

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 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29 November 2020

Due to current pandemic restrictions, our in-person Sunday services are **suspended** until the status of our Health Region returns to Orange. An abbreviated service will continue to be available on YouTube each Sunday, however. John will send out the link as soon as the service has been uploaded each week, hopefully in time for our usual 10:30 service time. Along with the link, he will continue sending out a full script of the service.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are
- Isaiah 64.1-9 - "Tear open the heavens, and come down!"
- Psalm 80 - "Shepherd of Israel, hear us"
- 2 Peter 3.1-15 - "The day of the Lord"
- Mark 13.24-37 - Jesus' second coming: "Watch!"

If we're unable to have the Hanging-of-the-Greens service next Sunday, the readings for that service will be

- Isaiah 40.1-11 - "Prepare the way of the LORD!"
- Psalm 85 - "You, LORD, showed favor to your land"
- 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 - "Blameless on the day of our Lord"
- Mark 1.1-8 - The ministry of John the Baptist

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 6 December (tentative) - Hanging-of-the-Greens service (see below)
- Thursday, 17 December - Service of Remembrance and Hope, by Zoom

Newsletter - The December issue of the Newsletter is being sent out by e-mail to everyone on our e-mail list, and hard copies are being mailed this week to those who don't have e-mail. Many thanks to Lisa Sneesby for putting the Newsletter together, and to Mardine Garnham for printing and mailing the hard copies!

Advent and Christmas - The current pandemic restrictions are leaving our worship plans for Advent and Christmas up in the air:

- The **Hanging-of-the-Greens** service was originally scheduled for next Sunday, 6 December, but it's doubtful that we'll be able to worship in person by then. If we are able to resume in-person services in time for either the 13th or the 20th, we'll have the Hanging-of-the-Greens service on the first possible Sunday. Otherwise, we'll have to forego it altogether this year, since it doesn't lend itself to the recorded service format.
- There will not be a **Communion** service in December; it was originally scheduled for the 13th, and we will instead have a non-Communion service that day.
- **Christmas Eve** (Thursday, 24 December) - If we are still not able to resume in-person services by then, a recorded Christmas Eve service will be offered via YouTube, as we do for our Sunday services.

The Christian Year - Today is the first Sunday of **Advent**, the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we recall how the people of Israel waited for the coming of the promised Messiah, how John the Baptist prepared the people of Israel for the ministry of Jesus, and how Joseph and Mary looked forward to the birth of Jesus, which had been foretold to them. We also remember that we ourselves look forward to the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the age.

Advent is a season that looks toward the future with hope and anticipation. It is also a season that challenges us to take stock of ourselves and renew our commitment to God, by identifying and turning away from sinful attitudes and behaviors.

Advent is the first of the six seasons of the Christian Year. It always has four Sundays. The symbolic color for the season is **purple**, symbolizing penitence and preparation.

Help Wanted - Our Presbytery is looking for a new **treasurer**, to take over from its current treasurer as of the first of January. The treasurer does not need to be a member of the Presbytery, but should be a professing member of one of our congregations. In addition to handling the Presbytery's money, the treasurer's responsibilities include preparing a financial statement for each of the Presbytery's four regular meetings each year, and drawing up a budget for the following year. If you are interested, or have questions, please speak to John. If someone from our congregation is appointed, we would also need one or two other members of the congregation to have signing authority on the Presbytery's bank account.

Election Postponed - The Session decided this past Thursday evening to **postpone** the biennial election of elders that was originally planned for February. It will be held once the pandemic restrictions have been sufficiently eased to allow us to carry it out safely.

Gifts of Change - Copies of the annual **Gifts of Change catalogue** are now available, and have been set out on the stairs just inside the office entrance. The catalogue lists a whole variety of projects sponsored by our national church — both in Canada and overseas — toward which people can make direct donations. The description of each project specifies what can be accomplished with donations of various amounts. Donations can be made at any time of the year, by sending a cheque, by phone, or online. See the back cover and the page inside the front cover for directions. Feel free to stop by the church to pick up a copy anytime during office hours.

FINANCIAL REPORT, October 2020

	<u>Oct 1-30/20</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
FINANCES:		
INCOME RECEIVED:	7,129.55	76,822.01
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>9,165.77</u>	<u>80,834.56</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>(2,036.22)</u>	<u>(4,012.55)</u>

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for year is \$3,200.00:

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>220.00</u>	<u>3,175.00</u>
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FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	30.00	4,168.00
EXPENSES:	<u>1,202.65</u>	<u>1,664.21</u>
SURPLUS:	<u>(1,172.65)</u>	<u>2,503.79</u>

Fundraising expenses include amounts paid for the fall Supper which occurred in November. Income for the Fall Supper will be reported in November (the net income for the Fall Supper was 3,000.68).

A summary of the surplus from the following events (the amounts are included in the above year-to-date fundraising information):

Spring Dinner	
Fall Supper	
Catering	
Meal In A Bowl	1,043.11
Presby. Pie Sale	149.00
Greeting Cards	350.00
Virtual Fundraising	2,335.00

Thank you for your continued support of these events.

Our Thanksgiving Offering this year was \$1,285.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Mission Moment

Responding to COVID-19 Globally

As COVID-19 continues to affect people and communities around the world, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is responding to some of those most impacted. After initially supporting lifesaving and urgent care projects, PWS&D is now helping provide long-term COVID-19 relief through Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT Alliance. Given the enormous risk of food insecurity, food aid is being provided. PWS&D is also helping ensure families have access to clean water and sanitation, and that COVID-19 prevention messages are being shared. Additionally, psycho-social support is being offered to help cope with the effects of the pandemic.

Salvation Army - Pandemic restrictions have meant the cancellation of the usual fundraising events, e.g. the **Kettle Campaign**. If you would like to help, donations can be made:

- on the Facebook page

- on the website: salvationarmy.ca

- by mailing a cheque to:

Salvation Army

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