



*St. James United Church*  
**Announcements**  
**Summer Worship Continues!**  
**July 16, 2023**

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*Please note there will be no formal Sunday school classes running from July 1 to Sept 3, 2023*

Children are always welcome at St. James. Children's activity bags are available in the Narthex for parents to bring into the sanctuary. The greeters at the door can assist you in locating them.

Have a safe and happy summer!

The Christian Education Committee

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**Thank you to this Sunday's volunteers who make our time of gathering meaningful & fun:**

**Greeter:** *This could have been you!*

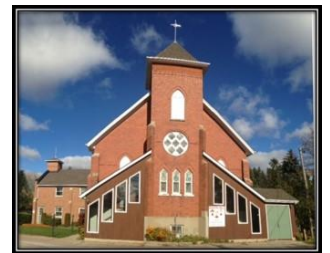
**Lay Reader:** Pat Edmonds

**Refreshments:** Harry Visser

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**This Week in Worship ...with Pastor Patricia**

*Last Sunday we heard only some of the truths about colonization as we experienced the Blanket Exercise. In our third week of (our belated) Indigenous Month, we'll delve into how God asks us to reconcile truths we aren't comfortable hearing about. Why? Well, here are some things to think about until Sunday:*



**Truths of Our Past**

- **Pass System** – Between the 1880s and 1940s, First Nations people living on reserve had to apply for and be granted a travel document authorized by an Indian agent to leave the reserve. This was a means for controlling the movement of First Nations people and preventing gatherings, ceremonies or mobilized resistance. Decades of restricted movement left a huge impact on Indigenous culture, economies, societies and families. It also fostered distrust in Canadian government and systems.
- **Inuit 'dog tag'** - Inuit names were replaced by numbers in a 1929 federal government labelling strategy after complaints about the Inuit not bearing Christian names. The strategy lasted for decades, with one initiative requiring Inuit people to wear metal ID tags (resembling dog tags).
- **Indian Act** – The Indian Act is a Canadian federal law that governs Indian Status, bands and reserves. It was created in 1876 as a means to facilitate assimilation, setting regulations and restricting the rights of First Nations people and communities, authorizing the Canadian federal government to regulate and administer the affairs and day-to-day lives of registered Indians and reserve communities. It imposed structures (like band councils and reserve land) and restricted or

made illegal traditional forms of governance (hereditary chiefs), ceremony (sun dance, potlatch), the gathering of three or more Indigenous people, and Indigenous people's ability to access the court or lawyers. While the Indian Act has been revised over the years, it continues to exist today.

- **Metis Scrip** – The government did not allow the Metis to participate in the numbered treaty making process throughout Western Canada. Instead, it asked individual Metis people to claim their land title through a system the government created called Metis scrip. The system was intentionally confusing, slow and legally complex, thereby disenfranchising the Metis of their land rights in order to support white settlements throughout the Prairies. A 2013 Supreme Court decision recognized that the government failed to distribute land to Metis people.

- **Residential Schools** – Active in Canada from the 1890s to the 1990s, residential schools were an intentional effort by the government to assimilate Indigenous children who were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to live at the schools. Along with being punished for expressing one's Indigenous culture or language, malnourishment, sexual and physical abuse, torture, lack of medical care and neglect were common practice at the schools. Residential schools were pre-dated by day schools, which had a similar intent and practice and began in the 1830s.

- **The 60's Scoop** -The **Sixties Scoop** was a period in which a series of policies were enacted in **Canada** that enabled **child welfare** authorities to take, or "scoop up" **Indigenous** children from their families and communities for placement in **foster homes**, from which they would be adopted by **white** families. Despite its name referencing the 1960s, the Sixties Scoop began in the mid-to-late 1950's and persisted into the 1980's.

- **Forced Relocation** – Numerous Indigenous communities have experienced forced relocation. For example, in 1953 an Inuit community was forcibly removed from Inukjuak and relocated to Ellesmere and Cornwallis Island. The federal government wanted to secure northern territory during the Cold War. Adequate support for the community was not provided.

## Truths of Our Present

- There are significant health gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada. The tuberculosis rate among Inuit people is 290 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous people in Canada. Youth suicide rates are nearly six times higher for First Nations youth. The life expectancy of non-Indigenous people in Canada is longer, in some cases 15 years longer.

- There are many Indigenous children involved in the child welfare system. In Manitoba, 90% of the children in the system are Indigenous.

- A disproportionate number of Indigenous women and girls have been murdered and/or are missing. More often than for non-Indigenous women, their cases go unsolved and family members receive poor treatment from police.
- Federal funding for First Nation education amounts to only 70% of the funding non-Indigenous children receive through the provinces. This means First Nations children receive 30% less funding for their education.
- Visibly Indigenous people in Canada receive daily racial discrimination and harassment. This includes being followed in stores, questioned at banks, being denied access to housing, and being threatened or disrespected while waiting for a bus. These daily acts cause stress, pain, embarrassment, shame and fear. They happen to children, youth, adults and elders.

~ taken from: <https://chfcanada.coop/reconciliation-toolkit-ideas-for-healing-the-relationship/>

***This Sunday, we listen for God's direction as we deepen our understanding of truth and reconciliation.***

***Pastor Patricia***

May the peaceful morning start your day by being blessed with God's creation. I love this poem that was written by Christine Sine.

~ Pastor Patricia

### **The Stillness of the Morning**

There is nothing quite like the stillness of the morning  
to make me feel alive.

There is nothing like the beauty  
of the sunrise over water  
to make me sense the joy of God's presence.

And walk in awe, and wonder  
for the rest of the day,

There is nothing like birdsong  
to make me feel.

I am entering into the wonder of creation.

There is nothing like the joy of life  
to make me feel the delight of God.

My spirit soars, my heart rejoices.

The joy of God is everywhere.



These musings are taken from: [indigenouspeoples.net](http://indigenouspeoples.net) and [firstpeople.us](http://firstpeople.us) ~

## DEFINING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

There is no rigid definition of what makes a group Indigenous, but the United Nations and the International Labour Organization have outlined a few characteristics that usually define an Indigenous group:

- We are descended from the pre-colonial/pre-invasion inhabitants of our region.
- We maintain a close tie to our land in both our cultural and economic practices.
- We suffer from economic and political marginalization as a minority group.
- A group is considered Indigenous if it defines itself that way.

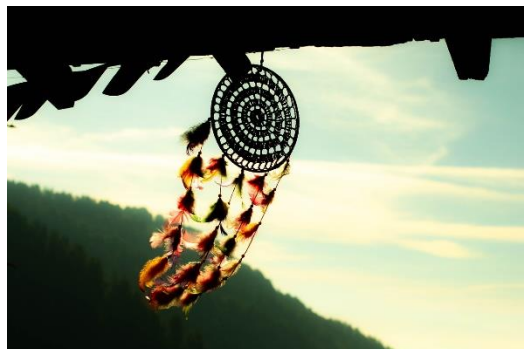
**"When will we ever begin to understand the meaning of  
the soil underneath our feet?**

**From a tiny grain of sand to the largest mountain, everything is sacred."**

*Tecumseh*

**When you arise in the morning,  
give thanks for the morning light,  
give thanks for your food  
and the joy of living**

**If you see no reason for giving thanks,  
the fault lies in yourself.**





Save the Date...

**RAMA FIRST NATION 2023**

# RAMA POWWOW PRESENTS

**WORLD CLASS SINGING & DANCING  
FOOD, ARTS, AND CRAFTS VENDORS  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### DANCE CONTESTS

**GOLDEN AGE (50+)**  
1ST \$1000 2ND \$800 3RD \$600 4TH \$400

**ADULT (18-49)**  
1ST \$1000 2ND \$800 3RD \$600 4TH \$400

**TEEN (13-17)**  
1ST \$400 2ND \$300 3RD \$200 4TH \$100

**YOUTH (6-12)**  
1ST \$150 2ND \$100 3RD \$75 4TH \$50

**TINY TOTS RECEIVE HONOURARIUM**

**DANCE CATEGORIES**  
FEMALE: JINGLE, WOODLAND, FANCY, TRADITIONAL  
MALE: GRASS, WOODLAND, FANCY, TRADITIONAL  
GOLDEN AGE: FEMALE FANCY/JINGLE COMBINED, MALE GRASS/FANCY COMBINED, TRADITIONAL (MALE, FEMALE)

### SINGING CONTEST

1ST \$10,000  
2ND \$7,000  
3RD \$5,000  
4TH \$3,000  
5TH \$2000  
**SPLIT**

**HEAD STAFF**  
MCS: MEEGWANS SNAKE & BIINDIGEGIZHIG DELEARY  
SINGING JUDGE: RAY DELEARY  
DANCE JUDGE: ALLAN MANITOWABI  
ARENA DIRECTOR: DAVID TRUDEAU  
HEAD VETERAN: WALKER STONEFISH

### SPECIALS

**MEN'S TRADITIONAL SPECIAL 16+**  
1ST \$2500 2ND \$1500 3RD \$500  
5 CONSOLATIONS |  
SPONSORED BY GABRIEL WHITEDUCK AND FAMILY

**CHICKEN VS GRASS**  
\$500 PRAIRIE CHICKEN WINNER  
\$500 GRASS WINNER  
\$1000 FOR CHICKEN VS GRASS FINAL  
SPONSORED BY FRAZER SUNDOWN

**MEN'S TRADITIONAL SPOTLIGHT CROW HOP SPECIAL**  
SPONSORED BY ETHAN WARNER

**NYSSA SOLOMON'S ENTERING ADULTS FANCY SHAWL SPECIAL**  
1ST \$500 & GIFT 2ND \$350 & GIFT 3RD \$200 & GIFT. 2 CONSOLATION PRIZES

**JOHN SNAKE MULTIPURPOSE GROUNDS** | **CONTACT:**  
**6030 RAMA ROAD, RAMA FIRST NATION** | 705-325-3611 or [culture@ramafirstnation.ca](mailto:culture@ramafirstnation.ca)

**AUGUST 26-27 2023**  
**GRAND ENTRY AUGUST 26 12PM & 7PM: AUGUST 27 12PM**  
\$10 DAY / \$15 WKND FREE FOR KIDS UNDER 12 AND SENIORS

Please submit all announcements via e-mail to Heather Thompson by noon on Tuesdays.  
Thank you!