

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 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

14 March 2021

Welcome to worship! It's good to be able to worship together in person once again! We extend a special welcome to our guests, and invite them to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. Unfortunately, however, we are not yet able to resume our after-service fellowship time. Please remember to follow the **protocols** that we established for our in-person services last fall (see below).

John will continue recording an abbreviated version of the service each week and uploading it to YouTube, for those who don't yet feel comfortable attending services in person. He will continue sending out the YouTube link by e-mail each Sunday, along with the service script.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Numbers 21.4-9 - The bronze snake
- Psalm 107 - "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good"
- Ephesians 2.1-10 - "Saved by grace, through faith"
- John 3.14-21 - "God loved the world so much ..."

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Jeremiah 31.31-34 - A new covenant
- Psalm 51 - "Have mercy on me, God"
- Hebrews 5.5-10 - Jesus, the High Priest
- John 12.20-36 - "The hour has come ..."

The reader today is **Charlie Clifford**.

The Greeter for this month is **Shauna-Lei Leslie**.

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom

Coming Up:

- Friday, 2 April, 10:30 a.m. - Good Friday service
- Sunday, 18 April - Annual Meeting (re-rescheduled - see below)

Protocols - In order to comply with government-imposed restrictions, and to protect each other from transmission of the COVID-19 virus, please follow these protocols in our Sunday services, until further notice:

- Use the South entrance to enter, and the Office entrance (at the front of the sanctuary) to leave
- Mask required (a limited number of masks will be available for those who don't have one)
- Must physically distance from others (except your household)
- Do not sit right at the aisle
- If possible, sit in the same spot each week
- Pick up a purple card from the table at the back, and, when you leave, use it to mark the spot where you sat, so that those sanitizing the pews after the service know which pews need to be sanitized.
- Offering plate is at the back as you come in
- No standing for hymns, but can sing softly, or hum
- Each week, bring your own cushion and/or Bible if desired
- Prefer that washrooms not be used
- There will be no coffee/fellowship hour
- Refrain from shaking hands, etc.
- The names of attenders will be recorded each Sunday, so that we have a record of who attended on which Sunday, in case contact tracing should need to be done later.

Cleaning - There are sign-up sheets for **sanitizing the sanctuary** and for **vacuuming the sanctuary** on the music stand at the back of the sanctuary. If you're able to take a turn looking after one of these tasks in the coming weeks, please sign up.

Communion - The Session has decided, for the time being, to reverse the decision it made at its February meeting about resuming Communion services. Therefore, next Sunday's service will not be a Communion service, and there will not be an evening service on Maundy Thursday (1 April) at all. Our next regular Communion service is scheduled for Sunday, 6 June, if conditions permit.

Rescheduled - Our **Annual Meeting** has been postponed to Sunday, 18 April, in the hope that conditions will have improved enough by then that we will be able to meet in person. Electronic copies of the **Annual Report** were sent out by e-mail this weekend, and printed copies are available on one of the tables at the back of the sanctuary for those who don't have internet access. Many thanks to Lisa Sneesby for putting the Annual Report together, and to Mardine Garnham for printing the hard copies!

Envelopes - Offering envelopes for 2021 that haven't yet been picked up are set out on one of the tables at the back of the sanctuary.

Reading - If you would like to take a turn reading the scripture readings in one of our upcoming services, please let John know.

Today - Copies of the March-April issue of the devotional guide *Today* are available on one of the tables at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take one home with you!

Jesus' words, or John's? Translators and interpreters of the Bible disagree on whether the words of John 3.16 are the words of Jesus or those of John the Gospel writer. Some maintain that verses 10 to 21 of Chapter 3 are all the words of Jesus; some maintain that only verses 10 to 15 are Jesus' words, while verses 16 to 21 are further reflection by John, as narrator; and some maintain that Jesus' words end at verse 13. For this reason, various versions of the Bible place the end quotation marks at any of those three places. Unfortunately, no one knows the definitive answer to this question, since the original Greek manuscripts of the New Testament don't use quotation marks — or any other punctuation, for that matter.

FINANCIAL REPORT, 2021

	<u>Feb. 1-28/21</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
FINANCES:		
INCOME RECEIVED:	4,447.05	18,082.76
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>7,558.49</u>	<u>15,317.02</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>(3,111.44)</u>	<u>2,765.74</u>

Included in the above Y-T-D income is 5,000.00 from the Manitoba Bridge Grant and 5,643.56 from the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

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

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>165.00</u>	<u>310.00</u>
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FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES:	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
SURPLUS:	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

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

- Spring Dinner
- Fall Supper
- Catering
- Meal In A Bowl
- Presby. Pie Sale

Thank you for your continued support to the success of these events.