

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 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13 December 2020

Due to the most recent public health order, our in-person Sunday services continue to be **suspended**, up to the 3rd of January, at least. This means that there will be no Hanging-of-the-Greens service this year. A “virtual” service will continue to be made 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 send out a full script of the service. Our **Christmas Eve** service also will be virtual, and will be made available in the same way.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today’s service are
- Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 - A promise of restoration
- Psalm 126 - “When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion ...”
- 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 - “Blameless at the coming of our Lord”
- John 1.1-8, 19-28 - John the Baptist “testifies” about Jesus

The readings for next Sunday will be
- 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 - God’s promise to King David
- Luke 1.47-55 - “My soul magnifies the Lord!”
- Romans 16.25-27 - “To the only wise God be glory for ever!”
- Luke 1.26-38 - The Annunciation (to Mary)

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Thursday, 8:00 p.m. - Service of Remembrance and Hope, by Zoom

Our Sympathy - We extend our sympathy to the family of **Carol Garnham**, who died on Friday — in particular, to Gord Garnham and family, Evelyn Wilkinson and family, and Mardine Garnham (sister-in-law).

New Beginnings - We have been assigned a **coach**, to lead us through the remaining phases of the New Beginnings process. He is **Ian Fraser**, a recently-retired minister who is serving temporarily as associate minister of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in downtown Montréal. We are currently working on plans with him for the “Introduction to Transformational Ministry” weekend, which will include a) a workshop for the entire congregation, b) two training sessions for the people who will be leading the small-group meetings, and c) the Sunday service, at which Ian would be the preacher. Because of the pandemic restrictions, we need to figure out a way to do all of this. Under ordinary conditions, Ian would come here for the weekend, and meet with us in person. Keep an eye on weekly the Announcements Sheet for further information.

The small-group meetings will take place as soon as possible following the Introduction to Transformational Ministry weekend. Each group will meet four times, possibly once per week.

Service of Remembrance and Hope - The annual ecumenical “Service of Remembrance and Hope” will be held by Zoom this Thursday evening, at **8:00**. It will be led by the ministers of St. Mary’s Anglican Church, McKenzie United Church, Trinity United Church, and our church. This is a service for those who find Christmas a difficult time of year because of the death of a loved one, or any other kind of loss or misfortune. Toward the end of the service, everyone will be invited to light a candle in recognition of their loved one or of their loss — that is, everyone participating in the service from home. Those who wish to participate in this will need to have a candle with them that they can light at that time. To join the service on your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6460700716?pwd=SW9RZDBYVTRpek0ZWZhWkZ3bXN4Zz09>

If you are asked for the passcode, it is: trinity. If you have the Zoom app on your tablet or phone, you can enter the meeting ID: 646 070 0716, and when prompted for the passcode, type in: trinity.

Good News - Givings to *Presbyterians Sharing* as of the end of November totaled **\$3,340** — which means that we have surpassed our allocation of \$3,200 by \$140! Many thanks to everyone who has given to *Presbyterians Sharing* this year!

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
220 Duke Avenue
Portage la Prairie MB
R1N 0S6

Help Wanted - Our Presbytery is still 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 has decided 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.

St. Andrew's Hall - The Session recently received a letter from St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver, one of our church's three theological colleges (which provide an education for future ministers of our church). The letter requests financial support for St. Andrew's Hall. In view of our congregation's financial situation, the Session didn't feel that we were in a position to make a donation as a congregation; but if anyone would like to make an individual donation, your cheque can be mailed to St. Andrew's Hall, 6040 Iona Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 2E8; Attention: Ross Lockhart, Dean. If you would like to see the letter, John can e-mail it to you.

Mission Moment

Mission Moment – Halidu's Shop Equips Others

In Ghana, Halidu manages a prosperous and bustling training centre where he teaches kente weaving and dressmaking. When Halidu was young, he developed a sore that led to his leg being amputated. During his recovery, Halidu enrolled in a *Presbyterian World Service & Development*-supported program that equips people with disabilities with skills to obtain a livelihood. During workshops, he learned vocational skills that included weaving, tailoring, and dressmaking. Today, Halidu is using what he learned during his recovery to lead a healthy, productive life, and run a successful business.