

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SOUP KITCHEN SUNDAY 17 November 2019

We extend a warm welcome to our guests! We invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. We extend a special welcome to the Soup Kitchen volunteers and supporters who are joining us for worship today!

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

The Greeters this week are **Bruce and Lisa Sneesby**.

Today's scripture readings will be read by **Raymond Reichelt**.

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

- Deuteronomy 15.1-11 - Generosity to people in need
- Psalm 113 - "Praise the LORD, you his servants!"
- Luke 12.13-21 - Jesus' parable of the "rich fool"

Next Sunday's readings will be

- Jeremiah 23.1-6 - "A righteous Branch"
- Luke 1.68-79 - "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!"
- Colossians 1.11-20 - "The image of the invisible God"
- Luke 23.33-43 - "This is the King of the Jews"

This Week in First Church:

- Today, following the service - Choir practice
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - **Bible study at Lalaine's home** (note the change of location)
In preparation for our first session on the study of Walter Brueggemann's "Celebrating Abundance", **members are reminded to read week one (pg. 4-17)**.
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast (rescheduled from the 16th)

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 24 November - Congregational meeting, following the service (details below)
- Sunday, 24 November - Deadline for submissions for the December newsletter
- Sunday, 1 December - Anniversary Sunday
- Sunday, 8 December - Hanging-of-the-Greens service

In Gladstone Hospital - Jean McBurney



Soup Kitchen Sunday - Today is our seventh annual “Soup Kitchen Sunday”.

We welcome the Soup Kitchen volunteers and supporters who have joined us for today’s service, and we thank them for their support and involvement! There will be a Church School for the children who are present, starting partway through the service, after Theme Time. Any visiting children are welcome to go downstairs for Church School at that time.

Partners - We extend a big “thank you” to our *many* partners, who have supported and/or participated in the ministry of the Soup Kitchen in a great variety of ways over the past twelve months. They are:

Churches: Grace Lutheran Church, Langruth; Highway Pentecostal Church; Newton Community Fellowship Church; Prairie Community Church; St. Mary’s Anglican Church; McKenzie United Church; Trinity United Church; and First Presbyterian Church

Hutterite Colonies: Airport Colony, Aspenheim Colony, Baker Colony, Brantwood Colony, Elm River Colony, Good Hope Colony, and Sommerfeld Colony

Groups: Good Shepherd C.W.L.; Shelly Burton and friends, Debbi Miles & Wally Kimpton and friends, the Moman family, McKenzie United Church Women, and Rona staff

Businesses: BDO Canada LLP; Brightside Dental Care; Brite Smile Dental Clinic; Byte Me Computers; Canadian Base Operators, Inc.; Cobbe’s Plumbing and Heating, Ltd.; Craig Dunn Motor City; Delta Ag Services; Ed’s Glass; Little Caesar’s Pizza; Meseyton Construction, Ltd.; Portage la Prairie Mutual Insurance Co.; Portage Family Eye Care, Inc.; Portage MCC Thrift Shop; Portage Toyota and RV; Portage Transport, Inc.; Portage Vision Services; Providential Property Management, Inc.; Richardson Milling, Ltd.; Shewfelt’s Plumbing and Heating, Ltd; Shoppers’ Drug Mart; Spray Foam Insulation Eco Systems, Ltd.; Stride Credit Union; Wal-Mart Canada Corp.; and Westward Ford Sales, Ltd.

Organizations: Community Foundation of Portage and District; Portage la Prairie Nurses’ Union, Local 39 MB; Portage Plains United Way, Inc.; Southern Health / Santé Sud; Southport; and Youth for Christ

Municipalities: The Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie

Suppliers: Portage Co-op, Panko’s, Portage Supermarket, Principle, Sobey’s, and Ida Wohlmann

Plus *many* individual donors and volunteers!

Special thanks to Shelly Burton (coordinator) and Henry Riendeau (treasurer)! Thanks also to Soup Kitchen Committee members Mardine Garnham, Gwen Henwood, and Margaret McNutt-Reichelt.

Envelope - A special envelope is inserted in today’s bulletin for anyone who would like to make a donation to the Soup Kitchen. It can be used today, or anytime. If you’re donating by cheque, please make it payable to the “First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen”. Official receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 and over, in the New Year.

Soup Kitchen Committee - At its meeting in September, the Session established a Soup Kitchen Committee to oversee the operation of the Soup Kitchen, formalizing an informal governing structure that has existed for the past several years. The members of the committee are Shelly Burton (SK coordinator), Henry Riendeau (SK treasurer), Mardine Garnham (congregational treasurer), Gwen Henwood (representative of the congregation), Margaret McNutt-Reichelt (representative of the Session), and John Zondag (minister of the congregation). We are looking for one additional person from *outside* the congregation to serve on this committee.

Salvation Army Kettle Campaign - Our church has been asked to cover a full day at Sobeys on Saturday, November 23rd. There are still **two shifts remaining**: 2-4 pm and 4-6 pm. If you are able to help during one of these times, please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

Next Sunday - A **congregational meeting** will be held next Sunday, the 24th, immediately following the service, to discuss the possibility of our congregation's participating in a program called "New Beginnings". An **information sheet** on this program was given out last Sunday — a few extra copies are set out on the table at the south entrance for those who didn't receive one. We will not make a decision at this meeting; rather, we will share information, discuss the merits of taking part in this program, and give everyone a chance to ask questions. Please plan to attend!

Newsletter - If you have a submission for the December issue of the congregational Newsletter, please give or e-mail it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) by next Sunday, the 24th. We need to have the Newsletter ready for distribution on the 1st of December, two weeks before our next Communion Sunday, which is on the 15th.

Birdtail Mission - Two weeks ago, our guest preacher, the Rev. Henry Hildebrandt, left a few copies with us of our national church's official Confession for its role in the Residential School system for Indigenous children (issued in 1994), as well as a few copies of a map showing the locations of all Indigenous communities in Manitoba. They are set out on the table at the south entrance; feel free to take one home with you.

Also, if you would like to make a **donation** toward the Birdtail mission — specifically, toward the meal that is provided following each monthly Sunday afternoon service — you can use the blank line on your offering envelope to designate your donation (just write "Birdtail" on that line), or place your donation into a separate envelope marked "Birdtail". Mardine will pool our donations, and forward them to the Presbytery.

Gifts of Change - Copies of this year's edition of the **Gifts of Change catalogue** were given out last Sunday, and extra copies have been set out on the table at the south entrance. Gifts of Change is a program of our national church that gives individuals and groups an opportunity to make donations toward specific ministries, missions, and projects — in Canada and around the world — which are listed and described in the catalogue. The catalogue contains a donation form and a self-addressed envelope. Donations should be mailed directly to Church Offices in Toronto, Ont. They can also be made by phone or online.

Hanging of the Christmas Green - Our annual "Hanging of the Greens" service will be held on Sunday, 8 December (at 10:30 a.m.). **Join us** as we decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, and as we reflect on the symbolic meaning of our various Christmas decorations and traditions!

Mission Moment
November 17: A Healthier Future

November 19 is "World Toilet Day". Toilets are vital for improving sanitation and health in countries around the world. Without proper toilets, human waste can get into water sources, and killer diseases spread quickly. That's why the sudden loss of latrines in a disaster zone is such an urgent health issue. In Mulanje, Malawi, about 4,000 toilets were damaged by rising water levels produced by Cyclone Idai, which swept through south-eastern Africa in March. In the wake of the storm, families in the region—especially children under five—faced an increased risk of contracting cholera and typhoid. PWS&D responded by helping local partners rebuild latrines. Now with safe and working toilets available, 2,600 families in the hardest hit areas are looking towards a healthier future.

PWS&D improves sanitation