

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

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION SUNDAY ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY 11 December 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. We thank **Brian Yeo** for hosting today.

The Greeters this month are **Lalaine and Ruth Buan**.

The Reader today is **Margaret Dunn**.

*Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Everyone who has been baptized in any denomination of the Christian church is invited to participate in the Communion, including children. The Communion bread is gluten-free. **Once again, we will serve the bread and juice the way we used to do, before the pandemic broke out.** It's our custom here at First Church to wait until everyone has been served, so that we all consume first the bread, and then the grape juice, together. Please place your used Communion glasses into the hymnbook rack in your pew, and they will be collected following the service.*

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Isaiah 35.1-10 - A promise of restoration
- Psalm 146 - "Praise the LORD, my soul!"
- James 5.7-11 - "Be patient, and stand firm"
- Matthew 11.2-19 - "Are you the one who was to come?"

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Isaiah 7.10-16 - “He will be called ‘Immanuel’”
- Psalm 80 - “Hear us, Shepherd of Israel”
- Romans 1.1-7 - Jesus’ dual identity
- Matthew 1.18-25 - The annunciation to Joseph

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - Finance & Maintenance Committee (by Zoom)
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study (by Zoom)
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men’s Breakfast

Coming Up:

- Saturday, 24 December, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve service
- Sunday, 25 December - No service (Christmas Day)

Today is our congregation’s **Anniversary Sunday**. 2022 marks the following anniversaries:

- the **160th** anniversary of the first Presbyterian worship service held in Portage la Prairie (1862)
- the **149th** anniversary of the establishing of the original Presbyterian congregation in Portage la Prairie, called Knox Presbyterian Church (1873)
- the **97th** anniversary of the establishing of our current congregation, when Knox Church chose to become part of the new United Church of Canada (1925)
- the **95th** anniversary of the construction of our current building (1927)
- the **35th** anniversary of the construction of the addition to our building that comprises the south entrance, kitchen, washrooms, and classroom (1987)

From John - *Thank you, everyone, for the surprise retirement party you held following the service last Sunday, and special thanks to those who organized it! Thank you also for your gifts — the apron with your signatures, the iPad, and most of all, the cards with your kind words and good wishes! It has been my pleasure to serve as your minister for the past 12 years. Looking back, the time has gone by quickly! Thank you for your support and encouragement, and for your partnership in our ministry together. I will miss you as I ease into retirement, and eventually move back to my hometown in Ontario, but I will treasure my memories of First Church and Portage la Prairie. If you haven’t had a chance to sign my apron, please do so — it’s set out on a table behind the back pew.*

Tasks - John carries out a number of routine tasks that will need to be done by others when he retires. They include the following:

- *Day-to-day:*

- Checking the church’s voicemail and e-mail, and responding to (or forwarding) messages, as needed
- Picking up the church’s mail, and directing letters, bills, etc., to the appropriate people
- Keeping an eye on the thermostats, and making sure that the boiler and furnace are working properly

- *Preparing for Sundays:*

- Lining up people to read the scripture readings
- Preparing the PowerPoint slides for the service
- Writing announcements for the weekly Announcements Sheet, and e-mailing them to Philip
- Sending the Announcements Sheet out by e-mail on Saturday evenings (or other suitable time)

(continued)

Tasks – (continued)

- *Sunday mornings:*

- Unlocking the doors and turning the lights on before the service (and turning the lights off and locking the doors after the service)
- Turning the sound system on before the service (and off afterward)

- *Other:*

- Writing material for the quarterly Newsletter, and e-mailing it to Lisa
- Sending the Newsletter out by e-mail
- Calling a serviceman whenever something needs to be serviced (e.g. boiler, alarm system, plumbing, etc.)

If you are interested in taking on any of these tasks, please speak to John in the next couple of weeks.

Tasks such as moderating Session meetings, arranging pulpit supply, responding to pastoral emergencies, and getting organized for the Annual Meeting will be the responsibility of our interim moderator, Laura Hargrove (Hargrove@mymts.net).

Scripture readings and hymns will be chosen by those who provide pulpit supply each Sunday.

No Service on the 25th - With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday this year, the Session has decided not to have a service on Christmas morning. Regular Sunday services will resume the following Sunday, 1 January 2023.

Drought in Somalia - Donations in support of relief efforts for the drought in Somalia can be made to Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). Donations can be made through our congregation, using your regular offering envelope (write “Somalia” and the amount you wish to donate in the blank line), or online through PWS&D’s website (www.WeRespond.ca), using your credit card. Click on the heading that says “Responding to the Drought in Somalia” under “Latest News”; then scroll down to the bottom of the page, and click on the button that says “Donate Now”.

Available - Copies of the Winter issue of *Presbyterian Connection*, our national church’s quarterly newspaper have been set out on the table behind the back pew.

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.

Salvation Army Kettle - Thanks to those who helped staff the Salvation Army Kettle yesterday at Walmart.

Mission Moment – (*see below*)

Mission Moment

In Nepal, 70-year-old Dhani Gharti found a boil on the sole of her foot. When she sought treatment, Dhani received a diagnosis of leprosy. Despite taking medication for a year, Dhani's wound kept coming back. One day, Dhani's friend told her about the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Shining Hospital, a Christian hospital run by the International Nepal Fellowship, where she thought Dhani could get more successful treatment. **"Every time I visit the Shining Hospital with my wounded foot, the nurses always welcome me and give the best medical care.** They always show love and care while dressing my wounds," shared Dhani.