got the kids super excited, it was like this father was a movie star.

The excitement and looks on each and every youths face each day was truly priceless and confirmed to me that this defiantly was a trip of a life time to all who attended that they will never forget. This was all possible through the generous help we were given by all of you. A huge thank you to Linda who stayed in constant touch with myself and came up with ideas to help us earn the much-needed funds to get there, we are forever grateful for your dedication to our Scout Group.

We came home with \$500.00 left over which our group has decided to keep in a special trip account in which we will add to whenever we can over the next four years for the next adventurer of a Jamboree. We as Scouters took many photos and short movies and will be burning them all to a DVD to present to the youth as a keepsake. I have included two pictures of our youth, one is at the Cj site where they met people from the Netherlands and the other is of them standing at the ocean while tide was low.

We hope you have a great summer, we look forward to starting back up in September.

Thank You

Kelly Hilton