

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

17 Royal Rd. S., Portage la Prairie, MB. R1N 1T8

Office Phone: 204-857-4351 email firstpc@mymts.net

www.firstpcportage.com

Interim Moderator: **Laura Hargrove**

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION SUNDAY

17 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 lunch, downstairs in the Church Hall, following the service. Thanks to **Mardine Garnham, Margaret McNutt-Reichelt** and **Lalaine Buan** for providing the lunch!

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Everyone who has been baptized in any denomination of the Christian church is invited to participate in the Communion, including children. The Communion bread is gluten-free. It's our custom here at First Church to wait until everyone has been served, so that we all consume first the bread, and then the grape juice, together.

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

The Reader this morning is **Keith Kelly**

Coming Up:

- 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.

MISSION MOMENT

With support from *Presbyterians Sharing* **The Well Church (Mississauga)** provides a welcoming space for those who identify as a third culture community; that is, one that is neither the culture of mostly immigrant parents nor the dominant culture of Canadian society. In a post-pandemic world, the ministry has decided to re-set their focus around spiritual formation, in everything from small groups to children's ministry, retreats and conferences. They are also training leaders to be elders with spiritual formation at the centre. By focusing on spiritual formation and becoming more Christ-like, the congregation has not only grown closer as a community, but they also feel better equipped to share their personal stories of hope and transformation with friends and neighbours.

FINANCIAL REPORT, November 2023

November 1-30/23 Year-to-Date

FINANCES:

INCOME RECEIVED:	5,979.58	57,733.05
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>4,758.91</u>	<u>44,306.04</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>1,220.67</u>	<u>13,427.01</u>

Included in the above Y-T-D income is \$5,000 from the Endowment Fund. Included in the Y-T-D expenses is the repayment of the \$5,000 money received from the Endowment Fund in January.

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for 2023 is \$2,200.00:

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>100.00</u>	<u>2,340.00</u>
---------------------	---------------	-----------------

FUNDRAISING:

INCOME:	2,995.00	9,270.00
EXPENSES:	<u>441.39</u>	<u>3,593.16</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>2,553.61</u>	<u>5,676.84</u>

SUMMARY of the surplus (deficit) - the amounts are included in the above year-to-date fundraising information:

Spring Dinner	893.20
Fall Supper	1,653.78
Catering	48.00
Meal in a Bowl	4,029.21
Supplies	(947.35)

Your support for our fundraising is appreciated