



**PORTAGE
AVENUE
CHURCH**

Advent 2023

Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love

December 3 @ 10am - Hope

December 9 @ 2pm - Christmas Carol Sing

December 10 @ 10am - Peace

December 17 @ 10am - Joy (Children, youth and young adults)

December 24 @ 10am - Love

December 24 @ 6pm - Christmas Eve Service

December 17 - Joy

CHAPTER-A-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

We want to read the Bible together! Join us in following this reading plan, which you can also find on our church website at pachurch.ca/bible, on Church Connect, and in the Bible app. The full three year plan is now available on the information booth.

December 1	Psalms	50	December 16	Judges	14
December 2	Proverbs	12	December 17	2 Timothy	1
December 3	Judges	5	December 18	Judges	15
December 4	Judges	6	December 19	Judges	16
December 5	1 Timothy	4	December 20	2 Timothy	2
December 6	Judges	7	December 21	Judges	17
December 7	Judges	8	December 22	Judges	18
December 8	1 Timothy	5	December 23	2 Timothy	3
December 9	Judges	9	December 24	Judges	19
December 10	Judges	10	December 25	Judges	20
December 11	1 Timothy	6	December 26	Judges	21
December 12	Judges	11	December 27	2 Timothy	4
December 13	Judges	12	December 28	Ruth	1
December 14	Psalms	51-53	December 29	Ruth	2
December 15	Judges	13	December 30	Ruth	3
			December 31	Ruth	4

If you're using the Bible app, please sign up for the next quarter of the reading plan



CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING SERVICE **POTLUCK & GIFT EXCHANGE**

We know many of you have family events to go to, but for those who do not, we invite you to come to a potluck and a gift exchange following our evening service on Christmas Eve. Please check your household belongings and wrap an item that you no longer use that would bless another family.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Caregivers of the Week: Dorothy Huebert and Heather Peters

Thank You - The John Penner family would like to express their thanks to our church family for all their phone calls, thoughts and prayers during these past months. We appreciate the love and support shown to us. May God bless you for caring.

Condolences

To the family and friends of Anne Froese who passed away on December 1. The service was this past Friday. Anne was a long time member of Portage Avenue Church (1950 - 2000) and was a missionary to India with her husband Dr. George Froese (1954-1960, 1961-1967, 1972-1973.)

Young @ Heart Service Today

This service is for those young at heart as we watch our Kids in the Word and Youth lead the worship and prayer this morning. We also have four young adults sharing - Christopher Obi, Jungsoo Moon, Emily Cubreac and Philip Kim.

The kids will go down for Kids in the Word and will be returned to their parents in the sanctuary before the closing of the service.

We hope you all enjoy the joyful service today.

Special Lunch Today

Following the service today everyone is invited down for lunch in the lower auditorium. The Anwari families are our hosts. We will also have a special prayer for them as we officially welcome them to Canada.

Office Closures

Please note the office will be closed Tuesday, December 26 in lieu of Christmas Day and will also be closed Tuesday, January 2 in lieu of New Years Day.

Bible Plan Update

We are continuing our 3 year Bible Reading Plan in January. The link for the electronic version on The Bible App will be posted on our website.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

End of Year Reimbursements

If you have purchased something on behalf of the church please submit your receipts as soon as possible for reimbursement.

Official 2023 tax receipts will be printed and distributed around the end of January 2024. In order for a gift to be considered a 2023 donation it must be received in the office on Dec 31, or post marked by Dec 31. E-transfer/online donations must also be completed/sent by Dec 31. Donations received after this time will be included with your 2024 tax receipt.

Staff Vacation

Melanie will be on vacation from Dec 21 - Jan 5. During this time, Sharon will be holding down the fort in the office.

Christmas Eve Potluck and Gift Exchange

We are excited to have a celebration for those who do not already have family gathering plans for the evening of Dec 24. Following the evening service next Sunday we will gather in the lower auditorium for a potluck and a time to play games together.

We will also have a gift exchange - if you are able, please wrap up a gently used item from your own household that you no longer use and would be a blessing for someone else.

Missions Support As Of Dec 6, 2023



PAC Missionaries: 4th Quarter shortfall \$65.

- Sandra & Israel Chavez Plett (Multiply)
- Cory & Masami Giesbrecht (Multiply)
- Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters (Multiply)
- Greg Wiens (Multiply)
- Jen Schmidt (Multiply)
- Emily Cook (YFC)

Total Mission Income Received \$126,734

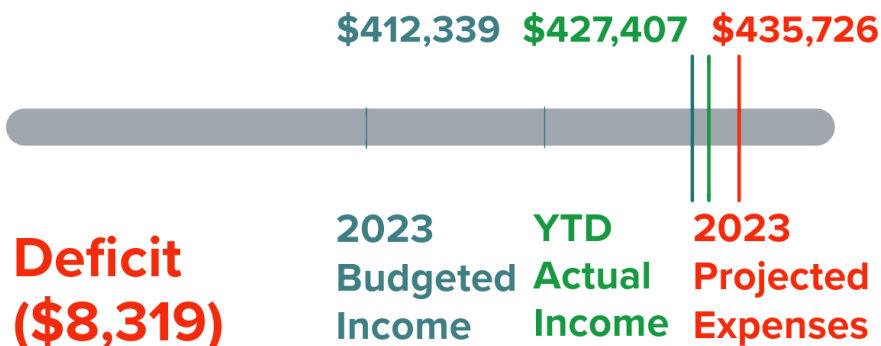
LOOKING FORWARD

We're looking forward to Christmas!

This Advent season as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, our advent season will be split into four themes, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, one for each Sunday of Advent. Advent is a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. It's a time to reflect on the unexpected nature of Jesus' humble birth and join in the anticipation of when He will come again.

Our third Advent Sunday will be a particularly special service, because it will be led by our kids, youth, and young adults, with special music and testimonies. We will also hear some music from the children on our Christmas Eve service, which will be a simple service of hearing the Christmas story, singing some Christmas songs, and worshipping the baby Jesus.

PROJECTED Financial Position At December 31, 2023



PRAYER ALERT

Pray for those who are shut-in:

Bethania - Mary Witzke, Erna Friesen, Frank Duerksen
Bethel Place - Agnes Pauls
Concordia Place - John E. Friesen
Concordia Village - Martha Tielmann
Donwood Personal Care - Helen Wiens
Sturgeon Creek Retirement Residence - Bertha Toews

Please also pray:

- For safety for the extended Anwari family that are still in Afghanistan, as the violence and unrest are increasing
- For Henry Esau who has had radiation for a tumour under the brain
- For Agatha Froese, who is at Deer Lodge, in need of healing
- For Ruth Pauls, who is home from hospital but still recovering
- For Jon Dyck, who is struggling with sciatic nerve pain
- For Emily Cook as she raises support to work at YFC
- For Marie Dueck as she recovers from stroke at home
- For Jim Penner as he continues to recover from stroke
- For Pastor Jedidiah's mother, who is recovering from a stroke.



BEAN DRIVE FOR HARVEST MANITOBA

Help provide nutritious beans for Manitoba's soup kitchens. Designate your donation to "Bean Drive" before December 24 to help feed families in need.

Give Online via Connect,
e-transfer to
payments@pachurch.ca or
cash/cheque via envelope

PAC BEAN DRIVE

For years now, many people in Manitoba have been having difficulty putting enough food on their tables. Unless you don't use the internet, and don't watch television, you are likely aware of this. And if you buy groceries, you know this to be true.

To help these struggling people, we are once again holding our annual Dry Bean Drive. Since adding dry beans or dry peas to the human diet is an excellent way of providing protein, we identify the most cost-effective variety of beans or peas available each year, purchase them **in bulk**, and donate them to Harvest Manitoba. Harvest Manitoba, in turn, re-distributes them to food banks and soup kitchens across the province. This year, we will once again be purchasing **whole yellow dry peas**.

We urge you to donate to this important cause, above and beyond your regular church budget giving.

You can donate:

- 1) via e-transfer to payments@pachurch.ca (write "2023 Dry Bean Drive" in the memo);
- 2) via credit card at pachurch.ca/connect (select the "Dry Bean Drive" drop-down option); or
- 3) via cash/cheque (write "2023 Dry Bean Drive" on your donation envelope). Please put your donation envelope in the offering plate.

Today, December 17th, is the third Sunday of our Drive, which will run until December 24th, 2023. If you require a 2023 tax receipt for your donation, be sure to donate by Sunday, December 31st, 2023.

Most of us take for granted that we will eat every day; in fact, likely several times a day! Let's help those around us who are not as fortunate as we are.

Wanted: Pea Soup Recipes

Harvest Manitoba has asked us if we could provide some recipes that they could share with their patrons, along with the dry peas we will provide. Do you have a recipe you are willing to share? If so, please provide your recipe to either Jon Dyck or John Wieler. Thank you!

THIS WEEK

December 21 - January 5 Melanie on vacation

Sun. Dec 17	10:00 am	Young at Heart Worship Service
	11:00 am	Anwari families Welcome Lunch
	11:45 am	Bible Studies
Mon - Fri	5:00 am	PAC Korean Zoom Prayer Meeting
	8:30 pm	PAC Korean Zoom Bible Reading
Tue. Dec 19	1:00 pm	Seniors Stepping Up Exercise Class
	2:00 pm	Stepping Up Christmas Gathering
Wed. Dec 20	2:00 pm	Prayer Time
	7:30 pm	Korean Fellowship Worship Service
Thurs. Dec 21	7:00 pm	PAC Youth (Christmas Party)

NEXT WEEK

December 21 - January 5 Melanie on vacation

Sun. Dec 24	10:00 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	7:00 pm	Potluck & Gift Exchange
Mon - Fri	5:00 am	PAC Korean Zoom Prayer Meeting
	8:30 pm	PAC Korean Zoom Bible Reading
Mon. Dec 25		Merry Christmas!
Tue. Dec 26		Office Closed
Wed. Dec 27	2:00 pm	Prayer Time
	7:30 pm	Korean Fellowship Worship Service
Sat. Dec 30	6:30 pm	Slavic Fellowship

Contact Us: Office: 204.774.4414

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 am-3 pm

Lead Pastor – Jedidiah Carpentier – Ext. 1

jedidiah@pachurch.ca

Cross Cultural Associate Pastor – Jennifer Choi – Ext. 3

jchoi@pachurch.ca

Director of Worship & Media – Jeremy Penner – Ext. 4

jeremy@pachurch.ca

Administrative Director – Melanie Penner – Ext. 0

office@pachurch.ca

Prayer Line – Ext. 5

Fellowship Line – Ext. 6

General Information and Church Hours – Ext. 7

E-transfer donations (www.pachurch.ca/donate)

payments@pachurch.ca



Portage Avenue Church

A Mennonite Brethren Church

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