

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

PENTECOST THE 8TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 28 May 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 **Val and Sandra** for hosting today.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- Acts 2.1-21 - Pentecost
- Psalm 104.24-35 - When you send out your Spirit...
- 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 - Spiritual gifts
- John 7.37-39 - Giving of the Spirit

The Greeter this morning is **Val Pogue**.

The Reader today is **Lalaine Buan**.

This Week in First Church:

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

Mission Moment

With support from *Presbyterians Sharing*, Two Rivers Church in Guelph, Ontario, is exploring new and creative ways of being the church. This ministry is made up of “living rooms,” where people gather together in homes for meals and conversations that draw them deeper into friendship and spiritual formation in Christ. Recently celebrating 10 years of ministry, Two Rivers Church has grown to include six living rooms where the congregation meets together. At the same time, community engagement has expanded to include community gardening projects, neighbourhood cycling events, prayer walks, church retreats and an interactive “Stations of the Cross” walk through downtown Guelph during Holy Week.

The Christian Year - Today is **Pentecost**, the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season, and the last of the four major festivals of the Christian Year (the others being Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter). Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and followers of Jesus, seven weeks after his resurrection (and ten days after his ascension), as narrated in **Acts 2.1-41**. The Holy Spirit was given to the community of Jesus’ followers to take his place as their teacher and leader, and to empower them to continue his ministry. The Holy Spirit continues to be given today to everyone who believes in Jesus.

Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival (called the “Festival of Weeks” in the Old Testament), which took place seven weeks after the Passover festival. On that day, offerings of the “first fruits” of the wheat harvest were presented to God in gratitude for the harvest. By the First Century, it had also come to commemorate God’s giving the Law to Israel at Mount Sinai. Thousands of Jews from all over the Roman Empire and beyond traveled to Jerusalem for Pentecost each year. When the disciples started speaking in all kinds of languages, these “Jews from every nation under heaven” were all able to understand what the disciples were telling them about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection (Acts 2.5-11).

The symbolic color for Pentecost is **red**, recalling the “tongues of fire” that appeared to Jesus’ disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 2.3). The name “Pentecost” comes from the Greek word *pentēkostós* (“fiftieth”), since the Jewish Pentecost festival was the fiftieth day after Passover.

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

Today - Copies of the *Today* daily devotional booklet for May and June have been placed on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Needed for Place of Hope Church - You can help the *Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church* by donating empty 4-litre ice cream pails, with lids, or by baking cookies. Please, no peanut butter or nuts in the cookies. Put the cookies in *Ziplock* freezer bags. The cookies will be kept in our church freezer until they are delivered to Gwen Henwood in Winnipeg. Deadline for donations is Sunday, May 28. If you have any questions call Margaret Dunn, (204) 239-1580.