# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 29 November 2026

**Welcome!** We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. After the service everyone is invited to remain for lunch downstairs in the Church Hall, no charge. We thank **Mardine Garnham**, **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt** and **Margaret Dunn** for arranging the lunch.

We thank **Wilma Shirriff** for leading us in worship today.

Welcome & Announcements - **Raymond Reichelt.**

The Greeters this morning are **Bruce & Lisa Sneesby**.

The Reader today is **Margaret Dunn**.

**Scripture Readings** - The readings for today's service are
Isaiah 64.1-9 - Rend the heavens and come down!
Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19 - Turn us again O Lord God of hosts
1 Corinthians 1.3-9 - ...blameless on the day of our Lord
Mark 13.24-37 - The Second Coming: Watch!

**This Week at First Church:**
- Monday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study - week 11 of study using the book: *Women of the Old Testament* - by Zoom
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

**Coming Up:**
- 15 December - Service of Remembrance & Hope, held at St. Mary's Anglican
- 24 December - Christmas Eve service

**Decorating the Christmas Tree** - Today, following the service, members of the congregation will all help decorate the Christmas tree. Lunch will be served downstairs afterwards.

**Best Wishes** - to Rob and Cheryl McPherson who will be moving to Souris this week. We'll miss you!

## Mission Moment

Dona Antoine was worried when her baby Doriana started to show serious symptoms like swelling, diarrhea, vomiting and trouble urinating. Her health worsened quickly. Initially, Dona tried a traditional healer. When that failed, she took Doriana to various clinics, but nothing helped. Feeling desperate, Dona followed a community health worker's advice and took Doriana to a hospital operated by *Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)*'s partner in Haiti, Zanmi Lasante, where she was admitted to the malnutrition program. She received six days of intensive therapeutic feeding, a transition to home care, and has now fully recovered. This project, funded through *Canadian Foodgrains Bank*, is saving the lives of many children in Haiti every year.

**Newsletter** - A newsletter is being prepared and will be distributed before Christmas. The deadline for reports for the Newsletter is Saturday, 5 December. Please email reports to Lisa at blsranch@outlook.com **(note: this is a new email address)**.

**Christmas Spectacular** - returns to Trinity United Church with Red Moon Road's ***"A Simple Kind of Christmas"***, featuring a six-piece band, on Saturday December 12 at 7 p.m.. **Tickets $40.00 (children 17 and under free)**, available at the church office, Hills Drug Store, Prairie Fusion, at the door (while quantities last) or online. Non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank are welcome. For more information go to www.whoopandhollar.com/tickets.

**Service of Remembrance and Hope** - This will be a combined service and will be held at St. Mary's Anglican church on December 15th at 7 p.m.

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

**Our Sympathy** - We extend our sympathy to Chris Henderson and family in the death of Chris' mother, Mary, this past Sunday.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Winter Wonderland** - Last day of this event at Trinity United, 1-4 p.m. Go to: Winter Wonderland - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Plains for more information. See also the 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 November, 2021)*