

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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 BAPTISM OF JESUS THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9 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

- Isaiah 43.1-7 - "I have summoned you by name"
- Psalm 29 - "Ascribe to the LORD ..."
- Acts 8.4-17 - Samaritan believers receive the Holy Spirit
- Luke 3.15-22 - The baptism of Jesus

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Isaiah 62.1-5 - A new name for Jerusalem
- Psalm 36 - "I have a message from God"
- 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 - Gifts of the Spirit (Part 1)
- John 2.1-11 - Jesus changes water into wine

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

The Reader today is **Ruth Buan**.

This Week in First Church:

- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Finance & Maintenance Committee meeting

Thank You - I would like to thank the Presbyterians for the lovely gift basket I received at Christmas.
Miep Verhoeven

Weekly Prayer Focus - At its meeting on the 27th, the Session will be choosing 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.

The Christian Year - We are now in the **Season after Epiphany**, the third of the six seasons of the Christian Year (the first two being Advent and Christmas). The Season after Epiphany begins on January 7 (the day after Epiphany), and lasts until Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday). Since the date of Ash Wednesday changes each year, the length of the Season after Epiphany also varies. This year, the season happens to be longer than usual, eight Sundays in all.

This season is properly called the Season *after* Epiphany, not the Season *of* Epiphany. It's a season of "ordinary time", which means it has no particular focus or theme (unlike Advent or Easter, for example). The symbolic color for this season is **green** (signifying life), the color for ordinary time.

However, the first and last Sundays of this season do have a special focus: the First Sunday after Epiphany commemorates Jesus' **baptism**, and the Last Sunday after Epiphany commemorates his **transfiguration**. On both of these Sundays, the theme is the revelation of Jesus' true identity as the Son of God, which continues the theme of Epiphany itself (the "manifestation" of Jesus to the world). The symbolic color for both of these Sundays is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

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, period, unless we require attenders to be vaccinated.

Mission Moment

We are God's people, called to serve God with our many gifts. We belong to a denomination that is connected by faith, governance, history and mission. *Presbyterians Sharing* is one of the ways that Presbyterians across Canada work together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love and hope in our communities, in Canada and around the world. Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* help build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more than we ever could on our own.