

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Interim Moderator: **Gladys Anderson**
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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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8 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 remain for coffee and fellowship, downstairs in the Church Hall, following the service. We thank **Lalaine Buan** for hosting today.

We thank **Wilma Shirriff**, who is leading our service today.

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

The Reader today is **Margaret Dunn**.

Scripture Readings -The readings for today's service are
Malachi 3.1-4 - Who can endure the day of his coming?
Luke 1.68-79 - The Benedictus
Philippians 1.3-11 - "...blameless until the Day of Christ"
Luke 3.1-6 - The ministry of John the Baptist

This Week at First Church:

- Wednesday - Finance & Maintenance Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., by Zoom

Coming Up:

- Communion Service - 15 December.

Christmas Envelopes - The Christmas envelopes are on the table, ready to be picked up, at the back of the sanctuary. Christmas envelopes won't be mailed this year unless the postal strike ends soon.

Newsletter - Similarly, the newsletter won't be mailed out this time.

Mission Moment

In Ghana, 12-year-old Abigail Awini became physically challenged shortly after birth, which left her unable to walk. Abigail's father died when she was just four years old, and shortly thereafter, her mother left. Abigail's grandmother, a poor farmer, became her caregiver. During a community survey, Abigail was registered for support from *Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)*'s partner, the Garu Centre. With their advice, her grandmother enrolled her in school. Unable to move independently, Abigail's grandmother carried her on her back daily until Abigail got too big and had to drop out of school. However, the project supported Abigail with a tricycle to enhance her mobility. "The life of my granddaughter has changed," shares her grandmother. Abigail found independence and was able to resume her schooling.

Concert at St. Mary's - There will be a **free concert** featuring the *Portage Jazz Orchestra* on Sunday, 8 December (this afternoon) 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

