



First Presbyterian Church

World Refugee Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

Blessing of the Graduates - The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister: **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard**

Reader: **Mark Leslie**

Guest Musicians: **Christina Duncan** – Flute; **Karen Mahon** - Percussion

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** – The Children are invited to join Denise Kent, our C.E. Coordinator, and her assistants in the Lower Hall for a time of fun and faith-centered activities following the Blessing of Our Graduates 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** – There is **NO COFFEE HOUR** this morning. Please join us next Sunday, June 30th - in the Church Hall - for delicious treats, stimulating conversation and great fellowship. To volunteer to host, bake, or bring food to any coffee hour please call Tamara Chapman.

ASSISTING YOU THIS MORNING

Greeters – Pam Dewar and Annis Moreau Elevator – Mark Leslie
Sound and Video Team – Quentin Robinson and Michel LaBonte

- * 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
your M.O.V.E. Committee



the people of God gather....

The Organ Prelude

Andante for Flute Clocks

Franz Josef Hayden

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God

Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Minister: We see God's wondrous works all around us,

People: so, we come to praise God's holy name.

Minister: Open wide your hearts in this time of worship!

People: We lift our hearts to God with thanks and praise.

Opening Hymn # 314:

God is love

Words: ©1997 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor ©1970 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614

1. God is love: come heaven, adoring; God is love: come earth rejoice.
Come creation, voices soaring, sing exalting with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation - God is love, eternal love.
2. God is love, whose arms enfolding, all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp are holding, every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking, under sorrow's iron rod,
all the sorrow, all the aching, wrings with pain the heart of God.
3. God is love, and though with blindness,
sin afflicts all human life, God's eternal loving kindness,
guides us through all earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never, o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love: so, love forever, o'er the universe must reign.

Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: Creator God, we gather in wonder this day, astonished by the complexity of all you have made, acknowledging how small each of us is in your world.

People: Yet your love gives us significance.

Minister: When we are overcome by forces beyond our control,

People: you speak words of peace.

Minister: When trouble or sorrow sets in,

People: you give us strength to persevere.

Minister: Source, Saviour and Spirit of life, we offer you praise and honour, love and loyalty,

People: with our lips and with our lives, now and always. Amen.

The Chancel Choir

This Is Our Place of Meeting with God

John Parker and Vickie Tucker Courtney

Prayer of Confession

Minister: God, our hope and our help, you call us to serve in the footsteps of Jesus, but we confess we look to our own interests first.

People: You ask us to love our neighbours, but we are good at finding fault in others. You call us to do justice for the vulnerable, but we hesitate to take a stand for those who are the most vulnerable and marginalized. Forgive us. Open our hearts to anyone in need and help us trust in your mercy – for them and for us. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Minister: The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Give thanks for God's generosity and share it with your neighbours, near and around the world.

Commissioning of our Graduates

Horst Kachau

Horst graduates on June 27th from Thousand Island Secondary School. Horst is planning to go to Seneca College in September to study Computer Science.

Jasmine Jasani

Jasmine has recently completed an intensive program in software development through the University of Toronto Continuing Studies, achieving an A-grade standing. Jasmine describes the program as Software Development 'boot camp'! Jasmine will continue her studies to become a teacher.

Minister: 'O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.' (Psalm 8:1) With the Psalmist, we stand in awe and humility, O God our Creator, of the good gifts you have given us in this graduate. You have instilled in Horst and Jasmine an insatiable curiosity about your world, your people and your earth. This curiosity, this thirst for truth, has led them here to

this place, and we are so grateful for the privileged years of friendship, of diligence and struggle, of new insight and discovery. And now, as Horst and Jasmine go from here, we ask that you graciously continue to fill them with a deep and abiding knowledge of your love for them.

All: We ask that, by your Spirit, all graduates may tend to the world and help set it right once again. Give them open hearts to feel its pain, and courage enough not to be overwhelmed by its suffering. May they taste the joy of seeing your kingdom come in every corner of this planet.

Minister: We ask that, by your Spirit, they would add to the beauty in your world. Fuel them with an imagination as artisans of word, song and deed that comes to terms with both the wounds of the world and the promise of the resurrection.

All: We ask that, by your Spirit, they may be nourished and renewed by hope, the good news that God is God, that Jesus is Lord, and that the powers of evil have been defeated, and that God's new world has begun.

Minister: May mercy, beauty and hope be theirs in this world, for your glory. And now we speak this blessing on Horst and Jasmine:

All: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Minister: In the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Hymn # 772:

Christ for the world we sing

Words & Music: Public Domain

1. "Christ for the world" we sing;
the world to Christ we bring with loving zeal,
the poor and all that mourn, the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn for Christ to heal.
2. "Christ for the world" we sing;
the world to Christ we bring with fervent prayer,
the wayward and the lost by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost from dark despair.
3. "Christ for the world" we sing;
the world to Christ we bring with one accord,
with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear for Christ our Lord.

4. "Christ for the world" we sing;
the world to Christ we bring with joyful song,
the newborn souls whose days reclaimed to live always,
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

to hear God's word....

Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Mark: Let us pray. God of wisdom, send your Holy Spirit to us as we listen for your Word. Inspire us through what we hear to act with the courage and compassion we meet in Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Psalm 9: 9 to 20 (read responsively)

Mark: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

People: Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Mark: Sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion.

People: Declare God's deeds among the peoples.

Mark: For the Lord who avenges blood is mindful of them

People: and does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

Mark: Be gracious to me, O Lord. See what I suffer from those who hate me.

People: You are the one who lifts me up from the gates of death so that I may recount all your praises and, in the gates of daughter Zion, rejoice in your deliverance.

Mark: The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid, has their own foot been caught.

People: The Lord is made known! The Lord has executed judgement! The wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.

Mark: The wicked shall depart in Sheol - all the nations that forget God.

People: For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.

Mark: Rise up, O Lord!

People: Do not let mortals prevail. Let the nations be judged before you.

Mark: Put them in fear, O Lord.

People: Let the nations know that they are only human.

The Scripture Lesson

Mark 4: 35 - 41

New International Version (NIV)

Mark: That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with them. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care if we drown?"

Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark: 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

This Little Light of Mine

Mark Hayes

The Meditation:

We Are Not Alone!

Fear, the visceral response of Jesus' terrified disciples in a frail, storm-tossed boat, resonates both in our individual lives as Christians and in our corporate life in congregations and civic communities. As people who live near the mighty St. Lawrence River, know all too well, the "wind and waves", the rocks and hidden obstacles that can buffet our fragile vessels - our lives, our churches, our cities, and nations. We fear disapproval, rejection, failure, isolation, illness, and of course, we fear death - our own death, the death of those we love, and the potential demise of the communities we cherish.

This story from the Gospel of Mark, of Jesus' stilling the storm on the Sea of Galilee, is one of the most familiar stories in the Gospels. I am sure many of you can recall the event in children's storybook Bibles or pictures on the walls of Sunday school classrooms. Jesus stands on the edge of the boat with his arms outstretched over the whitecaps of the raging sea. With that image in mind, this text most often is interpreted as a miracle story demonstrating the divine power of Jesus. While it is that, it is so much more.

Fear is confronted in this story, but not by a sudden burst of courage or resolve on the part of the disciples. The disciples never really do pull themselves together. They do not, at least not on their own, discover inner resources they did not know they had. Rather, it is Jesus who calms both them and the storm with the power of his presence. This passage reminds us that we are always invited, in times of anxiety and fear, to turn to the Lord of wind and wave, the one we trust to be more powerful than both Galilean storms and the storms that rage in

our lives, and in so doing, we can seek peace and calm. You are not alone. The particular Greek word spoken by Jesus in this text is **σιωπάω** (*siōpaō*) which literally means “hush” or “be calm”. It is a word we need to hear every day of our lives as we battle our fears and anxieties, both real and imagined. Every day, we hear about natural disasters around the world, such as fires, floods and earthquakes, plus economic, social and health care challenges in our own country.

As we marked World Refugee Day this past Thursday, we also hear in our news and social media feeds about over 112 million people being displaced by war and conflicts in places like Sudan, Syria, Gaza, and Ukraine, people who are seeking refuge and safety from the storms of their lives. Yet, we also hear about a rising tide of opposition to offering asylum to people fleeing for their lives, based on situational factors - such as housing shortages, inflationary pressures, challenges to the health care system and, most troubling, a rise in racist and anti-immigration ideologies.

Part of the problem with fear is what it does to us when we give it that much power over our lives. We cling to whatever it is we fear losing - we hold on for dear life! What we desperately fear to lose, we will sometimes do anything to keep. In the process we try to control what we cannot control, we try to cling to what we cannot hold, and we can become incredibly selfish, childish, and even angry and bitter when things do not go the way we hoped they would. When Jesus asks his disciples, “Why are you so afraid?”, I think he is addressing our tendency to obsess about the things we fear to the extent that fear controls our lives, when we give our fears and anxieties that much power over us.

It is important to note that Jesus never says, “There is nothing to be afraid of.” The Galilean storm was doubtless indeed fearsome, as are the “wind and waves” that threaten us. Rather, Jesus asks, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” To help understand this distinction, imagine a scene such as this. A child awakens in the dark of the night, terrified at some dream that has disturbed child-sleep, frightened of some phantom hiding in the bedroom closet. A parent rushes into the bedroom and scoops the little one into their arms and sits in a chair. He or she wipes sweaty locks off her child’s forehead, caresses their hair, and then whispers what a thousand parents have whispered since the beginning of time, “Hush now, there is nothing to be afraid of.” But the question these comforting words raise is simply this: “Is the parent telling the whole truth to the child? Is there really nothing to be afraid of?”

Although we often confuse them, saying “there is nothing to be afraid of” is a very different thing from saying, “do not be afraid.” The hard truth is that, in this world, there are frightening things that are very real: isolation, pain, illness, meaninglessness, rejection, failure, and death. As we grow in faith, we come to understand that even though such alarming things are very real, they **do not** have the last word. Our fears do not need to have ultimate power over us, because we believe in a God who is mightier than they.

Time and again in Scripture the word is, “Do not be afraid”, or “fear not”. It is, you might say, the first and the last word of the gospel. It is the word the angels speak to the terrified shepherds on the night Christ is born, and the word spoken at the tomb when the women discover it empty: “Do not be afraid.” Not because there are no fearsome things on the sea of our days, not because there are no storms, fierce winds, or waves, but rather, because God goes with us every step of the way.

Instead of saying, “There is nothing to be afraid of,” the whole truth would be for the parent comforting a frightened child to say, “Do not be afraid, because you are not alone.” The easy part of the truth, which every child figures out sooner or later, is that some things that frighten us are real and some are not. But the rest of the truth, the deeper truth that only faith in the God who raised Jesus from the grave can teach, is that even though there are real and terrible things in this life, they need not paralyze us; they need not have dominion over us; they need not own us, because we are not alone in the boat. So do not be afraid. Amen.

Blessing the Word in our Lives

Minister: Through the power of your Holy Spirit, and the inspiration of your Word, continue to work in us and through us. Transform us into your image. Make us signs of grace and hospitality to the world around us, so that your kingdom would come, and your will would be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

Hymn # 736:

For the healing of the nations

Words: Fred Kaan

©1985 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614 Music: Public Domain

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom. From despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how, through care and goodness, fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned,
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind.
For our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find.

Responding in love with thanksgiving

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

Minister: Holy God, we give you thanks for life in all its wonderful diversity. There are so many ways to live and speak - the beautiful tapestry of different skin colours, shapes, and sizes. We give thanks for different ways of expressing your love and living in family - from the global family of humanity to our LGBT neighbours, from two parents with 2.5 children to all the other ways we create bonds to share your love. We thank you for the many ways people have invented to praise you. Inspire us to see each other as neighbours, as siblings, as friends and not-yet friends.

People: God of hope, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for those who are trying to get through each day without the simple advantages that so many of us take for granted. You have given us stewardship of a planet that can easily support all humanity's needs but is groaning under humanity's greed. We pray for those who are being left behind - not enough to eat, lack of clean water, and lack of simple medicines. We also pray for the courage to keep our hearts open to the plight of our neighbour and keep our minds open to see ways of bringing relief.

People: God of hope, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for our planet. You have given us stewardship of your creation, and we have not always fulfilled our obligations to you. We often choose our immediate comfort over the health of our home and stealing a livable environment from our children. Forgive us, but also inspire us to care for our neighbours by caring for our home.

People: God of hope, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for the end of this terrible pandemic and for the restoration of our relationships. So many of us have lost jobs and are feeling alone. May your presence be felt by all people, but especially those whose lives and mental health have taken a beating. Guide our doctors, nurses, and politicians as they try to figure out the best way forward and lend wisdom and compassion to those who choose willful ignorance and egocentrism.

People: God of hope, hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for all those who are fleeing their homes. May their journeys be safe, and may they reach destinations where hospitality is offered. May all people who claim to worship you hear your frequent call to care for the stranger and foreigner and may we all work toward the day of your favour - when hostility will finally cease, when we finally experience shalom. We pray these and all other prayers, spoken and silent, in the name of our Saviour, who taught us to pray:

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

The Invitation

Minister: The Scriptures teach us of the courage it takes to serve God. Giving takes courage, too. So, give to God as you are able, trusting that God will honour your courage and generosity with the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

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: Generous God, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, grateful for your patience with us as your purposes unfold. Bless these gifts to accomplish your purposes throughout the world you love in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sending Hymn # 732:

O day of peace that dimly shines

Words: Carl P. Daw

©Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614 Music: Public Domain

1. O day of peace that dimly shines through all the hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release, till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small.

As beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord.
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled for all the earth shall know the Lord.

The Benediction and Choral Amen

Minister: God, we are aliens and sojourners in this world, but you invite us to be your guests. You lavishly offer us your hospitality and lovingly welcome us into your family. You

invite us to share in the abundance of your kingdom. You have shown us that providing hospitality to strangers opens a doorway into the Kingdom of God.

As you have been loved – love. As you have been welcomed – welcome. As you have been fed – feed. As you have received – give. And may the boundless love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be always with you. Amen.

The Organ Postlude

Toccata in C Major

Carlos Seixas



With support from Presbyterians Sharing, the Newcomers Mission has faithfully been gathering and offering services and spiritual support to newly arrived immigrants and refugees in the Peterborough area since 2016. Like the soft, protective wings of a dove, the programming of Newcomers Mission provides refuge and care for people living through very difficult and vulnerable situations. One wing of the ministry represents the spiritual side through worship services, prayer meetings and house visits. The other wing is the social and cultural side, helping newcomers to access support services, obtain employment and provide English language teaching and translation services. The two wings work together so that the newcomers can succeed and belong.

A Mission Moment from The Presbyterian Church in Canada

First Presbyterian Church

JUNE CALENDAR

Happy Birthday to: (June 23rd to June 29th)

JESSICA COLLINS – June 24th

PETER OXTOBEE – June 27th

LEA WASSINK – June 28th

LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY

- 1st Sunday of each month

CRAFT & CHAT – Tuesday afternoons – finished for the summer months.

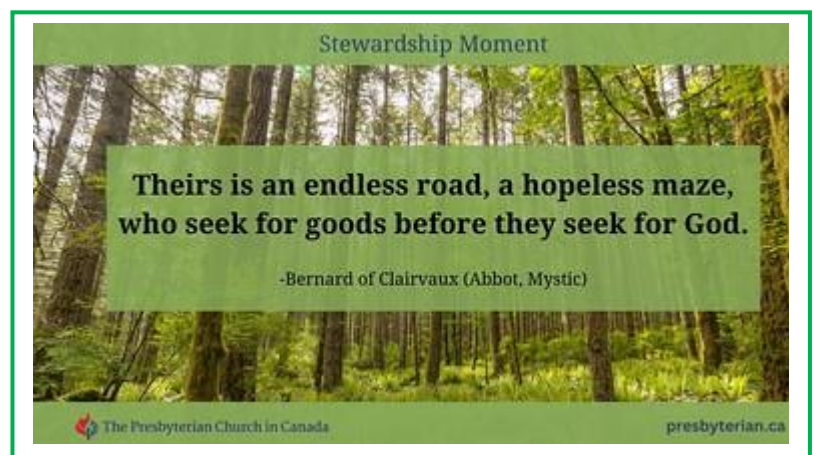
FPC HAND BELL CHOIR – Rehearsals finished for the summer months.

FPC FLUTE ENSEMBLE – Rehearsals finished for the summer months.

FPC CHANCEL CHOIR – Sunday 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 – Finished for the summer months.

BGH GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP – Monday Afternoons in Parlour throughout the summer.

BGH DAY HOSPICE – Wednesday Mornings & Afternoons in Parlour & Hall throughout the summer.

Jun 29 Saturday Lunch Ministry at the Brockville Public Library.

Jun 30 **Sunday Morning Worship with Communion** – 11 am. - Coffee Hour

SERVICES of WORSHIP in the Summer Months

Sundays, July 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

**Minister: The Reverend John Wilderspin
First Baptist Church**

at First Baptist Church - 10 am.

Sundays, August 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

**Minister: The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr
First Presbyterian Church**

at First Presbyterian Church - 11 am.

Sunday, September 1st

**Minister: The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr
First Presbyterian Church**

at First Presbyterian Church - 11 am.

Sunday, September 8th

at St. Lawrence Park - 11 am.

During the month of July, the congregations of First Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church will come together to worship at First Baptist Church at 10 am. For this month, First Baptist will produce the order of service each Sunday morning, as well as provide music and musical guests, readers and greeters. This provides the many volunteers from First Church, who provide this support each Sunday morning during the year, with the opportunity to have a break and worship with their families. In August, First Church will provide the volunteers and produce the bulletin, outreach mailings (or deliveries), and the prayer calendar. During July, you are encouraged to pray for the health and safety of friends and family and for the care and well-being of all those in need in our community and around the world. A note about givings: During July, envelopes from First Church folks should be placed on the offering plates each Sunday morning. The envelopes will be

collected at the end of each service and brought back to First Church for banking. The loose collection at services in July will remain with First Baptist Church. The loose collection in August will remain with First Presbyterian Church. Etransfer will be available as usual and envelopes can be left at the church office during the week.

SPONSORSHIPS to GRACEFIELD CAMP this summer.

<https://gracefieldcamp.ca/files/2023/02/2023-Winter.pdf>

Summer registration for camp is now open! First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring nine campers again this summer for a wonderful experience in God's great outdoors. The cost to send a child to camp averages between \$600 and \$700 depending on the camp the child is attending.

The M.O.V.E. Committee budgeted \$4,000 – already exceeded. Would you be willing to donate to the sponsorship fund? Please contact the Church Office for more information and ways to donate.



Canada Day is right around the corner and Gracefield is so excited to be hosting its annual celebrations! Scheduled activities are offered on June 30th and the morning of July 1st.

Activities include canoeing, archery, ropes course, slip n slide, a Community Potluck Meal and ending the night off with fireworks! We will be hosting a Community Potluck Meal, where hamburgers, hotdogs, pulled pork sandwiches, and drinks will be provided and we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert! Sign up for the potluck following the link below to order your meal and let us know what you are bringing.

Potluck Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/cTDtyTi5JynwF9EH8>
Book Accommodations to spend Canada Day celebrations at Gracefield! <https://letscamp.ca/camps/gracefield-christian-camp?campId=60806724bd7d0900197450fd>

Follow our social media to see a detailed schedule of our Canada Day events. Instagram: @gracefieldccrc

PWS&D CHURCH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The Church School children will be selling refrigerator magnets (hand-made by the children) for a donation, at Coffee Hour, on Sundays June 16th and 23rd. The money raised will be used to support the following projects, of the children's choosing, from the PWS&D's Gifts of Change Catalogue:

- * Education for Every Child
- * From Sickness to Strength
- * Sowing the Seeds of Food Security
- * Adapting to Climate Emergency

By giving a **Gift of Change**, they will be helping to make a difference in the lives of people in Canada and around the world.

Please support the children to raise \$200.00 for their PWS&D project.

TODAY! at 2 pm – Brockville Arts Center
Free of Charge – Come & enjoy the music!



KITCHEN CLEANUP

There will be a cleanup of the kitchen on Tuesday, June 25th from 9 am to noon. Volunteers are most welcome as we clean the stoves, refrigerators, and

Performing live at St. Lawrence Anglican Church

80 Pine Street, Brockville
Wednesday, June 26 at 7:00

Shout Sister Choir



Admission:
Freewill offering at the door in support of the Cooperative Care Center



What is World Refugee Day?

World Refugee Day was June 20th. It is an international day to honour refugees around the globe, celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their homes to escape conflict or persecution, and lament the circumstances that led to their forced displacement and harrowing journeys to find refuge. World Refugee Day offers us an opportunity to build empathy and understanding for the plight of refugees, to recognize their resilience, to pray for displaced people and their homelands, and to take time to discern how God is calling us, as Christ followers, to provide compassionate care for refugees and other displaced people.

As the Church, we come together to observe Refugee Sunday on either the Sunday before or after June 20th.

The Capital Project Volunteer Opportunities

1. Tenant Lease Application & Procedures Task Force

Deadline to complete by February 28th, 2025

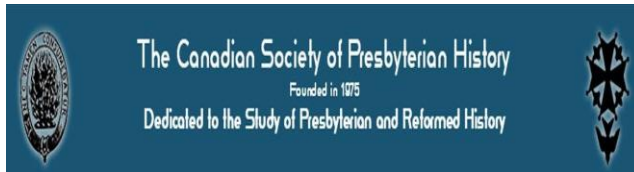
2. Fund-raising Task Force

September 2024 - February 2025

3. Project Coordination with Quentin Robinson

Starts a.s.a.p. and continues to March 2026

If you are interested, please contact Quentin at
613-301-4159 or thesession@truespeed.ca



PCC 150 - The Presbyterian Church in Canada at 150 in 2025

Appeal for Reminiscences & Reflections Past, Present & Future

The Committee on History has a commemorative project planned as part of the celebrations in honour of the 150th anniversary of the formation of the denomination in 2025. One of the 150th anniversary projects is PCC 150, a book that will gather the reminiscences and reflections of the past, present and future of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Committee on History has engaged Ian McKechnie of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lindsay, Ontario to serve as project co-ordinator and editor. Ian has issued an appeal for the members of the PCC to submit their recollections and reflections. The stories do not need to be long (400 words maximum). Even just a couple of sentences would suffice if they best capture your memory or your future goal as a member of the PCC.

It will not be a comprehensive history of the PCC, but a compilation of stories told by Presbyterians from coast to coast, and inclusive of all ages, cultural backgrounds, orientations and experiences.

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 *anyone 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 PCC as it approaches 150 years? The Committee on History desires as wide a representation across the denomination as possible of memories from the past, comments on the present and plans for the future.

Here's the 5-minute challenge:

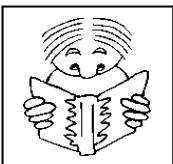
* Do not ignore or delay this appeal.

* Take 5 minutes to write your reminiscence or reflection.

(Let editor Ian McKechnie concern himself with spelling and grammar.)

* Email it to Ian McKechnie, project coordinator and editor: pcc150book@gmail.com

Submissions are being accepted until
November 30th, 2024.



The SUMMER Edition of the CHALLENGE is hot off the press and ready for distribution today, Sunday, June 23rd! Deliverers are asked to pick up their packets in the Church Office. Hard copies will also be available in the Church Office. Thanks to Reverend Marianne for another great edition!

This year, World Refugee Day focuses on solidarity with refugees – for a world where refugees are welcomed.

Refugees need our solidarity now more than ever. Solidarity means keeping our doors open, celebrating their strengths and achievements, and reflecting on the challenges they face. Solidarity with people forced to flee also means finding solutions to their plight – ending conflicts so they can return home in safety, ensuring they have opportunities to thrive in the communities that have welcomed them, and providing countries with the resources they need to include and support refugees.



Congolese refugee turns plastic waste into a profitable business



Raphael Basemi has come a long way since arriving in Kenya's Kakuma camp in 2009 with just a bag of clothes and his education certificates. The Congolese refugee now runs the largest community-led recycling enterprise in the camp, providing hundreds of jobs for other refugees and local community members.

"When I look at this plastic, I see a precious material, an employment opportunity for my community, a source of wealth, and a chance to support my family," he says.

Raphael spent his first six years in the camp working as a teacher. Later, in 2013, he founded FRADI (Fraternity for Development Integrated), a community-based social enterprise that promotes environmental protection and livelihoods for refugees and the host community in Kakuma.

"We realized that there was a language barrier among refugees," said the 31-year-old father of two. "We started teaching Swahili to the Somali community and English to the French-speaking community. And then we started providing technical skills such as hairdressing, carpentry, and welding."

It was while studying for a Business Management degree in the capital, Nairobi, that he struck on the idea for a recycling project that would allow him to generate income to support his family and preserve the environment. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he returned to the camp and started the project as a pilot. He did extensive research on policies governing waste management and how they affect refugees wanting to venture into it.

Community comes together - "When I had the idea for this [recycling] project, I sat with my neighbours and told them about my plan," he says. "Some embraced the idea and supported me. Some did not understand why I wanted to collect garbage and pile it in our community, but they willingly lent a hand." Local community leaders were ready to support the initiative and when he called for volunteers, he received an overwhelming response, with over 2,000 applicants. "The first month [in early 2020] was a trial-and-error period. We didn't have money to pay the collectors. After one month, some dropped out, but that



did not stop me." Support from the County Government and the Department of Refugee Service in Kenya (DRS) came just in time – Raphael was allocated three plastic collection centers to run in Kakuma refugee camp and one in the nearby Kalobeyei settlement.

"It was a long and challenging journey to train volunteers on recycling, set up structures, and find a vendor for the crushed plastic," says Raphael. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and other partners, helped Raphael to establish a shop in the Kakuma Incubation Centre – a UNHCR-funded economic development initiative that supports start-up businesses. There he sells items made from the plastic he recycles such as pegs, buttons, rulers, plates, and cups.

When the Government of Kenya signed the Refugee Act in November 2021, which included significant new policies on refugee economic inclusion and integration, Raphael was able to reach out to larger companies that now collect plastic from him for recycling. In addition to supporting refugee entrepreneurs like Raphael, UNHCR is working to [reduce the environmental impacts of its assistance](#), including by reducing the use of virgin plastics in the production and packaging of relief items it distributes. Blankets and other items are now made with 100 per cent recycled plastic.

A world without plastic - In the last three years, Raphael has created over 500 jobs for refugees and the local community, allowing them to earn an income and support their families. He has also expanded his operations into solid waste management, dealing with all types of waste, including bones, glass, metal, and organic waste.

"People know me as 'Raphael Plastic' or the 'Plastic Man'," he laughs. "When I see the volunteers bringing in the plastic they have collected, I see a community that is coming together for a greater cause." Despite the challenges that come with being a refugee entrepreneur, such as not being able to access financial services, Raphael remains optimistic about the future of his business and its potential to help create a circular economy in Kakuma and the Kalobeyei settlement. Part of his motivation comes from imagining the consequences for the environment if there was no plastic recycling. "I cannot sit and imagine a world like that."



Buttons and pegs made from recycled plastic waste.