

# 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

### TRINITY SUNDAY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 30 May 2021

**Online** - We will continue holding our Sunday services by **Zoom**, live, at our regular time of 10:30, for at least today and next Sunday (6 June). This means, then, that next Sunday's service will definitely not be a Communion service. Each week's service is recorded and then uploaded to YouTube, for the benefit of those who are unable to join us in real time. Each service is now being saved for two Sundays, at which time it is deleted from the YouTube channel. The link to the Zoom meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84737316742?pwd=ZjZWYTgyTzBWR2RkZ1BOUy9nVlVuUT09>; it is the same every week. The link to the recording on YouTube is e-mailed out following the service each Sunday, along with a copy of the service script; *that* link is different every week. In addition, hard copies of the script can be printed and mailed out to anyone who would like them. If you would like to receive them, just call John at the church office.

**Scripture Readings** - The readings for today's service are

- Isaiah 6.1-8 - Isaiah volunteers to become a prophet
- Psalm 29 - "Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings ..."
- Romans 8.12-17 - Led by the Spirit
- John 3.1-17 - "Born again / born from above"

The readings for next Sunday will be

- 1 Samuel 8.1-20 - Israel demands a king
- Psalm 138 - "I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart!"
- 2 Corinthians 4.13-18 - What is seen vs. what is unseen
- Mark 3.20-35 - Jesus' family

The Reader today is **Terry Rempel**.

## **This Week in First Church:**

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

**No Outdoor Service** - Due to the ongoing pandemic and the necessary restrictions, we will again be unable to have our annual Outdoor Service and Barbecue — for the second year in a row. We normally have it on the second or third Sunday in June.

**The Christian Year** - Today is **Trinity Sunday** (the First Sunday after Pentecost), a festival that highlights the doctrine of the Trinity — the teaching that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Actually, this doctrine (official church teaching) is not explicitly taught in scripture; in fact, the word “Trinity” itself is not found in the Bible at all. Rather, this understanding of God evolved in the early church, through a long period of reflection and debate on the relationship between God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Church leaders held a variety of opinions on this question, much too complicated to explain in a couple of paragraphs!

In order to be faithful to the Old Testament, it was imperative that Christians continue to believe in the existence of only *one* God, not three separate Gods. And in order to be faithful to insights from the New Testament (particularly in the Gospel of John), it was necessary that Jesus and the Holy Spirit be regarded as *part* of God, not just as beings that God had created. Eventually, the doctrine of the Trinity emerged — the teaching that God is a “Trinity” consisting of three “persons”, the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. It was formulated gradually, in a series of church councils held in the cities of Nicaea (in the year 325), Constantinople (381), and Chalcedon (451). This understanding of God is unique to the Christian faith, and is still accepted by Christian churches of all denominations today.

The symbolic color for Trinity Sunday is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

**Prayer Calendar** - The Prayer Calendar for June is being sent out by e-mail along with this week’s Announcements Sheet. A few hard copies will be printed as well, and set out on the steps just inside the office entrance of the church for those who don’t have e-mail. Feel free to drop by anytime during office hours to pick up a copy for yourself. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, just call John at the church (857-4351). Copies of the devotional guide *Today* are available at the office entrance as well.

**Elections of Elders** - As reported in the March issue of the Newsletter, the Session requested approval from the Presbytery to return to “life service” for elders, rather than “term service”. At its meeting on the 19th of this month, the Presbytery approved this request. This means that elders will again serve for life — or until they decide to resign or retire — rather than for six-year terms. Therefore, we will no longer have routine elections of elders every other year. Rather, elections will be held only at times when the Session decides that it needs to increase its membership.

The Session felt that term service wasn’t working in our setting, and is probably better suited to larger congregations, which have a larger pool of people who are willing to be elected to the eldership. We have elected only three new elders in the past eleven years, and two of them have since resigned from the Session. For the most part, then, in each election, we were simply re-electing elders who were already serving on the Session, rather than electing additional people to the eldership (and giving currently-serving elders the opportunity to take a break from Session responsibilities).

Our Session had 16 members in 2010, and three more elders have been elected since then. In the past eleven years, the Session has lost 12 members through resignation, retirement, or death; and so it currently has seven members.

## **Mission Moment**

### **Supporting Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh**

Four years ago, the Myanmar military began a campaign of violent attacks against the Rohingya. Widespread killing, torture, robbery and assault forced over 700,000 Rohingya from their homes into neighbouring Bangladesh. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) responded and continues to do so. We are providing lifesaving food assistance and temporary shelter, and ensuring that psychosocial support is available to those who need it. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the crowded refugee camps, PWS&D is helping ensure families have access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Families are also receiving food vouchers to help meet nutritional needs and boost the local economy.