**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Est. 1786

208 MacLean St., New Glasgow

Nova Scotia B2H 4M9

 902-752-5691 first.church@ns.aliantzinc.ca

March 7, 2021

During COVID, the Order of Service will be on the screen at the front of the sanctuary. We are following all COVID 19 protocols, i.e. mandatory mask wearing, social distancing, sanitizing, etc. There is no singing, but we encourage you to hum along! If you are not ready to leave immediately following the service, we suggest you move toward the middle of your pew to allow people to pass safely then leave when you’re comfortable. The service is recorded and sent to those on the congregation email list. If you do not currently receive it but would like to, please contact the church office.

**WINTER CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations will be posted on FaceBook, ECFM 94.1 and the church voicemail.

**MUSIC:**

* + - 258 Creating God, your fingers trace (tune: 103)
		- 9 God’s law is perfect
		- 504 This is a story full of love (tune: 363)
		- 626 Lord of all power

**SCRIPTURE READER THIS MORNING:** Chet Fleming

* + Exodus 20: 1 – 17
	+ 1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 25

If you are interested in reading on Sundays, please contact Jane in the office at 902-752-5691.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

ONE: Today is the third Sunday of Lent. This morning Jesus tells us to keep watch for signs of the arrival of the kingdom of heaven when he will return in glory. Even though the world around us seems dark, we trust that the struggles we face will produce the fruit of righteousness in us as God works out his will in his beloved children. Let us be watchful and ready for Jesus’ work in us and through us. Hear these words from Psalm 130: Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word, I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**RESPONSIVE REFRAIN:**

ONE: Lord Jesus, as we walk with you through these forty days, let your light shine into our hearts.
**ALL: Brighten the darkness of our lives, and show us where we need to repent.**
ONE: In our thoughts, words, and actions, teach us to rely on you.
**ALL: Renew us as your people, that we may carry your light to the world.**

**COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

**Virtual Memorial Hymn Sing:** Information for the upcoming Hymn Sing is being distributed to persons in our congregation and beyond. This is looking to be an exciting musical experience as well as a timely event to raise funds for our church. This information will explain how you and friends can participate in this event. In the interim, mark the following dates on your calendar:  **April 9** the date your donation form must be received by the church and **April 18** the date the Hymn Sing will be shown. Stay Tuned!



* F.A.I.R. Hearts – Friends Assisting Iraqi Refugees:

Fundraising continues by the members of F.A.I.R. Hearts; donations may be made at the church office.

Donations are sought for the following items: bedroom dressers, nightstands/bedside tables, one twin box spring and bed frame, twin bed sheets and twin quilts/comforters, new pillows.

These items can be picked up by contacting a F.A.I.R. Hearts member.  Financial donations are also needed at this time and can also be made at the church office.  **The estimated arrival of the Iraqi family has been changed. Unfortunately, due to the backlog and delays with the Department of Immigration, it is expected to be at least 8 months before the family will arrive in Canada.** Members of F.A.I.R. Hearts from First Church are:  Rev. Andrew MacDonald (902-331-0322), Sharon Mason (902-752-0724), Sara Fullerton (902-754-2142), and Brent MacQuarrie (902) 616-7787).  Sincere thanks to all who have donated funds and items thus far.

**Benevolent Envelope Collection:**

* Due to the COVID lockdown and regulations, we were unable to hold the Benefit Breakfast for Scott Grant as planned last year. Session has made the decision to offer our assistance through a Benevolent Envelope Collection.  Special Envelopes have been provided for this collection and will be collected over the next couple of weeks.

**Assistance With Tax Returns:**

* For 25 years, Larry Ingham has been providing his services in preparing tax returns for low income people with the CVITP at no charge. You can contact Mr. Ingham at 902-752-1639. **COVID rules apply**.

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**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**



We wish everyone celebrating their birthday this month, a very happy and blessed day. Marking milestones this month are**:**

* March 11 - Wilfred Marshall is celebrating his 106th birthday on Thursday!! We send our best wishes from all of us at First Church. Like many folks, Mr. Marshall has been restricted from receiving visitors most of the past year, he can however receive mail! We encourage you to send him a birthday greeting as he celebrates this very special birthday!! His address is:

 Shiretown Town Nursing Home

 Hector Landing One

 Room 307

 PO Box 250

 Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

* March 12 - Vivian Ingham
* March 29 - Donald Johnstone

**UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:**

* Session will meet after church today.
* F.A.I.R. Hearts will meet Wednesday, March 10th at 7:30 pm (originally scheduled for Thur., Mar. 11th)

**MINISTER**: Rev. Andrew MacDonald

**ORGANIST**: Lloyd MacLean

**Change re Rev. MacDonald’s office hours**: Tues. to Thurs. - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm or by appointment.

**Office hours**: Tues to Fri: 10am-1pm

**MISSION STATEMENT:** But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple. Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously – take God seriously. Micah 6: 8-The Message

**MESSAGES FROM PICTOU COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**Job Opportunity**:

First United Church, Trenton is hiring a church secretary; 3 days/week, 5 hours/day. If you are interested, apply to:

 First United Church
 Position for Church Secretary
 PO Box 625
 Trenton, NS B0K 1X0

 OR by email to: aajamieson@eastlink.ca

**Homemade Take-Out Chili Lunch:**

* + When: Saturday, March 13th from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
	+ Where: Scotsburn United Church, Scotsburn
	+ Price: $8

Lunch includes a bowl of hearty chili, fresh biscuit, and chocolate chip cookies for dessert (all freshly homemade). Lunch must be pre-ordered no later than March 10th, by contacting Carolyn at 485-4092 or Kathy at 485-8433. Lunches can be picked up by entering at the side door of Scotsburn United Church where COVID-19 protocols will be in place. Storm date will be March 20th.

**Pictou County Fuel Fund:**

***“Spread the word…..to spread the warmth…..to ensure that “No Child Should Go Cold in Pictou County”***

The Pictou County Council of Churches has an opportunity for a lay person to represent them on the Board of the Pictou County Fuel Fund. This individual would liaison with Council Churches as well as other local churches in the county, promoting the work of and why the Fuel Fund exists which is to help those in our community who require urgent fuel assistance throughout the winter months. This position offers a very rewarding and humbling experience for those wishing to make a difference by helping those in need. Anyone who is interested in taking on this important role will receive assistance and guidance to ensure a smooth transitioning to the Fuel Fund Board. For those considering this opportunity to serve and would like more information please call Shirley MacKay (lay member of Pictou County Council of Churches) at 902-396-3401or Rev. Donna Tourneur, 902-752-4475 (o)/902 759-1808(c).

**Father Greg MacLeod Lecture Series - Bringing the University and Community Together through Faith and Reason**

 Title: The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls Us Home

 By: Dr. Mary Jo Leddy, Founder - Romero House for Refugees

* Wednesday, March 10th at 7 pm via Zoom or Facebook Live
* Sponsored by CBU Chaplaincy and Newman Society
* More info email CBU chaplain:  doug\_macdonald@cbu.ca

Can view on FaceBook live via St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish

<https://m.facebook.com/St-Marguerite-Bourgeoys-Parish-215232988817352/> or join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99753679029?pwd=SlE5Z0ROTmZEMFJRNkdEdEtNNEZRQT09>

Meeting ID: 997 5367 9029 - Passcode: 057391