

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 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

1 May 2022

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. The Session decided this week to **reinstate** our **after-service fellowship time** in the Church Hall, so everyone is invited to remain for a cup of coffee following the service.

The Greeter this month is **Terry Rempel**.

The Reader today is **Margaret Dunn**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Acts 9.1-22 - Saul's conversion near Damascus
- Psalm 30 - "I will exalt you, LORD"
- Revelation 5.11-14 - Two doxologies
- John 21.1-19 - An appearance of the risen Jesus

This Week in First Church:

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

Coming up:

- Sunday, 15 May, 5:00 p.m. - Spring Dinner
- Sunday, 22 May - Deadline for submissions for the May Newsletter

The Christian Year - We are now in the **Season of Easter**, the fifth of the six seasons of the Christian Year. It began on Easter Sunday, and is fifty days in length, including eight Sundays. The final Sunday of the season is Pentecost, which, this year, happens to fall on the 5th of June.

Instead of readings from the Old Testament, the Revised Common Lectionary specifies readings from the Acts of the Apostles for this season each year. The readings from the Letters for this season are mainly from the Book of Revelation this year. The Gospel readings for the first three Sundays are various accounts of the risen Jesus' appearances to his disciples. On the 4th Sunday of Easter, the Gospel reading is always from John Chapter 10, in which Jesus speaks about being the "good shepherd"; and on the 5th, 6th, and 7th Sundays of Easter, the Gospel readings are from the "Supper Discourse" in John Chapters 14-17. On Pentecost, of course, the readings all have to do with the giving of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers.

The symbolic color for the Easter Season, as for Easter Sunday itself, is **white**, signifying joy and celebration. The color for Pentecost is **red**.

Scripture Notes - Today's reading from the Letters contains two **doxologies**. A doxology is an expression of praise to God, usually brief. The word is derived from the Greek words *doxa* (glory) and *logos* (word). The doxologies in today's reading are just two of many found in the Book of Revelation. These two have famously been set to music in G. F. Handel's oratorio *Messiah*. Doxologies are found elsewhere in the Bible as well, such as, *To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us — to him be glory, in the church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations, for ever and ever!* (Ephesians 3.20-21).

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" or "Update: Ukraine Crisis Response"; then click on the "Donate Now" button, and follow the prompts. You can check the website also for periodic updates.

Comfort Dolls and Baby Caps - We are still looking for someone to take over coordinating the Comfort Dolls and Baby Caps project. If you are interested, or would like more information, please speak to John.

News from WICM - Programs previously held in the **Anishinaabe Fellowship Centre** (the Miracle Thrift Store and the Learn and Play Program) were discontinued during the pandemic, leaving **Winnipeg Inner City Missions** with a building that wasn't being used. This spring, the AFC building is being renovated into a multi-functional community space. It will include a commercial grade teaching kitchen, a large open area with computers for educational workshops, arts and crafts, and meetings, and an activity room with rubber floors for recreational activities and games. The building will also become the new home of the Children's Program that used to be held at **Flora House**, since that program has outgrown the Flora House facility.

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

Current Protocols - The current pandemic protocols for our Sunday services are as follows:

- Wearing a mask and hand sanitizing are optional.
- For the time being, we continue to maintain physical distance (2 meters) from others (except members of our own households). We 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 stand for the hymns and other parts of the service for which we stood previously; but have 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.
- The names of attenders each Sunday are no longer being recorded, since contact tracing is no longer being done.

Mission Moment

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, an atmosphere of uncertainty has prevailed in the country. Large numbers of people fled to urban centres in hopes of escaping the country, leaving their homes and livelihoods behind. As a result, many are struggling to make ends meet and many more are facing severe hunger. *Presbyterian World Service & Development* is responding by providing emergency food assistance. Through an ecumenical collaboration with members of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, monthly cash distributions will be supplied to some of the families experiencing the greatest need. As a result, around 2,550 families will be able to purchase food and pay for necessary items. This emergency food assistance is supported by *Presbyterian World Service & Development*, in collaboration with Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Spring Dinner - (see below)



Spring Dinner

Take-out

Sunday, May 15th, 2022

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

****Must pre-order by Saturday, May 7th ****

Call 204-385-2847 to order - Leave a message if no answer.

First Presbyterian Church

17 Royal Road South

\$17.00 each

Deliveries can be arranged for those who cannot pick up.