

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 Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations,
and the homeland of the Métis Nation.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27 November 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 coffee and fellowship, downstairs in the Church Hall, following the service.

The Greeters this month are **Bruce and Lisa Sneesby**.

The Reader today is **Keith Kelly**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Isaiah 2.1-5 - A vision of a peaceful future
- Psalm 122 - "I was glad when they said to me ..."
- Romans 13.8-14 - "The day is almost here"
- Matthew 24.29-44 - Jesus foretells his second coming

This Week in First Church:

- Today - Deadline for submissions for the December Newsletter
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study (by Zoom)
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 4 December - Hanging-of-the-Greens service and **pot-luck lunch**
- Sunday, 11 December - Communion service; Anniversary Sunday
- Saturday, 24 December, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve service

The Christian Year - Today is the first Sunday of **Advent**, which is the first of the six seasons of the Christian Year. Advent is a season of preparation for **Christmas**, the festival of the birth of Jesus. It always has **four Sundays**.

The name "Advent" comes from the Latin word *advenire*, which means "to come to". Advent is a season dis-

tinct from Christmas. It has to do with preparing ourselves for God's coming into the world in Jesus Christ. That is, we recall how the ancient Israelites anticipated the coming of the Messiah, how God announced to Mary and Joseph that they would become the earthly parents of Jesus, and how John the Baptist called on the people of his day to repent (turn away from sin), in preparation for Jesus' ministry. At the same time, we focus on Jesus' promised Second Coming at the end of the age, and prepare ourselves for it by turning away from sin, and renewing our commitment to God.

The symbolic color for Advent is **purple**, signifying repentance and preparation.

Hanging of the Greens - Our annual Hanging-of-the-Greens service will be held next Sunday, 4 December. Unfortunately, the Worship Committee is a bit behind schedule in planning the service this year, so, this week, John will be looking for readers for the various reading parts in the service. If you would like to read one of those portions of the service, John would be glad to hear from you!

Also, we will be having a **pot-luck lunch** following the service that day, so please plan to stay for that!

Advent Candles - We are looking for a couple of people to light the Advent candles on the Third Sunday of Advent, as well as the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. If you would like to take a turn, please speak to John.

Treasurers Needed - 1. The Finance and Maintenance Committee is looking for someone to take over the job of **congregational treasurer** from Mardine Garnham, who would like to hand the job off to someone else. Financial records are kept on the church's computer, so the new treasurer would need computer skills as well as the ability to produce monthly financial statements, do budgeting, etc. If you're interested, or know of someone else who may be interested, or have questions, please speak to either Mardine herself (239-0497) or Keith Kelly (857-5712), the convener of the Finance and Maintenance Committee.

2. The Presbytery is looking for someone to take over the job of **Presbytery treasurer** from John Zondag, whose term ends at the February Presbytery meeting (15 Feb. 2023). Those financial records also are kept on computer, so the treasurer would need computer skills. The treasurer doesn't need to be a member of the Presbytery. In addition to making deposits and writing cheques, the treasurer is expected to prepare a financial statement for each regular Presbytery meeting (4 per year), and to prepare a budget each year for the following year. If you are interested, or have questions, please speak to John.

South Door - We thank Bruce Sneesby for putting new weather stripping on the door at the South Entrance recently. The new weather stripping makes it a little harder to open and close that door, however. A good pull or push is needed!

Leaves - Many thanks to Philip Dunn and Rob McPherson for hauling the four bags of leaves in the Church Hall to the City's composting site!

Devotional Resource - St. Andrew's Church in Brandon has produced a free **devotional resource for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany**, which it has made available to all congregations in the Presbytery. It contains various scripture readings and meditations, and is designed for use at home. The resource has been sent out by e-mail, and hard copies are available as well. They are set out on the table behind the back pew.

Mission Moment

Raamia fled to Pakistan with her daughter after divorcing her abusive husband in Afghanistan. As a single mother, Raamia made and sold handicrafts to support herself and her daughter, Zainab. On their way to the city of Lahore, she and her daughter got into an accident. Her daughter was unharmed, but Raania was severely injured, resulting in her arm having to be amputated. After the accident, she could not continue working on her handicrafts. Raania and her daughter were selected to receive cash support from a project by Community World Service Asia, a partner agency of Presbyterian World Service and Development. "I was able to buy some food supplies with the money I received," she said. This project is helping refugee families who have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover.

