

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

THE 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SOUP KITCHEN SUNDAY 14 November 2021

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. Unfortunately, however, we are not yet able to resume our after-service fellowship time.

Online Services - An abbreviated version of the service is recorded each Sunday, and uploaded to YouTube. If you would like to receive the link to the recorded service each week — or even just occasionally — please let John know. The link to the weekly service can also be accessed from our congregational website, which is at www.firstpcportage.com. Each service is saved for two weeks, and then deleted.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Isaiah 58.1-9a - The kind of "fasting" that pleases God
- Psalm 146 - "Praise the LORD, my soul!"
- 1 John 3.16-18 - Laying down one's life for others
- Acts 10.1-8 - Cornelius: a charitable Gentile

The readings for next Sunday (Christ the King) will be

- 2 Samuel 23.1-7 - King David's last words
- Psalm 132 - "LORD, remember David"
- Revelation 1.4-8 - "The ruler of the kings of the earth"
- John 18.33-37 - "My kingdom is not from this world"

The Reader today is **Charlie Clifford**.

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

This Week in First Church:

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

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 28 November - Deadline for submissions for the December Newsletter
- Sunday, 28 November - The First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, 5 December - Hanging-of-the-Greens Service

Soup Kitchen Sunday - Today is our ninth annual “Soup Kitchen Sunday”. On this day, we affirm and celebrate the ministry of the First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen, and express our thanks to the many volunteers and donors who support and participate in this ministry, including churches, Hutterite colonies, organizations, businesses, and suppliers, as follows:

Churches: St. Mary’s Anglican Church, Highway Pentecostal Church, Trinity United Church, and First Presbyterian Church

Hutterite Colonies: Brantwood Colony and Elm River Colony

Organizations: Portage K-ette Club, Public Works Social Fund, Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie, Southern Health / Santé Sud, and Southport

Businesses: Brightside Dental Corp.; Brunswick Management Services; Cobbe’s Plumbing and Heating, Ltd.; Miller Pressey Selinger; Dr. Bruce Narvey; Portage la Prairie Mutual Insurance Co.; Portage Transport, Inc.; Portage Vision Services; Richardson Milling, Ltd.; Shewfelt’s Plumbing and Heating, Ltd.; Simplot Canada (II), Ltd.; United Commercial Travellers; and Westward Ford Sales, Ltd.

Suppliers: Panko’s Supermarket, Portage Co-op, the Salvation Army, and Walmart

Plus many individual donors and volunteers!

Special thanks to Shelly Burton (coordinator), Gloria Nichols (assistant coordinator) and Henry Riendeau (treasurer)! Thanks also to the other members of the Soup Kitchen Committee (see the announcement below).

Soup Kitchen Committee - The SK Committee is a committee of the Session. Its purpose is to oversee the ministry of the Soup Kitchen, and to support and advise the Soup Kitchen coordinators and treasurer. Its members are Shelly Burton (coordinator), Gloria Nichols (assistant coordinator), Henry Riendeau (treasurer), Mardine Garnham (congregational treasurer), Margaret McNutt-Reichelt (Session representative), Cindy White (member from outside the congregation), and John Zondag (convener). We are looking for someone to fill a vacant position, as a representative of the congregation. Members who are not *ex officio* serve for a year at a time, from September to September. The committee meets at least twice per year; more often, if necessary. If you are interested in serving as a representative of the congregation, or have questions, please speak to John.

Soup Kitchen Envelopes - Special envelopes are set out on the table at the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to make a donation to the Soup Kitchen. Donations can be made at any time during the year, not just today.

Newsletter - If you have something to contribute to the December issue of the congregational Newsletter, please get it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) by Sunday, 28 November — two weeks from today. We hope to have the Newsletter ready for distribution by the following Sunday, 5 December.

Advent Candles - We are looking for a few people to light the Advent candles each Sunday, starting the 28th of November. Because of pandemic protocols, we don't like to have more than one person in the lectern in any one service, so we would need the candle lighter and the scripture reader for the day to be the same person (or members of the same household). If you would like to take a turn, please speak to John.

Available - The 2021-22 edition of the *Gifts of Change catalogue* is now available, and copies have been set out on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Copies can also be picked up during the week from the stairs just inside the office entrance. The catalogue lists various ministries and projects toward which people can make direct donations, through the national church — such as “Empowered to Prosper” on page 5, “Care for Children in Romania” on page 10, and “Ministry with Indigenous People” on page 15. Each project/ministry description indicates what can be done with donations of various amounts. To make a donation, you can fill out the form on page 3, and mail it, along with your cheque, to Church Offices in Toronto, using the envelope enclosed in the catalogue. Alternatively, you can make your donation using your credit card, either by phone or online (details on the back cover).

Vacuuming the Sanctuary - Many thanks to **Lalaine Buan** and **Rob McPherson**, who have taken turns vacuuming the sanctuary so far this fall! If anyone else would like to take a turn from time to time, please sign up on the sheet that's on the music stand at the back of the sanctuary. Since we keep the sanctuary cool during the week, the easiest time to do the vacuuming is on Sundays, either before or after the service. Since we can't afford to pay a janitor, we depend on volunteers to keep the sanctuary clean.

Proverb of the Week -

*The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.* (Proverbs 22.8)

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).
- Use hand sanitizer when entering the sanctuary.
- 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.

Attendance Limit - The latest public health orders (effective 13 November) limit attendance at our services to 25 people. Our highest attendance so far this fall has been 20 (in addition to the pianist and the minister), so we should be all right, unless attendance increases.

Mission Moment

Mission Moment – Equipping a New Leader in Nepal

In November 2021, the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) will welcome Dhana Lama as its first ever Nepali Executive Director. In addition to being UMN's first Nepali Executive Director, Dhana will be the 13th Executive Director since its founding in 1954 and the third woman to lead UMN. Outgoing Executive Director, Joel Hafvenstein, said, "Dhana is a strong and forthright leader who is also a listener, with the humility not to fear change or the acknowledgement of mistakes. Her passion for service to Nepal's poorest people is unquestionable." As an international, interdenominational Christian mission, UMN receives funding from partners designated for specific projects, which doesn't leave much for staff salaries. Through Presbyterians Sharing, the PCC will join the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Asia CMS in financially supporting Dhana Lama during her tenure.

FINANCIAL REPORT, October 2021

	<u>Oct 1-31/21</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
FINANCES:		
INCOME RECEIVED:	7,807.90	86,597.17
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>8,583.08</u>	<u>76,052.11</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>(775.18)</u>	<u>10,545.06</u>

Included in the above Y-T-D income is 15,000.00 from the Manitoba Bridge Grant and 17,143.51 from the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

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

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>175.00</u>	<u>3,250.00</u>
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We have surpassed our annual allocation

FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	0.00	3,701.60
EXPENSES:	<u>36.95</u>	<u>830.05</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>(36.95)</u>	<u>2,871.55</u>

A summary of the surplus (deficit) from the following events (the amounts are included in the above year-to-date fundraising information):

Spring Dinner	2,908.50
Fall Supper	(36.95)
Catering	
Meal In A Bowl	
Presby. Pie Sale	

Unfortunately our Fall Supper had to be cancelled after we had incurred some expenses

Thank you for your generous donations to the Thanksgiving offering. The total amount received was \$1,590.00