

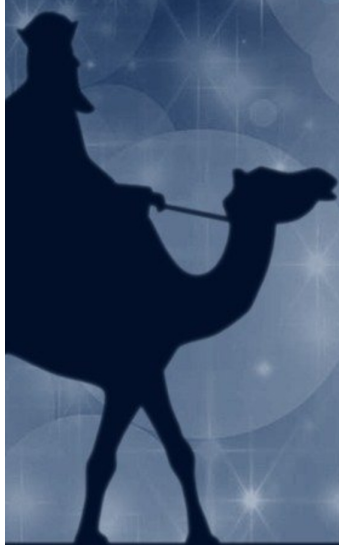
1st Advent - The Magi
November 29 @ 10am

2nd Advent - Mary & Joseph
December 6 @ 10am

3rd Advent - Mary & Elizabeth
December 13 @ 10am

4th Advent - Shepherds
December 20 @ 10am

Christmas Eve Service
December 24 @ 6pm



pachurch.ca/live



**PORTAGE
AVENUE
CHURCH**

Christmas 2020



BIBLE READING PLAN

Sunday	Nov	29	1 Chronicles 28	2 Peter 2
Monday	Nov	30	1 Chronicles 29	2 Peter 3
Tuesday	Dec	1	2 Chronicles 1	1 John 1
Wednesday	Dec	2	2 Chronicles 2	1 John 2
Thursday	Dec	3	2 Chronicles 3 & 4	1 John 3
Friday	Dec	4	2 Chronicles 5 & 6:1-11	1 John 4
Saturday	Dec	5	2 Chronicles 6:12-42	1 John 5
Sunday	Dec	6	2 Chronicles 7	2 John
Monday	Dec	7	2 Chronicles 8	3 John
Tuesday	Dec	8	2 Chronicles 9	Jude
Wednesday	Dec	9	2 Chronicles 10	Revelation 1
Thursday	Dec	10	2 Chronicles 11-12	Revelation 2
Friday	Dec	11	2 Chronicles 13	Revelation 3
Saturday	Dec	12	2 Chronicles 14-15	Revelation 4
Sunday	Dec	13	2 Chronicles 16	Revelation 5
Monday	Dec	14	2 Chronicles 17	Revelation 6
Tuesday	Dec	15	2 Chronicles 18	Revelation 7
Wednesday	Dec	16	2 Chronicles 19-20	Revelation 8
Thursday	Dec	17	2 Chronicles 21	Revelation 9
Friday	Dec	18	2 Chronicles 22-23	Revelation 10
Saturday	Dec	19	2 Chronicles 24	Revelation 11



S Scripture - write out the key thought, phrase or word that stands out to you

O Observations - write down your observations

A Applications - write out the application to your life

P Prayer - write a short prayer

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Care Giver of the Week: Peter & Justina Suderman

Memorial Service for Arnold Teichrieb

Arnold's family has given us some obituary cards - if you would like one please contact the office. They also provided the link for the recorded memorial service: <http://come-together.ca/events/2020/nov/24/arnold-teichrieb/>

Communion

This Sunday we will be celebrating communion together (in our homes) at the end of the service. If you would like to participate, please have some crackers and juice prepared. (Whatever you would like to use will work fine.) :-)

We will also be posting the video of communion portion of the service in a separate video on our website. This way, if you would like to celebrate communion at a different time you can have Pastor Scott lead you through the service.

Save the Date - Christmas at Portage Avenue Church

This year we will be pre-recording our Christmas Eve service and it will be available for viewing on our website on Christmas Eve in the early evening. Please remember to set aside this time and join us in worshipping "God With Us."

Office Closed

Our office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. The office will also be closed on Friday, January 1.

Donation Receipts & Giving Statements

Mailed donations must be postmarked December 31st to be included in 2020 receipts. Normally by this time you could expect a giving statement in your mailbox - for this year please sign in and check Church Connect to see what you have given in 2020. You may also call Melanie at the church office and she can let you know.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Library Update

Christmas is just a month away. If you have a little extra time on your hands these days or over the holiday period, why not take out a book from the library with a Christmas theme. Especially this year, we need to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas - we can still celebrate the birth of Jesus even in the absence of some of our traditions.

There are picture books for children and fiction and non-fiction for adults. They can be found on the front counter and also on the table in the library. If you want to know what is available, go to the church website and click on the 'Ministries' menu to find the library. Put in 'Christmas' as your search term and view what is available.

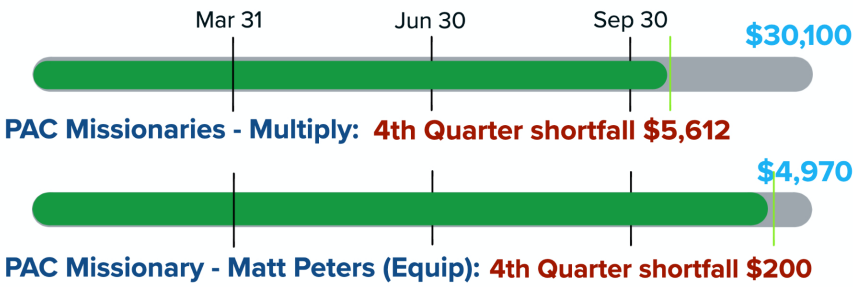
Receipts for Reimbursement

A reminder to turn in your receipts to the office as soon as possible. If you will be purchasing something in December and expect to be reimbursed please let Melanie at the church office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Furniture Wanted - Urgent

The Refugee Committee is looking for some items for a new arrival who is coming Dec 13. They are looking for a double or queen bed, coffee table, and some other items to help furnish their apartment. Please contact John Wieler for more information.

Missionary Support As at December 4, 2020



NB: Quarterly support payments are sent only once pledge has been met.

Total Mission Income Received \$151,143

PAC December 5, 2020 Dry Bean Drive Update

Dear PAC family members:

This update is for those of you who have been involved with PAC's Dry Bean Drive in the past and/or who think you might be interested in getting involved this year. If you are unfamiliar with what PAC's Dry Bean Drive is all about, I would encourage you to read the second last report in PAC's recent 84th Annual Report, dated November 22, 2020. If you don't already have the Annual Report, you could likely find it in PAC's library.

To probably no one's surprise, this year's bean drive has been affected by COVID-19, just like just about everything and everyone else in the world. However, while it has necessitated some fairly drastic changes to how we propose to do things for this year's drive, *one thing that COVID-19 has not postponed or cancelled is the need for food experienced by many Manitobans on a daily basis.* In fact, as people lost their jobs and incomes on account of COVID, and donations of food and money to foodbanks started to dry up for the same reason, the need for food assistance from foodbanks in Manitoba simultaneously increased dramatically. Since COVID-19 arrived in Manitoba in the spring of this year, demand for food at food banks has risen by at least 30%, and *Harvest Manitoba (until very recently known as Winnipeg Harvest)* currently indicates on their website (www.harvestmanitoba.ca) that they are now feeding 85,000 Manitobans every month.

Q1: *So, what exactly is changing in relation to our dry bean drive this year?* **A1:** Well, pretty much everything. We obviously knew beforehand that we wouldn't be able to hold the in-person fund drives on Sundays on account of the fact that we are not currently meeting together physically. What really surprised us though, was that when we checked with Harvest Manitoba to ensure that they would still be taking our donated dry peas or beans, they told us, regretfully, that they could not accept a bulk donation this year. They explained that COVID-19 restrictions had forced them to switch to a smaller, in-house, pre-packaged model of supplying food to the foodbanks they work with and that, with a now also smaller staff complement (again thanks to COVID), they could not handle the bulk dry bean donation we were planning to provide them with. *As a result, there is no point this year in us purchasing dry beans or peas in bulk for donation to Harvest Manitoba, because they are not currently in a position to make use of such a bulk donation. So effectively, there will be no 'dry bean drive' at PAC this year. That said, this does not mean that the need to continue to help provide food to hungry Manitobans does not continue to exist.*

Q2: *OK. So what's the proposed plan for this year?* **A2:** The plan is this: We will collect donations at PAC over the remaining weeks of December 2020 (until December 31, 2020) for the purchase of food. *However, instead of actually purchasing food items and donating them, we will instead donate the money that we have raised to Harvest Manitoba and allow them to use it for the purchase of food as they see fit.*

Q3: *That's a great idea, but how are we going to raise these donations since, as you said, we're not meeting in-person these days?* **A3:** Anyone who is interested in making a donation to this food drive can do so in the same way that they would make a donation to the church's budget or any of its ministries. There are a number of ways that this can currently be done, including mailing a cheque to PAC or dropping it off in the church's mailbox located at the church's side entrance. Alternatively, donations can also be made electronically via e-transfer to payments@pachurch.ca; the instructions for doing so are outlined on PAC's website at pachurch.ca under the heading 'Giving'. Regardless of whether you donate using a physical method (like a cheque) or electronically, *it is of paramount importance that you designate your donation towards 'Harvest Manitoba', so that Melanie Penner, PAC's Director of Administration, will know that the donation is intended for inclusion in PAC's food drive.*

Q4: *Sounds like 'a plan'. Is there anything else we need to know?* **A4:** Actually, yes. As was always the case during our dry bean drives, and continues to be the case now, *we want you, the donor, to ensure that whatever you choose to give toward this food drive is 'over-and-above' your financial commitments to PAC's current budget and ministries.* In no way do we want our donations to this food drive to become a case of 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'.

Q5: *Fair enough. Does this mean that our days of raising donations and then actually buying and donating dry beans or peas are over?* **A5:** I can only give you my personal opinion on that. I don't really think so, or at least, I hope not. From my perspective, this new plan is currently in place only as long as the current COVID restrictions require it. I think, over the long haul, the idea of PAC raising money and buying food ingredients in bulk still makes sense, both from a nutritional and economics standpoint. Additionally, as donors, I think that actually buying something physical that we donate provides us with a psychological incentive to give more, as opposed to simply donating money towards something. But as I already said, that's just my opinion. Time will tell...

MISSION UPDATE - Randy Friesen (Multiply)

I received an update last week from one of our leaders in North Africa requesting prayer for a new Christ follower who was preparing for baptism. Last week, while he was walking home from a house church meeting, he was beaten up and robbed. His wallet (including national identity card) and phone were stolen. When he reported this assault and theft to local police, he was detained and interrogated about his faith in Christ and his connection to the local house church. They threatened him, assaulted him, and held him over night. The next day, he was interrogated again and asked to sign a statement accusing the church leader of converting him. He refused. He was then pressured to inform the police about others in his house church. Again he refused. Finally, he was threatened and released. Throughout the ordeal, the young man remained quiet and clear in his testimony to Christ.

The next day, he met with the leader of the house church and told him about his experience. When the leader asked whether he still wanted to receive baptism, the young man replied, "Yes, I am ready to die with Christ."

Let's pray for this young man. In his baptism, he has both died with Christ and been raised to new life through the resurrection power of the Spirit. As we consider the burden and limitations that we face during this pandemic, let's invite Christ to take us deeper into the reality of our death and resurrection with Christ. As we do, we will experience joy, freedom and boldness to live on mission regardless of the cost. That's good news this Christmas as we retell the story of God's incarnation in Bethlehem despite threats, violence and surveillance. Good news is sometimes costly to experience and share!

Thank you for praying for our staff team and new board in this season. We look forward to the good things the Lord has ahead of us in mission together. If you are interested in supporting our shared mission around the world, there is a [matching gift opportunity](#) this month. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

*Please pray for the young man in North Africa who was recently baptized and is facing the challenges of walking out his new life in Christ.

PRAYER ALERT

Pray for those who are in the hospital

Anne Kroeker - Victoria Hospital

Pray for those who are shut-in

At home - Peter Brown, Erna Friesen, Rudy & Susanne Thiessen

Bethania - Jake & Betty Suderman, Mary Unger

Bethel Place - Agnes Pauls

Concordia Place - John E. Friesen

Concordia Village - Margaret Pospishell, Martha Tielmann

Deer Lodge Centre - Charlotte Liebig

Donwood Personal Care - Louise (Lois) Peters, Martha Reimer,
Helen Wiens

Donwood Manor Apartments - George Petkau

Pembina Place - Helen Doerksen

Riverwood Square - John W. Sawatzky

Riverwood Square (Harmony Court) - Mary Bergen

Sturgeon Creek Retirement Residence - Bertha Toews

Pray for UGM Students

This year, we as a church family are sponsoring two students from the inner-city to attend UGM's Faith Academy. Please pray that God continues to work in the lives of these students, and their families. Pray that parents would make responsible decisions in family matters. If you have questions about our students please call Gilbert Plante, the Family Ministries Manager at UGM at 204.586.7790 ext 306.

Sara - grade 12, birthday: May 27, 2003

- Pray for my Grandma. She isn't doing the greatest at the moment. Pray that she gets better. Pray that God would help provide money for Bible College. Pray for a good last school year!

Hannah - grade 6, birthday: November 1, 2009

- Pray for the school year that we will be cheerful and we will stay safe.

Prayer Night via Zoom

Please join us! You can call in to 204.272.7920 and enter the meeting ID 859 5515 4680, then wait and you will be connected.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85955154680>

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Use these questions for personal reflection or with your small group.

- 1.) Are you so familiar with the birth narrative in Luke that it has lost its radical quality for you?
- 2.) What factors, in your opinion, contribute to make the birth of Jesus a “**normal**” story for you?
- 3.) What’s one thing you can do to be sure that you make room for Jesus and His Salvation this Christmas?
- 4.) What did you learn about God through the message?
- 5.) What does your response need to be?



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www.pachurch.ca/connect

THIS WEEK

Sun. Dec 6	10:00 am	Worship Service (Advent #2) Communion Speaker: Scott Koop
	11:15 am	Fellowship Café (Zoom)
	2:00 pm	PAC Korean Bible Study (Zoom)
Wed. Dec 9	7:30 pm	PAC Korean Praise & Worship (Zoom)
Fri. Dec 11	12:30 pm	Dads Zoom Meeting
	7:00 pm	Jr High Zoom + Online Game

NEXT WEEK

Sun. Dec 13	10:00 am	Worship Service (Advent #1) Speaker: Jennifer Choi
	11:15 am	Fellowship Café (Zoom)
	2:00 pm	PAC Korean Bible Study (Zoom)
Wed. Dec 16	7:30 pm	PAC Korean Praise & Worship (Zoom)
Fri. Dec 18	12:30 pm	Dads Zoom Meeting
	7:30 pm	Prayer Night (Zoom)

Contact Us: Office: 204.774.4414

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 am-3 pm

Lead Pastor – Jedidiah Carpentier – Ext. 1

jedidiah@pachurch.ca

Associate Pastor – Scott Koop – Ext. 2

scott@pachurch.ca

Pastor of Korean Fellowship – 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

1420 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0W2

Email: office@pachurch.ca Web: www.pachurch.ca