

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
17 Royal Rd. S., Portage la Prairie, MB. R1N 1T8
Office Phone: 204-857-4351 email firstpc@mymts.net
www.firstpcportage.com

Minister: **John Zondag**
Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email jzondag@mymts.net
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 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 28 June 2020

We continue our pandemic-style worship. We thank Charlie Clifford for leading the Prayers of the People in today's service. Given the continuing pandemic restrictions, and the continuing health risk, the Session reaffirmed this week its decision not to resume regular Sunday services until the fall.

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, in which case 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.

John will continue producing service videos for the next three Sundays (5, 12, and 19 July). While he is on vacation (20 July - 23 August), we will try to give you access to online services from other churches. For example, on the 16th and 23rd of August, you can access Trinity United Church's service video through its website, www.trinityunitedportage.ca. Keep an eye on the Announcements Sheet in the next couple of weeks for additional details.

Speaking of which, Philip Dunn and John have decided to continue producing a weekly Announcements Sheet through the summer, or at least for the weeks that John is working, to help us keep in touch. Many thanks to Philip for putting the Announcements Sheet together through the year, to Gwen Henwood for filling in for Philip at times when he was away, and to Brian Yeo for printing the hard copies each week (that is, back in the days when we came together for worship in the sanctuary!!)

Scripture Readings - The scripture readings for today's service are
- Genesis 22.1-19 - God tests Abraham
- Psalm 13 - "How long, LORD?"
- Romans 6.12-23 - "Slaves to righteousness"
- Matthew 10.40 - 11.1 - Jesus' "mission discourse" (conclusion)

Next Sunday's readings will be

- Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67 - Isaac gets married
- Psalm 45 - "My heart is stirred by a noble theme"
- Romans 7.15-25a - The conflict within
- Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30 - John vs. Jesus; "Come to me"

The **Bible study group** will meet by Zoom on Tuesday evening at 7:00. This will be its second-last session.

New Beginnings - We were notified this past week that we have been assigned an **Assessor**, who will guide us through the initial steps of the New Beginnings program. His name is **Mark Lewis**, and he's a retired Presbyterian minister, living in Hamilton, Ont. He will be doing an "Assessment Visit" in late September. If the pandemic restrictions have been lifted by then, he may make the visit in person; otherwise the visit will be done online. He will shortly be letting us know what information he needs us to provide on our congregation and the community. Using that information, as well as insights gained from his visit, he will write an **Assessment Report**, which will contain three possible scenarios for the future direction of our congregation's ministry. We will then discuss that report in small groups, and eventually make a decision on how we feel led to proceed.

Needed - We will need approximately five people to serve as **Small-Group Facilitators** to guide the small-group discussions of the Assessment Report that we will be having later in the fall, as part of the New Beginnings program. Each facilitator will guide one small group in discussing the Report. Training for the facilitators will be provided by either our Assessor or our Coach. If you are interested or have questions, please call or e-mail John.

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 also available, and are also set out on the stairs at the office entrance. Feel free to drop by and pick one up.

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 will be taking 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. Please call Raymond Reichelt (239-5359), or any other member of the Session, to find out which ministers are available to assist you.

Mission Moment

Keeping Connected in Nepal

When Dr. Nicholas and Becky Bauman left Canada in 2017 for two years in Nepal, they were reviving direct connections with people after 20 years. The partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Mission to Nepal began in 1974, and the last mission internship was in 2000. God's mission in the world includes people who share their professional skills while learning about life and faith from co-workers and neighbours. The motto of Tansen Mission Hospital is "We Serve, God Heals." Nepal is very poor, and Becky soon became involved in Tansen's New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre, which cares for abandoned people with mental health issues. In January 2020, Becky and two of her children returned to Tansen to celebrate the Prayer Dedication of the new Centre, which receives support from Presbyterians Sharing. Although Becky lives in Canada, her deep commitment and partnership will continue. Praise God!

Presbyterians Sharing supports international partnerships