

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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18 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 **Mardine Garnham** for hosting today.

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

The Reader today is **Bruce Sneesby**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- 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:

- Saturday, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve service

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 25 December - No service (Christmas Day)
- Wednesday, 28 December, 10:00 a.m. - Presbytery meeting (Zoom)
- Sunday, 1 January - Service as usual

Candle lighting - We are looking for one or two people to do the lighting of the Christ Candle in the Christmas Eve service, and two people to assist with the candle-lighting at the end of that same service. If you are interested, please speak to John.

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. There will therefore not be an Announcements Sheet for next Sunday, but there will be one for Sunday, 1 January.

Office Hours - In the week of the 25th of December, John will be in the office from Wednesday the 28th to Saturday the 31st, except that he will be out of town for a while on Friday the 30th for a Presbytery farewell lunch for Glenn Ball, in Brandon.

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 -

Mardine

- 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

- Keeping the congregational directory up to date (addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses) -

Lisa

- Being the person to call whenever something needs to be serviced (e.g. boiler, alarm system, plumbing, etc.)

- *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) - *Keith*

- *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) - *Greeters*

- 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 - *Lisa*

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

Many thanks to those who have already offered to take on a task, as noted above.

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.

Apron - If you haven't yet had a chance to sign John's new autographed apron, please do so — it's set out on a table behind the back pew.

Recognition - We will have a recognition of retiring Soup Kitchen treasurer **Henry Riendeau** in our service on Sunday, 8 January, including coffee and cake following the service. John will be back to lead the service that Sunday.

Directory - Lisa Sneesby has offered to keep the congregational directory up to date, after the 31st of December. If there are any changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address, please notify Lisa (bsneesby@mymts.net).

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”.

The Christian Year - In the minds of most people, the **Christmas Season** lasts for most of the month of December, and ends on **Christmas Day**; but, according to the traditions of the church, it doesn’t actually *begin* until Christmas Day. Christmas is the second and the shortest of the six seasons of the Christian Year. It is just **12 days** in length, beginning on December 25 and ending on January 5 — hence the song about the “twelve days of Christmas”. Most years, there are two Sundays in the season, while some years there is only one, depending on how the calendar works out.

During the season of Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, which fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. We also celebrate the fact that, in Jesus, God actually entered the world, and lived for a time among human beings *as* a human being.

Immediately following the Christmas season is **Epiphany** (January 6), the second of the four major festivals of the Christian Year (the others being Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost). Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men. Unlike Christmas, Epiphany is a day only, not a season.

Following Epiphany is a season of “Ordinary Time” called simply **the Season after Epiphany**, which lasts until Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

The symbolic color for Christmas Day, the Christmas Season, and Epiphany is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

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. Also, copies of the January-February issue of the daily devotional booklet *Today* are now available.

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

Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Cyclical PCC supports many important outreach ministries in Canada. One such ministry is the Presbytery of Montreal’s Communauté Rivière des Prairies, a new worshipping community in the city’s east end. Rivière des Prairies embraces multilingualism in their church services and children’s programming, providing an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada. Over five different languages and dialects are used by the ministry to connect with newcomers, both in the church family and in the wider community.

FINANCIAL REPORT, November 2022

	<u>Nov. 1-30/22</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
FINANCES:		
INCOME RECEIVED:	7,550.60	91,758.26
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>8,513.55</u>	<u>90,952.79</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	(962.95)	805.47

Included in the above Y-T-D income is \$2,430.96 from the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and \$25,000.00 from the Endowment Fund

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for 2022 is \$3,200.00:

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	170.00	3,090.00
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FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	3,300.00	8,915.00
EXPENSES:	<u>802.17</u>	<u>2,285.47</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	2,497.83	6,629.53

A summary of the surplus (deficit) from the following events (the amounts are included in the above year-to-date fundraising information):

Spring Dinner	1,794.95
Fall Supper	1,668.76
Catering	793.60
Meal In A Bowl	2,509.50
Presby. Pie Sale	

Your support for our fundraising is appreciated