

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 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

5 March 2023

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 **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt** for hosting today.

The Greeter this morning is **Brian Yeo**.

The Reader today is **Keith Kelly**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Genesis 12.1-4a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4.1-5, 13-17
- John 3.1-17

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study - by Zoom
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Finance and Maintenance Committee meeting - by Zoom
- Saturday March 11 9:00 am, Mens' Breakfast Club

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 second 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.

Mission Moment

In Pakistan, Gauri learned how to cut and sew at an early age. As an adult, this knowledge allowed Gauri to contribute to her family's income by working as a seamstress. After her husband was killed in an accident, Gauri's income was not enough to provide for her family on her own. **Gauri was selected for a *Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)* project that provides emergency food assistance to families in need, as well as longer-term support through small business training and development.** The food aid the family received made it possible for Gauri to save a portion of her monthly income that would have otherwise been spent on food. With the money she saved, Gauri was able to further her child's education and stock her tailoring shop with more materials.

Daylight Saving Time - begins next Sunday, 12 March. Remember to set your clocks forward an hour!