

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Minister: **John Zondag**

Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email 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 Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations,
and the homeland of the Métis Nation.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE HANGING OF THE CHRISTMAS GREENS 4 December 2022

Welcome! Welcome to our annual **Hanging-of-the-Greens** service! Many thanks to everyone who is assisting in leading the service today! We invite our guests to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to remain for **lunch**, downstairs in the Church Hall, following the service.

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

Scripture Readings - The readings for next Sunday's service will be

- 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?"

This Week in First Church:

- Today - Hanging-of-the-Greens service and **pot-luck lunch**
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study (by Zoom)

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 11 December - Communion service; Anniversary Sunday
- Saturday, 24 December, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve service
- Sunday, 25 December - No service (Christmas Day)

Our Sympathy - We extend our sympathy to Debbi Miles and her extended family, in the death of Wally Kimpton on the 26th of November.

Newsletter - The December issue of the Newsletter has been sent out by e-mail, and hard copies will be mailed this week to those who don't have e-mail. Many thanks to everyone who contributed an item to this issue, to Lisa Sneesby for putting the Newsletter together, and to Mardine Garnham for printing and mailing the hard copies!

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.

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.

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.

Mission Moment

“Where is God in all of this oppression and injustice?” Upon hearing the anguished cries of Palestinian Christians, Palestinian clergy felt it was crucial to respond pastorally, and remind them that God is the God of justice, the God who cares about the oppressed. These Christians need God's hope. In 1989, Palestinian Christian theologians developed a theology that could be shared with fellow Palestinian believers. This led to the establishment of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, an ecumenical grass-roots liberation theology movement. *Presbyterians Sharing* supports Sabeel and its director, Omar Haramy, in standing with the oppressed, working for justice, and engaging in peace-building.