

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Minister: **John Zondag**
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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 OF EASTER 26 April 2020

Services and most congregational activities continue to be **canceled**, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the **Spring Dinner** (originally scheduled for Sunday, 3 May) is now canceled also. We will resume our regular activities as soon as the government determines that it is safe to do so.

John is producing an abbreviated service video every Sunday, approximately 30 minutes in length. Each Sunday morning, he sends out, by e-mail, the link that you need in order to access the video on YouTube, normally between 10:15 and 10:30. Attached to that e-mail is a full script of the service, which can be printed for any relative or friend who doesn't have access to the internet. John is making the service video available to the members and adherents of Knox Church in Neepawa as well, since he's serving as their interim moderator. You can access the current Sunday's service also through our congregational website, www.firstpcportage.com.

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

- Acts 2.32-41 - Peter's sermon on Pentecost (conclusion)
- Psalm 116 - "I love the LORD, for he heard my voice"
- 1 Peter 1.13-23 - "Redeemed with the blood of Christ"
- Luke 24.13-35 - The risen Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Acts 2.42-47 - A snapshot of the early church
- Psalm 23 - "The LORD is my shepherd"
- 1 Peter 2.19-25 - Suffering for doing good
- John 10.1-10 - "I am the gate"

The **Bible study group** is beginning a new study entitled *Christ in the Psalms*. It will continue meeting on-line by Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7:00.

Now Available - Copies of the May-June issue of the devotional guide *Today* are now available. They can be picked up from John at the church during regular office hours from Tuesday to Saturday. If the door at the office entrance is locked, just ring the doorbell. You may want to phone ahead to let him know when you're coming. Alternatively, he can deliver a copy to you — as long as you have an easily-accessible mailbox that he can drop it into.

Prayer Calendar - The Prayer Calendar for May is being sent out to everyone who has e-mail. Feel free to print a copy for a family member or friend who doesn't have e-mail.

Office Hours - John is continuing to observe regular office hours at the church (9:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00, Tuesday to Saturday), since, most of the time, he's the only person in the building, anyway. He keeps the door locked most of the time, so if you need to get in and don't have the code for the lock, just ring the doorbell at the office entrance.

New Beginnings Update - Our application to take part in the New Beginnings program for congregational renewal, and to receive a grant of \$4,500 for that purpose, was submitted in plenty of time ahead of the deadline (15 April). We are waiting to hear whether or not our application has been approved.

Stewardship Visitation - Today was originally planned to be Stewardship Sunday, with the annual Stewardship Visitation taking place over the next two to three weeks; but on account of the pandemic, the Session has decided to **postpone** the Visitation until things get back to normal.

Virtual Fundraiser - The Session has approved an offer from Charlie Clifford to send out a letter to the congregation regarding a "Virtual Fundraiser", to raise at least some of the funds that we would otherwise have raised through the winter- and spring fundraisers that we've had to cancel on account of the pandemic. We thank Charlie for proposing this idea, and for sending the letter out.

Prayer Time - The Session is encouraging everyone in the congregation to set aside time this Thursday, 30 April, at 1:30 p.m., to pray for everyone being affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic. As we know, the pandemic is affecting millions of people in a great variety of ways, and putting stress on individuals, families, and systems across the country and around the world. Let us pray for God's guidance and blessing. If you have any specific prayer suggestions, please let John know, and he will send them out ahead of time.

Prayer Requests - If you have a request for prayer that you would like to have shared with the congregation, please phone or e-mail John, and it will be included in the weekly Announcements Sheet.

Mission Moment

Spanish outreach ministry

In summer of 2019, University Presbyterian Church in North York, Ont., launched a new worshipping community for Spanish-speakers. The ministry's leader, Julio, started by connecting with members of his own Hispanic community who are not attending church. With a team from his church, Julio has begun establishing small discipleship groups and outreach initiatives, including taco nights and a soccer league for children. Please pray for University Presbyterian Church, Julio, and leaders who are stepping out in faith to plant new ministries.

Presbyterians Sharing is planting new ministries