

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 BAPTISM OF JESUS THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10 January 2021

Our in-person Sunday services continue to be suspended for now, and virtual services continue to be made available on YouTube. John sends out the link by e-mail 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 sends out a full script of the service, which can be printed for anyone who doesn't have internet access. Printed copies of the script can be mailed out from the church office as well, although after the Sunday in question. Please call John at the church office if you would like to receive them.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Genesis 1.1-5 - The first day of Creation
- Psalm 29 - "Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings ..."
- Acts 19.1-7 - Paul baptizes disciples in Ephesus
- Mark 1.4-11 - The baptism of Jesus

The readings for next Sunday will be

- 1 Samuel 3.1-10 (20) - God calls Samuel
- Psalm 139 - "You have searched me, LORD"
- 1 Corinthians 6.12-20 - "Flee from sexual immorality"
- John 1.43-51 - Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - F&M Committee meeting, by Zoom

Our Sympathy - We extend our sympathy to Jim and Shauna-Lei Leslie, in the death of Jim's sister Gail on the 30th of December. Gail lived in Winnipeg.

Next Sunday - Raymond Reichelt, one of our lay preachers, will preach the sermon in next Sunday's service (17 January). John Zondag will lead the rest of the service.

Comfort Dolls - The next shipment of **Comfort Dolls** and **Baby Caps** will be sent out soon. If you have any dolls or caps to contribute, please get them to **Debbi Miles**, or drop them off at the church, by this Friday, the 15th. Also, due to the large number of items that we have accumulated, shipment will be expensive, and donations to offset the cost would be appreciated. Donations can be either mailed to, or dropped off at, the church. If you have questions, please contact Debbi (871-1231 or jrwalbi@mymts.net).

WPCU - St. Andrew's Church in Brandon will be holding a series of evening services, approximately 30 to 45 minutes in length, during the annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January**. The services will be held by Zoom every evening at 7:30, and the link to join the services will be e-mailed to everyone on the congregational e-mail list. A printed worship resource will be e-mailed out, as well.

Annual Report - If you are preparing a report for the 2020 Annual Report, please send it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) by Sunday, 7 February. The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for Sunday, 21 February, and we hope to have the Annual Report ready for distribution a week in advance. Of course, it remains to be seen when and how we will actually be able to hold the Annual Meeting, but for now, we're aiming for 21 February.

New Beginnings - Due to the current pandemic restrictions, our New Beginnings process is temporarily on hold. We were originally planning to have the "Introduction to Transformational Ministry" weekend, with our coach Ian Fraser, around the middle of this month, but we have to wait until our Health Region's status has been changed back to "Orange". A series of small-group meetings will be held following that weekend. Each small group will meet four times, possibly once per week. Two people have already offered to be **small-group leaders**, and we are looking for at least one more. Training for the small-group leaders will be provided by our coach. Please speak to John if you are interested, or have questions.

The Christian Year - We are now in the **Season after Epiphany** (*not* the Season "of" Epiphany), the third of the six seasons of the Christian Year (the first two being the seasons of Advent and Christmas). The Season after Epiphany begins on January 7, the day after Epiphany, and lasts until Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Since the date of Ash Wednesday changes each year, the length of the Season after Epiphany also changes. This year, it is six Sundays in length — longer than it is some years, shorter than other years. The date of Ash Wednesday changes from year to year as the date of Easter changes, since Lent is a season of fixed length.

The Season after Epiphany is a season of "ordinary time", which means it has no overall focus or theme (unlike Advent and Christmas). The symbolic color for this season is **green** (signifying life), the color for ordinary time. The Gospel readings in the Common Lectionary for this season are from the early days of Jesus' ministry.

However, the first and last Sundays of this season both do have a special focus: the first Sunday after Epiphany commemorates the **baptism** of Jesus, and the last Sunday after Epiphany commemorates his **transfiguration**. On both of these Sundays, the theme is the revelation or "manifestation" of Jesus' true identity as the Son of God, which is similar to theme of Epiphany itself. The symbolic color for both of these Sundays is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

Mission Moment

PCCWeb Presence for Congregations and Ministries

A website extends the ministry and mission of a congregation beyond church walls, giving members the ability to make the most of their church experience and allowing visitors the opportunity to learn more about a congregation. A great church website should share details about your congregation's ministry, highlight news and events, offer online worship services, and let people know about upcoming activities, mission projects and fundraisers. Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* equip congregations and groups of the PCC with simple and easily maintained websites through PCCWeb—a free web hosting and technical support service provided by the Communications Office. To learn more, visit presbyterian.ca/pccweb.

FINANCIAL REPORT, November 2020

	<u>Nov. 1-30/20</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
FINANCES:		
INCOME RECEIVED:	10,400.79	87,222.80
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>10,076.67</u>	<u>90,911.23</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>324.12</u>	<u>(3,688.43)</u>

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

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>165.00</u>	<u>3,340.00</u>
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FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	4,068.00	8,236.00
EXPENSES:	<u>109.17</u>	<u>1,611.46</u>
SURPLUS:	<u>3,958.83</u>	<u>6,624.54</u>

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	3,000.68
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 to the success of these events.