

# Welcome to the Ministry Team!

Here's a quick overview over what will happen during your season:

The Ministry Team meets three times in the two months before your season. You will spend two months planning, and two months implementing your plans. For example, the March/April team meets in January and February to plan for March and April.

## **First meeting:**

At the first meeting, we get to know each other and prepare for the work we will do. We'll begin with shared prayer and a Bible study. We'll look at the Scripture readings for the season (the lectionary), and reflect on the significance of this season in the life cycle of the church. We'll share our personal concerns and hopes, and reflect on the concerns and hopes of the congregation and the community. We'll begin to talk about how our ministries could be relevant to these concerns.

## **Second meeting:**

At the second meeting, we will elect a leader, choose a theme, and start to explore programs, activities and ministries relevant to the season and reflective of the chosen theme. We're still brainstorming and talking broad strokes at this point. We'll look at some of the things we've done traditionally or in the past, but we are free to do new things or old things in new ways.

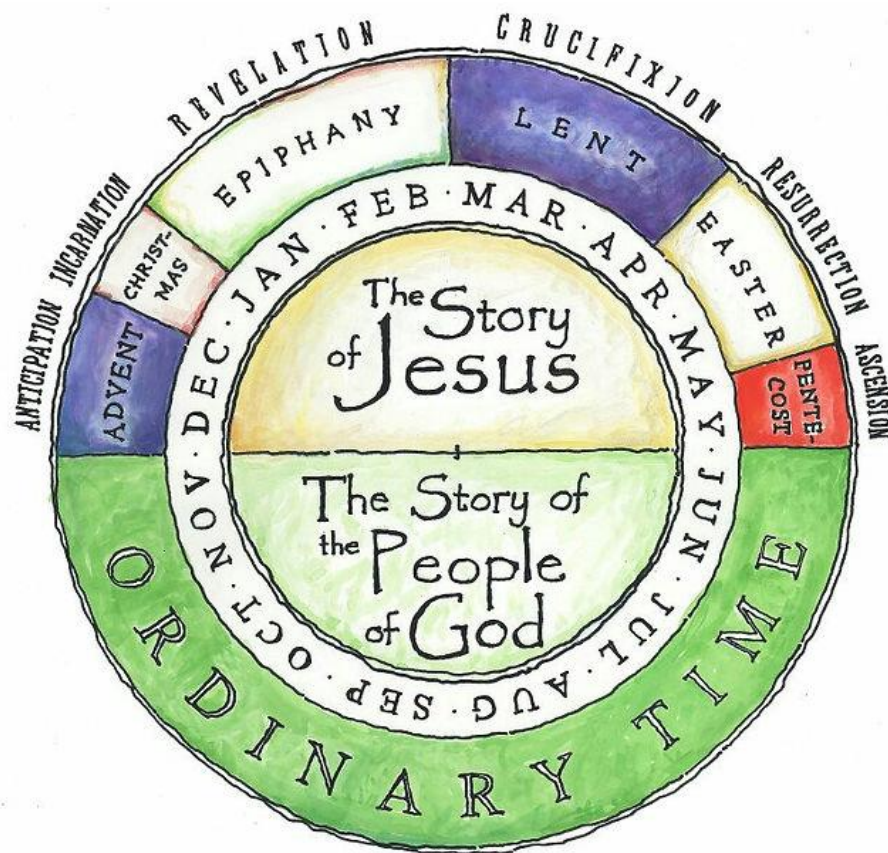
## **Third meeting:**

At the third meeting, we'll finetune our planning and ask Ministry Team members which ministries they'd like to coordinate. If new ideas don't have leadership, they will be put aside. (A side note... there are some things we can't put aside, like worship. But we can simplify, streamline, or take breaks from things which have become onerous.) We'll only implement the ministries for which there is passion, ownership, and commitment. People are responsible for what they are called to do. At this meeting, we'll talk about how to find other volunteers, how the budget process works, where to find support and resources, and how to communicate and publicize our ministries.

## **The implementation period:**

During the two months of the season, there are no more meetings (unless the team decides they're necessary). At this point, we're implementing our plans. Individual team members can meet in small groups, or can communicate via email or phone. The season's team leader, any of the annual members, and the pastor and staff are there to assist, support, answer questions, and help make things happen.

## The Church Year



### The Lectionary:

The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of weekly readings used by most mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States. The RCL is built around the seasons of the Church Year, and includes four lections (readings) for each Sunday, as well as additional readings for major feast days. During most of the year, the lections are: a reading from the Hebrew Bible, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading. During the season of Easter, the Hebrew Bible lection is usually replaced with one from the Acts of the Apostles.

The seasons of the Church Year reflect the life of Christ. Consequently, the gospel lections for each Sunday provide the focus for that day. The other lections for a given day generally have a thematic relationship to the gospel reading for that day, although this is not always the case.

The gospel readings for each year come from one of the synoptic gospels according to the following pattern: Year A – Matthew; Year B – Mark; Year C – Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John can be found throughout the RCL.

You can read the lectionary texts for each Sunday here:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/>