

Autumn blessings from Rev. Carrie

Many years ago, I visited a church that I found intriguing. In just one morning, I felt welcomed. The worship was uplifting, the sharing was so heartfelt that I sensed a deep connection between members and a willingness to be vulnerable. It was easily a place I could see myself worshiping and connecting. What was frustrating was that every interaction also included members apologizing to me for what they were not. They apologized for everything from decor to parking, to lack of children, to the fact that they didn't have a consistent minister at the time. I left feeling so disheartened that they could not see all that they were, because they were so attached to all that they thought they should be.

I know that churches are not what they once were. There are things and people we grieve, but there is also so much to celebrate. I celebrate churches that are fully affirming of the rainbow community. I celebrate churches that have room to learn from other traditions, rather than thinking they have the only right answer. I celebrate churches where people attend for more reasons than because it's the thing to do, or guilt. I celebrate churches that care deeply about social issues and want to learn. I celebrate churches that no longer sweep issues like abuse and clergy misconduct under the rug. I celebrate churches where members truly care for one another.

Sure, we aren't what we once were, but you know, sometimes that's a really good thing! I've been thinking about this for a long time as I've moved through many churches and denominations in leadership, attendance, or as a guest. In every place I have heard people lament over the church dying and the lack of young people in the pews (even while sitting next to one). Lament is usually followed by a strategic plan to stay alive. But just trying not to die is no way to live. That's no way to be a Christian or a church either!

Fall, surrounded by bountiful harvest, is a good time to ask God to open us to the bounty and blessing that is right in front of us. Maybe we planted a whole row of heritage tomatoes and there's not a ripe one in sight. But what if God is calling us to turn around and notice that our compost heap is suddenly overflowing with volunteer squash and gourds! Let us embrace the harvest we have and give thanks for the blessing that it is. May it be so.

Amen.



Introducing our new Choir Director!!!



Angel Mok

Angel entered the Education University of Hong Kong to pursue a Bachelor's degree in education, major in music. She studied piano with Ms. Carol Yu and conducting with Dr. Philip Chan and Dr. Paulina Wong.

Angel is a choral music enthusiast. She was a music panel, music director of choirs and handbell teams at Carmel Pak U Secondary School. Angel lead the choirs of Carmel Pak U Secondary School and actively participated in competitions and public performances in Hong Kong and worldwide. Choirs conducted by Angel have been awarded many prizes, including the Best Choir (Second Division) in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival, and the Gold Prize in the Hong Kong International Youth and Children's Choir Festival (Hong Kong Secondary School section) in 2011 and 2013.

In the 5th Children's Choral Festival held in China, Angel's choir won the Gold Prize (youth section) and Angel herself was awarded the "Outstanding Conductor Prize". In 2018, her female choir and mixed choir won the Gold Prize in the 2nd Singapore International Choral Competition. And she won the "Best Conductor Award".

Angel also headed the handbell teams at Carmel Pak U Secondary School, which received numerous Gold awards in the Hong Kong Handbell Festival and the Asia Inter-Schools Hand Chimes and Handbell Competition. The handbell team was on performance tours to Malaysia and Taiwan in 2011 and 2014 respectively.

As a famous German composer J.S. Bach said, "The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."

Let's make music together in St. Paul United Church!

Practices are on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Call Fay Carruthers for details





Celebrate – Bless – Give Thanks!

Join us on Oct. 15th 2-4pm for our St. Paul's Sanctuary Dedication! The time has finally come for us to celebrate and give thanks for the renovated St. Paul's sanctuary. Please join us as we dedicate our new space with prayers, wonderful music, dessert and fellowship. Let's fill the space with joy and celebration. Invite your friends!

Caring & Sharing and Many Hands At St. Paul's

If you would like to contribute food to either Caring and Sharing or Many Hands, there is a basket available in the St. Paul's foyer below the mailboxes.

All non-perishables welcome!



Sunday Worship services are recored
For everyone to view online. The
recorded video can be found on our
YouTube channel
"Pembina Parish Pastors Charge United
Church"

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Let's be grateful for what
we have. Let's be mindful
of those who have less. Let's
appreciate those who hold a
special place in our lives, and
make sure that they know it.”

Barack Obama



Worship Bulletins

Worship Interest Group is making a few printed copies of an abbreviated worship bulletin available at St. Paul's for use by those who have difficulty reading off the screens or find it more meaningful to pray any written prayers with a printed copy. Full bulletins are not being printed out of respect for the environment. These will be available for a trial period up to and including October 16th. Please contact the office or speak to the greeters if you find these to be helpful. We need your feedback. Greeters will have copies available.

Please mark your calendars for November 6, 2022 for the Annual Fall Supper

In the last two years we were challenged by many restrictions due to COVID. We are very happy to return to a familiar setting and provide a dining in option this year. We understand there are a number of folks who are not comfortable meeting in person so we are offering a pickup option also.

We will continue to pre-sell our fall supper meals, our lovely office manager will be happy to take your order.

Please look out for up and coming advertising. We will be selling in the month of October.
Fall Supper Committee



Changes to funeral lunches

With the restructuring of the church layout a group has met to discuss how funeral lunches will be accommodated.

As long as we have the CEU we will continue to use that space. Once we only have the sanctuary space we will have capacity for 150 guests. This will be achieved by also using the Narthex and Room 1.

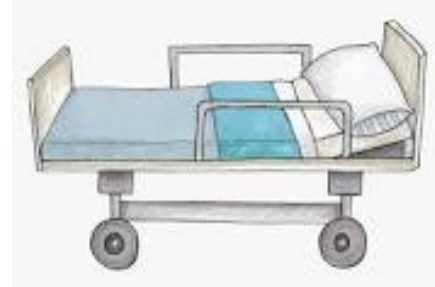


The UCW groups that have served the lunches in the past are being reviewed. If you are in a serving group you will be contacted to determine your willingness to continue providing this service. We are also hoping to have men participating in our serving groups. If you are not yet in a serving group and would like to participate please contact either Sue Nelson or Edith Lovatt.

The style of lunches will also be changing. All food for the lunches will all be purchased from the Coop.

Bob's Bed Push - Menzies Medical Centre Saturday Sept 24

8:40 am meet Menzies medical
9:00am walk starts
10:45am arrive BTHC short presentation
(flexible time dependant on walk speed)
11:15am walk back to Menzies medical
1:00 pm end
Go to bobbedpush.ca to donate



Boundary Trails Health Centre Palliative Care/Cancer care Program is looking for female & male volunteers. Volunteers come from all walks of life and make a difference in our communities. Volunteer Education Training Sessions will begin Monday Oct. 13th 9:00am-3:00pm. Deadline for registration is Oct. 7th. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities please contact: Jerri-Ann Froese
E- jefroese@southernhealth.ca T- (204)331-8815



This Fall!

INSIDE - Caring

Worship at Zion-Calvin (9:30m) and St. Paul's (11:00am)

Sept. 25 Hope in Creation: Listen to the trees

Hope in Creation: Bodies are cool! A joyous intergenerational worship service including a backpack blessing for those returning to school (students and teachers) and the first Sunday in the Season of Creation focusing on the goodness and diversity of our bodies.

Oct. 2 Hope in Creation: Faith in action (World Communion Sunday)

Oct. 9 Hope in Creation: Seeking the good of all (Thanksgiving)

Oct. 16: Gratitude Sunday! (World Food Sunday)

Check our New Pembina Parish Care Plan!

OUTSIDE -Sharing

Reconciliation

As part of our parish commitment to reconciliation we will be offering space for the Truth and Action Working Group to make Bannock in our church kitchen for the TRC events at the Access Event Centre on Sept. 30th. We have enough volunteers to make Bannock on the 29th, but we are **still looking for a few folks to serve Bannock and hotdogs at the TRC event on the 30th**. Please contact the church office or Rev. Carrie if you are available.

UPSIDE DOWN- Exploring

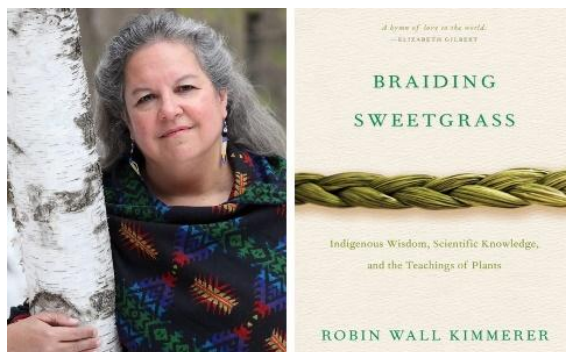
Sunday school at Zion-Calvin began on Sept. 18th. If you haven't participated in our Sunday school before, feel free to call the church office and we'll connect you with our excellent Sunday school team

News from St. Paul's Sunday School

Sunday School **Kick Off** on September 18th- Games and BBQ .

FAITH grows like a **Mustard Seed**. We will be exploring ways to nurture our faith through the stories of the prophets, sharing our abundance with others and remembering to be **THANKFUL** for all we have.

FCC Food Drive will be on Wednesday, October 12th from 6:30-8pm. If you are interested in participating in the food collection, contact Roxanne LeBlanc. Friends are welcome to join us. Can't participate that night? No worries, you can still be a part of this wonderful event. Pembina Parish will be collecting food donations from September 25th until Oct. 16th. Look for the **colourful** boxes in the Narthex.



Listening and Learning Book study starts on Oct. 5 at 7pm. Those who have signed up will be contacted as soon as the books arrive. Rev. Carrie is hoping to pick up a boxful on Sept. 24th. We will be studying *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. For more information: <https://www.robinwallkimmerer.com/books>

Financial Report

As we welcome everyone back to church and Sunday School, I want to take the opportunity to update you on our financial situation.

I have attached a Statement of Income and Expenses and as you can see, we are falling behind on our givings to date. Our budget is for our givings go be \$17,145 per month but our average givings are \$12,556 per month. To compound our financial situation, our budgeted expenses are \$19,268 per month but our average monthly expenses are \$20,165 per month. Added expenses does reflect unexpected flood damage in spring to 2 furnaces and repairs and upgrades to sewer and water lines.

I am very optimistic that between now and the end of the year we can make headway on our bottom line. We have a new Choir Director with opportunity for fundraising events. A Fall Supper is being planned, and an Open House to showcase our new space is planned for October 15th. We continue to look for a long-term renter for the CEU space.

We continue to make our mortgage payments in the amount of \$1,616 per month. We started with a \$240,000 mortgage and at the end of August the balance is \$231,162.42.

I would respectfully ask for your financial consideration. Whether through PAR, e-transfer or a cash donation. Please accept my sincere thanks for any ongoing support you can commit.

Respectfully,
Nancy Penner
Treasurer

Pembina Parish United Church						
Statement of Income and Expenses						
For the period ending August 31, 2022						
		Actual to August 31, 2022		Budget to December 31, 2022		Variance
Income						
	Givings	\$ 100,448		\$ 205,750		-\$ 105,301
	Fundraising	6,286		16,323		- 10,037
	Covid Government Funding	-				-
	Other	8,895		10,180		- 1,285
	Total Income	\$ 115,630		\$ 232,253		-\$ 116,623
Expenses						
	Salaries	\$ 82,224		\$ 125,857		-\$ 43,633
	Administration	19,004		29,586		- 10,582
	St. Paul's Bldg Expenses	41,954		45,413		- 3,459
	Zion-Calvin Bldg Expenses	10,547		12,664		- 2,117
	Interest Groups	3,518		17,700		- 14,182
	Interest on Mortgage	4,073		-		4,073
	Total Expenses	\$ 161,320		\$ 231,220		- 69,900
	Net Surplus (Loss)	-\$ 45,690.51		\$ 1,033.39		- 46,724



Pastoral Care Notes

Funeral pre-planning: alongside formal arrangements with funeral homes and financial institutions, another gift to loved ones is making note of favourite hymns, scripture passages, poems, or other rituals for your funeral/memorial service. Family members and friends are often comforted hearing the familiar pieces that filled you with joy or brought you courage and hope when times were tough. **If you would like to have a conversation with Rev. Carrie about your funeral or memorial service, please contact Carrie or the church office.**

Emergency contact: At times of illness, hospitalization, or death, it is often necessary for Rev. Carrie to connect with next of kin or an emergency contact person. If you would like us to have an emergency contact person on file, please call or email the church office. This is particularly helpful for those who are in our older demographic, live alone, or are in assisted living facilities or care homes.



New opportunities for caring!

We are a loving and caring community. Consistently folks in our parish express interest in helping one another but are unsure how to do so. At times, people are also unclear about which areas of care lie with the minister and what can be done by church members. After much thoughtful conversation we have developed a new Pembina Parish Care Plan that we hope will clarify roles, responsibilities, and provide opportunity for folks to actively care for one another.

We are very grateful to all those who have diligently offered care in the past and those who continue to do so. If you have been doing visitation and are wondering about your role now, see the Visitation section below.

Sign-up sheets to volunteer will be available at both Zion-Calvin and St. Paul's during the month of October.

Here's what you need to know about our new Care Plan.

Congregational Care

Who-care is provided for one another by members and participants of Pembina Parish.

What - we have identified several areas of care: Visitation, Card writing, Prayer, Physical support.

Visitation

Volunteers periodically visit folks on our lists who are homebound, live alone, need a check-in, or would simply benefit from a chat. The lead of visitation will coordinate visitors and be in touch about needs. Our current lead of visitation is Cathy Sandercock. If you are already a visitor, your role will remain the same, but expect that you may hear from Cathy on occasion.

Card writing

Volunteers write cards of care on behalf of the congregation to those who have experienced a significant death, illness, birth of a child etc. We want to ensure that members know the parish is with them during major life events. Laurie in the office will contact card writers in rotation to let them know when a card is needed. Cards will also be available in the office for writers to use if they wish.

Prayers

Volunteers pray for those in need. We want folks who are struggling to know that someone is holding them in prayer. Information about individuals will need to be held in confidence and, at times, those needing prayers will need to remain anonymous. Rev Carrie, Cathy Sandercock, or one of the visitors will communicate prayer requests as directly as possible to maintain confidentiality.

Physical Support

Volunteers provide practical support for others when called upon. There are times when folks in our parish could significantly benefit from receiving baking or meals, having someone run errands or drive them to appointments. Laurie or Cathy Sandercock will be in touch when a specific need arises.

Community Building

Who -Ad hoc groups formed from within the community of faith for a specific event or activity.

What -Phone check-ins with all participants in the faith community, Newsletters (currently looked after by Shannon Holenski -yay!), Pancake Tuesday meal, Picnic or Summer BBQs, Carolling and any other community event that draws us together as a church family.

Pastoral Care

Who -Rev. Carrie. In her absence, Rick Britton and Kathryn Luger.

What -hospital visitation, end of life conversations, births, illness visits or calls, other urgent care needs.

Ritual Care and Support

Who -Rev. Carrie. In her absence, coverage by another minister.

What -Weekly worship, Baptisms, Funerals/Memorials, Communion, Memorial Sunday, New Baby visits, Poinsettia ministry etc.

*Many of these items require valuable support from Worship Interest Group, Laurie, Funeral/Memorial serving groups, Poinsettia volunteers and others. However, the congregation can be assured that the minister will initiate these items of care when they are needed.

Thanks to the members of M+P, as well as Rick Britton, Myrna Mayor, Laurie Wiebe, and Leadership Team for helping to create this care plan for our community of faith.

I've done my duties
Paddington, please
take me to my
husband



