

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
17 Royal Rd. S., Portage la Prairie, MB. R1N 1T8
Office Phone: 204-857-4351 email firstpc@mymts.net
www.firstpcportage.com

Minister: **John Zondag**
Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email jzondag@mymts.net
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 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 19 January 2020

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 Greeter this month is **Mardine Garnham**.

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

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Isaiah 49.1-7 - The second Servant Song (of four)
- Psalm 40 - "I waited patiently for the LORD"
- 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 - Salutation and thanksgiving
- John 1.29-42 - Jesus' first disciples

This Week in First Church:

- Today, following the service - Congregational meeting (details below)
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study at Gwen's home
- Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. - Meal-in-a-Bowl Supper
- Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - Session meeting

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 26 January - Deadline for submitting reports for the Annual Report
- Sunday, 9 February, 11:30 a.m. - Pot-luck lunch, followed by the Annual Meeting

In Portage Hospital - Pat Antoski

Congregational Meeting - The Session has called a congregational meeting for today, immediately following the service, to make a decision on whether to apply to take part in the “New Beginnings” program for congregational renewal. The way we have done ministry in the past is becoming increasingly ineffective in today’s world, and so we need to find a new way of doing ministry that is better suited to today’s environment. New Beginnings would lead us through a seven-step process of reflection and decision-making that would result in a renewed focus for the ministry of our congregation. Please note the following conditions: a) the vote will be done by ballot; b) there must be a 2/3 majority in favor in order to proceed with applying to take part in the program; and c) there must be at least 25 people (members and adherents) present, otherwise the meeting will be canceled, and the issue will be added to the agenda for the Annual Meeting (Sunday, 9 February). Please make sure to review the two-page **information sheet** that was distributed in November. If you have misplaced your copy and would like another one, a few extra copies have been set out on the table at the back.

Weekly Prayer Focus - For the past few years, it has been our tradition to pray for a particular issue or situation in our Prayers of the People each Sunday, throughout an entire year. It’s time to decide what our weekly prayer focus for this year will be. Last year, we prayed for refugees. Whom or what will we pray for each week in 2020? If you have a suggestion, please speak to one of the elders, or to John. The Session will make a decision on this at its meeting this week.

Annual Report - It’s time to write the various reports for the Annual Report! If you are submitting a report, please get it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) by next Sunday (the 26th). The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, 9 February, following the service and a pot-luck lunch, and we’d like to have the Annual Report ready for distribution the Sunday before, so that everyone has time to read it prior to the meeting.

Lay Preachers - As announced in the December newsletter, the Session has decided to give our lay preachers (Charlie, Keith, and Raymond) more opportunities to preach this year than just on Sundays when John happens to be away. So, Keith will preach next Sunday (the 26th); Raymond will preach on a Sunday in March; and Charlie will preach on a Sunday in May. In each case, John will lead the rest of the service. We thank the three of them for being willing to share their gifts in this way!

Better News - Last week, we announced the good news that givings to *Presbyterians Sharing* in 2019 had totaled \$3,213.38, exceeding the allocation we had accepted (\$3,000) by more than \$200. It turns out that that figure was not accurate; the actual figure was **\$3,651.69!** — which means we exceeded our allocation by more than \$650! Many thanks to all who contributed this past year! Givings to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the ministry and mission of our national church. We will decide on our *Presbyterians Sharing* allocation for this year at our Annual Meeting next month.

Syrian Refugee Update - Many of you will remember the **Bakr** family (Hasan, Sheren, Mohamed, Rana, and Hanaa), whom our local Refugee Coalition brought to Portage in November of 2016.

This is an **invitation** to you from the Bakr family on Sunday evening, February 2, at 7:00 at St. Mary's Anglican Parish Hall (36 2nd Street SW), to experience Kurdish/Syrian entertainment and sweets, along with an update from the Bakr family, including the recent arrival of their first born, Abdul, and his family. The Bakrs will be sharing their experiences and hopes for the future. This is their means of having you over for a visit. Please know "the more the merrier" is not just a Canadian mindset. For further clarification please call Tirzah (204-871-2087), Owen (204-856-7040), or Paula (204-872-0533). Hope to see you there!

FUNDRAISING IDEAS:

As you know, we **decided to not have the Robbie Burns supper** and entertainment this year so we have to come up with **another fundraising idea!!** Does anyone have any ideas of what we can do? Some have suggested we do something that does not include food – I'm not sure what that would be but willing to listen to the ideas. We have talked about **maybe an ethnic dinner** instead of the Burns supper but we need some ideas/guidelines for that. (I think we have some different cultures in our congregation that could make for an interesting meal.) This could possibly have some entertainment with it.

And a possible date too as we have **our Spring Dinner** – usually in April so don't want to get it too close there. Maybe the Spring Dinner could be changed to an Ethnic Dinner?

If you can think of anything please let me know – either by talking to me or send me an email to bsneesby@mymts.net

I will be waiting for your ideas....

Thanks

Lisa Sneesby