

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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Organist: **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt**  
Clerk of Session: **Raymond Reichelt**

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 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST COMMUNION SUNDAY 6 October 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 **Lisa Sneesby** for hosting today.

The Greeters this month are **Miep Verhoeven** and **Pat Antoski**.

*Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Everyone who has been baptized in any denomination of the Christian church is invited to participate in the Communion, including children. The Communion bread is gluten-free. It's our custom here at First Church to wait until everyone has been served, so that we all consume first the bread, and then the grape juice, together. Please place your used Communion glasses into the hymnbook rack in your pew, and they will be collected following the service.*

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

- Lamentations 1.1-6 - A lament over Jerusalem
- Lamentations 3.1-27 - "I remember my affliction"
- 2 Timothy 1.1-14 - "Fan into flame the gift of God"

Next Sunday's readings will be

- Deuteronomy 26.1-11 - An offering of the firstfruits of the harvest
- Psalm 67 - "May God be gracious to us"
- Philippians 4.4-9 - "... by prayer ... , with thanksgiving"
- Luke 17.11-19 - Ten lepers healed

**This Week in First Church:**

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study at Gwen's home
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - F&M Committee meeting

## Coming Up:

- Next Sunday (the 13th) - Harvest (Thanksgiving) Sunday
- Wednesday, 23 October, 5:00 p.m. - Meal-in-a-Bowl Supper

## In Gladstone Hospital - Jean McBurney

**Harvest Sunday** - As we did last year, 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.

**Newsletter** - If you didn't receive a copy of the September issue of the Newsletter, 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 this month or next, please sign up on the yellow sheet on the music stand at the south entrance. Please sign up for only one Sunday in the two month period, so that as many others as possible also can take a turn.

**Meal-in-a-Bowl** - Our monthly Meal-in-a-Bowl Suppers are moving back to the fourth Wednesday of the month this year. So the date for this month will be Wednesday the 23rd (at 5:00 p.m.), not the 16th.

**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.

**General Assembly** - In the oral announcements last Sunday, we read 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.

If you would like a copy of the moderator's letter, please speak to John, and he will either e-mail it to you or print a copy for you — whichever you prefer.

**Final Reminder** - We are now renting four parking spaces behind the church (on the west side) to people who work at the City Hall. This means that those parking spaces will not be available to others during business hours on weekdays, although they will be available on weekday evenings, as well as weekends. Only the space marked "Elder" will normally be available.

**12-Step Recovery Worship** - Trinity United Church invites people to join them for a special worship service that honors the experience of those whose lives have been touched by addiction of various sorts. Everyone is welcome, whether or not they are part of a 12-step group. The first service will take place on Sunday, 20 October, at 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Church (15 Tupper St. S.). For more information, text or call Sarah Bruer at [204-872-3563](tel:204-872-3563).

**Refugee Update** - We have received word that the eldest son of one of our Syrian refugee couples (Hasan and Sheren Bakr) will soon be joining his parents and siblings here in Portage la Prairie, along with his wife and two young children. They have been living in Turkey, and were not able to come to Canada at the same time as the rest of the family, but are due to arrive on the 15th of this month. They are being sponsored by the Baker Hutterite Colony for their first year in Canada. For now, they will be living with the rest of the family in the house they currently occupy, but it is hoped that a larger house can be found for the entire family.

**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!