

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

17 Royal Rd. S., Portage la Prairie, Man. R1N 1T8
Office Phone: 204-857-4351 e-mail firstpc@mymts.net
www.firstpcportage.com

Minister: **John Zondag**

Home Phone: 204-239-6719 e-mail jzondag@mymts.net

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 IN LENT

20 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.

Service Scripts - As of today, we are no longer recording an abbreviated version of our Sunday services and uploading it to YouTube. However, the script for each Sunday's service will continue to be made available. If you would like to receive it each week, please let John know.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- 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 today is **Keith Kelly**.

This Week in First Church:

- Today - Deadline for submissions for the March Newsletter
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - Session meeting

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 3 April - Communion Sunday
- Sunday, 10 April - Palm Sunday

Newsletter - If you have something to contribute to the March issue of the congregational Newsletter, please get it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) today, if you haven't already. We hope to have the Newsletter ready for distribution in time for next Sunday, the 27th.

Next Sunday - John needs to be in Neepawa next Sunday (the 27th), to chair that congregation's Annual Meeting — one of his responsibilities as its interim moderator. Our own service that day will be led by Raymond Reichelt.

Revised Protocols - In view of the easing of pandemic restrictions, the Session has revised our own protocols for Sunday services and other gatherings at the church, as follows:

- Wearing a mask and hand sanitizing are now optional.
- Continue to maintain physical distance (2 meters) from others (except members of your own household).
- Refrain from shaking hands, etc.
- An offering plate is set out at the back of the sanctuary. It may be brought forward for the dedication of the offering by the Greeter (or someone else) if he/she is comfortable doing so.
- We will return to standing for the hymns and other parts of the service for which we stood previously; but will not yet put the hymnbooks and Bibles back into the pews.
- Bring your own cushion and/or Bible each week, if desired.
- There will be no coffee/fellowship hour following the service, yet.
- The names of attenders each Sunday will no longer be recorded.

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, click on "Update: Ukraine Crisis Response", click on the "Donate Now" button, and follow the prompts. Check the website also for ongoing updates.

Mission Moment - Through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*, The Presbyterian Church in Canada is able to support many important **outreach ministries** associated with **Cyclical PCC**, a church planting support initiative. One such ministry is **Cornerstone Ministries**. Cornerstone Ministries provides Christian hope and healing through innovative and supportive practices to struggling single mothers and families in the Dunnville area of southern Ontario. Since moving most of their ministry work online, many more people have been positively impacted by Cornerstone. Through outreach, counseling, and practical support, over 200 local families have come to know the God who loves them, helping them to blossom in faith, courage, and wholeness.

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!

Newspaper - Copies of the Spring 2022 issue of *Presbyterian Connection*, our national church's quarterly newspaper, are now available on the table behind the back pew. Feel free to take one home with you.