

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

PENTECOST THE 8TH SUNDAY OF EASTER COMMUNION SUNDAY 5 June 2022

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. We extend a special welcome to **Coralie MacLaren**, who is filling in for Margaret McNutt-Reichelt today as our pianist! Everyone is invited to remain for a cup of coffee in the Church Hall following the service.

The Greeter this month is **Brian Yeo**.

The Reader today is **Margaret Dunn**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Genesis 11.1-9 - The tower of Babel
- Psalm 104.24-35 - "LORD, how many are your works!"
- Acts 1.1-21 - The giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- John 14.15-27 - Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

Communion - Today's service is a Communion service. Due to pandemic-related precautions, we are continuing to do things a bit differently than usual, as follows:

- The texts that we normally read from the hymnbook (the Apostles' Creed, etc.) will be shown on the screen.
- The Communion table will remain in the chancel, for the sake of physical distancing.
- Rather than passing the bread and juice through the sanctuary, you will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and juice, which are set out on another table at the front.
- Please come forward by the center aisle, and return to your seat by the side aisles. Please come forward separately (or along with those in your own household), in order to maintain physical distancing. Please take the bread and juice set out at either end of the table (left or right), working your way toward the center.
- The bread and juice may be either consumed at the front, or taken back to your seat. We will not wait for everyone to consume the bread and juice simultaneously, as we would normally do. As usual, the bread is **gluten-free**.
- Anyone who doesn't feel comfortable receiving Communion today should feel free not to partake.

This Week in First Church:

- Sunday - Wednesday - John is "at" General Assembly
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Finance & Maintenance Committee meeting

Coming up:

- Sunday, 12 June - Outdoor Service and Barbecue

The Christian Year - Today is **Pentecost**, the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season, and the last of the four major festivals of the Christian Year (the others being Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter). Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and followers of Jesus, seven weeks after his resurrection (and ten days after his ascension), as narrated in **Acts 2.1-41**. The Holy Spirit was given to the community of Jesus' followers to take his place as their teacher and leader, and to empower them to continue his ministry. The Holy Spirit continues to be given today to everyone who believes in Jesus.

Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival (called the "Festival of Weeks" in the Old Testament), which took place seven weeks after the Passover festival. On that day, offerings of the "first fruits" of the wheat harvest were presented to God in gratitude for the harvest. By the First Century, it had also come to commemorate God's giving the Law to Israel at Mount Sinai. Thousands of Jews from all over the Roman Empire and beyond traveled to Jerusalem for Pentecost each year. When the disciples started speaking in all kinds of languages, these "Jews from every nation under heaven" were all able to understand what the disciples were telling them about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (Acts 2.5-11).

The symbolic color for Pentecost is **red**, recalling the "tongues of fire" that appeared to Jesus' disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 2.3). The name "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word *pentēkostós* ("fiftieth"), since the Jewish Pentecost festival was the fiftieth day after Passover.

Next Week - Next Sunday (the 12th), we will again hold an **Outdoor Service and Barbecue** at Bruce and Lisa Sneesby's farm, following a two-year hiatus. The service will begin at 10:30, as usual, and the barbecue will follow. The address is 78115 Highway 50, just north of Highway 16, on the right side of the road. Food and drinks will be provided. Make sure to bring your own lawnchair(s), as well as insect repellent and sunscreen!

“Paraclete” Sayings - Today’s Gospel reading contains two of five sayings of Jesus regarding the promised giving of the Holy Spirit. These sayings are found only in John’s account of the supper on the evening prior to Jesus’ death (John 14.16-17; 14.25-26; 15.26-27; 16.7-11; 16.12-15). In John’s original Greek, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the *Paraklētos*, which is variously translated in English versions as Advocate, Counselor, Helper, or Comforter — or simply “Paraclete”. It’s only in John’s Gospel that this word is used for the Holy Spirit. In three of these passages, Jesus also refers to the Spirit as “the Spirit of truth”.

Prayer Calendars - Copies of the Prayer Calendar for June are ready to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Don’t forget your copy! Many thanks to Margaret Dunn for putting the Prayer Calendars together throughout the year!

Thank You - We thank Charlie Clifford, Margaret Dunn, Keith Kelly, and Debbi Miles for having served as **Church School teachers** this year! We greatly appreciate their contribution to this important facet of our congregation’s life and work.

Newsletter - The May issue of the Newsletter has been sent out to everyone on our e-mail list, and hard copies were mailed to everyone else this past week. Many thanks to everyone who contributed items for this issue, as well as to Lisa Sneesby for putting the Newsletter together, and Mardine Garnham for printing and mailing the hard copies!

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, 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.

Thank You - We received the following thank-you note from the Compassionate Resource Warehouse in Victoria, B.C., this week:

Your gifts of baby hats and izzy dolls [comfort dolls] arrived just in time to be included in one of our shipments to assist those in this Ukraine crisis. Some items will be distributed inside Poland to those who now reside there, but some are being sent inside Ukraine to those who are internally displaced or living under hard conditions. Your gifts bring care, love, and hope. Thank you!

General Assembly - This week, John Zondag is participating in our church’s General Assembly, the governing body for the entire Presbyterian Church in Canada. The General Assembly makes decisions regarding our church’s doctrine (official teaching), mission priorities, policies, procedures, and so on. The various committees of the Assembly present their reports, and the recommendations contained in them are discussed and voted on by the “commissioners” (delegates).

The General Assembly is normally held in person, but this year it will once again be held online, as it was last year, due to the pandemic. There will be seven two-and-a-half-hour sessions (or “sederunts” as they are called) over four days, 1:00-3:30 today (Sunday), and 11:00-1:30 and 3:00-5:30 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. John will be participating from home, and, between sessions, he will be reading the various reports! He will check the church’s voicemail for messages on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, and expects to be free in time for the F&M Committee’s meeting on Wednesday evening.

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 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

The Central Alberta Shared Ministry initiative is a collaborative partnership that enables support and resource sharing between Knox Presbyterian Church and West Park Presbyterian Church in Red Deer and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Innisfail. Together, the three congregations are embarking on a journey of education about congregational vitality and are developing plans to renew their ministries. The aim of the partnership is to support one another as they work towards congregational health. Once the Shared Ministry has attained stability, the partnership will welcome a new congregation. It is through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* that the Presbytery of Central Alberta is able to experiment with this model of ministry.

Meal-in-a-Bowl – (see below)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
17 ROYAL ROAD SOUTH

“MEAL – IN – A – BOWL” SUPPER
Wednesday: June 22, 2022

Meat, Potatoes & Veggies all in a bowl of
THICK HOMEMADE SOUP
Served With
Homemade Breads, Biscuits,

SOUPS:

HAM with PASTA & VEGETABLES
or
BLACK BEAN & CORN

DESSERTS:

ORANGE CAKE
or
RHUBARB CRISP

\$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
JUNE 20, 2022