

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Interim Moderator: **Laura Hargrove**  
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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 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**7 January 2024**

**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 **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt** for hosting today.

**Scripture Readings** -The readings for today's service are  
Genesis 1.1-5 - "The Spirit... hovered over the waters"  
Psalm 29 - The voice of Yahweh  
Acts 19.1-7 - Ephesians baptized into the name of Jesus  
Mark 1.4-11 - The baptism of Jesus

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

The Reader this morning is **Ruth Buan**.

#### **This Week at First Church:**

- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Finance and Maintenance Meeting, by Zoom

**The Christian Year** - We are now in the **Season after Epiphany**, the third of the six seasons of the Christian Year (the first two being Advent and Christmas). The Season after Epiphany begins on January 7 (the day after Epiphany), and lasts until Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday). Since the date of Ash Wednesday changes each year, the length of the Season after Epiphany also varies.

This season is properly called the Season *after* Epiphany, not the Season *of* Epiphany. It's a season of "ordinary time", which means it has no particular focus or theme (unlike Advent or Easter, for example). The symbolic color for this season is **green** (signifying life), the color for ordinary time.

However, the first and last Sundays of this season do have a special focus: the First Sunday after Epiphany commemorates Jesus' **baptism**, and the Last Sunday after Epiphany commemorates his **transfiguration**. On both of these Sundays, the theme is the revelation of Jesus' true identity as the Son of God, which continues the theme of Epiphany itself (the "manifestation" of Jesus to the world). The symbolic color for both of these Sundays is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

(from *Announcement Sheet*, 9 January, 2022)

#### **Request from Lisa re. Annual Report**

The reports for the Annual Report HAVE to be into Lisa by January 31<sup>st</sup>. **No delays!!** The **Annual Meeting** will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Prayer Calendars** - Copies of the Prayer Calendar for January are ready to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget your copy!

**Today** - Copies of the January-February issue of the devotional guide *Today* are now available, and have been set out on the table behind the back pew. Feel free to take one home with you, to use in your daily devotional reading.

**No Bible Study this Week** - Bible Study will resume on January 16.

#### **MISSION MOMENT**

When the Rev. Lora Nafziger visited her sister in Nepal in 2022, she never imagined that she would return as Staff Care and Counselling Advisor with *United Mission to Nepal (UMN)*. A faith-based international NGO, *UMN* strives to help all Nepalis achieve a fuller life through medical and community development programs. Responding to God's call, Lora departed for Kathmandu in early January 2024 with her spouse Mitch Rhodes and their two youngest children. Lora, who is also a clinical social worker, will provide spiritual and emotional support to expatriate *UMN* staff and Nepali staff. She is jointly supported by the PCC through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* and *Mennonite Mission Network*.