

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

17 Royal Rd. S., Portage la Prairie, MB. R1N 1T8
Office Phone: 204-857-4351 email firstpc@mymts.net
www.firstpcportage.com

Minister: John Zondag

Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email jzondag@mymts.net

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 TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS THE FINAL SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 14 February 2021

Services by Zoom - We have been holding our Sunday services **live**, by **Zoom**, at 10:30 a.m., for the past two weeks, and last week, we added hymns! We thank Raymond Reichelt for hosting the services, and Margaret McNutt-Reichelt for playing the hymns. Thanks also to Debbi Miles for typing the hymn texts that Raymond shows on the screen. Due to copyright laws, we can use only hymns that are in the public domain, so, for the time being, we're singing the "oldies". John sends out the Zoom link each week by e-mail. We are able to record the Zoom service, so, beginning next week, John will upload *that* service to YouTube — which means that it won't be available for viewing until the afternoon, since it takes approximately two hours to upload. Once uploaded, it can be viewed at any time.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- 2 Kings 2.1-12 - Elijah is taken up to heaven
- Psalm 50 - "The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks"
- 2 Corinthians 4.1-6 - "Christ ... is the image of God"
- Mark 9.2-10 - The transfiguration of Jesus

Next Sunday's readings will be

- Genesis 9.8-17 - God's covenant with Noah
- Psalm 25 - "To you, LORD, I lift up my soul"
- 1 Peter 3.18-22 - The water of the Flood symbolizes baptism
- Mark 1.9-15 - The temptation of Jesus

The reader today is **Lisa Sneesby**.

This Week in First Church:

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

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 21 February - The First Sunday in Lent
- Sunday, 28 February - Deadline for submissions for the March Newsletter
- Sunday, 21 March - Annual Meeting (rescheduled - see below)

Rescheduled - The Session has **postponed** our **Annual Meeting** to Sunday, 21 March, in the hope that conditions will have improved enough by then that we will be able to meet in person. The Annual Report is now complete, and will be distributed in time for Sunday, 14 March, a week prior to the meeting. If you would like a copy sooner than that, please speak to John.

Envelopes - Offering envelopes for 2021 are now available. They can be picked up at the church during regular office hours, from Tuesday to Saturday. Please use the office entrance. Note that John goes home for lunch every day, and that the office is closed during the noon hour.

Readers - Now that we are holding our services by Zoom, we can once again have people other than John read the scripture readings each week, without having to come in to the church. If you would like to take a turn reading in the next few weeks, please let John know.

Newsletter - Submissions for the March issue of the Newsletter are due Sunday, 28 February (two weeks from today), not 28 March as announced last week. Please send your submissions to Lisa Sneesby at bsneesby@mymts.net.

Office Hours - Since this Monday is a holiday, John Zondag will not be in the church office until Wednesday morning. If a pastoral need should arise, however, please call him at home (239-6719).

The Christian Year - Today is **Transfiguration Sunday**, the final Sunday of the Season after Epiphany. This Sunday highlights the Transfiguration of Jesus, an event described in Mark 9.2-10, as well as in the parallel passages in Matthew and Luke. The voice of God speaking from the cloud reminds us of Jesus' baptism, at which God also spoke from heaven, identifying Jesus as his Son. Both Jesus' baptism and his transfiguration were "epiphanies", that is, events in which Jesus' divinity was "manifested" or revealed (the word "epiphany" comes from the Greek word for "manifestation"). The symbolic color for Transfiguration Sunday is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

This Wednesday is **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of the season of **Lent**, a season of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection at Easter. The color for Lent is **purple**, signifying penitence.

Thank You - We received the following thank-you letter this week from the Compassionate Resource Warehouse in Victoria, B.C.:

Thank you for the beautiful handmade comfort dolls. Soon these will be packed inside one of our safe delivery maternity packs. We love including something for the new baby. We are working on loads for Belarus, [illegible], and Uganda. Please thank all who were part of this precious gift.

Many thanks also to Debbi Miles, who packed the comfort dolls and baby caps, and sent them off! More information on CRW can be found at www.crwarehouse.ca.

WICM - We received an electronic newsletter from **Winnipeg Inner City Missions** recently, which was subsequently forwarded to everyone on the congregational e-mail list. WICM consists of three Presbyterian missions in the “north end” of Winnipeg. They are currently seeking donations for their “Place of Hope” apartment building, which is now nearly 15 years old. It provides transitional, supportive housing for up to 19 people at any given time. Items currently needed include small microwaves, shower curtains, cookie sheets, mixing bowls, kitchen utensils of all sorts, bedbug covers for single beds, and single bed mattress covers. Financial donations also would be greatly appreciated, and can be sent to Winnipeg Inner City Missions at 415 Logan Av., Winnipeg R3A 0A4.

Mission Moment

Mission Moment – A Meaningful Message

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Creston, B.C., is a small, remote church tucked away in the Kootenay Valley. With a grant from Presbyterians Sharing to support ministry in remote communities, they called the Rev. Stephen Vangroonen to their congregation in the hope that he would help strengthen and grow their ministry. But shortly after he and his family arrived, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the congregation found itself adapting quickly to move their services online. Then, when churches were permitted to reopen, they had to adapt to the new health and safety protocols. Throughout it all, the Rev. Vangroonen has blessed St. Stephen's with a positive outlook, continually encouraging the new community he serves to trust God and share the love of Christ with others—a meaningful message during this turbulent time.