

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Interim Moderator: **Laura Hargrove**  
[hargrove@mymts.net](mailto:hargrove@mymts.net) 204-727-5874 (church) or 204-573-4360 (cell)  
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

### EASTER SUNDAY

**31 March 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 **Mardene Garnham** for hosting today.

The Greeter this morning is **Philip Dunn**.

The Reader today is **Raymond Reichelt**.

We thank **Keith Kelly**, who is leading our service today.

**Scripture Readings** -The readings for today's service are

Isaiah 25.6-9

Psalm 118.1-2; 14-24

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Mark 16.1-8

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

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

**The Christian Year** - Today is **Easter Sunday**, the joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is the third of the four major festivals of the Christian Year (the others being Christmas, Epiphany, and Pentecost). Easter Sunday is also the first day of the Easter **Season**, which is 50 days (7 weeks) in length, concluding at Pentecost. The 50 joyful days of Easter stand in sharp contrast to the 40 subdued days of Lent.

At **Easter**, we celebrate God's triumph over the powers of evil and death in raising Jesus up from death. Luke 24 (as well as the parallel passages in the other three Gospels) tells of how Jesus' disciples first learned of his resurrection two days after he had been put to death on the cross; and also describes some of the appearances of the risen Jesus to his disciples between his resurrection and his ascension (his return to heaven). At Easter, we also affirm and celebrate the biblical promise that all who believe in Jesus will be raised to new, eternal life in the kingdom of God after they die, just as Jesus himself was raised from death. We affirm as well God's power to make good come out of bad in smaller ways, too, in everyday life.

The seasonal color for Easter is **white**, symbolizing joy and celebration.  
- from *Announcements Sheet*, 17 April, 2022

### **Mission Moment**

In Malawi Madalitso Mphamba, a determined 16-year-old, once doubted she would ever have the chance to attend secondary school. When Madalitso's mother fell seriously ill and had to give up her job they moved in with family for support. At first Madalitso's grandma's beer-brewing venture was thriving and played a crucial role in supporting her primary school education. However Madalitso's grandmother eventually had to stop this business and the family could no longer afford to send Madalitso to school. With help from *Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)* the Blantyre Synod Education Department's Neno scholarship program allowed Madalitso to re-enroll, enabling her to dream of a brighter future.

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

**Presbyterian Connection** - Issues of the latest *Presbyterian Connection* are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. This is the national Church's newspaper, distributed four times a year. Feel free to take one! It is also available at <https://presbyterian.ca/presbyterian-connection/>

**Furnace Repairs** - Last week Shewfelt's carried out significant repairs on one of the two furnaces. Now the downstairs is warm and toasty! Many thanks to everyone involved with arranging and assisting with these repairs.