

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY PWS&D SUNDAY 2 February 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 Greeters this month are **Winnie Duncan** and **Shauna-Lei Leslie**.

Today's scripture readings will be read by **Debbi Miles**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Isaiah 55.1-13 - A promise of restoration
- Psalm 15 - "LORD, who may enter your temple?"
- 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 - The message of the cross: foolishness or wisdom?
- Matthew 5.1-12 - The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Isaiah 58.1-12 - Insincere fasting
- Psalm 112 - "Happy is the person who honors the LORD"
- 1 Corinthians 2.1-16 - "Jesus Christ, and him crucified"
- Matthew 5.13-20 - The Sermon on the Mount: Salt, light, and law

This Week in First Church:

- Today, following the service - Choir practice
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study at Gwen's home
- Wednesday, 1:30 pm - WMS. Please bring your issue of the November/ December "Glad Tidings".

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 9 February, 11:30 a.m. - Pot-luck lunch, followed by the Annual Meeting

Today is Presbyterian World Service and Development Sunday. PWS&D is the relief and development agency of our national church. It provides funding for emergency relief, as well as for longer-term development projects, the goal of which is to raise people's standard of living in parts of the world where poverty is widespread. See the leaflet that we are distributing today for further information. Because of government regulations, PWS&D receives no funding from *Presbyterians Sharing*, and raises its funds separately. Donations to PWS&D can be made at any time during the year. There is a line for designating donations to PWS&D on your offering envelope. Last year, our congregation gave a total of **\$895** to PWS&D. Donations can also be made online, using your credit card; just go to www.WeRespond.ca, and click on the "Donate" button at the top of the page. PWS&D has provided worship resources for

today's service, including the sermon, which were written by Andrea Perrett, a member of the committee that oversees the work of PWS&D.

Annual Report - The Annual Report has been sent to everyone for whom we have an e-mail address, and hard copies are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary for those who don't have an e-mail address. Many thanks to all who contributed the individual reports; to Lisa Sneesby, who compiled the Annual Report; and to Gwen Henwood, who printed the hard copies! Remember to bring your copy with you to the Annual Meeting next Sunday!

Annual Meeting - Our Annual Meeting will be held next Sunday (the 9th), following the service and a pot-luck lunch, and will start at about 12:15.

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

The Christian Year - Today, the 2nd of February, happens to be a significant "Lesser Festival" in the Christian Year. It's called **The Presentation of the Lord**, and it commemorates the event recorded in Luke 2.22-38, in which Joseph and Mary took the young Jesus to the temple "to present him to the Lord". This event involved two customs commanded in the Old Testament law: the purification of a mother after childbirth and the redemption of a firstborn son, both of which involved the offering of an animal sacrifice. This took place when Jesus was forty days old, and so the festival always comes forty days after Christmas Day.

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 this 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 firstborn son, 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!

Volunteer Training - Beginning this Wednesday, February 5, **Prairie Pregnancy Support Centre** will be having another round of volunteer training for anyone interested in volunteering at the centre. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Mary Loewen at info@prairiepregnancy.ca or 240-4357.

PWS&D Sunday

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. On February 2, we celebrate PWS&D and the meaningful work being done around the world to bring hope to those experiencing poverty, hunger and oppression. Farmers and their families in Haiti, Nicaragua and Pakistan are learning innovative farming practices to help cope with a changing climate and rise above hunger. Maternal and child mortality rates continue to decrease in Malawi and Afghanistan. Refugees have received support overseas and been welcomed to new homes in Canada. These stories of transformation are possible because of the generosity of Presbyterians across Canada. Thank you!

PWS&D is thankful for your generous support

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