

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 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 15 March 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 **Pat Mullins** for hosting today.

The Greeters this month are **Val Pogue** and **Brian Yeo**.

Today's scripture readings will be read by **Gwen Henwood**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are
- Exodus 17.1-7 - God provides water from rock at Refidim
- Psalm 95 - "Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD!"
- Romans 5.1-11 - "Christ died for the ungodly"
- John 4.1-42 - Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman

The readings for next Sunday will be
- 1 Samuel 16.1-13 - The anointing of David
- Psalm 23 - "The LORD is my shepherd"
- Ephesians 5.8-14 - "Live as children of the light"
- John 9.1-41 - Jesus heals a man blind from birth

This Week in First Church:

- Today, following the service - Choir practice
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study at Lalaine's home
- Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - Endowment Committee meeting

Coming Up:

- Wednesday, 25 March, 5:30 p.m. - Meal-in-a-Bowl Supper
- Sunday, 29 March - Communion Sunday
- Sunday, 5 April, 5:00 p.m. - Pasta Dinner

Newsletter - The March issue of the congregational newsletter has been sent out by e-mail, and hard copies are available for the elders to deliver to those in their districts who don't have e-mail. Many thanks to Lisa for putting the newsletter together, and to Gwen for printing the hard copies!

Concert Series - St. Mary's Anglican Church is holding its annual series of **noon-hour concerts** followed by lunch on four Wednesdays during Lent. This week's concert (on the 18th) will feature **McKenzie United Church**. The cost for the lunch is \$8.

Shaking Hands - Some people have expressed reservations about our usual practice of shaking hands with the Greeters, the minister, and others on Sunday mornings, in view of the current Corona virus outbreak, since hand-to-hand contact is one way in which the virus can be transmitted from one person to another. So, if you feel uncomfortable shaking hands with someone else, feel free not to do so. And if someone doesn't wish to shake hands with you, please don't be offended.

Scripture Notes - Today's **Old Testament** reading mentions a place called the **Desert of Sin**. "Sin" is a Hebrew name related to the name "Sinai", and has nothing to do with our English word "sin". Also, Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb are two names for the same mountain — the one on which God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, and on which Moses later received the Law from God.

In today's reading from the **Letters**, Paul uses the technical term **to be justified** (translated "to be put right with God" in the Good News Version). Literally, "to be justified" means "to be made righteous", and refers to God's making people righteous by forgiving their sin, through Jesus' death on the cross. To be "righteous" means to be without sin. Only God can make a person righteous; it isn't something that a human being can do on his/her own. In Paul's original Greek, the words "righteous" (*dikaios*), "righteousness" (*dikaiosis*), "justify" (*dikaion*), and "justification" (*dikaiosis*) are various forms of the same word.

Good News - At its meeting on the 26th of February, the Presbytery endorsed our application to participate in the **New Beginnings** program of congregational renewal. Our application now goes to the Grants Committee of the national church, which will make a decision after the 15th of April — so it will be a while before we hear whether or not our application has been accepted.

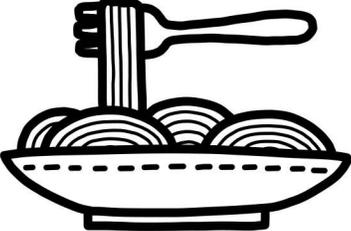
Newspaper - Copies of the Spring 2020 issue of *Presbyterian Connection*, our national church's quarterly newspaper, have been set out on the table at the south entrance. Feel free to take one home with you. This front-page article is on the **Pinawa Christian Fellowship**, an ecumenical congregation consisting of members of the Anglican, Mennonite, Presbyterian, and United Churches, in Pinawa, Man. Robert Murray, a Presbyterian minister, has been the minister of this congregation for the past 23 years.

Refugee Families Update - The next fundraiser for the Bakr families will be a Kurdish Dinner and Dance on Saturday, April 4, from 5-9 in the Trinity United Church gym. Tickets can be purchased in the church offices of both Trinity United Church and St. Mary's Anglican Church, or by calling Paula 204-872-0533 or Tirezah 204-871-2087. Donations are welcome as well.

Bereavement Walking Support Group - Sunset Palliative Care is sponsoring a Bereavement Walking Support Group starting Wednesday, April 1, for people who have lost a loved one. If you are grieving the loss of someone special, you will know that the death of a loved one brings emotional turmoil to you, the survivor(s). It is one of the most stressful of all life's changes, and requires many adjustments in one's life. The goal of the Bereavement Support Group is to provide emotional, physical, and spiritual support in a comfortable atmosphere; to provide information and expand knowledge about grief; as well as to provide some fresh air and exercise. The Bereavement Walking Support Group will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Lion's Club Community Centre at Island Park (behind Splash Island). The meetings will run for 8 weeks, from April 1 to May 20. To register, or for more information, please contact Sunset Palliative Care facilitator Ethel-Mae at 857-6904. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the Church Hall as well.

Bible Study - on "The Armour of God", will likely begin mid-April. If you are interested please sign the sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

Pasta Dinner
Sunday, April 5th, 2020 5:00- 6:30 p.m.



Adults \$15.00 12 & under \$8.00, 6 & under - Free
Everyone Welcome!

Spring Dinner - Sunday, May 3rd, 2020: Adults \$15.00, 12 and under \$8.00, 6 and under free. Everyone welcome: put it on your calendar!