

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Minister: **John Zondag**

Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email 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 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 27 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.

Today - We thank **Raymond Reichelt** for leading today's service, in John's absence. John is at Knox Church in Neepawa today, where he serves as interim moderator, so that he can chair their Annual Meeting following the service.

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

This Week in First Church:

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

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 3 April - Communion Sunday

- Sunday, 10 April - Palm 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, click on "Ukraine Crisis Appeal", click on the "Donate Now" button, and follow the prompts. You can check the website also for periodic updates.

Newsletter - The March issue of the Newsletter has been sent out by e-mail, and hard copies will be mailed out this week to those who don't have e-mail. Many thanks those who contributed material for this issue, to Lisa Sneesby for putting the Newsletter together, and to Mardine Garnham for printing and mailing the hard copies!

Service Scripts - We are continuing to make a script of each Sunday's service available, for those who would like one. If you would like to receive it each week, please let John know.

FOCUS, the local group that grows a crop for the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** every year, is now preparing for this year's growing project. Last year's project raised \$204,000 for the CFB! With the 4:1 matching grant from the federal government, the total money raised was \$1,020,000! The CFB is a partnership of 15 church-based agencies (including our own Presbyterian World Service and Development) that sends money to places around the world where there are serious food shortages, in order to provide food for the hungry.

This year, FOCUS is hoping to secure 460 acres of land in the Portage la Prairie, Oakville, Elie, and MacGregor areas, to grow canola, cereals, sunflowers, and soybeans. When the crop has been harvested and sold, the proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

For more information, or to send a donation, please pick up one of the **information leaflets** set out on the table behind the back pew. Donations should be sent directly to FOCUS, c.o. Travis Rintoul, Box 1226, Portage la Prairie, Man. R1N 3J9.

National Church News - The nominee for moderator of this year's General Assembly is **Bob Faris**, one of the ministers at St. Andrew's Church in downtown Toronto. The nominee for principal clerk of the GA (replacing Stephen Kendall, who is retiring at the end of June) is **Victor Kim**, the minister of Richmond Church in Richmond, B.C., and also the clerk of the Presbytery of Westminster.

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. See what's happening in other Presbyterian congregations across the country, as well as in our church at the national level. Feel free to take a copy home with you.

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!

Mission Moment

In Nepal, Pallu Oli knew something wasn't right when he felt a burning sensation on his leg. After seeing the doctor, Pallu was prescribed medicine but did not feel better after taking it. As his health worsened, Pallu wondered why he hadn't healed yet. **His son suggested that he visit the Shining Hospital. At the hospital, Pallu was diagnosed with leprosy and entered a treatment program** (which he has since completed). Sharing his experience, Pallu expressed, "I am very happy that my disease is diagnosed and is treated accordingly." The Shining Hospital is supported by *Presbyterian World Service & Development*.

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

Revised Protocols - The Session has revised the protocols for our Sunday services, as follows:

- Wearing a mask and hand sanitizing are now optional.
- For the time being, we will continue to maintain physical distance (2 meters) from others (except members of our own households). We will also continue to 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. Those who wish to remain seated for the entire service should feel free to do so.
- Those who wish to do so may bring their own cushion and/or Bible each week.
- There will be no coffee/fellowship hour following the service, yet.
- The names of attenders each Sunday will no longer be recorded, since contact tracing is no longer being done.