

Trini Tidings



Fall 2026

Trinity United Church Portage la Prairie, MB

Phone: 204-857-4471

e-mail: trinityu@mts.net

Website:

www.trinityunitedportage.ca

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9 a.m. – noon & 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

We want to provide a brief update regarding our recent compromised banking situation. We have taken the necessary steps to ensure that our banking information and processes are secure, and we are pleased to say that the situation has been rectified, and there were no financial losses. We encourage you to continue donating by e-transfer with confidence. Please remember that if you have Trinity saved in your online banking, please update it to trinityu@mymts.net before sending your next e-transfer. We are very grateful for your continued support and generosity, and want to assure you that we have taken the necessary steps to keep your donations safe and secure.



COMING UP IN TRINITY WORSHIP

You are welcome to join us in person at Trinity or access our online feed through our zoom platform. The zoom link is emailed out each week, is available on our website, and in our Facebook group. If you need help accessing our online worship, please be in touch with the church office. You are always welcome to come through the front doors and join us in person! Doors open before 10 am and we start at 10:30 a.m.

"Seeking Justice Together"

September 27

"The Courage to Speak Up"
(wear orange to church if you can)

October 4

*"How Good it is when
God's People are Together"*
Joint United, Anglican,
Presbyterian service for
World Communion at
McKenzie United Church

October 11

*"Blessed by Chance,
Accountable by Choice"*

October 18

*"For Such a Time as This –
Lessons from Esther"*

October 25

*"Reset. Restore. Rejoice.
Proclaim Jubilee!"*

November 1

*"Every Saint has a Past;
Every Prodigal has a Future"*

November 8

"Flipping the System"

November 15

"Nevertheless, she persisted."

November 22

*"Broken walls and
Enduring Purpose"*

Church Connections



While you can always find us by using the telephone, and stopping into the office, we have many electronic and online options to keep us connected as well.

Regular emails are sent with updates – if you would like to be added to our email list, please email us at trinityu@mts.net with your preferred email address. If you have not been receiving emails and you are already on our distribution list, please be in touch so we can discover the glitch!

Find us through our webpage www.trinityunitedportage.ca, at our Facebook page, or in our active Facebook Group – Trinity United Church, Portage la Prairie. Our YouTube channel is Trinity Portage, at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifQQLFZrDcGyY-J3xjDoKA/videos>

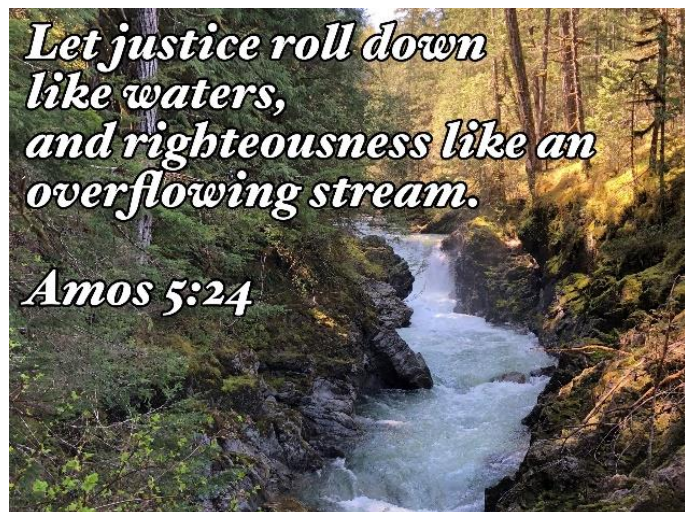
You can also follow us on Instagram at [trinityportage](https://www.instagram.com/trinityportage).

Attention Gmail users! - Sometimes church emails may end up in your junk or spam folder by mistake. If you've been missing messages from us, please check those folders regularly and mark our emails as "not spam" when possible. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

When we gather, we remember that we gather on the area covered by Treaty 1, traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



Seeking Justice Together



This fall at Trinity, we are engaging in part three of our "Seeking" series as we seek justice together. (Seeking God Together; Seeking Peace Together; Seeking Justice Together). But what is this justice? The Prophet Amos proclaimed: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream." (5:24) In Luke 4:14–30, Jesus reads the words of Isaiah as he boldly proclaims that he has been sent to bring justice: to preach good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. In the Old Testament, justice (mishpat in Hebrew) is not just about fair punishment for wrongdoing; it's about restorative justice, which involves caring for the vulnerable and changing systems so that injustice does not happen in the first place. To fully understand biblical justice, it is also essential to consider righteousness. Tzadeqah, the Hebrew word for righteousness, refers to right relationships, where people are treated with dignity and respect because they bear the image of God.

Justice and righteousness are sometimes used interchangeably in the Bible and are frequently used to describe the character of God. Taken together, these concepts offer guidance for living faithfully in a broken world. Living with justice and righteousness looks different from person to person, church

to church, and community to community. Yet, in all contexts, it is essential that there is both inner and outer work. Prayer, reflection, truth-telling, and repentance lead to inner transformation (righteousness). This transformation provides the necessary wisdom and discernment to know what actions to take in the church, community, and world (justice). This outward-focused action then leads back to the inner work, challenging us to look at the actions we took and how they impacted us and the world. This is a lifelong journey toward loving kindness, courage, justice, peace, and reconciling love in relationship with God, other people, self, and the earth.

And so this fall, as we explore many different biblical justice stories, we hope that we will consider what God's call to justice means for us here in Portage la Prairie. What is the inner and outer work to which we are called? May we all experience transformation and a renewed commitment to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Youth Adolescents Learning about Faith (ALF) Retreat

Are you seeking opportunities to connect with fellow youth across the Prairie to Pine Regional Council? Well, there is good news for you. The regional council has you covered. An ALF 2026 sleep-over retreat has been put together in Minnedosa at Minnedosa United Church from **October 23 to 25**. This retreat offers not just opportunities to connect with others, but also opportunities to explore and enrich our faith through experiences. This year's theme is "Faith in Film" which seeks to explore how our faith might be influenced by the movies and media we engage with. This theme offers reflective opportunities for all the youth and opens up new ways of seeing faith through different lenses. In this regard, Trinity United invites all our youths from grades 7 to 12 to seize the opportunity. So, get ready for a weekend of worship, games, movies, dancing and music. This might be a perfect place to hang out with old friends and make new ones. For more details and registration, check the Prairie to Pine Regional Council website. You can also contact the office to arrange for carpooling.



Leaving a Legacy



As the leaves begin to change and autumn reminds us of the beauty of the seasons of life, we are also reminded of the ways our lives can continue to make a difference long after we are gone.

Sometimes we think that leaving a legacy is something only people with great financial resources can do. But a legacy can take many forms. One meaningful way to honour the life of someone we love is through a memorial gift to a cause or organization that mattered to them.

You can help your family and friends know what was important to you by sharing your wishes ahead of time. What has made a difference in your life? What people, places, ministries, or causes have been meaningful to you? A simple note in your important papers, or a conversation with your loved ones, can make it easier for them to honour your wishes.

A memorial gift can be made to any charitable or non-charitable organization. At Trinity, memorial gifts may be directed in several ways:

Gifts to our **Memorial Fund** support worship and Christian education within our congregation. Gifts to the **General Fund** help with the

ongoing day-to-day work of the church, while gifts to the

Building Fund help us care for and maintain our historic building. Memorial gifts may also be directed toward another ministry or area of the church that holds special meaning for you.

As we enjoy the colours and beauty of this autumn season, we give thanks for the lives of those who have been part of our Trinity family. Their lives have touched ours in many ways, and through memorial gifts, their memory continues to make a difference.

We thank God for the lives of these faithful people, in whose memory we have received donations since our last issue of TriniTidings:

Carol Zacharias
Bert Bazin
Cheryl Bergson
Anne Teghtmeyer
Louise McManus

Milestones & Markers...

Since our last issue

Funerals

Iris Ruby Schofield
June 15, 2026

Randall "Brent" Bailey
July 10, 2026

Carol Zacharias
August 15, 2026

Weddings

*John Michael Collera &
Dominic Abraxias
Gardiner-Collins*
June 28, 2026

Increasing Accessibility



In our journey to provide a barrier free, safe environment at Trinity, we continue to be aware of accessibility needs. One of those needs for many people relates to hearing on Sunday mornings. Increasing the volume doesn't always help with understanding, but sometimes if you can read what is being said (close captioning), it can make hearing so much easier. In the church, we have to go 'low tech' for this, but each Sunday, copies of the full text of what is spoken up front is available at the entry tables. Feel free to pick one up and follow along!

Did you miss a Sunday? Was there something in the sermon you want to share with friends? Are you one of Trinity's friends who doesn't live in Portage la Prairie anymore? Well, we have good news for you. Our sermons are recorded Sundays and posted to YouTube. You can find us on YouTube at "Trinity Portage". Links will also be posted to our Facebook group account so you can find them easily each week. If you would prefer to have a text copy of the sermon along



with the link emailed to you each week, please contact Jacquie at the church office (trinityu@mts.net) to get your name on the distribution list for that.

Stewardship Update...

This fall, Trinity is opening up our church for a couple of evenings of entertainment.

On **Thursday, November 5**, the musical duo of Amir Bissen, on violin, and Fan-En Chiang, on piano, will present an evening of **Movie Magic** featuring music from Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Indiana Jones, Jaws, Star Wars and more. A great experience for audiences of all ages. Let's get the word out to the community!

On **Saturday, December 12**, Whoop & Hollar is bringing **Red Moon Road's 'Simple Kind of Christmas'** to Trinity. This special holiday performance will feature an all-star cast turning the evening into an almost orchestral celebration of music! The timing couldn't be better to enjoy an evening of Christmas music with family and friends!

Any ideas you have for additional fundraising activities like these are always welcome. It's a great opportunity to provide entertainment from our magnificent sanctuary and invite the greater community into our beautiful church!

We did have a challenge with e-transfers this summer but are extremely glad to report that the challenge has been addressed and you can continue to donate to Trinity securely through e-transfer to trinityu@mymts.net if this is your preferred method of providing financial support!

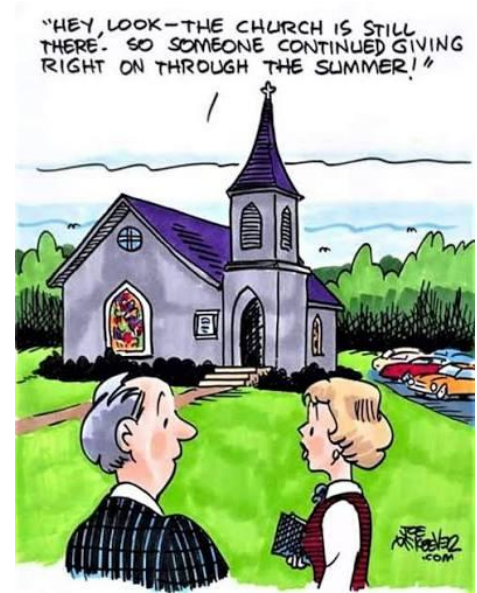
Regardless of your method of financial support, whether through envelopes, PAR (preauthorize remittance), transfer of shares or Canada Helps, it is always gratefully received!

Thank you so much for your continued support which allows our Ministers and our church community to continue to provide services, support and leadership to Trinity and our greater community.

As at the end of August or 66% through the year, our total operating income is at 61% of our budgeted income and our total operating expenses are at 62% of what we budgeted. The Operating Budget vs Actual to August 31, 2026 is reproduced below for your review. Should you have any questions or comments please call the office.

Trinity United Church Operating Budget vs. Actual 2026 Summary to August 31, 2026

	Aug 31-26	Actual to Date	Budget 2026	% Budget to Date
Income				
Offerings	\$ 8,524.75	\$ 110,660.04	\$ 175,000.00	63%
UCW	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	60%
Rentals	\$ 2,661.90	\$ 23,040.20	\$ 34,562.80	67%
Honouraria	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 2,500.00	51%
Special Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Interest	\$ 120.73	\$ 1,088.13	\$ 1,700.00	64%
GST Rebate	\$ 667.04	\$ 1,785.44	\$ 1,500.00	119%
Investing in Our Future	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	50%
Total Operating Income	\$ 12,174.42	\$ 165,853.81	\$ 270,262.80	61%
Expenses				
Personnel	\$ 22,233.39	\$ 193,072.12	\$ 307,220.03	63%
Cost Sharing with MacGregor United	\$ (4,018.06)	\$ (34,309.25)	\$ (52,088.79)	66%
United Church of Canada	\$ -	\$ 10,311.75	\$ 13,749.00	75%
Office	\$ 382.52	\$ 7,709.85	\$ 12,725.00	61%
Program Supplies	\$ 34.50	\$ 1,295.06	\$ 2,550.00	51%
Interest Groups	\$ -	\$ 287.40	\$ 1,275.00	23%
Property	\$ 752.31	\$ 26,714.71	\$ 43,796.00	61%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 19,384.66	\$ 205,081.64	\$ 329,226.24	62%
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (7,210.24)	\$ (39,227.83)	\$ (58,963.44)	



**Trinity's
Giving Goals
June – August**
Goal - \$32,989
Given - \$31,920



September & October
Goal - \$22,033

Please help!

The ministry of Trinity United Church is only made possible through the generosity of people like you!

Youth Confirmation Service



Trinity United is offering discussion sessions leading to the confirmation service of our grades 8 to 12 youth this fall. These sessions will explore topics of interests to the youth, looking at how they intersect with faith and church. We hope that these sessions will give our youth the tools to navigate their own changes and transitions while reigniting their deep connection with God, church, neighbour, community and creation. The confirmation service will be held after these sessions at a later date (to be communicated soon). We encourage all those interested to register with the office or our ministers before October 9. There shall be a planning meeting soon after the registration closes, and emails will be sent out to all participants.

An Intergenerational Church

Things that make community of all ages both frustrating and beautiful:

Babies cry in the middle of the sermon.

An older saint needs the music turned down a little.

Teenagers fill a row and whisper to one another.

Young parents are doing everything they can just to be there.

A little boy drops something during prayer and crawls underneath the seats looking for it.

A widow stays after church because Sunday may be the most conversation she has all week

An older man tells you about how the church used to be, again.

A toddler spills crackers everywhere.

And somewhere in all of that, the body of Christ is learning to love beyond age, preference, personality, and stage of life.

Maybe that is part of the point.

The church is one of the few places where five generations can regularly share the same room, sing the same gospel, open the same Bible, pray for one another, and call each other family.

Young families need people who have already survived hard marriages, rebellious kids, grief, financial pressure, and disappointment.



Older Christians need the energy, questions, children, and hope of younger families.

Teenagers need adults who know their names. Children need to see people grow old without growing critical about Jesus.

We do not need better programs for every generation. We need the generations to belong to one another.

We need generations that share burdens, meals, stories, prayers, and life.

That is one of the miracles of an ordinary Sunday.

- James Bell

Help support the Women of Mother Earth Network, who collect and distribute clothing to local residents in need. Donations of clean, gently used clothing in good repair are gratefully accepted at Trinity.

Your generosity helps provide clothing to those who need it in our community. Thank you for helping!



"This is my wish for you;
Comfort on difficult days,
smiles when sadness intrudes,
rainbows to follow the clouds,
laughter to kiss your lips.
Sunsets to warm your heart,
hugs when spirits sag,
beauty for your eyes to see,
friendships to brighten your being.
Faith so that you can believe,
confidence for when you doubt,
courage to know yourself,
patience to accept the truth,
Love to complete your life."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Staff Update – Julie

I haven't updated you on my health journey for a while because my "maintenance" chemotherapy kept things pretty stable, and there really wasn't much to report. The most unstable thing was my eye retina's habit of detaching, which brought several emergency surgeries into my life, and a lot of blurry vision. Indeed, my very busy ophthalmologist started seeing me so often he remembered my name and situation without looking at my chart! In fact, I still have a silicone oil bubble in my right eye to keep the retina in place that is due to be removed in November, if nothing else gets in the way of that plan.

However, throughout the spring, I knew that my blood cancer was not really behaving itself and that soon I would need to engage in more active chemotherapy treatments. In June I started a weekly regime (spending Tuesdays in the chemotherapy chairs in Portage hospital). Over the summer my doctors also helped me determine that with all of the appointments and treatments and effects of the treatments, I would need to pull back from work and so I am currently working slightly less than half time. I had really hoped that we would find a treatment pattern that would give us a stable schedule to work with, but what I have learned over the summer is that I am now in a phase of this health journey that does not lend itself to planning anything. Every week



has been different, and the treatment has been adapted countless times to address the ways I have been reacting and responding (or not responding). The latest word from my oncologist is that we may need to move to a treatment that would only be available in Winnipeg, which makes

me grateful for how much I have been able to do in Portage up until now. And so, what the rest of the fall may look like is mostly a mystery. I wish I could tell you more. I wish I knew more. But I am forced to go day by day and week by week. In the meantime, we will try to let you know (in the weekly announcements, for example) what my work time/availability will be. We have an insurance program called Restorative Care, which will cover 80% of the hours I am unable to work.

I will try to keep you as informed as I can as circumstances shift. Thanks for all of your care and prayers. I deeply appreciate the flexibility of the Leadership Team and the Ministry and Personnel Committee as I continue to move into the fog of the unknown.



World Communion Sunday

Trinity United is joining McKenzie United, St. Mary's Anglican, and First Presbyterian churches to celebrate World Communion Sunday. McKenzie United Church will host this service on **October 4, 2026**. We celebrate the unity of the body of Christ across the globe under the theme: "How good and pleasant when kindred live together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). There will be a joint choir to add some melody to the singing during the service. All are welcome to join the joint choir. Rehearsal time is on Sunday at 09:00 a.m. For copies of the music, contact the office or get in touch with Lori. Therefore, we invite our members to attend this service.

Coffee will be served prior to and after the service at **McKenzie United Church (85 – 11th Street NW)**. See you there!



If you catch yourself judging someone - pray twice.

Once for the person you are judging and once for God to change how you react to something you have never walked.

Make this a practice.

Wear it out until it feels automatic.

Then watch your heart soften for a world that doesn't always think the way that you do.

You don't have to understand someone in order to love them.

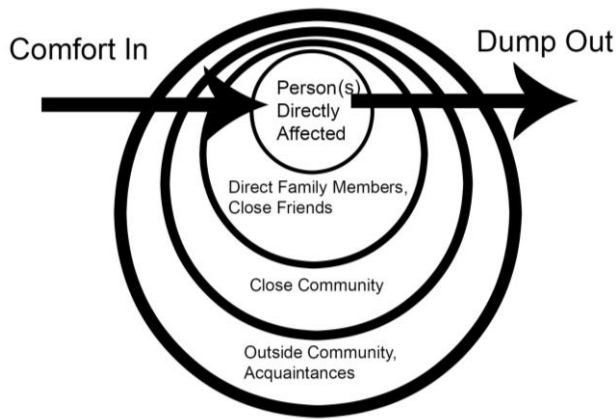
Wash. Rinse.

And repeat as often as needed.

ullie-kaye



Supporting Friends through Grief



Many of us wonder how best to support our friends and loved ones who are going through grief. Perhaps they have lost a spouse. Or perhaps they have received a devastating diagnosis. Maybe you understand something of their loss, or perhaps you can't even imagine their loss. Susan Silk and Barry Goldman developed a simple exercise to help us know how not to say the wrong thing when we seek to support someone in crisis. It's called "Ring Theory," and it's very simple. First, draw yourself a diagram of rings, the kind a pebble makes when you drop it in a pond.

In the center ring, write the name of the person who is struggling. Moving outward from the center, write the name(s) of the people next closest to the person in the center. Repeat as many times as necessary. Now, as you think about what to say, and what not to say: the person in the center of the ring can say anything they want to anyone in any circle. They can be frustrated, they despair - anything is fair game. Notice what circle you are in and try and abide by the following guidelines:

Comfort In: You must only offer support, love, and comfort to anyone in a ring closer to the center than your own.

Dump Out: You can only share your own complaints, fears, or emotional burdens with people in rings outside of your own. Never complain to someone closer to the center than you. Don't talk about your own struggles with regards to the loss to anyone closer to the center than you. Look for someone in an outer circle to share your feelings with.

No Advice or Competing Stories: Do not tell the grieving person how to fix things, and do not say things like, "You should hear what happened to me". Instead, consider practical ways to help: provide a ride, a hot meal, a coffee or a snack.

Offer to walk the dog, or run an errand. Listen quietly and offer your physical presence without judgment. Bring a deck of cards and suggest a game, if that's something they might appreciate.

Don't be afraid to tell a story about someone who has died. People often want to hear memories of their loved one - even if it makes them sad, they are thankful that you are remembering them too. They are glad you want to talk about them. Don't worry that you are making them think of their loved one - they are already always thinking of them!

Everyone goes through grief - we are surrounded by it. As a community of faith, may we share God's love with every grieving person in our circles.

God is still with us - even in a trade war

In a recent article written for Broadview magazine, United Church minister Christopher White asks: Where is God in the midst of a trade war?

He notes that as Canada-U.S. tensions fuel economic uncertainty, our faith can help us find our footing. We can ask ourselves how do we find and experience God in the midst of uncharted territory? Jesus ministered in a time of occupation, conflict and economic turmoil. Roman fishing fleets left little space for small fishers like Peter. Romans stole land for large scale agriculture, displacing farmers or forcing them to work on land that they used to own.

Our biblical ancestors were familiar with situations of economic turmoil. And Jesus paid attention to those who were most vulnerable; most under threat. Who, in our communities, are most vulnerable to the effects of the tariffs? Can we offer care and empathy to those who will feel the effects most directly? This is also a time to pray. As White notes: "We need prayer to connect us to the holy and the sacred. We need prayers to calm our nervous system so we can function at our best. Prayer connects us to each other and to God." So let us pray. Pray for the vulnerable. Pray for our leaders. Pray too for those who might be considered our enemies. For God is still with us - even now. Even here.

God is still speaking. Let us listen.



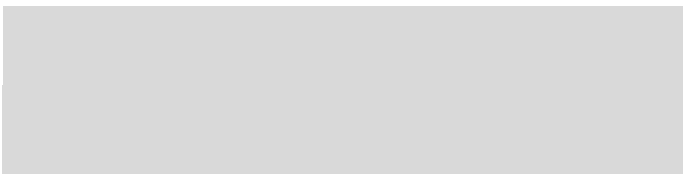
Movie Magic: Greatest Film Themes for Violin & Piano



Experience the music behind some of cinema's greatest moments — live at Trinity United Church!

The magic of the movies is coming to Trinity!

Join Winnipeg-based violinist **Amir Bissen** and pianist **Fan-En Chiang** for an intimate live



concert featuring some of the most unforgettable music from the world of film.

Rather than simply recreating the original orchestral scores, Bissen and Chiang bring their own expressive interpretations to these familiar melodies. Their intimate arrangements offer audiences a fresh and captivating way to experience music that has become woven into popular culture.

Whether you're a longtime classical music enthusiast, a devoted movie fan, or simply looking for an entertaining evening of live music, Movie Magic promises an experience for audiences of all ages.

Hear these familiar themes in a completely new way as they're transformed for violin and piano and performed live in the intimate setting of Trinity United Church.

Meet the Performers:
Amir Bissen — Violin
Winnipeg-based violinist Amir Bissen brings extensive international performing

experience to the stage.

Bissen began his musical career at an early age, studying at the Purcell School of Music and Royal College of Music in England. His performing career has taken him throughout Europe and includes a Royal Festival Hall debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

He has also pursued advanced studies with renowned violin pedagogue

Zakhar Bron, bringing a wealth of musical experience and artistry to his performances.

Fan-En Chiang — Piano

Fan-En Chiang is an award-winning Taiwanese-Canadian pianist and composer based in Winnipeg.

His performances have included appearances with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and his musical interests extend beyond the classical repertoire to include film music and video-game soundtracks.

Together, Bissen and Chiang are developing themed recital programs that bring familiar and much-loved music to audiences while showcasing the artistry,

energy and intimacy of live classical performance.

Movie Magic: Greatest Film Themes for Violin & Piano is an evening for movie lovers, music lovers and anyone who enjoys a great live performance.

Date: Thursday, November 05
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets will be available soon

Ride for Refuge Walk/Ride & Fundraise

Saturday, October 03
3:00 6:00 p.m.
Island Park
(meet at the windmill)

The Portage Learning and Literacy Centre invites you to join the RIDE, a family-friendly fundraising ride/walk where we'll gather for local charities that support people who are seeking hope, safety & freedom all across Canada. Visit [Home - Ride for Refuge 2026](#) for more information.

Central Plains Cancer Services
together with
McKenzie United Church
invite you to an
"Old Fashioned Tea"



Saturday, October 03
Come & Go 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
McKenzie United Church
85 – 11th Street NW
Silver collection at the door
Tax receipts issued for
donations over \$20
Fishpond, baking & craft tables

Coming Soon! MacGregor United Church invites you to their **Thanksgiving Pie Sale** Friday, October 09, and then take a trip out to MacGregor for their **Annual Fall Supper** Wednesday, November 11. Watch for details!

