

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUNDAY 6 June 2021

Online - We will continue holding our Sunday services by **Zoom**, live, at our regular time of 10:30, for the time being. Each week's service is recorded and then uploaded to YouTube, for the benefit of those who are unable to join us in real time. Each service is now being saved for two Sundays, at which time it is deleted from the YouTube channel. The link to the Zoom meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84737316742?pwd=ZjZWYTgyTzBWR2RkZ1BOUy9nVlVuUT09>; it is the same every week. The link to the recording on YouTube is e-mailed out following the service each Sunday, along with a copy of the service script; *that* link is different every week. In addition, 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

- 1 Samuel 8.1-22 - Israel asks Samuel for a king
- Psalm 138 - "I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart!"
- 2 Corinthians 4.13-18 - Paul's faith sustains him
- Mark 3.20-35 - Jesus faces opposition to his ministry

The readings for next Sunday will be

- 1 Samuel 15.34 - 16.13 - Samuel anoints David as king
- Psalm 20 - "May the LORD answer you"
- 2 Corinthians 5.6-17 - "Christ's love compels us"
- Mark 4.26-34 - Two parables about seeds

The Reader today is **Debbi Miles**.

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - F&M Committee meeting, by Zoom

The Christian Year - We are now in the **Season after Pentecost**. It is the last of the six seasons of the Christian Year, beginning right after Pentecost, and lasting until Advent begins. It is also, by far, the longest of the seasons, approximately six months in length. Since the date of Pentecost changes every year (because the date of Easter changes), the Season after Pentecost has a variable number of Sundays. Note that it is called the Season *after* Pentecost, not the Season *of* Pentecost. Like the Season after Epiphany, it is a season of “ordinary time”; that is, it has no overall theme or focus. The symbolic color for this season is **green** (signifying life), the color for ordinary time.

The first and last Sundays of this season, however, are special days: the First Sunday after Pentecost is **Trinity Sunday**, which highlights the doctrine of the Trinity; and the Last Sunday after Pentecost is **Christ-the-King Sunday**, which celebrates the kingship of Jesus. The color for both of those Sundays is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

Readings for the Season - During the Season after Pentecost this year, the **Gospel** readings in the Common Lectionary will be semi-continuous readings from the Gospel of Mark, starting partway through his account of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee, in Chapter 3, and continuing through to his ministry in Jerusalem, in Chapter 13 — plus a five-week “detour” into Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. The **Old Testament** readings will begin with semi-continuous readings from the books of 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings. Then, starting in September, we will be reading passages from the books of Proverbs, Esther, Job, and Ruth. The readings from the **Letters** will be semi-continuous readings from 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James, and Hebrews. The **Psalms** for each Sunday is generally chosen to tie in with the Old Testament reading. Since the Season after Pentecost is a season of “ordinary time” and has no overarching theme, the readings in this season are semi-continuous, and therefore the readings for any given Sunday do not necessarily have a theme in common.

General Assembly - The General Assembly of our church meets this week, beginning this evening, and concluding on Wednesday. Due to the pandemic, the meeting will be held by Zoom; last year, it was canceled altogether. The Assembly is the highest governing body in our church, and meets once per year. The Assembly’s agencies and committees present reports with various recommendations, which are discussed and voted on by the commissioners. One sixth of actively serving ministers in the church, and an equal number of elders, are “commissioned” by their Presbyteries to take part in the General Assembly. Our Presbytery’s commissioners this year are Glenn Ball and Dave Wilson. Although Dave is a retired minister, he is also an elder at First Church in Brandon, and is therefore taking part as an elder. The Assembly makes decisions on policy, priorities, doctrine, and rules for our entire Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Summer Services - The Session, in its meeting on the 27th of May, decided that we will not have in-person services in July and August, even if they are permitted. Instead, it has accepted an invitation extended by First Church and St. Andrew’s Church in Brandon to participate in **joint online services** with them, just as we did last summer. Hopefully, in-person services will again be permitted by the Labor Day weekend, so that we can resume our normal worship routine in September!

Three “Theisms” - In last week’s sermon, John mentioned the words *polytheism*, *henotheism*, and *monotheism*. A *polytheistic* religion is one in which people believe in and worship many gods, while in a *henotheistic* religion, people believe in many gods, but worship only one. A *monotheistic* religion, by contrast, is one in which people worship only one God, and do not believe in the existence of any others. In early Old Testament times, the people of Israel were *henotheistic* in principle, but often *polytheistic* in practice (because they often worshiped foreign gods in addition to Yahweh, their own God — which they were not supposed to do!). After the Babylonian exile, however, the Israelites became increasingly *monotheistic*. This is one reason why the doctrine of the Trinity developed as it did, for leaders of the early church believed it was important to maintain the belief that there is only one God.

Prayer Calendar - The Prayer Calendar for June was sent out by e-mail last weekend. A few hard copies have been printed as well, and are set out on the steps just inside the office entrance of the church for those who don’t have e-mail. Feel free to drop by anytime during office hours to pick up a copy for yourself. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, just call John at the church (857-4351). Copies of the devotional guide *Today* are available at the office entrance as well.

No Outdoor Service - Due to the ongoing pandemic and the necessary restrictions, we will again be unable to have our annual Outdoor Service and Barbecue this month — for the second year in a row. We normally have it on the second or third Sunday in June.

Mission Moment

Rockland Community Church

With support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, Rockland Community Church in Ontario—established initially with a focus on youth ministry—is transforming through family-style worship and mission that truly brings out the gifts of people of all ages. As their name suggests, “community” is at the heart of this Christian family of faith where everyone belongs. The congregation celebrates the contributions made by each member, and everyone is committed to sharing their gifts with others, whether it’s by inviting a neighbour to a home group gathering or weekly coffee house, or by organizing a Living Nativity for the wider community during Advent. *Presbyterians Sharing* welcomes people into the family of God.