

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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Organist: **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt**  
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We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 1 territory, and that the land is the traditional lands of the Anishinabe and Dakota Nations, and the homeland of the Métis Nation

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET**

### **THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PRESBYTERIANS SHARING SUNDAY 29 September 2019**

We extend a warm welcome to our guests! We invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.

Everyone is invited to remain for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Church Hall (downstairs) following the service. We thank **Charlie Clifford** for hosting today.

The Greeters this month are **Rob and Cheryl McPherson**.

Today's scripture readings will be read by **Wally Kimpton**.

**Scripture Readings** - The scripture readings for today's service are

- Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15 - Jeremiah buys a field
- Psalm 91 - "Whoever goes to the LORD for safety ..."
- 1 Timothy 6.6-19 - Paul's final instructions to Timothy
- Luke 16.19-31 - The parable of the rich man and Lazarus

Next Sunday's readings will be

- Lamentations 1.1-6 - A lament over Jerusalem
- Lamentations 3.1-27 - "I remember my affliction"
- 2 Timothy 1.1-14 - "Do not be ashamed"
- Luke 17.5-10 - Sayings on faith and duty

#### **This Week in First Church:**

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study at Gwen Henwood's home
- Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - WMS will meet
- Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - Prayer Time
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

## **Coming Up:**

- Next Sunday (6 Oct.) - Communion Sunday

**In Gladstone Hospital** - Jean McBurney

**Congratulations!** We extend our congratulations and best wishes to **Doug and Betty Blyth**, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past Thursday! We wish them God's continued blessing, and many more years together!

**Recovering** - Rob McPherson had surgery on his left hand this past Thursday, and is recovering at home. We wish him a speedy recovery!

**Presbyterians Sharing** - The last Sunday of September is designated "*Presbyterians Sharing* Sunday" by the General Assembly of our church. Our service today therefore celebrates the mission and ministry that we do together through *Presbyterians Sharing*. Along with our fellow Presbyterians across the country, we proclaim the good news of the gospel both here in Canada and around the world. Together as a church, we develop innovative ministries for children and youth. We equip, support, and encourage leaders, and provide theological education for future ministers. We work with international mission partners to share the hope and grace of God, and we send mission staff, short-term volunteers, and grants to support these partners in leadership development, Bible translation, Christian education, theological education, and evangelism. We support the development of new congregations, and help established congregations renew and grow their ministries. Together we speak up for the voiceless, and support healing and reconciliation ministries between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Through our givings to *Presbyterians Sharing*, we participate in God's life-giving mission. If you didn't receive a copy of the annual *Presbyterians Sharing* brochure back in February, extra copies have been set out on the table at the south entrance — feel free to take one home with you.

**Reading, Anyone?** If you would like to take a turn reading the **scripture readings** on one of the Sundays in October or November, please sign up on the yellow sheet on the music stand at the south entrance. Please sign up for one Sunday only, so that as many others as possible also can take a turn.

**General Assembly** - In the oral announcements today, we will be reading a pastoral letter from the Rev. **Amanda Currie**, the moderator of this year's General Assembly, regarding two preliminary decisions made by this year's Assembly on the issue of human sexuality. They are 1) to broaden the church's definition of marriage to include same-gender couples, and 2) to permit persons who are LGBTQI to be elected and ordained as elders, and to be called and ordained as ministers. Liberty of conscience and action would be allowed on marriage and participation in ordinations and inductions (which means that those who do not feel comfortable participating would not be required to). These decisions are not yet the official position of our church, however. In order for them to become so, they need to be approved by the majority of Presbyteries across the country between now and next April, as well as by next year's General Assembly in June. Those wishing to comment to the national church on these decisions can do so online, until the 15th of February, by going to <https://form.jotform.com/Presby/recommendation-5>. People also have the opportunity to express their thoughts by phone, web-meeting, or in person, before the 7th of February. To arrange such a discussion, contact the Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency, at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ont. M3C 1J7; 1-800-619-7301, ext. 289; or [imcdonald@presbyterian.ca](mailto:imcdonald@presbyterian.ca). All comments will be treated confidentially.

**SK Volunteers** - Those who volunteer in the Soup Kitchen (including members and adherents of the congregation) are asked to fill out a **Teacher/Leader Form** and sign a **Covenant of Care Form** (two sides of a single sheet). If you are a Soup Kitchen volunteer and haven't yet done so, forms are available from John Zondag. This is a requirement of our national church's "Leading With Care" policy.

**Thanksgiving Sunday** - Once again, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food for the local Food Bank on Harvest (Thanksgiving) Sunday (13 October). The donations will be part of the Thanksgiving display at the front of the sanctuary, and, afterward, will be delivered to the Food Bank. Please make sure not to donate anything that has passed its "best before" date, however. The ten most-wanted food items are: 1) Canned fish and poultry, 2) Canned fruit and vegetables, 3) Canned stew, chili, or brown beans, 4) Baby food and formula, 5) Peanut butter, 6) Whole-grain or whole-wheat pasta, 7) Rice, 8) Canned spaghetti sauce or tomatoes, 9) Cereal (high fiber, non-sugar-coated), and 10) Canned soup. As we give thanks to God for the harvest, let us also remember to share food with those in need.

**Presbytery News** - Herb Burrige, an elder of Knox Church in Neepawa, suffered a serious heart attack while shopping at Canadian Tire in Brandon this past Monday. Fortunately, he received prompt emergency assistance, and is now recovering in the Brandon hospital. Please remember him in your prayers.

**Parking** - In the past, we have rented out the parking spaces behind the church (the west side) to people who work downtown. In the past couple of years, we have had no renters, but starting the first of October, we will be renting four parking spaces to people who work at the City Hall. This means that those parking spaces will not be available to others on weekdays, although they will be available on weekday evenings and weekends. Only the space marked "Elder" will normally be available.

**WMS (Women's Missionary Society)** - On Wednesday please bring fruit cups, cake mixes or granola bars for the **Big Brothers & Big Sisters** of Portage la Prairie **After School** programme. Also, please bring your September/October issue of Glad Tidings.

### **Mission Moment**

#### **Presbyterians Sharing: Together we make a difference!**

New church development. Partnership. International mission staff. Theological colleges. Healing and reconciliation. Leadership development. Congregational support. And so much more! Today is Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, a time to celebrate the impact our church's mission and ministry programs are having across Canada and around the world. As we encourage and equip one another and teach about love, faith and hope, we proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

*Presbyterians Sharing puts faith into action*

**Prayer Calendars** - Copies of the Prayer Calendar for October are ready to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget your copy!