

# 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)

Minister: John Zondag

Home Phone: 204-239-6719 email [jzondag@mymts.net](mailto: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 Anishinabe and Dakota Nations, and the homeland of the Métis Nation

## ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET

### THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER 25 April 2021

**Welcome!** We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you 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.

For the time being, John continues to record an abbreviated version of the service each week and to upload it to YouTube, for those who don't yet feel comfortable attending services in person. He sends out the YouTube link by e-mail each Sunday, along with the service script. Hard copies of the script can be printed and mailed out to anyone who would like them. If you would like to receive them, just call John at the church office.

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

- Acts 4.5-12 - Peter and John before the Sanhedrin
- Psalm 23 - "The LORD is my shepherd"
- 1 John 3.16-24 - Laying down one's life
- John 10.11-18 - "I am the good Shepherd"

The readings for next Sunday will be

- Acts 4.5-12 - Philip meets an Ethiopian official
- Psalm 22.22-31 - "I will declare your name to my people"
- 1 John 4.7-21 - "Let us love each other"
- John 15.1-8 - "I am the vine" - Part 1

The Greeters this month are **Wally Kimpton and Debbi Miles**.

**This Week in First Church:**

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

## **Coming Up:**

- Sunday, 2 May, 5:00 p.m. - Spring Dinner (take-out)

**Today** - We thank **Raymond Reichelt** for leading today's service in John Zondag's absence, and **Charlie Clifford** for leading the Prayers of the People, as he usually does on the last Sunday of the month. John has gone to Neepawa today, in order to chair their Annual Meeting following today's service. John is the interim moderator for Knox Church in Neepawa, which has been without a called minister since October of 2019.

**Protocols** - Recent studies have shown that the COVID-19 virus can not survive on surfaces for more than three days, and also that the risk of contracting the virus by touching surfaces is extremely low. Therefore, **we are no longer sanitizing the sanctuary** after every service, and **you no longer need to use one of the "purple cards"** to mark the pew where you have sat.

Otherwise, the protocols that we have been following remain in place:

- Use the South entrance to enter, and the Office entrance (at the front of the sanctuary) to leave
- Wear a mask when entering and leaving the church, and while singing. Masks may be removed when seated, if you're sitting either by yourself or with people you live with.
- Maintain physical distance from others (except your own household)
- Do not sit right at the aisle
- If possible, sit in the same spot each week
- Offering plate is at the back as you come in
- Remain seated throughout the service, including for hymns
- 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.

**Spring Dinner** - If you missed placing your order for the Spring Dinner next Sunday, you can still do so today — just phone or e-mail Lisa Sneesby (385-2847; [bsneesby@mymts.net](mailto:bsneesby@mymts.net)).

**Our Sympathy** - As announced orally last Sunday, we extend our sympathy to Wilma Reimer and family, in the death of Albert Reimer last weekend. Albert was also a brother-in-law of Ria Zwiep.

**Annual Meeting** - Our Annual Meeting was held last Sunday, following the service. The reports in the Annual Report were adopted, as was the proposed budget for this year. An allocation of \$3,200 for Presbyterians Sharing was accepted. Margo Nichol was appointed to the Endowment Committee for a three-year term, and Raymond Reichelt and Bruce Sneesby were re-appointed Trustees for a two-year term. Many thanks to everyone who contributed a report for the Annual Report, and special thanks to Raymond for serving as secretary for the meeting!

**Cleaning** - There is a sign-up sheet for **vacuuming the sanctuary** on the music stand at the back of the sanctuary. If you're able to take a turn looking after this task in the coming weeks, please sign up.

**Today** - Copies of the May-June 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!

**New Study** - Glenn Ball and Laura Hargrove, the ministers of the Presbyterian congregations in Brandon, are offering a new study on the first four chapters of *Living Faith*, our church's official statement of faith (the green booklet). The chapter titles are "God", "God, Creator and Ruler", "God in Christ", and "God the Holy Spirit". The study is being offered by Zoom on the four Thursday evenings in May, beginning on the 6th, at 7:00 p.m. The study guide is available from John, and can either be sent to you by e-mail, or be printed for you. If you are interested, please speak to John, and let him know in which format you'd like to have the study guide. It can also be used for individual study, for those who don't have access to the internet.

**Available** - A few copies of the Spring issue of *Presbyterian Connection*, our national church's newspaper, are available at the back of the sanctuary. It includes four photos taken at our take-out Fall Supper last November!

**FOCUS**, the local group that grows a crop for the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** every year, is appealing for donations to help cover the costs of producing this year's crop. Last year, FOCUS's growing project raised \$200,000 for the CFB. To date, FOCUS has 460 acres of land lined up for this year's growing project, in the MacGregor, Portage la Prairie, Oakville, and Elie areas. The crops will be canola, cereals, sunflowers, and soybeans. A few copies of their information leaflet are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary for those who are interested in supporting this project. Donations should be sent directly to FOCUS, at the address given on the leaflet. Official receipts will be sent out early in 2022.

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

**Computer to give away** - The Church has a computer to give away. It is approximately 10 years old with a Windows 7 operating system. The computer package consists of a CPU, Monitor, Keyboard and cables. Please contact Mardine at 204-239-0497 or the Church if you are interested.