

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 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

26 February 2023

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. There will be a Pot-Luck lunch following this morning's service, followed by the **Annual Congregational General Meeting**.

The Greeters this morning are **Philip and Margaret Dunn**.

The Reader today is **Margaret Dunn**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7
- Psalm 51.1-12
- Romans 5.12-19
- Matthew 4.1-11

This Week in First Church:

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

Prayer Calendars - The March Prayer Calendars have been sent out by email. Some hard-copies are available at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget your copy!

Today Devotional Booklet - Copies of the March-April issue of the daily devotional booklet *Today* are now available at the back of the sanctuary.

Newsletter - It's that time again!! The newsletter will be going out soon. Please have any reports to Lisa by March 12th. Send via email to Lisa at bsneesby@mymts.net

The Christian Year - Today is the first Sunday in **Lent**, which is the fourth of the six seasons of the Christian Year. Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, and in that respect, it's similar to Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas. Lent is a time for us to give increased attention to our struggle against our sinful impulses and the sinful pressures of the world around us, and to work for renewal in our relationships with God and our fellow human beings. Historically, Lent was a time when the disciplines of fasting, charitable giving, and prayer were emphasized (see Matthew 6.1-18). In some denominations, the practice of fasting has evolved into the practice of "giving something up for Lent".

The season of Lent originated in the early centuries of the church as a period in which new converts (called "catechumens", mostly adults) were given their final instruction in the Christian faith, in preparation for their baptism at Easter. By the Middle Ages, Lent had evolved into a solemn season of penitence and fasting, in imitation of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and being tempted in the wilderness (Luke 4.1-13 and parallels). The length of Lent was therefore set at **40 days** (not including *Sundays*, however, since Sunday, the weekly celebration of Jesus' resurrection, could not be a day of fasting). So Lent always begins on a Wednesday, 6½ weeks before Easter: **Ash Wednesday**. Since the date of Easter changes from year to year, the date of Ash Wednesday also changes.

The final week of Lent is called **Holy Week**, and during that week we commemorate the events of Jesus' "Passion" — his suffering and death in Jerusalem.

The symbolic color for Lent is **purple**, signifying preparation and penitence. The color for Holy Week is **red**, symbolizing Jesus' blood, shed on the cross as a sacrifice for human sin.

Annual Congregational General Meeting - Will be held today. There will be a potluck lunch following worship and the AGM will be held after lunch.

Mission Moment

With support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, the Newcomers Mission has faithfully been providing assistance and spiritual care to newly arrived immigrants and refugees in Peterborough, Ontario, and the surrounding area since 2016. In recent months, the Newcomers Mission has expanded to offer a Ukrainian gathering program that has reached over 40 Ukrainians who fled to Canada because of the war in their country. It provides a place of belonging and care for people living through very difficult and vulnerable situations. Many have turned to this ministry for friendly conversation over a warm meal, assistance accessing services, as well as spiritual support and prayer. Through gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*, the church is helping to "welcome the stranger."