



## First Presbyterian Church

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY and MOTHERS' DAY

Minister: **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard**

Reader: **Lilly Duncan and Christina Duncan**

Guest Musicians: **The FPC Flute Ensemble**

**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 – **Francis & Janet LeBrun**

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/](http://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 Flute Ensemble

Andante con Moto

*Felix Mendelssohn*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God

Minister: Clap your hands, all you peoples.

**People:** We will shout to God with songs of joy.

Minister: For God is awesome, reigning over all the earth!

**People:** We will sing praises to God every day.

Minister: Let us worship God with all we have to offer.

**People:** We will offer God our love – heart, body, mind and soul!

Opening Hymn # 457:

Now thank we all our God

*Words & Music: Public Domain*

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices,  
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us all with grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven,  
the Father and the Son and Spirit now be given,  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: God of promise and purpose, we praise you with thankful hearts.

**People:** As the beauty of the seasons change, the beauty of your world lifts our hearts in praise.

Minister: You lifted up Jesus to be by your side, and so we know he is always by our side as the future opens before us.

**People:** Show us the promise and purpose in our own lives – how we can bloom with new life, and move into the future empowered by the Holy Spirit, embraced by the love of Christ our Lord. Amen.

[The Flute Ensemble:](#)

Sweet Hour of Prayer

*William Bradbury*

[Prayer of Confession](#)

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, you called your followers to carry the good news of God's love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth.

**All:** Yet we confess we cannot always find the words to tell others of our faith. We try to act out your love, but it is hard to tell others why we do what we do as Jesus' followers. Often, we are fearful or embarrassed to share why we trust in you. But we know that you are bigger than the world, bigger than our fears, bigger even than our folly. We are grateful for the immensity of your love, even when it sometimes scares us. When the vastness of your love frightens us, help us to return to you in hope. Forgive us and give us the courage to speak openly of our commitment to you today and every day. Amen.

[Assurance of God's Forgiveness](#)

Minister: Friends, remember the promise the Apostle Paul declares: What will separate us from the love of Christ – hardship, distress, peril or sword? Neither death nor life, nor things present, nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go.

[A Presentation by our Church School Children and Friends](#)

[Hymn # 481:](#)

Blest be the tie that binds

*Words & Music: Public Domain*

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Maker's throne we pour our ardent prayers.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing ear.
4. When we asunder part, it gives us keenest pain,  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
5. This glorious hope revives our courage on the way.  
in perfect friendship we shall live in God's eternal day.

*to hear God's word...*

Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Lilly: O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts to receive your Word, so that we may recognize your call to us to serve in the name of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

Psalm 1 (read responsively)

Lilly: Blessed are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners walk, or sit in the seat of scoffers.

**People: Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on that law they meditate day and night.**

Lilly: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in season and their leaves do not wither.

**People: In all that they do, they flourish.**

Lilly: The wicked are not so. They are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**People: The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

The Scripture Lesson:

John 17: 6 - 19

*New International Version (NIV)*

Christina: “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the

truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Christina: 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 Flute Ensemble:](#)

[Dona Nobis Pacem](#)

*arr. Ricky Lombardo*

[The Meditation](#)

[Pray. Love.](#)

Some of you may have heard of the book “**Eat. Pray. Love.**” It was turned into a movie starring Julia Roberts and was very popular back in 2010. In the movie, Elizabeth Gilbert, the main character, says these words to herself in prayer, as she is on the edge of exhaustion:

*“I’m here. I love you. I don’t care if you need to stay up crying all night long, I will stay with you... [t]here’s nothing you can ever do to lose my love. I will protect you until you die, and after your death I will still protect you. I am stronger than Depression and I am braver than Loneliness and nothing will ever exhaust me.”* (Gilbert, Elizabeth. *Eat, Pray, Love*. Viking Press, 2006)

These words are Elizabeth’s words of prayer and reassurance to herself. These words remind her that she is loved and protected, no matter what. There are words of prayer and reassurance in our passage for today, which forms part of what is often referred to by theologians as the “farewell discourses,” (found only in the Gospel of John). In the text today, we hear Jesus as he prays for his disciples and....

Stop! Let us not rush to all the other things Jesus does for or says to his disciples in the “farewell discourses”. Just stop there for a moment. The context for this passage is this: it is the evening before his crucifixion, and while anticipating an immediate future that will include betrayal, trial, condemnation, beating, and execution, Jesus is not praying that God will somehow save him from this terrible fate. Instead, Jesus Stops. Everything. And. Prays. For. Those. He. Loves.

That is incredible? Thinking about Jesus praying for those he loves? It is amazing, because here is the thing: prayer is not solely a routine, or spiritual exercise. It is not even just a healthy part of our faith lives. It may be all those things, but it is also something more. Prayer is love. Taking the time that we do in our Prayers of the People, in our own silent daily prayers, in our monthly Prayer Calendar, to name the hopes, joys, concerns, fears, and thanksgiving of someone you know (or for those you do not know, but hear about in the news) and bring all of that into the presence of God through prayer is an act of love, plain and simple. It expresses your care, your concern, and your compassion for the one(s) for whom you are praying. And, on this Christian Family Sunday, think about your life and the people in that life, whether family by blood or by choice. I am guessing you love all those people, right? And while we have no control over the decision, at birth God entrusts us to parental caregivers, who love

and nurture us. Parents and guardians, in turn, entrust the children they love to other caregivers and in time to school systems. Eventually they grow up and go out on their own, perhaps having children of their own. So, all they can do at that point is pray for them and entrust them to God. But those prayers are important! Praying for others – family, friends, loved ones – expresses your trust that they are as important to God as they are to you. Prayer is love. It is that simple.

But because so few of us are comfortable praying out loud or for one another, we often do not get to share that love. Which might mean that sharing a few pointers on prayer today is timely. And Jesus' prayer offers two in particular:

1) Prayer is a chance to remind ourselves of all our blessings and to give thanks for them. Jesus takes the opportunity to recognize the disciples and their devotion – “*they have obeyed your word*” – and give thanks for them. Do you know how powerful it can be to hear someone thank God for you? I thank God every day for each of you, but I just want to say it out loud right now.

2) Prayer is a chance to share our deepest concerns, worries, and fears and to ask for help. Notice how honest Jesus is about his concerns. He knows it is going to be hard for his disciples, that the world will be challenging for them, and does not hide that. Prayer is a time to tell the truth – the truth about what is happening in our congregation, in our community, in our world.

If you read just a bit further into the text, you will also read in verse 20, “*I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.*” And here is the thing: We – all of those who are gathering to hear the spoken word this week – are among those who believe because of the testimony of others. Think about it: the disciples shared the word, and so did those who believed their testimony, and so on and so on and so on. On this Christian Family Sunday, how many of you heard the Word from your parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or other relative who shared the word with us and helped us believe? And how many of you have shared the Word with your family members? Jesus did not only stop to pray for his disciples on the evening of the crucifixion, He. Also. Prayed. For. Us. Here and now!

Jesus prayed for us, and has been praying for us ever since, and continues to hold us in the center of his heart. This does not guarantee an easy life, let alone the material comforts and riches we all wish we could have. It does not save us from illness, pain, disappointment, brokenness, or loss. It does not, as Jesus acknowledged, remove us from the world and all its challenges (or beauty!). But it does mean that Jesus is with us, cares for us, loves us, prayed, and continues to pray for us. Pretty darn amazing!

We as Presbyterians like to enjoy food and fellowship together. And we will do that after the service today. For that, I give thanks. And I bet when you heard the beginning of this service, and the words “Eat. Pray. Love”, you thought I was going to talk about that! But I wanted to focus on the second two words, “Pray” and “Love”, because they remind us that

when Jesus prays, he shows love. For us. All for us and always for us. Which makes it possible for us to do the same for others. So today, Eat by all means! But also, be like Jesus - Pray, and Love! Amen.

### [Blessing the Word in our Lives](#)

Minister: Like our ancestors in faith before us, we have heard the Word and received the Spirit. May your Word and your presence work within us, O God. May they come to life through our lives. Amen.

### [Hymn # 205:](#)

### [O love how deep](#)

*Words & Music: Public Domain*

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
how passing thought and fantasy,  
That God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.
2. For us baptized, for us he bore  
his holy fast and hungered sore.  
For us temptations sharp he knew.  
For us the tempter overthrew.
3. For us he prayed. For us he taught.  
For us his daily works he wrought.  
By words and signs and actions thus, still seeking not himself, but us.
4. For us to wicked hands betrayed,  
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death.  
For us gave up his dying breath.
5. For us he rose from death again.  
For us he went on high to reign.  
For us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
6. All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad  
the trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

### [Responding in love with thanksgiving](#)

### [Prayers of the People, the Lord's Prayer and Choral Amen](#)

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, you came to us bearing God's love, to live with us, to walk with us, and to show us how to love. You pray with us and for us day by day. Today we turn to you

with our hopes and our concerns. Draw near to us and to those for whom we pray, so that your love will be known in our world this day.

Lord Jesus, on this Christian Family Sunday, we pray for the families we belong to - thank you for parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, for the generations who started our families and all they have given to us. Today we thank you especially for our mothers, and pray for all the mothers around the world. Give mothers hope for their children, and peace in the world to raise their children safely. Comfort and support each member of our families, and guide each child and young person into the future.

Lord Jesus, we pray for families in our community and in your world. We remember families in need – families who are struggling under economic pressures: families who know sorrow because someone has died or gone away: families who live in fear because they are in the midst of some kind of trouble. Surround these families with your love and bring them courage to face whatever tomorrow brings.

Lord Jesus, we pray for each other and for our church family. Thank you for the friendship and fellowship we share, and the unique gifts each one brings to our life together. Show us our paths into the future, and give us important things to do in your name. And so, it is as your family and your friends that we offer the prayer you taught us, saying:

**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: Our lives overflow with blessing and goodness in Christ and in creation. Out of the bounty with which God has blessed us, let us present to God our offering with gratitude that overflows.

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](mailto: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: God our Maker, you have filled the world with plenty for all. We offer our gifts to you, knowing they are part of your abundance. Bless them and use them to bring hope and new life in Christ's name to a world that so badly needs it. Amen.

[Sending Hymn # 275:](#)      **Jesus shall reign where're the sun**      *Words & Music: Public Domain*

1. **Jesus shall reign where're the sun does its successive journeys run.  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**
2. **For him shall endless prayer be made and praises throng to crown his head.  
His name like fragrance sweet shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.**
3. **People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.**
4. **Blessings abound where're he reigns.  
The prisoners leap to lose their chains.  
The weary find eternal rest and all who suffer want are blest.**
5. **Let every creature rise and bring  
the honours due our glorious king.  
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the long amen.**

### [The Benediction and Choral Amen](#)

Minister: Go in strength, with the assurance that Christ walks with you, to witness to his love in truth and action. And may God's resurrecting love open the future for you, empowered by the Spirit, and embraced by the presence of Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord.

[The Flute Ensemble:](#)      **Finlandia (Be Still My Soul)**      *Jean Sibelius*



Somalia faces an acute hunger crisis, worsened by the most severe drought in four decades. With failed crops, widespread water shortages and reduced livestock productivity, Nafiso Hussein's family and thousands more had to abandon their homes in search of relief. Hunger and extreme conditions affected Nafiso's son Hadi, whose health had deteriorated critically. In the displaced persons camp where they had sought refuge, Hadi was quickly referred to the stabilization center for treatment, and under this initiative, his health significantly improved. Nafiso is grateful for her son's recovery, "He is well now, and I am happy to see him play and laugh like before."

PWS&D, with partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, provides funding to train community nutrition workers who identify and screen severely malnourished children.

*A Mission Moment from The Presbyterian Church in Canada*

In Memoriam

We extend our love and sympathy to Mary, Colleen and Susanne on the death of their father **JOSEPH FRANCIS DERRY**, on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at the Carveth Care Center in Gananoque. In keeping with Joseph Derry's wishes there will not be a visitation or service. Arrangements are entrusted to the Irvine Funeral Home. Please remember the Derry family in your prayers.

Happy Birthday to: (May 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>)

PATRICK MUNRO – May 13<sup>th</sup>

DORIS HALLETT – May 13<sup>th</sup>

DENISE KENT – May 13<sup>th</sup>

MARY ELLEN STEPHENSON – May 13<sup>th</sup>



## First Presbyterian Church

### MAY CALENDAR

**LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY** - 1<sup>st</sup> 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** – 4<sup>th</sup> 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 14 Meeting of the M.O.V.E. Committee – 9:30 am. – Church Hall

May 19 **Pentecost Sunday with Communion** – 11 am. – Coffee Hour

Reverend Marianne leads worship at the Wedgewood in the afternoon.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.



## P. A. DAY CAMP – MAY 31<sup>st</sup>

The Mission Project for this Camp is in support of *First Presbyterian Church's Breakfast Bags* program. First Presbyterian Church regularly makes up individual bags of nutritious breakfast items (that do not require cutlery) for clients of the Brockville and Area Food Bank, particularly those who are unhoused. The Camp will be collecting items for the Breakfast Bags, including juice boxes, prepackaged muffins, protein bars/shakes, dried fruit, and treats (such as small candy bars or small prepackaged bags of cookies). The items will be used by the Church to help keep hungry people fed, especially during the summer months when many programs are closed. If you would prefer to make a financial donation, please make out your cheque payable to First Presbyterian Church or e-transfer to [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca). Please mark your donations "Breakfast Bags" and provide a full name and address so the church can issue you a tax receipt for your donation. Thank you! Registration forms are available on the church website or from the church office.

### 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:

**KAREN MAHON  
REVEREND MARIANNE**



**YOUTH STREAM:**  
14-18 YEARS OLD

**YOUNG ADULT STREAM:**  
18-25 YEARS OLD

**LEADERSHIP STREAM:**  
CHURCH LEADERS 18+

**BROCK UNIVERSITY**  
ST. CATHARINES

**JULY 3-7, 2024**

**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](mailto: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.



## KNOX COLLEGE

We are less than one

month away from Knox College's 180th Convocation! Knox College would like to extend an invitation to you to join us in commemorating this important milestone on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. in the Knox College Chapel. Dr. Kirsteen Kim from Fuller Theological Seminary is the guest speaker. Dr. Kim will deliver a speech titled, "Discipling in the Era of World Christianity." Following the ceremony, there will be a reception. Questions? Call 416-978-8738 or email [knox.advancement@utoronto.ca](mailto:knox.advancement@utoronto.ca). Knox College | 59 St. George Street | Toronto, ON M5S 2E6 CA



## SEND US YOUR STORIES!

In recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 2025, the Committee on History is preparing a published collection of stories about where we have been, where we are and where we are going. Do you have a favourite memory of singing in a choir, attending a youth group, going to a potluck supper, or attending the General Assembly - or anything else that shaped your involvement in church? What are some of the things your congregation is doing today to share the good news of Jesus in your community? And what are your hopes and dreams for the Presbyterian Church in Canada as it approaches 150 years? We want to hear from you! Please write to Ian McKechnie, project coordinator, at [pcc150book@gmail.com](mailto:pcc150book@gmail.com). Submissions are being accepted through September 2024.

# Garage, Plant & Bake Sale

**Saturday, May 25, 9:00am-noon**

**St. Paul's Church Caintown**  
14 Caintown Rd north of Mallorytown

Perennial plants and bulbs,  
kitchen items, dishes,  
toys, children's and adult books,  
homemade pies, tarts, cookies, etc.



Poster by C.A.T.

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](mailto:rev.marianne@myhighspeed.ca)



September 30<sup>th</sup> is Canada's **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. This year's Brockville NDTR will be a community event in Hardy Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.



## GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE CANADIAN CHURCHES FOR JUST PEACE

Join us today and in the weeks to come in the [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for Just Peace!](#) Thousands of Canadian Christians have already, [throughout Lent, walked, rolled, and prayed together](#) for an enduring and sustained ceasefire between Israel and Hamas; an immediate flow of life-saving food, water, aid, fuel and humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the release of all captives; and the end of occupation so a just peace can begin.

This global, ecumenical movement of prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza and with Palestinian and Israeli partners on the road to justice and peace continues. In your local communities, you can participate in the Pilgrimage by organizing or attending events, walking, praying, and letting others know. Learn more and share your events, experiences, and photos with KAIROS Canada, the lead organizer.

You are also invited to gather in Ottawa on Parliament Hill on **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** if you are able. For more information type **A Just and Lasting Peace: Palestine-Israel** into your browser.



## PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

### 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)

The General Assembly will begin with worship and communion on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at 7 pm. at Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, Ontario. All other Assembly activities will be held at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo.

The Reverend Dr. Patricia Dutcher Walls

(<https://presbyterian.ca/2024/04/02/announcement-nominee-for-moderator-of-the-2024-general-assembly/>) is the nominee for Moderator of the 2024 General

Assembly. The General Assembly page is updated frequently, so stop by for updated information on participation and registration, reports to the Assembly, Q&A sessions and much more. Learn more at <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2024/>



## UPDATE ON EARTHQUAKE IN TAIWAN

### THE POWER of PRAYER

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Taiwan experienced a 7.2 magnitude earthquake followed by aftershocks. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) - one of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's oldest church partners - asks for continued prayer as the country works to recover from this disaster.

A letter sent from the PCT, signed by the Moderator, the Reverend Phàng Chỳ-Fùng and PCT General Secretary, the Reverend CHEN Hsin-Liang, states: "The PCT wishes to express and reiterate our heartfelt gratitude for the many letters and messages of concern and solidarity received from our partners and friends around the world. From our experiences dealing with natural disasters, we can all attest to how a few minutes of major trauma requires months and years of rehabilitation, recovery, and rebuilding of lives, land, and property. We ask that you continue to keep all the victims, their families and communities, and the frontline responders in your prayers for the healing of the land of our precious country, Taiwan."



Sign up for PCC E-NEWS at <https://form.jotform.com/Presby/pcc-eneews-signup> and get all of the above news plus so much more!

## GOOD NEWS!



**Kimberly Duncan graduated on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from Willis College earning a diploma as a Dental Assistant. The program was 46 weeks long, but well worth it. Kim already has a full-time job working as a dental assistant at Sunset Dental Centre in Ottawa.**

Congratulations, Kim!