

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: **Gladys Anderson**
email gladys@andersonbunch.com, Phone: 204-476-3027

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

1 December 2024

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 help decorate the sanctuary after the service. Lunch will be provided downstairs in the Church Hall. We thank **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt** and **Mardine Garnham** for organizing the lunch today.

We thank **Raymond Reichelt**, who is leading our service today.

The Greeter this morning is **Lalaine Buan**.

The Reader today is **Keith Kelly**.

Scripture Readings -The readings for today's service are
Jeremiah 33.14-16 - a righteous Branch from David's line
Psalm 25.1-10 - To you, Lord, I lift up my soul
1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 - "...blameless until the Day of Christ"
Luke 21.25-36 - the Second Coming: be on the watch!

This Week at First Church:

- Tuesday - Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom (this will be the last study until January).
- Saturday - Men's Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.

Coming Up:

- Communion Service - 15 December.

Mission Moment

The difficulty of accessing much-needed health care for people in Dorica's home village fueled her passion for becoming a physician and serving the poor population in rural areas of Malawi. With support from Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines and *Presbyterians Sharing*, Dorica began her studies in 2017. In March 2024, Dorica graduated from the University of Malawi College of Medicine and began the final stage of her medical training, an 18-month internship. Following her internship, Dorica will be licensed to practice medicine in Malawi. She is grateful to the Knox congregation and the PCC for their financial support and prayer.

Pot-Luck Lunch - Today, following the service, we will decorate the Christmas tree and the sanctuary. This will be followed by a lunch, provided by ladies of the church. There will be a **Church Anniversary Cake!**

Newsletter - Any items for the Newsletter, please get to Lisa by **today, December 1**. Newsletters will be out sometime through the week of December 6-13th.

Please send to Lisa at bsneesby@mts.net

Concert at St. Mary's - There will be a **free concert** featuring the *Portage Jazz Orchestra* on Sunday, 8 December at 2 p.m. There will be a goodwill offering in support of the Salvation Army (see poster, below).

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. *(from "Announcements Sheet", 28 Nov., 2021)*

No Christmas Eve Service - Sadly, there won't be a Christmas Eve service at our church this year. Please consider attending a service at one of the other churches in the community.

Prayer Calendar - The Prayer Calendar for December is available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget to pick up your copy!

PORTAGE JAZZ ORCHESTRA

St. Mary's Anglican
Sunday December 8
2:00 pm



Free Concert

Goodwill offering in support of
Salvation Army



Donations of Food

Some Suggestions : Peanut Butter, Pork and Beans, KD, Pasta
Sauce, Pasta, Rice, Cereal, Oats, 3 Minute Noodles, Tinned
Fruits, Vegetables, Meats, Tuna, Soups

