

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 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 5 September 2021

Welcome Back! We are delighted that we can resume in-person services in the sanctuary, starting today! Please be sure to follow the pandemic protocols that we observed during our services in April and May (see the separate announcement, below). The Session has, however, decided no longer to require “one-way traffic” in the sanctuary, so you are free to use whichever entrance or exit you prefer.

Online Services - John will continue to record an abbreviated service each Sunday, and upload it to YouTube, for the time being. However, the link to the recording will no longer be sent out to everyone; only to those who request it. If you would like to receive the link to the recorded service each Sunday, please let John know.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today’s service are

- Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23 - Sayings on wealth and poverty
- Psalm 125 - “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mt. Zion”
- James 2.1-19 - Unfair discrimination; Faith vs. deeds
- Mark 7.24-37 - Two healings in Gentile territory

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Proverbs 1.20-33 - “Wisdom calls out in the street”
- Psalm 19 - “The heavens declare the glory of God”
- James 3.1-12 - “Taming the tongue”
- Mark 8.27-38 - Who is Jesus? Passion prediction Nr. 1

We thank **Margaret Dunn** for filling in as our pianist today. Raymond and Margaret Reichelt are away this weekend.

The Greeters this month are **Rob and Cheryl McPherson**.

The reader today is **Philip Dunn**.

Church School will resume next Sunday, the 12th. There is no Church School today, then.

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
- Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - Lay Pastoral Visitors' meeting, by Zoom

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 19 Sept. - Deadline for submissions for the October Newsletter

Protocols - In order to protect each other from transmission of the COVID-19 virus, please follow these protocols in our Sunday services, until further notice:

- Wear a mask. Those participating in leading the service may remove their masks when they are speaking, so that they may be more easily understood.
- Maintain physical distance (2 meters) from others (except members of your own household).
- An offering plate has been set out at the back of the sanctuary.
- Remain seated throughout the service, including for the hymns.
- Bring your own cushion and/or Bible each week, if desired.
- Prefer that washrooms not be used.
- There will be no coffee/fellowship hour.
- Refrain from shaking hands, etc.
- The names of attenders will be recorded each Sunday, so that we have a record of who attended on which Sunday, in case contact tracing should need to be done later.

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

Prayer Calendar - The Prayer Calendar for September has been sent out by e-mail. A few hard copies have been set out on the table at the back of the sanctuary for those who don't have e-mail. Copies of the September/October issue of the devotional guide *Today* are available at the back of the sanctuary as well. Feel free to take one home with you.

New Beginnings - At its meeting on the 26th of August, the Session decided to hold off on resuming our participation in the New Beginnings process until January, due to a) uncertainty about the pandemic, and b) scheduling challenges. The next stage in the process is the "Introduction to Transformational Ministry" weekend, to be led by our coach, Ian Fraser, who lives in Montréal. This will be followed by a series of small-group meetings, to be led by members of our own congregation, each small group meeting four times over a period of eight weeks.

Appeal for Birdtail - We received in August an appeal from **Yvonne Bearbull**, Director of the Kenora Fellowship Center, in behalf of her home community, the **Birdtail Dakota Nation**, which is north of Virden, and within the bounds of our Presbytery. We once had a Presbyterian congregation there, but it was dissolved at some point in the 1980s or 90s. However, for the past few years, ministers in our Presbytery (including Henry Hildebrandt, Glenn Ball, and Laura Hargrove) have been holding a Sunday afternoon service there once per month. Yvonne's note reads, in part:

I am very saddened to advise that the state of many in the community is in dire need. The poverty many experience in the community and compounded with COVID and the impact of the mental health crisis. Families have been hit hard, and many have been separated. Some have been reunited, and are in need of furniture and household items. So many things that we take for granted and the comforts of life are so far out of reach for many. It feels awful typing this, knowing the need is so great. There are a few families who we know who have very little in the way of household furnishings, and you can imagine the level of depression and worry this brings. ...

So the consideration is to put out a request to congregation members, or even in congregations more rural and close to the community, and if anyone is willing to donate items: household items, kitchen items (pots and pans, dishes, cutlery, etc.), towels, bedding, furniture (tables, chairs, couches, etc.). ...

My heart goes out to the moms who are struggling to keep their kids, and have so little. It would be such an encouragement to them to know someone cares and wants to offer you (this).. out of love and care.

If anyone has items to donate that can be transported by car, please bring them to the church; and John will deliver them to Glenn Ball in Brandon, who will look after transporting them the rest of the way to Birdtail.

Newsletter - If you have a submission for the October issue of the Newsletter, please get it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) by Sunday, 19 September. We aim to have the Newsletter ready for distribution the following Sunday, the 26th.

Proverb of the Week -

The prudent see danger, and take refuge;

but the simple keep going, and pay the penalty. (Proverbs 22.3)

Mission Moment

Hearing God's Call

Joshua Su, a lay missionary at the Taiwanese Robert Campbell Presbyterian Church in Montreal, Quebec, saw a need on Montreal's south shore for Christian community and worship among Mandarin-speaking people. With the support of the congregation and Cyclical PCC, Joshua was able to start a network of small groups that meet in homes for fellowship, discussion and prayer. One of the goals of this new and growing worshipping community is to equip leaders to work alongside Joshua as they start new intergenerational discipleship groups. Following in the Apostle Paul's footsteps, leaders within this ministry are hearing God's call to share the gospel in the world.