

# 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 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT 13 March 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 Service** - Today is the last Sunday that we will be recording an abbreviated version of the service, and uploading it to YouTube. In view of the general easing of pandemic precautions, as well as the small number of people viewing these recorded services, the Session has decided that we will not continue doing this after the 15th of March — unless, of course, new restrictions are put into place sometime in the future. The recorded service can be accessed from our congregational website, which is at [www.firstpcportage.com](http://www.firstpcportage.com).

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

- Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18 - Abram believes God's promise
- Psalm 27 - "The LORD is my light and my salvation"
- Philippians 3.17 - 4.1 - Citizens of heaven
- Luke 13.31-35 - Jesus' lament for Jerusalem

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Isaiah 55.1-9 - Come to the waters
- Psalm 63 - "You, God, are my God"
- 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 - Examples from the past
- Luke 13.1-9 - Repent or perish; Parable of the fig tree

The Greeter this month is **Val Pogue**.

The Reader for today is **Philip Dunn**.

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

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

### **Coming Up:**

- Sunday, 20 March - Deadline for submissions for the March Newsletter

- Sunday, 3 April - Communion Sunday

**Ukraine** - PWS&D is accepting donations toward the effort to provide assistance to refugees fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The most urgent needs are for food, water, and shelter. PWS&D provides assistance through its partners, the ACT Alliance (ACT stands for “Action by Churches Together”) and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Donations can be made through our congregation; just mark your cheque or envelope “PWS&D - Ukraine”. If you would like your donation to reach PWS&D faster, you can donate online, using your credit card. Go to [www.WeRespond.ca](http://www.WeRespond.ca), click on “Ukraine Crisis Appeal”, click on the “Donate Now” button, and follow the prompts.

**Newsletter** - If you have something to contribute to the March issue of the congregational Newsletter, please get it to Lisa Sneesby ([bsneesby@mymts.net](mailto:bsneesby@mymts.net)) by next Sunday, the 20th. We hope to have the Newsletter ready for distribution in time for the following Sunday, the 27th.

**Habitat for Humanity** is beginning to plan its next build here in Portage la Prairie. If you are interested in affordable home ownership and want to know more about the criteria and application process, you are encouraged to attend a **Public Information Meeting** on Thursday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Portage Family Resource Centre (234 Princess Avenue, next to the Cinema Centre). Everyone is welcome!

**Today** - Copies of the March-April issue of the devotional guide *Today* are now available, and have been set out on the table behind the back pew. Feel free to pick one up and take it home for your daily devotional reading.

**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 taking part 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 50% of capacity, when proof of vaccination is not required — which, in our case, works out to 88 people!

### Mission Moment

The Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, has been struggling to recruit and retain pastors to serve in poor, rural churches. To encourage seminary students to return after studying abroad, the church started the Nest Program, which offers pastors a safe place to live. **Bishop Zán-Fábián was overjoyed when The Presbyterian Church in Canada offered financial support to renovate a vacant parish house for the Rev. Sándor and his wife Noémi**, who have agreed to serve in the small village of Tiszaújhely. With financial assistance from *Presbyterians Sharing*, Sándor and Noémi have furnished their house with basic appliances and furniture and can now concentrate on their ministry in Tiszaújhely and give thanks to God.

**Prayer Calendars** - Copies of the Prayer Calendar for March are ready to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget your copy!

#### FINANCIAL REPORT, February 2022

	<u>Feb. 1-28/22</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
<b>FINANCES:</b>		
INCOME RECEIVED:	5,856.57	11,817.14
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>7,866.89</u>	<u>16,814.85</u>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT):</b>	<b><u>(2,010.32)</u></b>	<b><u>(4,997.71)</u></b>

Included in the above income is \$2,430.96 from the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

**PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for 2022 is \$3,200.00**

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>125.00</u>	<u>270.00</u>
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#### FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES:	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT):</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

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

- Spring Dinner
- Fall Supper
- Catering
- Meal In A Bowl
- Presby. Pie Sale

**Unfortunately our fundraising events have been postponed due to COVID-19**