

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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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 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**21 June 2020**

We continue our pandemic-style worship for another week. Given the continuing pandemic restrictions, and the continuing health risk, the Session decided at its May meeting not to resume regular Sunday services until the fall. Although the maximum number has just been raised to 50, the requirements for sanitizing surfaces, etc., are still quite stringent. They can be found online at [manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/guidelines.html](http://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/guidelines.html).

Check your e-mail inbox each Sunday between 10:15 and 10:30 for an e-mail with the link that you need in order to access each Sunday's service video on YouTube. Occasionally it takes longer than usual to upload the service, so that the e-mail with the link gets sent out later than 10:30. You can access the current Sunday's service also through our congregational website, [www.firstpcportage.com](http://www.firstpcportage.com).

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have joint services with the two United Church congregations in town this summer, as we normally do. John will continue to produce service videos through the summer, except for the five Sundays that he will be on vacation (see the separate announcement below for the dates). We will attempt to provide contact information for other service videos that you can access online during that time.

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

- Genesis 21.8-21 - Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away
- Psalm 86 - "Hear, LORD, and answer me"
- Romans 6.1-11 - Baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection
- Matthew 10.24-39 - Jesus' "mission discourse" (middle portion)

Next Sunday's readings will be

- Genesis 22.1-14 - God tests Abraham
- Psalm 13 - "How long, LORD?"
- Romans 6.12-23 - "Slaves to righteousness"
- Matthew 10.40 - 11.1 - Jesus' "mission discourse" (conclusion)

The **Bible study group** will meet by Zoom on Tuesday evening at 7:00.

The **Session** will meet by Zoom on Thursday evening at 7:00.

**Unlocked** - Now that the pandemic restrictions have been eased somewhat, John is no longer keeping the church's office entrance locked when he is at the church.

**Now Available** - A few copies of the Summer issue of *Presbyterian Connection*, our national church's quarterly newspaper, have been set out on the stairs at the office entrance of the church. If you would like a copy, you can pick one up anytime during regular office hours, Tuesday to Saturday.

Copies of the July-August issue of the devotional guide *Today* are now also available, and are also set out on the stairs at the office entrance. Feel free to drop by and pick one up.

**Mission Discourse** - Today's Gospel reading is a portion of Jesus' so-called "Mission Discourse", in which he gives his disciples instructions, warnings, and words of encouragement for the mission assignment he has given them (Matthew 10.1-4). The discourse takes up most of Chapter 10, and is actually a collection of various sayings of Jesus, which Matthew has put together into an extended discourse or speech. A distinguishing feature of Matthew's Gospel is that it contains five such collections of Jesus' teachings. The other four are The Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7), a collection of parables (Chapter 13), teachings on life together within the church (Chapter 18), and teachings on the end of the age and his Second Coming (Chapters 24-25). All of these discourses contain some sayings that are found also in Mark and/or Luke, but not necessarily in the same location as in Matthew. Each discourse concludes with the words, "When Jesus had finished saying these things ...", or something similar (see Matthew 7.28; 11.1; 13.53; 19.1; and 26.1).

**The Christian Year** - We are now in the **Season after Pentecost** — the last of the six seasons of the Christian Year, and also the longest. It begins right after Pentecost, and lasts until Advent, which makes it roughly six months in length. Like the Season after Epiphany, it is a season of "ordinary time"; that is, it has no overall theme or focus. The symbolic color for this season is **green** (signifying life), the color for ordinary time.

The first and last Sundays of this season, however, are special days: the First Sunday after Pentecost, **Trinity Sunday**, highlights the doctrine of the Trinity; and the Last Sunday after Pentecost, **Christ-the-King Sunday**, celebrates the kingship of Jesus. The color for both of those Sundays is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

During the Season after Pentecost this year, the Gospel readings in the Common Lectionary are semi-continuous readings from the Gospel of Matthew, starting in Chapter 9, partway through his account of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, and continuing through Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem, in Chapter 25. The Old Testament readings are semi-continuous readings from the books of Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges. The readings from the Letters are semi-continuous readings from Paul's letters to the Romans and the Philippians, and his First Letter to the Thessalonians. The Psalm for each Sunday is generally chosen to tie in with the Old Testament reading. Since the readings in this season are semi-continuous, the readings for any given Sunday don't necessarily have a theme in common.

**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.

**Vacation** - John is planning to take five weeks' vacation in the summer, from 20 July to 23 August. As usual, we will line up a number of ministers to be on standby, in case a pastoral emergency should arise while he is away.

## **Mission Moment**

### **World Refugee Day (June 20)**

No one chooses to be a refugee. Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) envisions a world where no human has to fear for their life or liberty. Refugee sponsorship has enabled refugees from all over the world to find peace, encouragement and stability in a new home. This World Refugee Day, we are thankful for the congregations and groups across Canada who, with support from PWS&D, make refugee sponsorship possible. Together, in 2019, we were able to welcome 77 people. Hand-in-hand we will continue to welcome those in need who are trying to find security and safety.

*PWS&D welcomes the stranger*