

# 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)

Interim Moderator: **Laura Hargrove**

[hargrove@mymts.net](mailto:hargrove@mymts.net) 204-727-5874 (church) or 204-573-4360 (cell)

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**10 December 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 **Mardine Garnham** for hosting today.

The Greeters this morning are **Lalaine and Ruth Buan**.

#### **Scripture Readings:**

Isaiah 40.1-11

Psalms 85.1-2; 8-13

2 Peter 3.8-15a

Mark 1.1-8

#### **This Week in First Church:**

- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Finance and Maintenance Committee, by Zoom
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

#### **Coming Up:**

- 17th December (next week) - Communion Sunday (lunch afterwards)
- 24th December (Christmas Eve) - Morning service only
- 31st December (New Year's Eve) - 10:30 a.m. service

**The Christian Year** - We are now in the season of **Advent**, the first of the six seasons of the Christian Year. Advent is a season of preparation for **Christmas**, the festival of the birth of Jesus, and always has four Sundays.

During Advent, we recall how the people of ancient Israel looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, a special king whom God would send to Israel, as foretold by the Old Testament prophets. This promise was eventually fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. At the same time, we look forward to the promised Second Coming of Jesus, foretold by the writers of the New Testament, and by Jesus himself.

Advent is a season of **hope** and **anticipation**, as we look forward to the day when God will complete his work of salvation — of saving humanity and the whole creation from the power of evil and sin. It is therefore also a season of **penitence**, as we look at the sin in our own lives, and try to change our ways in order to conform more closely to God's ways.

The traditional symbolic color for Advent is **purple**, which signifies preparation and penitence. Purple is also the color for Lent, the season of preparation leading up to Easter. Some churches today use the color **blue** for Advent, de-emphasizing the mood of penitence, and emphasizing the mood of anticipation and hope.

**No Bible Study this Week** - Bible Study will resume on January 16.

**Thank you** - to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary last Sunday. Many thanks also to Mardine and Margaret McNutt-Reichelt for the delicious lunch!

### **MISSION MOMENT**

In northern Ghana, people living with disabilities face a range of issues, such as widespread poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities and health care, and social barriers to full inclusion. Political, environmental, and economic challenges work together to create those difficult conditions. PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to address these challenges through vocational skills training programs such as soap and pomade making. Ateni Lois, a participant in the soap-making class, expresses her gratitude, stating, "We are so grateful to the CBR program and PWS&D for equipping us with the skills to be able to produce soap and pomade for money. Very soon, we will be in good business and will be out of poverty in our respective communities."