

Search: Dianne reported that Tara, Dave, and she took part in a zoom training on May 25th. The Church Hub posting is for a halftime student. Our best option in the long-term is to enter into a collaborative agreement with a neighbouring church. We will have an informal conversation with Hamiota in the coming months.

Stewardship (Property): Jamie McFadden reported that he has found one large planter and two smaller ones that we might place on the north side of the church. Alastair will bring some dirt. ****Moved by Lori Kiesman, seconded by Jamie McFadden, that \$100 be allowed for the purchasing of plants. Carried.** Megan Lelonde will look after this.

It was later noted that Megan had placed some bricks and mulch under the sign to improve the appearance of that site. She also cut the grass in the area enclosed for the Nursery School.

Thrift sale: Lynn Madden reported on the spring Thrift Sale that was held from April 25th -27th. It was a very successful sale, although there were not quite as many donations as previously (no big items). Thursday was the best day with income of \$1,681.65. The net profit for the three days was \$2,341. (The only expense was the newspaper ad.) Lynn sends out a big thank you to all who make this event a success, from the donors, the set-up crew, the workers, to the pack-up team. "It is a lot of work, but we get it done." Besides the Banner advertisement, posters were put up by Greg Kowalchuk and Megan Lelonde. The pack-up was completed in just over an hour, and all the items were loaded up. There was nothing left in Friendship Hall! A first! The items were donated to Rivers Collegiate, Teen Challenge, and MCC Brandon. "It's amazing that we get enough donations to have two sales a year. The next one will be in September 2024."

Minister: Sheila Deforest gave her report for May-June. A summary is provided below; the full report is attached to the official minutes.

- This is Sheila's last report to the Council. She has almost completed her preparation of the June 23rd service (which is her last and the church's last until September 8th). Heather Lamb, as lead person of the LST and as chair of Council, will preside over part of the service.
- In May, Sheila convoked from St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, with a Master of Divinity. Sheila said, "I am grateful for the support and forbearance of this church during my studies. You have listened to me as I have described what I was learning with interest and patience."
- Sheila attended the May gathering of United Church people at Knox Church, Brandon. She encouraged us to attend these lay events. Also in May, she presided over two funerals (Gwen Spring and John Jordens). Beginning on Pentecost Sunday, Sheila started using the 2006 United Church faith statement, *A Song of Faith*, in the worship services to help people understand this underused document.
- We have had our final Sunday School session until September. Sundae Sunday was a huge success. This event brings enjoyment when "everyone, young and old, embraces in the sharing of fellowship and ice cream."
- On June 9, the UCC kicked off the Centennial commemoration year. On June 24, 2025, the UCC will mark its 100th anniversary. Sheila urged Council and Church committees to embrace the monthly anniversary themes that have been prepared by the United Church. "This is what I ask all of us to think about, not as an exercise or task, but rather as our commitment to live the Way of Jesus."
- "On June 9th, I had the honour of baptizing Burke McFadden. The celebration of baptism on the Sundays when there is Sunday School is also something that I have come to understand in a deeper, theological way. Having people of all ages make the congregational promises brings tradition alive. ... This is a visual reminder that we have all been baptised into God's family."

- Sheila reminded us “that we are, and will always be, siblings in Christ and God’s beloved children.

Rev. Sheila Deforest will begin her call to Maple Creek United Church (Saskatchewan) on July 1st.

****Moved by Alastair McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the reports be accepted. Carried.**

The meeting was paused for a few minutes to take a photo of Sheila and the Council members. (This happens every 15 years or so.)

Stewardship (Finance):

The financial statement for the month of May 2024 was presented by Jamie McFadden. As of May 31, 2024, total RUC funds were \$218,064.26. Income for the period - \$6,834.64; expenses for the period - \$7,363.76. An announcement will be made asking people to continue church offering over the summer months. ****Moved by Jamie McFadden, seconded by Dave Falkevitch, that the financial report for May 2024 be accepted for information only. Carried.**

Old Business:

1. **Zoom account:** We will give *Teams* (on-line meeting site) a try.

New Business:

1. **Farewell Reception:** The Farewell Reception will be held following worship on June 23rd. Refreshments will be arranged by the Outreach Committee. Heather reviewed what the “formalities” will consist of. Sheila will cut and serve the cake.
2. **Step 2: **Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that Rivers United Church support the continuation of the Step 2 program in Friendship Hall from September 2024 to March 2025. Carried.**
3. **Fall Carnival:** Megan Lelonde attended the meeting to bring forward a proposal to host a Kids’ Carnival in Friendship Hall in September with the ultimate goal of bringing more young families into our church. She suggests that the Saturday (evening or afternoon) event would include carnival treats and games. Council was very enthused about this idea and had many suggestions. Perhaps Council could provide free hotdogs. It was suggested that Robin Rivas might have some ideas for the entertainment. ****Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that \$100 be budgeted for a Kids’ Carnival on the tentative date of September 21, 2024. Carried.** The costs will be further discussed at the September council meeting.
4. **Gift for Jeremy Bray: **Moved by Lynn Madden, seconded by Lori Kiesman, that a \$50 restaurant gift card be purchased for Jeremy Bray in appreciation of the work he does for the RUC website. Carried.** Monica will look after this.
5. **RUC promotion:** Dianne will write an article for the Banner, including notice of Sheila’s ordination and departure, invitation to attend the June 23rd service and Farewell Reception, summer closure, search for another student, donations made, reopening, and fall events. ****Moved by Tara Bray, seconded by Megan Lelonde, that RUC place a notice in the Banner to advertise the first Sunday back on September 8, 2024. Carried.**
6. **Funerals:** After June 30th, anyone wishing to hold a funeral in the church should call Tara Bray (for permission for the officiant) and Debbie Johnston (to book the church).

7. **Northern Ministers' Crisis:** Council members discussed the letter from the United Church of Canada about the heavy load carried by ministers in the North. The national church is planning a retreat for these northern ministers to give them rest, training in crisis management, and spiritual renewal.
8. **Thrift sale proceeds: **Moved by Alastair McFadden, seconded by Lynn Madden, that the proceeds of the spring thrift sale be split evenly between the Northern Ministers' Crisis Fund and Riverdale Harvest (\$1140 each). Carried.**

Roundtable:

- We will be doing some work for the reception after Hall Sviestrup's Celebration of Life on June 14 (setting up tea and coffee and doing dishes).
- Megan Lelonde will do any indoor cleaning necessary during the summer.

Heather thanked all council members for their participation and contributions.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept 10, 2024

The meeting was adjourned by Lynn Madden. Sheila led us in a closing prayer.

Dates

June 13 - Choir practice

June 14 - Celebration of Life service for Hall Sveistrup

June 16- Service leader Rev. Glenna Beauchamp

June 23- Communion, Covenant Celebration, and Farewell Reception. Last service before summer break.

Sept. 5- Choir practice

Sept. 8- First service after summer break. Service Leader Heather Lamb. Sunday school.

Sept. 10 – Council meeting