

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Minister: **John Zondag**

Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email [jzondag@mymts.net](mailto: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 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER ASCENSION SUNDAY

**22 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. Everyone is invited to remain for a cup of coffee in the Church Hall following the service.

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

The Reader today is **Philip Dunn**.

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

- Acts 1.1-14 - The ascension of Jesus
- Psalm 47 - "Clap your hands, all you nations!"
- Ephesians 1.15-23 - Seated at God's right hand
- John 14.22-29 - "I am going to the Father"

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Acts 16.16-34 - Paul and Silas in prison in Philippi
- Psalm 97 - "The LORD reigns!"
- Revelation 22.12-21 - Conclusion to the book
- John 17.20-26 - Jesus' prayer - Conclusion

**This Week in First Church:**

- Today - Deadline for submissions for the May Newsletter
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. - Meal-in-a-Bowl Supper
- Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - Session meeting, by Zoom

### **Coming up:**

- Sunday, 5 June - Pentecost, and Communion Sunday
- Sunday, 12 June - Outdoor Service and Barbecue

**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 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” or “Ukraine Crisis: Irina’s Story”; then click on the “Donate Now” button, and follow the prompts. You can check the website also for periodic updates.

**Newsletter** - If you have any submissions for the May issue of the Newsletter, please get them to Lisa Sneesby ([bsneesby@mymts.net](mailto:bsneesby@mymts.net)) today.

**The Christian Year** - This Thursday is **Ascension Day**, the festival that commemorates Jesus’ “ascension”, or return to heaven, which is described in **Acts 1.1-11**. Acts 1.3 says that Jesus appeared to the disciples over a period of 40 days following his resurrection, and so Ascension Day is the 40th day of the Easter Season, always falling on the Thursday following the 6th Sunday of Easter. The Sunday either before or after Ascension Day is designated “Ascension Sunday”.

Jesus’ ascension marked the end of his ministry on earth, and his return to his glorious existence in heaven. From then on, his ministry on earth would be continued by his followers, the Christian church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The ascension reminds us that Jesus is not just a person of the past, but also a person of the present — and of the future. In Acts 1.1-11, we find not only the account of Jesus’ ascension, but also the promise that he will someday return from heaven.

The symbolic color for Ascension Day is **white**, symbolizing joy and celebration.

**Something Red** - Sunday, 5 June, will be Pentecost, the festival of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the community of Jesus’ disciples and followers, as told in Acts 2.1-41. Since the symbolic color for Pentecost is red, those who wish to are encouraged to **wear something red** for our service that Sunday morning, as a way of recognizing the occasion!

**Next Month** - The Session recently decided that we will again hold an **Outdoor Service and Barbecue**, following a two-year hiatus, and Bruce and Lisa Sneesby have offered to host it at their farm. The date is Sunday, 12 June, with the service beginning at 10:30, as usual, and the barbecue following. Keep an eye on the Announcements Sheet in the coming weeks for details.

**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.

**Today** - Copies of the May-June issue of the devotional guide *Today* are now available, and have been set out on the table behind the back pew. Feel free to take one home with you, to use in your daily devotional reading.

**Canna Lilies for Ukraine** - As the tragedy in the Ukraine unfolds, many of us have gone beyond asking “What can we do?” to “What more can we do?” This latest effort takes advantage of the prodigious growth of canna lilies planted in and around **Trinity United Church** last summer. A limited number of lilies have been started in containers from the 2021 harvest of bulbs. These are available for patio container or garden planting for a suggested donation of \$15 - \$20. All proceeds directed to Mission & Service Partners in the Humanitarian Coalition for the people of Ukraine: ACT Alliance and the Food Grains Bank. Orders will be taken through the Trinity office (857-4471), and will be available for pick-up at the Portage Mall, Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. (starting May 14) and Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by The Portage Mall, Trinity United Church, HB Book Centre, Whoop & Hollar Folk Festival, and Jeffries Nurseries.

### **Mission Moment**

**Living Waters is a mission of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough that reaches out to marginalized people in downtown Peterborough, Ontario.** The Rev. Jonathan Baird regularly visits people living on the streets and invites them to the two drop-in programs that Living Waters Mission runs in partnership with the Bridge Youth Centre. The programs offer meals, support, counselling and Christian fellowship. One woman, who struggles with mental health and addiction, expressed her appreciation: “I come here because it is the only place where I feel loved.”

**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.

**Meal-in-a-Bowl** - (see below)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
17 ROYAL ROAD SOUTH

**“MEAL – IN – A – BOWL” SUPPER**  
**Wednesday: May 25, 2022**

**Meat, Potatoes & Veggie’s all in a bowl of**  
**THICK HOMEMADE SOUP**  
**Served With**  
**Homemade Breads, Biscuits,**

**SOUPS:**

**TURKEY**

*or*

**CREAM OF POTATO**

**DESSERTS:**

**STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING**

*or*

**CARROT CAKE**

**\$10.00 AT THE DOOR**

**TAKE OUT *or* DELIVERY ONLY**

**PICK UP FROM 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**TO PLACE YOUR ORDER**

**PLEASE PHONE LISA SNEESBY**

**(204) 385-2847**

**PLEASE ORDER BY**

**MAY 23, 2022**