



First Presbyterian Church

6th Sunday of Easter, May 5th, 2024

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Minister: **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard** Reader: **Tamara Chapman**

Guest Speaker: **Gregory Houldcroft**

Founder and Executive Director – Crosstown Impact

Welcome to worship! Thank you for joining us from wherever you are! In-person services of worship continue, with any public health protocols required in place. Face coverings and physical distancing, although not required, are still encouraged. Hand sanitizer is available as needed. Online options continue for those who are more comfortable worshipping from home.

Information for In-Person Worship

- * **ACCESSIBLE WASHROOM FACILITIES** for all people are available on the Sanctuary level. These washrooms are found through the doors behind the Choir Loft - right turn - straight ahead. Please feel free to use these washrooms whenever necessary!
- * **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** – Children are invited to go to the Lower Hall for a time of faith-centered activities following the Children's Message this morning.
- * **HEARING IN THE SANCTUARY** - First Church has available a system of FM RECEIVERS and HEADSETS. They are for use by those who find it difficult to hear in the Sanctuary. If you would like to use one this morning, visit our Sound Technician at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- * **COFFEE HOUR** – You are invited to join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Hall this morning following worship. To access the Hall, go through the doors behind the choir loft (or use the lift) and down the stairs. Just follow your nose to delicious treats, stimulating conversation and great fellowship. To volunteer to host, bake, or bring food to any coffee hour call Tamara Chapman.

ASSISTING YOU THIS MORNING

Greeters – Brenda Fisk and Annis Moreau

Sound and Video Team – Quentin Robinson, Michel LaBonte

Mark Leslie, Kade LeBrun and David Duncan

- * Our website and social media accounts:

<https://pccweb.ca/firstchurch-brockville/> <https://www.facebook.com/Firstkirk/>
www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/ <https://twitter.com/firstkirk>

- * YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams>

- * Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services every Sunday 7 am. and 5:30 pm.

- * For pastoral care or assistance, please call the Church Office at 613-345-5014 or 613-340-3310. You may also call or text Reverend Marianne at 613-449-5042.

NEED A RIDE?

Call Executive Taxi!

A free service provided by

the people of God gather....

The Organ Prelude

March from Scipio

G. F. Handel - arr. Tom Birchwood

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God

Minister: Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for God has done marvellous things.

Minister: Let us make known the Lord's victory,

People: for God's steadfast love covers the whole earth.

Minister: Let us sing joyful praises,

People: and join all creation to worship God's holy name.

Opening Hymn # 377:

Come, children, join to sing

Words & Music: Public Domain

1. Come, children, join to sing - hallelujah, amen!
praise to our Servant King - hallelujah, amen!
Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice - hallelujah, amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high - hallelujah, amen!
Let praises fill the sky - hallelujah, amen!
Christ calls his people friends.
Lost, outcast he defends with love that never ends - hallelujah, amen!

3. Loud now our voices raise - hallelujah, amen!
no power can still our praise - hallelujah, amen!
On heaven's blessed shore, God's goodness we'll adore
singing forevermore - hallelujah, amen!

Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: Holy God, the power of your love is beyond comprehension, the breadth of your compassion without measure and the depth of your wisdom knows no bounds.

People: In Jesus Christ, you meet us in the midst of life's joys and challenges to show us what it means to love and be loved.

Minister: And so, we offer you our love and loyalty, and our prayers and praise.

People: Through the power of your Spirit, draw us closer to you and closer to each other as friends and followers of Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

[The Chancel Choir:](#)

[I Will Rejoice](#)

Joseph M. Martin

[Prayer of Confession](#)

Minister: Merciful God, we often find it difficult to love others as you command.

All: We seek our own security before the wellbeing of others. We fulfill our own desires rather than act for the common good. Forgive us. Redirect our priorities, and renew our commitment to live out your love, even when that demands more of us than we expect. Amen.

[Assurance of God's Forgiveness](#)

Minister: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ - and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us. Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new by God's generous grace.

[Children's Message:](#)

[One Way – Up!](#)

Today we celebrate the "Ascension of the Lord." "Ascension" is a big word for going up! And that is where Jesus went, after his resurrection on Easter and after he spent some time with his disciples, teaching them about the ministry he wanted them to do. He went up into heaven.

So how do you suppose Jesus thought his work on earth would be done when he went to heaven? He left that "up" to his disciples. They would now speak "up" for him and the kingdom of heaven. They would now go places he would have gone. They would heal the sick and visit those in prison. They would feed the hungry and help those who needed assistance. They would do his work.

What happened after his disciples died? Then it would be "up" to new followers to do his work on earth. Today, who does God's work? We do! Today we speak for Jesus and do the things Jesus would have done if he were here. We give money to the poor. We think of those who are sick and say prayers for them. We tell other people about God's love and the church. We connect with lonely and sad people and encourage them. Jesus trusts us to do this work for him. If we do not do his work, there is no one else.

How about that! We trust Jesus but Jesus trusts us as well. I guess Jesus went "up" so that his work on earth would be "up" to us.

[Children's Prayer:](#) Thank you for trusting us to do your work. Help us as your church to do your work here. Amen.

1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise, hallelujah!
to the throne in paradise: hallelujah!
Christ the Lamb for sinners given, hallelujah!
enters now the highest heaven. hallelujah!
2. Christ, for you high triumph waits; hallelujah!
Lift your heads eternal gates; hallelujah!
You have conquered death and sin; hallelujah!
Enter, Sovereign, enter in. hallelujah!
3. See the nail-marked hands above, hallelujah!
signs of God's redeeming love; hallelujah!
Hark, Christ's words our hearts assure, hallelujah!
"I will send a comforter!" hallelujah!
4. Christ, for us still intercede; hallelujah!
by your suffering, for us plead; hallelujah!
Near yourself, prepare a place, hallelujah!
as the first-fruits of God's grace. hallelujah!
5. Now, though parted from our sight, hallelujah!
in the depths of starry night, hallelujah!
may God raise us up again, hallelujah!
heirs of your eternal reign. hallelujah!

to hear God's word....

Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Tamara: Lord, we long for your wisdom and truth. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we listen to the Scriptures. Prepare our ears to hear your Word and our hearts to receive it. Amen.

Psalm 98 (read responsively)

Tamara: O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things.

People: God's right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

Tamara: The Lord has made known the victory,

People: and has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.

Tamara: The Lord has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Tamara: Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth.

People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Tamara: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

People: with the lyre and the sound of melody.

Tamara: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

People: make a joyful noise before the sovereign Lord.

Tamara: Let the sea roar and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

People: Let the floods clap their hands. Let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord who is coming to judge the earth.

All: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

The Scripture Lesson:

Acts 1: 1 - 11

New International Version (NIV)

Tamara: Just before I read our text for today, I would like to give you a brief background to the Book of Acts. The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts were presumably written by the same author as part of a two-part work, addressed to a person named Theophilus (which translated from Greek, means "friend of God"). In our scripture today, the author makes it clear the first book, the Gospel of Luke, focuses on Jesus' life and witness as the Son of God. The Book of Acts, of which today's scripture is the beginning, takes us to the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and then tells the story of the early Christian church, focusing on the witness of the Apostles and of the Apostle Paul.

Acts 1: 1 – 11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit

comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Tamara: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God within us, and for the word of God around us. **People: Thanks be to God.**

[The Chancel Choir:](#)

All Things Work Together for Good

John Carter

[The Meditation](#)

Get Back To Work!

It was a promise to the disciples. They would not be left alone. They had lost him once and were already worrying about losing him again. There had been so many amazing moments with Jesus - so many miraculous things, so many people healed, and so many opportunities to learn. But there had also been the grief and sorrow at seeing their friend, teacher, and Lord taken into custody and crucified. There was the bitter taste of disappointment and guilt when they thought of their own actions, which sprang from their fear and faithlessness. Then he showed up, like he said he would. He encountered the two disciples as they went to Emmaus, then he met the twelve. But this time, Jesus' teaching was all about passing on the work, about reminding them that they would have what they needed to continue the ministry he had started. This work was the kingdom, the visible rehearsal of what would be permanent at the end of time. And then, he returned to his heavenly home.

Many Christians wonder why the Ascension is part of the Church calendar. We have been through the intensity of Lent, which was released in the excitement of Easter with triumphant music and shouts of “He is risen!”. Pentecost is only a few weeks away, where we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. But Ascension Sunday is a turning point. It moves us from the story of Jesus' life, told in the Gospels, that culminated with his death and resurrection. Jesus had come to earth from heaven, and now is returning to reign at the right hand of God. But this story is also about the disciples (and about us here today). Ascension is the event that changes the focus of Christ's work and ministry from Jesus himself to those who follow him. Jesus is no longer here to preach good news, heal the sick, and feed the hungry. This mission now falls to Jesus' disciples then, and us, as Jesus' disciples today.

Today, we are reminded of our identity as God's own people, as Christ's body on earth. The promise of new life in Christ is entrusted to us, so that all creation can experience the wholeness, integration, and peace of God. In our text today, we hear that, as Jesus speaks to

the disciples, he begins ascending to the right hand of God. I will bet seeing that was like watching the solar eclipse of April 8th. As we did during the eclipse, we would have stood there in awe, as Jesus rose, staring, and waiting until the last possible glance is gone.

But the disciples did not have that luxury. As Jesus was departing, *two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.* In other words, the disciples were being told, "Stop staring and get back to work! Move on, there is nothing to see here..." The Jesus who broke into history once will break into history again, that is the promise. How? Through the disciples, through us, if we do not waste our time staring at the heavens! But what does it mean for us to be "staring at the heavens", rather than getting back to work?

Our faith community is a lively place, especially now, post-pandemic. We are busy with good things: worship, Christian education, groups, service opportunities, etc. But are these activities keeping us SO occupied that we no longer hear the voice of God who speaks to us in silence? You will recall that Jesus, even with all the demands on him, took the time to be quiet, to pray, to listen to his heavenly Parent. I am not saying that we should just be passive or inactive. Rather, we are being invited to stop staring and to start seeing God in those around us.

On this Ascension Sunday, I encourage you to take inventory of your life and our communal life as the Church. In what ways are you staring at the sky, waiting for Jesus to return? For myself, I know that I look outward too much, rather than taking quiet time in prayer and reflection. I am spending too much energy wondering what the future holds for the Presbyterian Church in Canada. I am despairing about the suffering in our world and wondering how I can respond. All in the name of Jesus, of course, all out of love for the body of Christ. Yet still, it is staring - being distracted from the work that God is calling me, and all of us, to do.

But I sense a new energy. In my life. In the congregations that I have the privilege of serving, and in the world. I sense a hunger for making goodness, love, and empathy visible around us. I sense a deep need for us as the Church to pay attention and to shine a light on where we see Jesus alive and well, at work around us - Jesus in our homes as we wash dishes, do laundry, care for family members, and pay the bills. Jesus in our communities as we live into our vocation to love those with whom we work and to serve those who are too often overlooked by our society. Jesus in our congregations as we sing songs of praise, share bread and cup, pray together, and then go back into the world to 'be Jesus' to those who are longing for Jesus' love and compassion.

As we look around and see Jesus, our lives are transformed. We are humbled by the many ways that Jesus shows up forgiving, restoring, continuing the work of creation from the beginning of time. The way that Jesus shows up loving, healing, and calling our name, and

the name of our neighbours. It would be easier to keep on staring - to think about how the church was “in the good old days”, when the pews were packed, and the Sunday Schools were full. But Ascension calls us to pay attention here and now! It awakens us to where we are today, rooting us in the soil given to us to cultivate as workers in God's vineyard.

So, people of God, why are you looking up? In the words of St. Teresa of Avila: *Christ has no body but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

It is time to stop staring! Get back to work! Amen.

Blessing the Word in our Lives

Minister: Having heard the word, may God enlighten you with wisdom. As you ponder God's word in your heart, may Christ bless you with the hope to which you have been called. As you live these words each and every day, may you know the greatness of God's power and our glorious inheritance among the saints. Amen.

Hymn # 764:

There's a spirit in the air

Words: Brian A. Wren ©1995, Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614
Music: John W. Wilson © 1979 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614

- 1. There's a spirit in the air telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world!"**
- 2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!**
- 3. When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**
- 4. Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!**
- 5. When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**
- 6. May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!**
- 7. There's a spirit in the air calling people everywhere:
praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.**

Responding in love with thanksgiving

Prayers of the People, the Lord's Prayer and Choral Amen

Minister: God of Wisdom and Mercy, we turn to you in these quiet moments, and offer you our thanks for the love you have shown us, seeking your blessing on our hopes for our lives. This morning, we give you thanks for all those people who have shown us your face and taught us to follow you by the faithful example of their lives. We thank you for our life together in your church, as your forgiven people. May the light of Christ shine through our lives so that we become light for the world, shining examples of your love at work. O Lord,

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: Christ of Compassion and Action, in you, we receive our call to live with purpose. From you, we learn how to love those around us. With you, we find strength to face each new day. So today we offer our prayers for those facing challenges these days and seek your guidance to respond to their cries. We pray for those who come to our minds when we see the news headlines this week: for situations of violence and deprivation, danger, and devastation, thinking especially of those suffering due to the violence and oppression we see in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Syria, and Afghanistan. O Lord,

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for people and families going through difficult times, praying especially for those who are struggling with poverty and homelessness, for all who are sick or in sorrow, for any who are lonely or despairing. O Lord,

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: We give thanks for the diversity and wonder of this vulnerable planet which is our home, the land, the air, the oceans and all living things. We pray for people whose lives and homelands are threatened by the exploitation of your creation. We pray that the efforts of climate leaders and advocates may move us toward a sustainable and just global community where all share equally in the bounty of your creation. O Lord,

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for ourselves and for each other, for the situations that challenge us, and the new possibilities that encourage us. Spirit of Christ, move with us into the week ahead. Remind us each day to live according to God's will and purpose, for we want to offer your loving presence in the lives we touch in Jesus' name, for he taught all his friends these words to pray together:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The People's Offering for the Work of Christ's Church

Minister: Today, we remember Jesus' ascension, which assures us that Jesus will be present with all Christians throughout every generation, in every culture and context. As we offer our gifts in gratitude, remember that they continue to honour Christ Jesus as Lord of all times and places.

You can give.....

* by pre-authorized remittance (P.A.R.) (<https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/pre-authorized-remittance-par-program/>). Contact the Church Office.

* by **mail** to First Presbyterian Church, P.O.Box 885, 10 Church Street, Brockville, Ont., K6V 5W1

* by **e-transfer** to firstkirk@truespeed.ca

Offering Praise Song

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

Minister: We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless your church, your people, and your creation. Amen.

Sending Hymn # 267:

Rejoice, the Lord is king

Words & Music: Public Domain

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King; your sovereign Lord adore.
Give thanks, O mortals, sing and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
2. For Christ the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love.
When Jesus purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; Lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
3. His reign can never fail. He rules o'er earth and heaven.
The keys of death and hell are to our Saviour given.
Lift up your heart; Lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit and bow to his command and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart; Lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

5. Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the judge shall come and take the faithful up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!

The Benediction and Choral Amen

Minister: Go in love, with the peace of Christ within you, to witness to his love in truth and in action. And may God's resurrecting love open the future for you, empower you by the Spirit, and embrace you with the presence of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Organ Postlude:

Moderato

James Hook



Sydney Nkhata, a 27-year-old from Northern Malawi, is the chair of a youth network made up of 12 clubs.

His management journey was significantly influenced by the "Every Youth Empowered" project, which provided valuable leadership training and is funded by PWS&D. Equipped with new skills, Sydney has become a mentor - guiding and nurturing club members. His efforts ensure that youth actively embrace and take ownership of the project, where they learn about sexual and reproductive health rights - turning it into an integral part of the community. As a result, girls and boys are more aware of the risks related to early pregnancies and transmission of diseases and are changing behaviours. Sydney's story highlights the transformative power of leadership training and showcases his commitment to mentorship and community development.

A Mission Moment from The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Happy Birthday to: (May 5th to 11th)
ELIZABETH MUNRO – May 5th
Happy Anniversary to:
BRIAN & DOREEN BARNES – May 5th



Today, Sunday, May 5th is LOAVES & FISHES Sunday - Our Church supports the work of this restaurant with our donations of money and time. This ministry assists so

many and we are thankful to be a part of it. Donations of food can be left in the basket at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office (white and chocolate cake mixes and coffee are great choices) during the week. Donations of money are welcome in your regular offering envelopes or online donations. Please mark all envelopes clearly. Thanks.

First Presbyterian Church

MAY CALENDAR

LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of each month

CRAFT & CHAT - Tuesday afternoons- Parlour – 1 to 4 pm.

FPC HAND BELL CHOIR - Thursday Afternoons at 4 pm.

FPC CHANCEL CHOIR – Thurs. Afternoons - 3 pm. – Choir Rm; Sun. Mornings - 9:30 am. - Choir Rm

SUNDAY SUPPER MINISTRY – 4th Sunday of each month – Church Hall

ONGOING PROJECTS: Grocery Bags, Egg Cartons, Breakfast Bags (Food Bank), Pop Cans for Maintenance, Breakfast Bags (Food Bank), Sunday Supper Ministry, NIV Pew Bibles - Sanctuary

COMMUNITY GROUPS using the Church Building:

EMBERS/GUIDES – Monday Evenings at 5:30 pm. in the Church Hall

BGH GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP – Monday Afternoons in Parlour.

BGH DAY HOSPICE – Wednesday Mornings & Afternoons in Parlour and Church Hall.

- May 05 * **6th Sunday of Easter Morning Worship** – 11 am. - Loaves & Fishes - Coffee Hour
* Christina Duncan leads worship at St. Lawrence Lodge
- May 08 Meeting of the SESSION – 7 pm. – Red Room
- May 11 Saturday Lunch Ministry at the Brockville Public Library – 10 am. to Noon
- May 12 **Christian Family Sunday and Mother's Day** – 11 am. – Coffee Hour
Musical Guests: The FPC Flute Ensemble
- May 14 Meeting of the M.O.V.E. Committee – 9:30 am. – Church Hall
- May 19 **Pentecost Sunday with Communion** – 11 am. – Coffee Hour
- May 21 Meeting of Seaway/Glengarry Presbytery – St. Andrew's PC in Prescott
- May 25 Men's Breakfast – 8:15 am in the Church Hall.
- May 26 **Trinity Sunday** – 11 am. – No Coffee Hour
Sunday Supper Ministry
- May 31 P. A. Day Camp – Church Hall – 9 am to 3 pm.



First Presbyterian Church is taking part in the **BIG GIVE** (a nation-wide opportunity for congregations to bless their communities with extravagant giving) on June 1st, 2024. The M.O.V.E. Committee is planning a garage/yard “sale” and will also be handing out snack bags of cookies. When you are doing your spring cleaning or

downsizing, please set aside gently used household items, books, games, puzzles, pots, pans, dishes, and clothing. Volunteers will be needed to help with sorting, set-up, and cleanup. We are also looking for donations of packaged snack bags of homemade cookies (nut-free, please!) to give out on the day. Items can be dropped off at the church (just ring the bell) and left on the table under the picture board in the church hall.

At Coffee Hour this morning have a look at the Photo Board in the Church Hall. It has been UPDATED! Many thanks to Kade LeBrun, Jacque Kennedy, Janet LeBrun and the M.O.V.E. Committee for all their hard work! Looks great!

10:11 PM Wed Apr 17

The Brockville Community Choir
 Madelyn Mensen *Artistic Director*
 Donna Matheson *Collaborative Artist*



**Harmonies of Hope
 A Spectrum in Sound**



Eve Rachel McLeod Matthew Larkin
 Foxwood String Quartet
 David Miles James MacKenzie

Sunday May 26th 3:00pm
 St. Lawrence Anglican Church 80 Pine St. Brockville

Admission \$25 Adult \$10 Student FREE Children 12 & Under

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHOIR MEMBERS & A LIMITED NUMBER AT THE DOOR OR ONLINE

www.brockvillechoir.ca



Tickets available from:
**KAREN MAHON
 REVEREND MARIANNE**



September 30th is Canada's **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day, reminding all that "Every Child Matters")**. This

year's Brockville NDTR will be a community event in Hardy Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, September 30th. The NDTR Committee is looking for a team of church volunteers to prepare and serve a lunch in Hardy Park. The menu is Three Sisters Soup plus Rice and Blueberries for dessert. All of the ingredients, supplies and materials will be provided by the NDTR Committee. Serving volunteers will have no expense. We ask only for help to prepare and serve. Please contact Reverend Marianne if you would be willing to prepare and serve lunch as part of this reconciliation project. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.



YOUTH STREAM:
14-18 YEARS OLD

YOUNG ADULT STREAM:
18-25 YEARS OLD

LEADERSHIP STREAM:
CHURCH LEADERS 18+

JULY 3-7, 2024

**BROCK UNIVERSITY
 ST. CATHARINES**

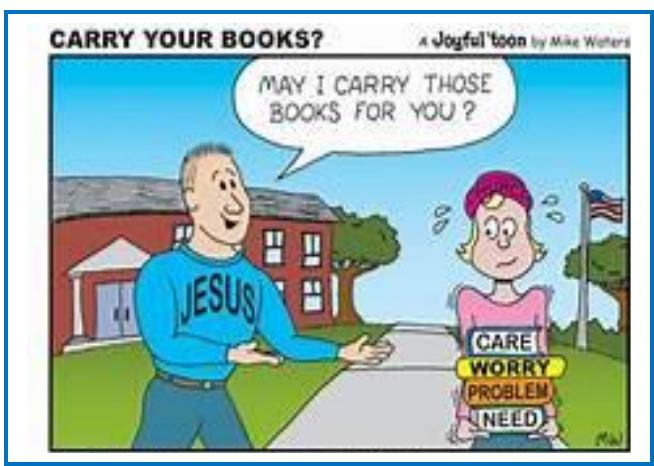
**REGISTER
 APRIL 15-MAY 31**

Partnering with the United Church of Canada to offer this event highlighting *Audacious Hope*




Scan for more info: uplift@presbyterian.ca

What is uplift?
 As in the past with previous Canada Youth (now known as **uplift**) gatherings, there will be three streams at the conference: Youth (ages 14-18), Young Adults (ages 18-25) and Leadership (ages 18+). Each stream will focus on that group's unique needs and faith expression, exploring *Audacious Hope* through activities, learning, worship, prayer, relationship building and fun. The whole gathering will worship, play, and dine together. Please contact Reverend Marianne for more information.





CROSS TOWN IMPACT

Greg Houldcroft, CEO & Director – CTI

Our Story

10 years ago, God instilled into us a heart for the community, a passion to give back, and a vision for the future. Over the next 10 years, we watched God's plans unfold as God began to lead us forward, stir lives, and move in the communities around us. Over the course of this time, we also watched God open doors into places it seemed impossible for us to reach – including 5 public schools, 2 high schools, and many other organizations. It is such a thrill and a privilege for us to

serve Christ and our communities in this Kingdom company! We cannot think of something we would rather give our lives to, than to bring heaven to earth in this day and in this place, with Cross Town Impact. The past 10 years have been great, but we are convinced that what is ahead of us will be even greater. – Greg

The IMPACT ZONE - CrossTown Impact wanted to provide something to assist their community in a practical way. The IMPACT ZONE is a FREE after school club that gives parents a safe place to keep their children one day a week until they are off work. The IZ assists children with their homework in a fun, encouraging environment. The students also receive a nutritious snack and are challenged with a positive Christian character developing lesson. All of our volunteers have been thoroughly trained, screened and police checked for your peace of mind.

FUN and ADVENTURE – Young people looking for friendship, inspiration, and adventure will have come to the right place! Cross Town Impact's affordable Impact-Trips are a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with youth and experience the world around us. From massive country-wide youth gatherings, to old-fashioned camping trips, we host a variety of fun trips for your youth to be a part of. One such trip is The Blue Mountain Hike on August 12th to 14th, 2024. This annual Jr & Sr (grades 6-12) Blue Mountain hike, now in it's twentieth year, is our fan-favourite youth trip. Including a group-hike up a local mountain and two nights of camping at Charleston Lake Provincial Campground, your youth will experience the great-outdoors, acquire camping skills, canoeing and kayaking, camp-food cookouts, sports, and trip tips with our very own resident-nature-enthusiast! Sponsors help to make sure every youth can come on this amazing adventure.



WHAT WE BELIEVE – * Cross Town believes in the value of faith, which is why we choose to integrate strong Christian values into every aspect of our organization and programming. You can rest easy being involved with Cross Town. All our staff and volunteers are police and reference checked, as well as having to go through our extensive training and standards manual *Cross Town Believes in the Value of Education*. * Whether we are in the classroom, on a trip, or out and about in our community, we always have an educational emphasis. * Cross Town Impact partners with Nutrition4Kids to ensure that all of our Impact Zone programs include a healthy, nutritious snack for our children. * Cross Town Believes that affordable programming should be accessible to everyone. That is why we provide many of our programs at absolutely no cost to you! Cross Town partners with many churches and organizations in our community to make sure our reach extends as far as possible in our efforts to have a positive impact on our neighbours.

WHAT IS the BIG CHANGE INITIATIVE – What started as a creative project in Cross Town's office, evolved into something

StudentLife
BROCKVILLE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE



much greater. Our founder handcrafted 100 necklaces by pounding pennies 500 times, dimpling them with a hammer and hand stamping "Be the Change" into each one. These simple necklaces inscribed with a message of hope and meaning have now touched hundreds of lives and have even spread outside of the walls of Brockville.

With Covid-19 isolation, we decided we wanted to do something special to support the 100+ Impact Zone children and their families. We arranged to visit every home, hand delivering one of these necklaces and a gift bag to each child. We spoke a blessing over each child's life, encouraging them to continue practicing what they learned at the Impact Zone, and to keep being a change in the lives of their family, friends and community. Along with this, we brought a professional photographer and offered a free photo shoot to each family. What started as a simple idea in the mind of our founder ended up inspiring a summer long project that united families and inspired youth to change their world.

If you would like to be involved in our "Be the Change" Initiative, we would love for you to check out our Etsy store where you can purchase a necklace for yourself or a loved one. All proceeds support Cross Town Impact and our mission to change the world around us.

crosstownimpact.com

Copies of the MAY PRAYER CALENDAR are available this morning on the table at the south entrance to the Church Hall.

The summer issue of the CHALLENGE is almost right around the corner. It is time to write those stories about church life, find poems of inspiration, dream (in writing) about summer plans, find jokes and humorous articles and stories. Send your submissions to rev.marianne@myhighspeed.ca



1805 Oxford Ave
Brockville, ON
613-499-1988

infobrockvilleccc@gmail.com



The Cooperative Care Centre is dedicated to providing a safe, nonjudgmental environment for individuals who are unhoused. We are open daily from 4pm-8am where guests have access to a shower, receive a warm meal, snacks, drinks, and clothing/hygiene supplies while staying with us.

URGENT Clothing Items Needed:

- mens running shoes (sizes 9-12), spring jackets (M-2XL)
- mens jeans (sizes 30-34) & jogging pants (M-2XL)
- ladies leggings & jogging pants (S -3XL)
- mens and ladies t-shirts, hoodies & pj pants (S-3XL)

Guest Items Needed:

- deodorant, hair brushes/combs
- razors, nail clippers, cue tips
- rain ponchos, backpacks, ball caps

Unfortunately, our storage capacity has been reduced and we are unable to accept/store any other items at this time. If you have any questions, please contact us at the Centre.

We have staff on-site 24 hrs/day, therefore you can call and arrange a drop off time for donations and we will ensure a staff is there to greet you! We want to thank the community for all of your support.