

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 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PRESBYTERIANS SHARING SUNDAY 27 September 2020

We are continuing to offer our Sunday services on YouTube this week and next. The **link** for accessing these YouTube services will be e-mailed out each Sunday morning, along with a service script that can be printed for those who don't have access to the internet.

Resuming Services - The Session this past Thursday evening made the decision to **resume in-person services** in two weeks, starting on the 11th of October (Harvest Sunday). It won't be "business as usual, however, on account of the pandemic and the various restrictions that we need to observe. Detailed guidelines will be announced next week. Those who don't yet feel comfortable attending services should feel free not to attend. We will record the services, and continue making them available on YouTube, as well as a full service script, although they may not be available until later in the day than usual. Margaret McNutt-Reichelt and Debbi Miles will be coordinating the set-up and cleaning that need to be done, and will be contacting those who have offered to help with those tasks. Thank you again to everyone who responded to the Session's poll on this question!

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are
- Psalm 100 - "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth!"
- Acts 11.1-18 - The conversion of Cornelius

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. - **Assessment Visit** (details below)

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 11 October - Our first in-person service in the sanctuary

New Beginnings - We are now well into the first stage of the New Beginnings process for congregational renewal. We have sent our Assessor, the Rev. Mark Lewis, various pieces of information about our congregation; and, this Wednesday evening (the 30th), Mark will conduct an **Assessment Visit** with us. This will consist of a meeting (by Zoom) with John Zondag at 6:00, followed by **a separate meeting with as many people in the congregation as possible, from 7:00 to 8:00** (also by Zoom), to learn more about our congregation. The link to the Zoom meeting will be e-mailed out early in the week.

Please plan to take part in this meeting! If you don't have access to the internet, perhaps you could arrange to use the computer, i-Pad, or smartphone of a family member. It's unfortunate that we can't have Mark visit with us in person, but, since he lives in southern Ontario, it's not practical to have him come to Portage la Prairie under current conditions.

On the basis of the information he receives, Mark will write an **Assessment Report**, which will form the basis for a congregation-wide discussion of future possibilities for our congregation — which is the next stage in the New Beginnings process.

Assistant Coordinator - At the recommendation of the Soup Kitchen Committee, the Session has appointed **Gloria Nichols** Assistant Coordinator of the Soup Kitchen. Gloria is a recently retired nurse who worked in Saskatchewan for many years, and moved back to Portage la Prairie after she retired. We welcome Gloria to the Soup Kitchen team!

Presbyterians Sharing - Today is "*Presbyterians Sharing* Sunday", so designated by the General Assembly of our church. Since we're not meeting in person this week, we can't give out the usual brochure. Givings to *Presbyterians Sharing* from congregations across the country support the mission and ministry of our national church. At our Annual Meeting in February, we accepted an allocation of (made a commitment to contribute) **\$3,200**. As of the end of August, **\$2,800** has been given to *P.S.*, which means that we're only \$400 short of our goal! **Many thanks** to all who contribute to *Presbyterians Sharing* throughout the year!

Available - Copies of the Fall issue of *Presbyterian Connection*, our national church's newspaper, are now available, and are set out on the stairs at the office entrance. Feel free to drop by the church and pick one up.

Presbytery - Our Presbytery is looking for a new **treasurer**, to take the place of the current treasurer, who would like to hand the job over to someone else. In addition to handling the Presbytery's money, the treasurer prepares a financial statement for each regular meeting of the Presbytery (four meetings per year), and prepares a budget for the coming year. If someone from our congregation would like to take on the job, we would need one or two additional people to have signing authority on the Presbytery's bank account. If you are interested, or have questions, please speak to John, who happens to be the clerk (secretary) of the Presbytery.

Mission Moment

Presbyterians Sharing: Together we are making a difference!

(Presbyterians Sharing Sunday)

New church development. Partnership. International mission staff. Theological colleges. Healing and reconciliation. Leadership development. Congregational support. And so much more! Today, on Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, we celebrate the generosity of congregations across Canada who support our church's mission and ministry. As we encourage and equip one another and teach about love, faith and hope, we are proclaiming the good news of the gospel, in Canada and around the world.

Presbyterians Sharing proclaims the good news of the Gospel