

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 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9 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 **pot-luck lunch** in the Church Hall (downstairs) following the service. We thank **Mardine Garnham** for hosting today. The **Annual Meeting** will follow the lunch, starting at approximately 12:15.

The Greeters this month are **Winnie Duncan** and **Shauna-Lei Leslie**.

Today's scripture readings will be read by **Pat Mullins**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are
- Isaiah 58.1-12 - The kind of fasting that pleases God
- Psalm 112 - "Happy is the person who honors the LORD"
- 1 Corinthians 2.1-16 - "A message of wisdom"
- Matthew 5.13-20 - The Sermon on the Mount: Salt, light, and the law

The readings for next Sunday will be
- Deuteronomy 30.15-20 - Life or death: "Choose life"
- Psalm 119.1-8 - "Blessed are those whose ways are blameless"
- 1 Corinthians 3.1-9 - Factions in the church
- Matthew 5.21-37 - The Sermon on the Mount: Antitheses 1-4

This Week in First Church:

- Today, following the service - Pot-luck lunch, followed by the Annual Meeting
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study at Gwen's home
- Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - Prayer Time at Miep's apartment
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

Coming Up:

- Wednesday, 26 February, 5:00 p.m. - Meal-in-a-Bowl Supper

Weekly Prayer Focus - At its January meeting, the Session accepted a suggestion that our weekly prayer focus for 2020 be “people in positions of authority”, who have power and influence, and also responsibility. Through the year, we will pray for various kinds and categories of leaders, and perhaps also for particular individuals. If at any time of the year you have a specific suggestion for a leader or group of leaders whom we should pray for, please speak to John.

Annual Meeting - Our Annual Meeting will be held today (the 9th), following the service and a pot-luck lunch, and will start at about 12:15. The Annual Report was sent out by e-mail last weekend to everyone for whom we have an e-mail address, and hard copies were printed for those who don't have e-mail addresses. It appears that all the hard copies were picked up last Sunday.

Refugee Family Update - The Welcome evening for **Abdul and Busra Bakr and family** last Sunday evening was a true community affair, celebrating what good fortune we have to live in this wonderful country, and to be able to share it with others. Thank you to those who came. Thank you to St. Mary's for hosting. Thank you to those who are praying for them. The community was made aware that both of the original families (Al Hallaq and Bakr) sponsored by the Coalition have further refugee immigration projects — Iftikar's brother and family to come from Lebanon (contact Auna Brown for details), and Hasan and Sheren's two adult daughters and families to come from Turkey (contact Owen and Paula McKenzie). So the openness, love, and good will from Portage continues on.

The Baker Colony Community are sponsoring a fund raiser for both families on February 17 (Louis Riel Day) with their famous Ladies' Hockey tournament — Baker Storm vs. MacGregor Iron Maidens, the 10th Annual & final Matchup at the Stride Normac Centre in MacGregor at 6:00 p.m. — a fun hockey game, with both families selling Syrian food to be enjoyed. Hope you can make it!

The Law, the Prophets, and the Writings - In today's Gospel reading, Jesus mentions “the Law” and “the Prophets” (Matthew 5.17). These words refer to two of the three groups of books that make up the Jewish scriptures (the Christian Old Testament). The **Law** consists of the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis to Deuteronomy), and was officially recognized as scripture either during or soon after the Exile (500s BC). The **Prophets** consists not only of prophetic books such as Isaiah and Amos, but also the historical books of Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, and 1-2 Kings. This group of books was recognized as scripture around the time of the conquests of Alexander the Great (300s BC). There is also a third group, the **Writings**, which consists of the remaining Old Testament books — such as Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes; the historical books of Ruth, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah; and the book of Daniel. This group was not formally recognized as scripture by the Jewish community until after the time of Jesus, in the 90s AD. This explains why Jesus says, “the Law and the Prophets” in today's reading, not “the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings”. In our Christian Old Testament, books belonging to the Prophets and the Writings are mixed in together.

Next Month - On Saturday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m., **Prairie Pregnancy Support Centre** will be hosting its 3rd Annual Fundraising Banquet at the Meyers Norris Penny Building, on the Island. This year, Rob Parker from the National House of Prayer will be the featured speaker. Thanks to generous donors, tickets are no charge for the evening. Call 240-4357, e-mail info@prairiepregnancy.ca, or register on the website at www.prairiepregnancy.ca by Friday, February 28.

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@mts.net

I will be waiting for your ideas....

Thanks

Lisa Sneesby

Mission Moment

Ministry through art

Working in partnership with Prairie Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg Inner City Missions has started a new arts ministry that celebrates Indigenous culture and art. Over the next few months, volunteers and Indigenous artists will be offering art classes to children with an emphasis on graffiti art. The art produced by the children will be used, in part, to create a large mural covering three sides of the Flora House garage (a WICM program space). The project will culminate in the spring with a weekend-long community event filled with games, activities, music, entertainment and food to celebrate and unveil the new mural.

Presbyterians Sharing supports Indigenous ministries