

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 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS' DAY
1 November 2020

We extend a warm welcome to our guests! We invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.

The Greeters this month are **Bruce and Lisa Sneesby**.

Philip Dunn is reading the scripture readings today.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Revelation 7.9-17 - A multitude dressed in white
- Psalm 34 - "I will bless the LORD at all times"
- 1 John 3.1-3 - Children of God
- Matthew 5.1-12 - The beatitudes

This Week in First Church:

- Today, 5:00 p.m. - Fall Supper (take-out and delivery only)
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee meeting (Church Hall)

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 15 November - Soup Kitchen Sunday
- Sunday, 22 November - Deadline for submissions for the December newsletter

Protocols - In order to comply with government-imposed restrictions, and to protect each other from transmission of the COVID-19 virus, we will be following these protocols in our Sunday services, until further notice:

- Use the Soup Kitchen door to enter, and the office door (at the front of the sanctuary) to leave
- Mask required (a limited number of masks will be available for those who don't have one)
- Must physically distance from others (except your household)
- Do not sit right at the aisle
- If possible, sit in the same spot each week
- Offering plate is at the back as you come in
- No standing for hymns, but can sing softly, or hum
- Each week, bring your own cushion and/or Bible if desired
- Prefer that washrooms not be used
- There will be no coffee/fellowship hour
- Refrain from shaking hands, etc.
- The names of attenders will be recorded each Sunday, so that we have a record of who attended on which Sunday, in case contact tracing should need to be done later.

Mark Your Spot - When you arrive for the service, please pick up one of the purple "Gift Annuity" cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary; and when you leave at the end of the service, please leave the card on your pew, so that the people sanitizing the sanctuary after the service know where people have sat, and don't have to sanitize pews that weren't used. We're not trying to sell Gift Annuities; we simply have a supply of those cards on hand, and thought this would be a handy way of showing which pews are actually used on any given Sunday.

Cleaning - There are sign-up sheets for **sanitizing the sanctuary** and for **vacuuming the sanctuary** on the music stand at the back of the sanctuary. If you're able to take a turn looking after one of these jobs in the coming weeks, please sign up. Many thanks to everyone who has been helping with these tasks!

The Christian Year - November 1 is **All Saints' Day**, a "Lesser Festival" of the Christian Year. Its origins go back to pre-Christian Europe, to a pagan New Year's festival called the Feast of Samhain (November 1 was considered the first day of the year). Surplus farm animals that couldn't be fed through the coming winter would be slaughtered, and people would enjoy a big feast. Also, people believed that the spirits of the dead would return to wander the earth, and they would light fires to scare those spirits away.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the church sought to adapt and "Christianize" various pagan festivals, and November 1 was therefore renamed "**All Saints' Day**" (or "All Hallows' Day"), a day to honor the saints of the past. October 31 thus became "All Hallows' Eve" or "**Hallowe'en**".

During the Reformation, an attempt was made to do away with some of the practices associated with All Saints' Day, especially that of praying for the deceased. Some Protestant churches removed All Saints' Day from the calendar entirely. However, many of the folk traditions associated with Hallowe'en and All Saints' Day have survived to the present, including making jack o' lanterns and "guizing" (going around in disguise).

For us today, it's worthwhile to remember that the biblical word **saint** (meaning a "holy person") refers not to people who are exceptionally virtuous, but to *all* people who belong to the Christian community. All Saints' Day is thus a suitable occasion for remembering, honoring, and giving thanks for the "saints" of the past — the ordinary ones as well as the great ones — and their contribution to the life and ministry of the church.

The color for All Saints' Day is **white**, symbolizing joy and celebration.

Now Available - Copies of the November-December issue of the devotional guide *Today* are set out on the table at the South entrance. Feel free to take one home with you, for your daily devotional reading.

Newsletter - One copy each of the Summer and Autumn issues of *Vocations*, Knox College's quarterly newsletter, are set out on the table at the South entrance. Feel free to have a look at them. Knox is one of our church's three theological colleges. It is located in Toronto, and celebrated its 175th anniversary last year.

Recorded Service - An abbreviated version of today's service will be made available on YouTube as soon as possible this afternoon for those who are unable to attend, or who don't yet feel comfortable attending an in-person service. As usual, a copy of the service script will be e-mailed out along with the YouTube link.

Mission Moment

Coaching During COVID-19

Ministry leaders had to adapt quickly to the changes brought about by COVID-19. In this new context, leaders need thoughtful, wise and prayerful approaches to ministry. In order to help PCC leaders think through and develop next steps, the PCC, with the support of funds raised through Presbyterians Sharing, offered free, one-time coaching sessions to ministry leaders. Many ministries from across the country benefitted from this support and were able to engage in innovative ministry during a difficult time.