

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 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 23 January 2022

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 in the Church Hall.

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

- Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-12 - Ezra reads from the Law
- Psalm 19 - "The heavens declare the glory of God"
- 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a - Gifts of the Spirit (Part 2)
- Luke 4.14-21 - Jesus' inaugural sermon (Part 1)

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Jeremiah 1.4-10 - God calls Jeremiah
- Psalm 19 - "In you, LORD, I have taken refuge"
- 1 Corinthians 13 (.1-13) - Love
- Luke 4.21-30 - Jesus' inaugural sermon (Part 2)

The Greeters this month are **Lalaine and Ruth Buan**.

The Reader today is **Raymond Reichelt**.

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study - by Zoom
- Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - Soup Kitchen Committee meeting - Church Hall
- Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting - by Zoom

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 27 February - Annual Meeting

Comfort Dolls - A shipment of **31 comfort dolls** and **12 baby caps** was sent to the Compassionate Resource Warehouse at the end of 2021. Many thanks to those who contributed them, and also to Debbi Miles, who looked after sending them off!

Weekly Prayer Focus - At its meeting this Thursday evening, the Session will choose the “Weekly Prayer Focus” for the coming year — a situation or issue that we will pray for in the Prayers of the People every Sunday. This year’s Weekly Prayer Focus has been “people in positions of authority”. The Session welcomes suggestions. If you have one, please speak to one of the Session members, or to John.

Offering Envelopes - Offering envelopes for 2022 have been set out on the table behind the back pew. They can be picked up on Sundays, or anytime during the week, during regular office hours. If you would like to have them delivered, please let John know.

Unity - Each year, the week from 18 to 25 January is designated the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. It is an international observance that seeks to promote recognition of the unity of the Christian church, in spite of differences in doctrine, tradition, and taste. In many communities, ecumenical (inter-denominational) services are held during this week, giving Christians of various traditions an opportunity to worship together, and pray for greater unity within the church.

Annual Report - As noted above, our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 27 February. If you are preparing a report for the Annual Report, please get it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) by Saturday, 12 February, so that we can have the Report ready to distribute on the 20th, a week ahead of time.

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 current public health orders limit attendance at our services to 25 people, unless we require attenders to be vaccinated.

Mission Moment

“Here I am, Lord,” rang out at the 88th Commencement Service of the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Lebanon, a seminary supported by Presbyterians Sharing. NEST graduates, Jamil, Khalil, Shant and Asadour, will serve churches in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon—three of the most troubled countries in the Middle East that are rife with violence, oppression, occupation, and severe economic, social and political crises. The hymn was their bold response to God’s calling. NEST President, Dr. George Sabra, declared, “If our seminary is able to continue graduating students with such commitment, then we must go on with our mission no matter what befalls us and our countries.”