

FIRST PRESS

FALL NEWSLETTER

2018



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

639 Grey Street

Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2E4

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www.fpresbyterian.ca

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Home: 628-8302

Office Hours:

Tue, Wed and Fri

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Friends:

I always find it difficult to know what to write for these newsletter greetings. Should I be entertaining? Reflective? Inspiring? Challenging? How do I discern what our whole church community would benefit from hearing?

But after our joint Board of Managers and Session meeting on September 26th, I knew what I needed to say. On October 14th, after worship, we will be having a congregational meeting to update everyone about our finances and our church sign. I want to help prepare us for that meeting—lay down some carpet, if you will.

Our church's financial situation is not good. So far, this calendar year, the only month we found our operating budget in the black was April. Most of you know I'm not a numbers person, so I'll leave the details for the congregational meeting. But, suffice to say if we continue along our current financial trajectory, we will find ourselves making decisions not because we should, but because we have to. Now is the proper time to build vision for the future.

We can be realistic about the financial data without painting a picture of a sinking ship. The church has never been, and will never be, in a "do or die" situation unless it wants to be. Jesus had only twelve disciples. The early Church met in people's houses and shared what little they had with each other. The Church in many other countries in the world still manages to grow in dimly lit back-rooms, at the end of a multi-hour commute, and under constant threat of literal physical destruction.

The only way a church dies is if its members decide not to meet anymore as a worshipping, praising community.

And so, our church finds itself at a crossroads.

We are entering into a period of discernment, where we pray heavily. Where we listen for God's guidance and discern, in community, the Holy Spirit's leading. The questions we ask are bigger than "Can we give more?" or "Can we rent the church building to increase revenue?" (Although, they are good questions.) We can ask big questions like:

If we were to start a new church tomorrow, what core values would we insist on? Are they different than what we see in our congregation today?

For what purpose has God anointed our congregation? (Why are we here? For whom do we exist?)

If we came back 50 years from now, what would we want to see this congregation doing?

We are at a crossroads. It's not a matter of going up or down, but of going this way or that way—horizontal movement. If we pray and truly listen for God's guidance, and choose to go where God will lead us—even if it means a very different way than we've ever gone before—then we will see, not just restoration, but transformation.

If anything, we have TOO MANY options!

Let us pray and praise and navigate the crossroads together.

Grace and Peace,



WORSHIP NEWS

Sun Oct 7/18 – Thanksgiving Worship
Sun Nov 11/18 - Remembrance Day Service
Sat Dec 1/18- Christmas Church decoration 4:00 pm
Sun Dec 2/18- First Sunday in Advent
Sun Dec 23/18 -Fourth Sunday in Advent
Mon Dec 24/18- Christmas Eve
Family Service 7 pm
Communion Service 11 pm
Sun Dec 30/18- New Year's Eve – All ages Worship
Pinewood Court Service 2 pm

CHUCKWAGON DINNER

Nov. 10th at 5 p.m. – Details to Follow

CARDS AFTERNOON

Continues to meet every second and fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 pm.

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!



AUDIO RECORDING

Audio recordings of our Sunday sermons are now available online! Head to <http://bit.ly/2xfSeJ9> or follow the link via the church website (presbyterian.ca) or the church Facebook page (facebook.com/firstchurchtbay). The sermons are recorded with a high-quality microphone and edited to create an audio book quality finished product.

TEA AND BAZAAR

Our Annual Tea and Bazaar is Sat. Oct. 20/18 from 2:00-4:00pm. We will have baking, crafts, preserves, 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

Sun. Oct. 14- Dead line for donations to the Silent Auction contact Deb Broll 577-2781 or Leslie Shaw 475-0731

Thurs. Oct. 18- 8:00 pm Table setup and dead line for sandwich ingredients Contact Janet Racey 939-1620

Fri. Oct.19 -9:00 am Make sandwich fillings. Many volunteers are needed. Contact Janet Racey 939-1620

Fri. Oct. 19 -6:30 pm Make tea sandwiches. Many volunteers are needed. Contact Janet Racey 939-1620

Sat. Oct. 20- 12:00 - 4:00 pm Kitchen volunteers are needed to cut sandwiches, squares, make coffee and tea, replenish and wash dishes.

Sat. Oct. 20/18 2:00- 4:00 pm Servers and pourers are needed for either a 1- or 2-hour shift. Contact Jeannine Verdenik 629-7014.

Sat. Oct. 20/18 2:00 - 4:00 pm We also need lots of volunteers to handle sales at the various tables. Contact Janet Racey 939-1620 and she will put you in touch with the appropriate conveyor.

PAINT NITE

Our next Paint Nite in support of the Raise the Roof Campaign is Scheduled for October 13, 2018 at 7pm. The picture we are painting is posted on our website and at each of the entrances of the church. No artistic skills are required. The awesome Paint Nite staff walk us through each step and then we go home with our masterpieces. Once again Lorne will tend our "mocktail" bar and snacks will be available for purchase. This is a family friendly event. Tickets are \$45 plus tax each for a total of just over \$50. \$15 from each ticket sold and all proceeds from the mocktail and snack bar goes to the roof fund. Check out our Facebook page for some great pics from the last event. Our last event raised over \$800. Please consider attending with your family and/or friends. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.paintnite.com/events/bridge-in-the-fall-at-first-presbyterian-church-10088905>. If you prefer not to order online please email Jeannine at firstpresbdchair@tbaytel.net and she will order on your behalf.

RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in May's Yard, Plant and Bake Sale. We had hoped to raise \$1000.00 for operating budget and \$1000.00 for the roof. We raised \$1000. for operating and (drum roll) \$1213.50 for the roof. You met our goals and went beyond. We appreciate the effort that the congregation made for this successful fund raiser. Thank you, Linda Rydholm and Janet Racey."

Cyril Johnson has graciously offered to host a special fundraiser to contribute to the Raise the Roof Campaign. On request, Cyril will make you a custom lazy Susan for use on your dining room table or as game board holder for your living room table. A 16" maple, ash or oak will cost \$70.00. A 10" will cost \$35.00. Cherry, walnut or zebra wood are also available at a greater cost. Please speak with Cyril if you have any questions.

He can also do these with the Celtic cross in the middle.





MTM

MORE THAN MISSION

The More Than Mission group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. These meetings are held at 1pm 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 invite guest speakers occasionally from groups in Thunder Bay to which we can provide assistance. Last year we began the practice of choosing a project for which the proceeds of our monthly bake sales were designated. 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, John Howard Society and several area schools. We also have assisted with needed supplies for The Mission to Seafarers. While our Spread the Warmth, Share the Love campaign and our Mission to Seafarers donation is not solely projects sponsored by our More Than Mission group, we do participate in these projects with the Craft and Conversation group as well as the entire congregation of First Presbyterian.

Upcoming events we are planning are:

Sept. 30 – Hot Dog Day (following morning worship)

Oct. 21 – Spud Sunday

Nov. 25 – Bake sale (with emphasis on holiday baking)

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?

Also, for those of you who contribute to the yearly Dime Collection, please ensure your contribution is turned in by the end of November.

We close each of our meetings with this benediction:

May God grant you always a sunbeam to warm you,

A moonbeam to charm you,

A sheltering angel so nothing can harm you,

Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you,
And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you.

GLAD TIDINGS MISSION STUDY

Glad Tidings is an amazing resource filled with studies, worship services, inspiring articles to help you grow your faith, connections to Presbyterians across the country and news from mission staff and partners. Subscription rate for 2019 is \$22.60. Contact Ruth George for more information.

CUBS/SCOUTS/VENTURERS

We held our first Group Committee meeting on Sept 4th, we are ready to start back up.

Cubs/Scouts/Venturers will start up on Monday Sept 10th and run every Monday till June

Beavers will start up on Thursday Sept 13th and run each Thursday till June.

We do break for all the regular Holidays, and basically run the same as Schools, with March Break and Christmas etc.

We have had a few Scouters leave us due to relocating, therefore we are desperately searching for Volunteers, a Secretary and Quartermaster. Next year we will be losing our 3 Scout/Venturers Scouters as they are now in their 3rd Year of L.U. So, if we do not start now looking for replacements we may not have those two sections next Sept as many of us are filling up to 3 roles presently.

Registrations are now priced at \$230.00 per youth, seems it keeps going up each year, which makes it difficult for some of our families as always. We still have many families using Pro Kids & Scouts No One Left Behind program to help with the registration and as always, our Group Fundraises to help with the costs of uniforms, camps and outings.

We have Apple Day coming up on Oct 6th we will be at Shoppers on Edward St, and Scout Popcorn sales running the whole month of Oct, followed by a Mom's Pantry Fundraiser in Nov.

Thank you
Kelly Hilton

From the Treasurer

