



The Reverend
Marianne Emig Carr

Inside this Issue

- Pg. 2**
Christmas at FPC
A Giving Tree
- Pg. 3**
Advent Calendar
- Pg. 4 - 5**
"How To" Guide
- Pg. 6**
Scavenger Hunt
- Pg. 6**
More Celebrating!
- Pg. 7**
The Very First Time
- Pg. 8**
Memories - 150th
- Pg. 9 - 12**
What's Up at FPC
- Pg. 13**
History of Aprons
- Pg. 14**
Travelling with
Bob and Janice
- Pg. 15**
PWS&D Church
School Challenge
- Pg. 16**
Capital Project
- Pg. 17**
Almost the Last
Word from Tamara
- Pg. 18**
From PWS&D
- Pg. 19**
The End!

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The Music of Advent & Christmas

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour".
(Luke 1:46, NIV)



There are very few people that do not enjoy the music of Advent and Christmas. I love it when the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, the Flute Ensemble, and the Church School children start practicing favourite Advent and Christmas tunes! But the "commercialization" of Christmas by big retail companies has, unfortunately, resulted in Advent and Christmas music (I prefer to call what we hear in our stores and on the radios "seasonal music", as there is very little mention of Christ in any of it!!) to be broadcast well before the beginning of Advent.

Music has always been part of Advent and Christmas, even that very first Advent, when Mary awaited the birth of her child. When she sang this song (and I have only included the very first verse above) what we now call the "Magnificat," she testified to God's work in her own life - "for he who is mighty has done great things for me," - and to God's work in the world - "he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree."

Mary's song reminds us that God cares for us as individuals and for the world at large: everything from personal joy to cosmic justice is part of God's concern. The next time you hear Christmas music, remember Mary's song, and be assured that nothing is too big or too small to be outside of God's care.

When it seems that the world in which we live is becoming more and more chaotic, when we feel like we have no power or control over what is happening around us, Mary's song, and the melodies of Advent and Christmas, remind us that God chose a young peasant girl from a backwater part of the Roman Empire to be the mother of our Saviour. The entire arc of the Bible speaks of a God who knows us, who works through us to fulfill God's purposes in the world. In the melodies of Advent and Christmas, we hear the music of these promises again.

In Christ, Reverend Marianne



*There is a promise in each sunrise.
There is hope for each new day.
There is a sunbeam for each raindrop.
There is help along the way.
There is love that cannot be measured,
That makes all life's sorrows dim,
When you place your hand in God's hand,
And walk through life with him.*

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

An ADVENT CHALLENGE! CREATE A GIVING TREE

adapted from the PWS&D
Giving Tree Challenge
<https://presbyterian.ca/sharing/giving-tree/>

Advent is a time to celebrate God's great gift of love by sharing gifts (of all kinds) with others. This Advent, begin a Giving Tree tradition. By hanging ornaments on a giving tree, you can celebrate the gifts your family is sharing at Christmas in a very real way.

1) Buy or make a small Christmas tree and place it in a prominent place in your home.

2) Make Christmas ball decorations from old Christmas cards, make sure each one has a hanger or way to secure it to your tree. Put the ornaments and a marker in a basket near the tree.

3) Ways to give:

* Gifts can be made using the Gifts of Change catalogue available at the rear of the Sanctuary, from the Church office, or online.

* Gifts can be made to local ministries such as Loaves & Fishes, or the Brockville & Area Food Bank etc.

* Gifts of time can be made to help

someone in need.

* Words of encouragement, kindness, love and support are also gifts that any member of your family can give. * There are so many more ideas!

Every time a family member provides a gift, whatever that gift is, write the details on an ornament and place it on your tree. At the end of the Advent Season, read all the ornaments on your tree and celebrate your journey through the 24 days before Christmas. Know you have made a difference in the lives of many.



December 1st - HOPE

1st Sunday of Advent - 11 am.
with Communion

December 8th - PEACE

2nd Sunday of Advent - 11 am.
music by the Flute Ensemble

December 15th - JOY

3rd Sunday of Advent - 11 am.
Christmas Presentation by the Church School

December 22nd - LOVE

4th Sunday of Advent - 11 am.
music by the Hand Bell Choir
Longest Night Service - 4 pm.
*A contemplative Service of prayer, Word, candlelight & music
at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Brockville*

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve - The CHRIST CANDLE
A Family Christmas Service - 4:30 pm.
Candlelight, Lessons and Carols - 7 pm.

December 25th

Christmas Day
There will not be a Service of Worship.

December 29th

The first Sunday of Christmas
Morning Worship - 11 am.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024



Colour this **COUNTDOWN to CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDAR** – one square for each day in the season of Advent beginning on Sunday, December 1st. Bring your completed calendar with you, to either service of worship, on Christmas Eve and give it to Reverend Marianne to decorate her office door!

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

YOUR "HOW TO" GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS

"HOW TO" STUDY

The Texts Behind the Tunes: An Advent Program

Created by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Moderator of the 2024 General Assembly
Professor of Hebrew Bible, Emerita, Vancouver School of Theology

Pick up a copy of
OUR DAILY BREAD
next time you are in the
Sanctuary. The booklet contains
a reading, reflection, questions
for thought, and prayer
beginning on December 1st.

This Advent study, written by the Reverend Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, has been created to help congregations understand and appreciate the Old Testament texts that underlie the many beautiful hymns that the church sings during Advent. It consists of short videos, appointed scripture readings, and an Advent hymn based on the scripture readings. The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr will be leading this study on Zoom only, starting on Monday, November 25th at 7 pm, and running for four consecutive weeks, concluding on December 16th. Please contact Reverend Marianne at rev.marianne@myhighspeed.ca to receive the Zoom link and an advance list of the Scripture passages and the hymns that will be explored each week. If you unable to attend on Mondays, please let Reverend Marianne know and she will send you Rev. Dr. Dutcher-Walls' videos, together with the scripture passages and hymn references so you can undertake the study on your own. Hope you can join us!

"HOW TO" GIVE - TIME and MONEY



A GIFT for EVERYONE on your list!

By giving a **Gift of Change**, you are making a difference in the lives of people in Canada and around the world. No matter what you choose to support, you can be sure your funds will be used effectively and efficiently to carry out life-changing programs. **The catalogue is available on-line <https://presbyterian.ca/gifts-of-change/>. Select the Gifts of Change program you would like to support and donate online! OR call or come into the Church Office and Office Marianne will help you navigate the on-line process. **Together we are making a difference!****



The CHRISTMAS "MEMORY" TREE

The Chancel Choir invites you to help decorate the Christmas Tree at the front of the Sanctuary by sponsoring lights in memory or in honour of loved ones. Names will be placed individually, with a ribbon, around a single white light on the Tree. Money received will be given to First Church in support of the ministry and ongoing expenses of the Church. Donations can be included in your church envelopes, dropped off at, or mailed to the Church. A printed list of loved ones must accompany your donation so tags can be prepared and attached to lights. You can also contact the Church Office at 613-345-5014. Donations must be received by Sunday, December 22nd and will be included in your 2024 tax receipt.

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024



A **RED SLEIGH** has arrived at the rear of the Sanctuary! Would you help to fill it!? Items could include toothbrushes, socks and underwear, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, lotions, dish liquid, etc. and non-perishable food items. The contents of the sleigh will be given to **BROCKVILLE & AREA FOOD BANK** after Christmas Eve December 24th. Donations can also be left at the Church Office. Thanks!

ONGOING PROJECTS to SUPPORT THOSE in NEED

The need for food, shelter and basic necessities does not take a holiday! Your gifts to Loaves & Fishes, the Brockville & Area Food Bank (the Church Breakfast Bag Program), the Cooperative Care Center, and the Sunday Supper Ministry are all so important, especially at this time of year. Monetary gifts are all tax deductible and can be given using any of the ways listed on the back page.

YOUR CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE

Your box of Church Envelopes contains a special one marked “Christmas Offering”. This year, donations received in that special envelope will be given in support of **PRESBYTERIANS SHARING**. To learn more about the work of the *Presbyterian Church in Canada* through *Presbyterians Sharing* visit <https://presbyterian.ca/sharing/>. For those of you who do not have envelopes, donations can be made using any of the ways listed on the back page of this newsletter. Include your name, full address and the words “for *Presbyterians Sharing*”.



CHRISTMAS CHEER! On Tuesday, December 10th, **the M.O.V.E. Committee and Friends** will be packing and distributing cookies and greeting cards to many members of our congregation to let them know we are thinking about them, especially during the holiday season. Can you donate a batch of cookies? If so, please make sure your cookies are at the church no later than 10 am. on Tuesday, December 10th. “Elves” to help with packaging and delivering are also very welcome.



This holiday season help local families in need by donating new, unwrapped toys for local children - ages 0-14! Toys can be dropped off at Brockville Hyundai, 770 Stewart Boulevard, or the Brockville YMCA on Park Street. Toy Mountain is a project of Brockville Hyundai, The Brockville YMCA, the Salvation Army, and MOVE 104.9 and BOUNCE 103.7.

CHRISTMAS KETTLE CAMPAIGN Volunteer to ring a bell at a kettle location. Call 613-342-5211 for more information and to volunteer.

and there is so much more you can do!
All the above can add a decoration to your family Giving Tree!

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt

Here are the items to find. Remember,
each item must be found outside
and involve lights in some way!

Santa on a Roof
Santa's Sleigh
Nativity Scene
Giant Ornaments
White Lights
An angel
Presents
A Reindeer
Icicles



A Candy Cane
Coloured Lights
A Spiral Tree
Christmas Tree
Snowflakes
A Train
A Snowman
A Wreath
A Christmas Sign

The list above includes lots of different things that we usually see decorating the outside of houses and businesses at Christmas. The goal is to see how many different items you can check off the list. A picture of each item would be even better! You can walk through whole neighbourhoods looking for your items. A great place to visit would be the community in Maitland, for example. You would likely find everything on the list all in one place. Or you could visit a community Facebook group to find beautifully decorated houses and neighbourhoods to visit. Once you know where you are going, wait until dark (best time to see the lights), dress warmly, take your list and your cell phones, and head out to check out the lights.

After Christmas and by January 1st, 2025, email your pictures and/or completed lists to firstkirk@truespeed.ca. The family (any size family) with the most pictures/items checked off will be treated to a special dinner with the editor and her hubby. Any questions? Ask Marianne (the office one).

"HOW TO" CELEBRATE

The Spencerville Community Choir Presents



Sunday, December 1
2:00 pm

Monday, December 2
7:00 pm

Tickets available at the door Adults: \$15.00
Students 12-18: \$7.00 Children 11 and under \$3.00

Proceeds to Lazarus House and the Edwardsburgh Foodbank

Spencerville United Church, Centre Street, Spencerville

The Brockville Community Choir

Madelyn Mensen Artistic Director
Abe TeGrotenhuis Collaborative Artist
Invites You To

A Victorian Christmas

Concert & Sing-A-Long

Featuring

The Herald Brass

The Brockville Community Choir & Friends
FREE WILL DONATIONS FOR THE SUNDAY SUPPERS PROGRAM

Saturday December 21st 2-4pm

St. Lawrence Anglican Church 80 Pine Street Brockville



DONATIONS & BAKE SALE IN SUPPORT OF
THE SUNDAY SUPPERS PROGRAM

BrockvilleChoir.ca



THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024


The VERY FIRST TIME!!

The very first time our feet brought us inside this beautiful sanctuary was many years ago...long before we recognized familiar faces or exchanged names. There were three sets of feet - my dad, my boyfriend, myself. We were almost late. Dad paid our admission at the door, then we crept up the curved stairs to the balcony where we managed to find three second-row seats which gave us an excellent view of the top of the great musician's head.

It was the early sixties, and we had come to hear famed Dutch organist Feike Asma give a recital, a rare concert dedicated to the Dutch immigrants who had come to Canada after WWII. Most of his recitals had been booked in major cities but he made an exception because First Kirk was reputed to have the best pipe organ between Montreal and Toronto. Also, many immigrants had settled in Eastern Ontario, so he anticipated having an appreciative audience. We did not disappoint him. This church was packed! He, in turn, did not disappoint us. How we enjoyed ourselves as he played on and on - familiar melodies, classical selections old and new, closing with the Dutch national anthem. 'Twas an evening to remember!

I was raised with a love for music. Both my brothers were accomplished organists. Arend played regularly at every church he attended, and at our wedding. Dirk could move between pulpit and organ/piano with ease if the regular 'tickler of the keys' was unavailable. My sister Ada played guitar. Me, I can't play anything!

Over the years we have attended many wonderful and varied concerts here but never again have we been entertained by a professional organist from another country. However, I complain not! We, the parishioners as well as



Light and sound shows are popular all over the world, but few are lucky enough to have a locale like Blockhouse Island! The River of Lights provides an opportunity for everyone in the community to come together for the holiday season to enjoy a dynamic light and sound show every night in December. Beginning November 30th every night until January 6th from 6 pm. to 10 pm. The event is free to everyone, thanks to the help from community sponsors. For more information visit. <https://riveroflightsbrockville.com/>



THIS CHRISTMAS
help Fill a Stocking
for a Senior

ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL
DECEMBER 6, 2024

DROP OFF LOCATION:
SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES-CPHC
2235 PARKEDALE AVE. BROCKVILLE

Ideas of gifts for stockings: candies, chocolates, puzzles, books, knitted items, games, ornaments, gift cards, personal care items, stockings

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
613-342-3693 EXT. 2008

THERE IS NO BETTER TEACHER
THAN THE HOLY SPIRIT
& NO BETTER TEXT
THAN GOD'S
WORD.

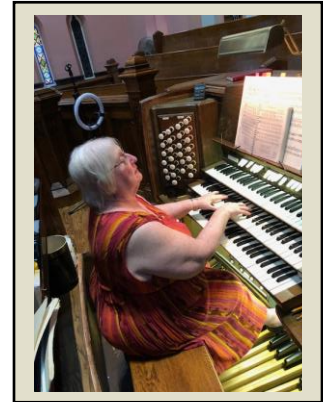


THANK YOU, PEANUTS.

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

visitors to First Kirk enjoy amazing music on a regular basis. Every Sunday Kathleen, accompanied by our choir and gifted musicians honour and bless us with a wonderful assortment of inspirational selections. Music is such an integral part of worship. It soothes our spirits, filling all the little cracks and crevices in our soul that others cannot see. It is healing, comforting, lifts us out of sadness and despair, encourages us, gives us peace.



When I lost most of my hearing within a very short time, my greatest fear was that I might lose it all. I am blessed and thankful to still be able to enjoy what I may and am looking forward with great anticipation to what Kathleen and her cohorts have in store for us this Christmas. I know it will be great! And when she ‘opens the pipes’ to play the postlude to each service she always takes me back to that very first concert so many years ago.

Love, Margriet

A Thought for Today

This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded for it. I want it to be GAIN not LOSS; GOOD not EVIL; SUCCESS not FAILURE; in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.

Moira Gilmer

To: The Committee on History for the Presbyterian Church in
Canada's 150th Anniversary Book
from: First Presbyterian Church
Memories of Music, Organists, Choirs and Ministers
by Bonnie Burke

Presbyterian
History



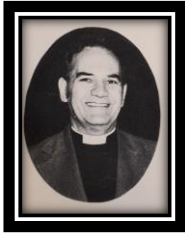
It was Ed Flanigan's genuine love of people, great sense of humour, and his wonderful talent that guaranteed that the finest music was offered in First Church each week for forty-three years. The congregation waited in anticipation each spring for the results of the scores from the annual Lions' Club Music Festival. Ed Flanigan's Junior Church Choir repeatedly received high marks and praise from festival adjudicators. The young choir members formed life-long friendships with Mr. Flanigan and his family.

Our current Organist and Choir Director Kathleen Howard encourages members of the congregation to share their musical gifts. We enjoy the Flute Ensemble, trumpet solos, bagpipes, the cello and guitar. The formation of the Hand Bell

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

Choir and the Flute Ensemble certainly added a new dimension to our services of worship. Music has always been an integral part of our services and has created many happy memories

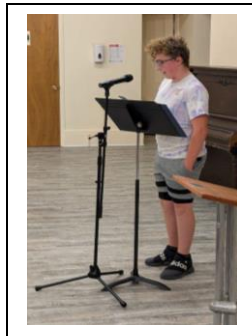


Many in our church remember the Reverend Les Renault. He served our congregation from 1962 to 1977. He was a wonderful man - a friendly person who lived a true Christian Life. One year Reverend Renault encouraged our Church School children to attend the Sunday School Rally held in Prescott, Ontario. We still remember how seven of the children came home with chicken pox! Lots of jokes and laughs were told at the expense of the Reverend for a long time. But the

Reverend was a good sport and took it in his stride.

As times are changing, so has the role of the church and the minister. Under the leadership and personal example of the Reverend Marianne Emig Carr, our congregation is more involved than ever in Community Outreach. We supply food to Loaves & Fishes, the Brockville & Area Food Bank, the Community Outreach Center, Sunday Suppers and the Drop-In Lunch Program. Caring for those in need is a huge part of Reverend Marianne's ministry. It is the hope of our congregation to be able to continue our mission and ministry to those in need in our church and in our community.

and that was then on to now!



RALLY SUNDAY

September 8th, 2024

In keeping with tradition, the congregation came together for worship on Rally Sunday, not at St. Lawrence Park, but in the Church Hall. The weather

was cold and wet! But the mood was not dampened. We sang, prayed and enjoyed being together. On this Sunday, the children whom First Presbyterian Church has sponsored to Gracefield Camp, and their families, are invited to share their outdoor experiences. The children are welcome to tell us about their time at camp. This year Max Chapman told us his story! Thanks Max, for sharing your experience with us! We are pleased to hear you, and your camp mates had such a wonderful time. Hopefully next year will be even better!

A WONDERFUL HISTORY of REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP



The Private Sponsorship of the Refugees Program officially began in 1978 and

marked the first time Canadians were able to get involved in the resettlement of vulnerable

THE CHALLENGE

refugees. Since 1980, more than 160 communities have welcomed privately sponsored refugees from more than 175 countries, and since 2015, more than half of the 62,000 Syrian refugees who have been resettled to Canada were privately sponsored. This sponsorship model has subsequently been copied by many countries around the world. The need for refugee resettlement in safe third world countries has grown exponentially over the last decade – there are more refugees and displaced people now than at any time since World War II.

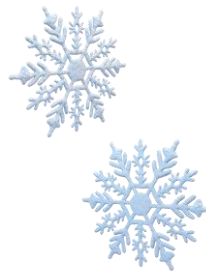
First Presbyterian Church has partnered with other churches and community members to sponsor refugee cases since 2016, for a total of 35 individuals. Many of these refugees have stayed in the Brockville area, while others have moved to different parts of Ontario.

The most recent arrival was in partnership with the community group *Brockville Together*. The group welcomed Mohammad Idris (know as “Idris”), a single man from

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

Syria who had been living in Malaysia since 2013. As Malaysia is not a signatory to the UN Convention on Refugees, Idris had very few rights regarding work and social services and lived in constant fear of being deported to Syria.

Idris is currently staying with one of the *Brockville Together* group members and is eagerly looking for work here in Brockville. He speaks English fluently and has his master’s degree in information technology. The members of *Brockville Together* are helping him with settlement, including finding permanent housing, work and helping him make friends and get involved in the community. He is looking forward to seeing snow again! Welcome to Canada, Idris!



The Missing Five Pound Note

Chippenham George worked for the Post Office processing all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day just before Christmas, a letter landed on his desk simply addressed in shaky handwriting: ‘To God’. With no other clue on the envelope, George opened the letter and read:

Dear God, I am a 93-year-old widow living on the State pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had £100 in it, which was all the money I had in the world, and no pension due until after Christmas. Next week is Christmas and I had invited two of my friends over for Christmas lunch. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with. I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. God, can you please help me?

Chippenham George was touched, and being kind-hearted, he put a copy of the letter up on the staff notice board at the sorting office where he worked. The letter touched the other postmen, and they all dug into their pockets and had a whip round. Between them, they raised £95. Using an officially franked Post Office envelope, they sent the cash on to the old lady, and for the rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done. Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter simply addressed to ‘God’ landed in the Sorting Office. Many of the postmen gathered around while George opened the letter. It read,

Dear God, How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your generosity, I was able to provide a lovely luncheon for my friends. We had a very nice day, and I told my friends of your wonderful gift – in fact, we have not gotten over it and even Father John, our parish priest, is beside himself with joy. By the way, there was £5 missing. I think it must have been those thieving fellows at the Post Office.

George could not help to muse on Oscar Wilde’s quote: ‘A good deed never goes unpunished’

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 10th, 2024



All in silence, some in tears, we placed our poppies on the cross in remembrance.

Last Post / Rouse / Lament

Prior to mid 19th century, the foot soldier's life was regulated by drumbeats. Later that same century the bugle call was introduced and was used for both field maneuvers and during camp routine to initiate a conditioned response from the soldier. Certain "calls" were used to "order" changes in type, direction or speed of attack or withdrawal formations. However, the most utilized bugle calls were "Reveille", "Rouse" and "Last Post". The "Rouse" was used as a "quarter call" to wake the soldiers fifteen minutes before the more formal activity announced by "Reveille", which was a more complicated call by all the buglers.

In the early 20th century, the need for two "wake-up" calls was reduced. In 1909, the longer call (Reveille) was omitted and the shorter call (Rouse) was redesignated "Reveille". However, in 1927, the longer call was reinstated. British ceremonial manuals declared that the "Rouse" would be used for funeral services throughout the Empire. Today, the two titles are used interchangeably although the longer of the two calls is seldom heard.

"Last Post" is one of the regulation calls that would be heard in the evening to signal the completion of the setting of night sentinels or sentry posts. "First Post" signaled the mounting of the "guard" or sentry posts. "Last Post" would then be sounded to signal that the camp was secure and that all sentry posts were manned and ready.

For Remembrance Day ceremonies, the use of "Last Post" and "Reveille" (Rouse) is used to draw the symbolic association between the soldier's last duty of "sitting sentry" (death) and his "rising" above his mortal duties (reveille).

submitted by Michel LaBonte

A LIST TO LIVE BY

The most destructive habit - **WORRY**; The greatest joy - **GIVING**; The greatest loss - **LOSS of SELF-RESPECT**; The most satisfying work - **HELPING OTHERS**; The ugliest trait - **SELFISHNESS**; The most endangered species - **DEDICATED LEADERS**; Our greatest natural resource - **OUR YOUTH**; The greatest shot in the arm - **ENCOURAGEMENT**; The greatest problem to overcome - **FEAR**; The most effective sleeping pill - **PEACE of MIND**; The most crippling failure disease - **EXCUSES**; The most powerful force in life - **LOVE**; The most dangerous pariah - **A GOSSIPER**; The world's most incredible computer - **THE BRAIN**; The worst thing to be without - **HOPE**; The deadliest weapon - **THE TONGUE**; The two most power-filled words - **I CAN**; The greatest asset - **FAITH**; The most contagious spirit - **ENTHUSIASM**; The most worthless emotion - **SELF-PITY**; The most beautiful attire - **SMILE!**; The most prized possession - **INTEGRITY**.

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

The CHILDREN ENJOY P.A. DAY CAMPS

First Presbyterian Church hosted eighteen campers for P. A. Day Camp on Friday, October 25th. As October was Fire Prevention Month, the campers visited the Brockville Fire Department Station on Perth Street to learn more about fire safety. The campers also delivered 23.6 kgs of food on behalf of the firefighters to the Brockville & Area Food Bank. On Friday, November 22nd, we welcomed a great group of campers to spend the day enjoying crafts, games and stories in the Church Hall. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our caroling at the Wedgewood Retirement Resort due to a COVID outbreak in the residence, but we

did welcome Chelsea and Mackenzie from Connect Youth, who told us about the new Supportive Cabins Initiative in Brockville and how it would greatly help people who are currently unhoused in our community. The campers and congregation donated socks, gloves, toques, scarves and mitts of all kinds. The warmth these items bring is greatly needed by so many as the weather gets colder.

Many thanks to Denise Kent, our Christian Education Coordinator, and everyone who volunteered to make the camps such a wonderful success! The next P.A. Day Camp is on January 31st, 2025.



THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

The 2024 Santa Claus parade was held on Saturday, November 16th. First Presbyterian Church participated for the third time. We were a small but merry band dressed in biblical costumes. Lenny and Frankie were Mary and Joseph, Rev. Marianne and Tamara were wisemen, Kade and Francis were Roman soldiers, Marie and Lisa were shepherds, and I was an angel. It was a relatively warm evening for the middle of November. We had lots of candy to give out, or so we thought.



But with so many children lining the route, we ran out way before we wanted to. I guess we will have to buy much more for next year. When the parade was over, we were tired and footsore but happy that we had represented our church and the biblical reason for the season. By next year we should be recovered enough to participate again.

Submitted by - Janet LeBrun

The History of Aprons

from the Craft & Chat gals – specifically Eleanor Bingley!

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath. It was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material. But, along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning our dirty ears.

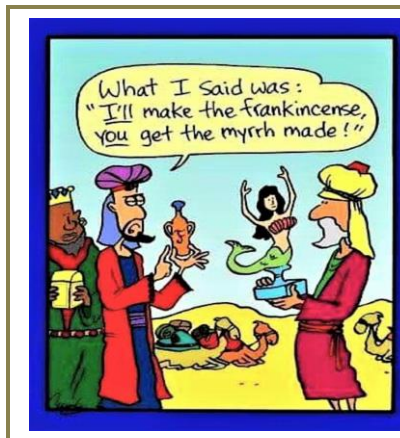
From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy children. When the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

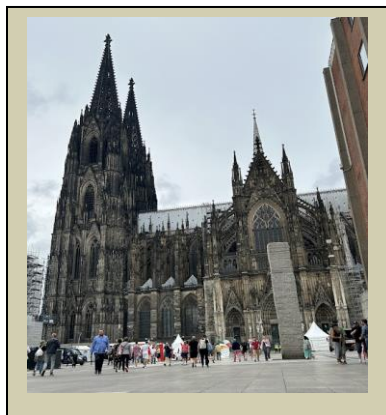
When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old apron" that served so many purposes.

Remember: Grandma used to set her hot apple pies on the windowsill to cool.

Her granddaughters set theirs on the windowsill to thaw.





Cologne Cathedral

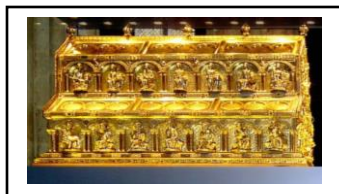
Travelling with our Members

THE COLOGNE AND STRASBOURG CATHEDRALS

In June, Janice and I had a wonderful cruise along the Rhine River between Amsterdam and Basel in Switzerland where we were able to visit many historical sites, including the Cologne and Strasbourg Cathedrals.

The Cologne Cathedral is the second tallest Church in Europe and the most visited German landmark with over six million visitors per year. Construction began in 1248 and was not finished until 1880.

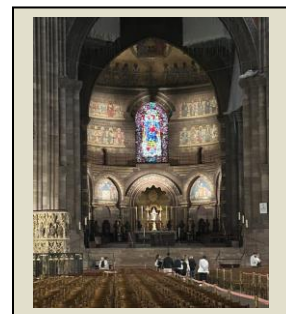
The Cologne Cathedral is famous for what many believe is the final resting place of the three Wise Men or Magi. According to the story we were told, it all began in the year 313 when the graves of the three Wise Men were found in Jerusalem. Their remains were then transported to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). Some time later the Roman Emperor gave them to an Italian Bishop, and they were taken to Milan, Italy where they lay for seven centuries. In 1162 the Archbishop of Cologne (who was also a military leader) assisted in the besieging of Milan and requested the coffins of the three Wise Men as part of the spoils of war. The Archbishop viewed the three coffins as more valuable than gold and precious stones. Several years after arriving in Cologne the original builders planned a grand structure to house the "reliquary" of the relics along with a chapel. This became so popular with pilgrims, Emperors and Kings that a proper Cathedral was built. In 1864 the Shrine was opened, and three sets of bones were present, wrapped in valuable silk fashions known to have originated in Syria.



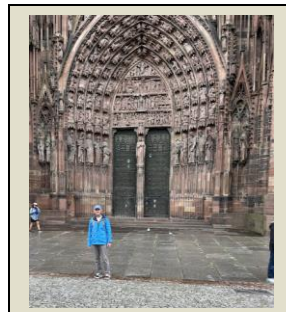
Since there are very few written sources to authenticate this, other stories about the Wise Men have flourished. It has been said that the famous explorer of the 13th century, Marco Polo while travelling through Persia (modern day Iran), visited a site where *"three Kings were buried from time gone by"*.

The Strasbourg Cathedral is in Strasbourg, France. Although we have not been to other famous Cathedrals such as Notre-Dame in Paris, we were absolutely stunned at the beauty and intricacy of the architecture. Construction began in 1015 and finished in 1439 and for a period it was the world's tallest building. Entering the Cathedral almost took your breath away!

We could have spent hours marvelling at the stained-glass windows, sculptures and paintings but were truly amazed at the famous Astronomical Clock. The original clock was installed in 1352 but was



The Strasbourg Cathedral



THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024



replaced by the present clock in 1837. It is 59 ft. high and gives the official time, day of the week, month, year, sign of the zodiac, phase of the moon and the position of several planets. Its main attraction however are several animated figures including Christ and the Apostles that launch into movement at noon every day (we were there to experience this event) which best can be described as a parade. This is accompanied by the distinct sound of beating wings and a large cock crowing. All this is done without electricity!

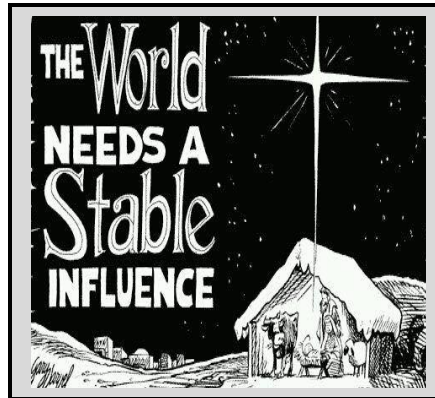
happy travelling – Bob & Janice Walroth

PWS&D CHURCH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The Church School children will be selling crafts (hand-made by the children) for a donation, at Coffee Hour, on December 1st, 8th, and 15th. The money raised will be used to support a project of the children's choosing from the PWS&D's Gifts of Change Catalogue including:

- * Sowing the seeds of Food Security
- * Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- * Adapting to Climate Emergency
- * Planting a Tree in Palestine
- * Care for Children in Romania
- * Ministry with indigenous People

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 \$300 for their PWS&D project.



JOHN DORAN Jr.
DONNA HODGE
KURT LANGE
ELIZABETH NUTTALL
SAM GRAHAM
TED ABBOTT
SHARON CLARKE
JOSEPH DERRY
JOE LOR
BILL CLARKE
JIM ROY
NANCY FRASER
PETER LEWIS
MARIAN GALNA
ORVA MALLETT
PEGGY JEFFREY



Christmas is coming quickly, and fresh cut Christmas trees are arriving at many of our local businesses! Here are a few tips for keeping your Christmas tree fresh throughout the holiday season.

1. Fir trees are well known for their ability to hold their needles for weeks, with Fraser fir being the best, growers recommend that you take a fresh cut off the bottom of the tree trunk just before bringing your tree inside and placing in your tree stand. This is because when the tree has been cut from the field, the trunk seals itself to preserve moisture, so you must take at least 1.5 inches off the bottom (4 cm) in order for the tree trunk to open up and be able to take up moisture again.
2. Fill the water reservoir of your Christmas tree stand and keep it full! Your tree will take up water constantly, but it will take up the most especially in the first few days of being put up. No other additives are needed to keep it hydrated, just H2O (water).
3. If you are not putting your tree up when you get it home, be sure to store it standing up in a shady area outside until you are ready to bring it in! Merry Christmas!

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

Looking ahead! Capital Project Update

Here are some highlights on the progress of the project:

1. The documentation required by the City of Brockville was submitted on October 25th. The plans are being processed and we are on track for construction to start on March 1st, 2025. EFI Engineering put together the Planning Rational submitted to the city. It is a remarkable document if you are interested in seeing it.
2. Andrew Byson and Lauren Wood are the team responsible for coordinating the construction of the new apartments.
3. The focus now is on relocating the groups and activities currently using the Sunday School wing.

- Sunday School: Denise Kent and Janet LeBrun are coordinating the move from the Sunday School wing into the nursery in early January. Sunday School will be given a cupboard in the kitchen and will keep their cupboard beside the coatrack on the southwest corner of the hall.

- Archives: Bonnie Burke and her team are moving into the office.

- Bell Choir: Plans are to build a cupboard for the bells, tables, music stands... in the passage to the choir room. Tables currently stored there will need a new home. The Bell Choir will be rehearsing in the hall.

- Guides/Embers: Have been told their storage items will be relocated in the New Year. Exact location is unknown at this time.

As the groups, activities and supplies are moved we will need volunteers to help with painting, carpentry and physical moving. If you can assist, please speak to either Quentin Robinson or David Duncan.

4. Those who rent parking spots at First Presbyterian have been advised that we can no longer do this after February 2025. We will have parking available for staff, tenants of the two remaining houses and a few spots for those using the facilities during the construction period.

5. Karen Mahon has started work on tenant information and leases.



Submitted by – *Quentin Robinson*

DIVINE DIRECTIONS - On the Sunday before Christmas, a reverend was walking down a street on his way to visit a parishioner. However, he wanted to post a parcel urgently, so he asked a young boy for directions to the post office. When the boy had directed him, the reverend thanked him and said, "If you will come to the Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven". The boy replied, "I think I will pass on your sermon. If you do not even know your way to the post office, how will you lead me to heaven?" 😊

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

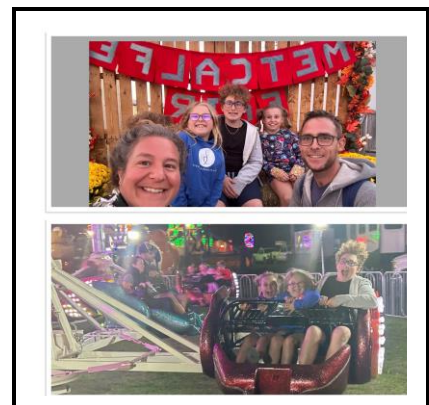
The Almost Last Word!

As September marked the beginning of a new season of school and routine, refreshed from the relaxation of summer holidays, we reflect on the many blessings we have. The kids were excited to start a new school year, grades 8, 5, and 3. Crazy how the years have gone by, but with the guidance of good teachers, family and the good Lord above they will continue to have success for years to come.



We kept up our yearly tradition with great friends and went to Halls Orchard for apple picking. It was refreshing to breathe in the crisp fall air and the smell of fresh apples.

The Tincap Berry Farm, for the past few years, has grown a field of sunflowers which they offer to the public to walk through and enjoy. The kids and I were able to go on a beautiful Saturday morning. We enjoyed our sunflower stroll, and I took the opportunity for a photo shoot with such picturesque backgrounds, in nature and surrounded (literally 😊) by Gods beauty!



At the beginning of October, for the first time, we attended the Metcalfe Fair, and it did not disappoint. From the showing of livestock to the truck pulls, midway rides and delicious foods, we had a great day, which also happened to be Len's 8th birthday.

Most of Ontario, halfway through October, was treated to the most magnificent light show, the Aurora Borealis, and we were lucky enough to see it. The sky was a-light with the most beautiful display of colour I have ever seen before. I continue to be amazed by God's creation!



Now as we prepare for the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, which is quickly approaching, I am reminded to enjoy the little things. Amongst all the chaos and joy, I will remind myself to stop and be grateful for Gods bounty and abundant gifts this season.

blessings – Tamara

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

Understanding Gender Roles and Advocating for Equality



In India, Indral Kumar and Golu Kumar are two friends who regularly attend group meetings and awareness-raising sessions on gender issues conducted by PWS&D's local partner in their villages. The boys, who are 13 and 14 years old,

come from families that believe household work is to be done only by women and that men doing such activities are considered low status. They held little regard for the women in their families, always expecting them to serve the men and fulfill traditional roles without question. Tasks such as fetching a drink or preparing their own meals were considered degrading, as they saw such actions as beneath them due to their gender.



During the sessions, though, the boys learned about gender roles and stereotypes, as well as gender equality. They also learned how to promote gender equality within their own homes. For Indral and Golu, this was an insightful realization. They had unknowingly perpetuated gender inequality within their families and their new awareness pushed them into action.



They started helping their mothers and sisters with household work, washing their clothes and dishes, and serving food for themselves. They began to understand the difficulties faced by the women in their lives and gained new

appreciation for all that their mothers and sisters did for their households. They began to value the women in the family and started supporting them. All the other family members were astonished to see the behavioural change.

Indral and Golu started sharing what they had learned in the class with their friends and family members. The positive changes in Indral and Golu had a ripple effect, inspiring their friends and other men in their families to begin showing greater respect for the women in their households. Seeing their sons' profound transformation, Golu and Indral's mothers were deeply moved. They came to meet the project trainers and expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the valuable lessons they had taught their sons. [Read more stories at https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/](https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/)



Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, **PWS&D** envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. Presbyterian World Service & Development's key values are:

Compassion - PWS&D walks with distressed and marginalized people, listening carefully to their stories and responding effectively. **Justice** - PWS&D works for equality, empowerment, human dignity, peace and stewardship of creation. In solidarity, we affirm that all people are entitled to know their rights, to receive equal protection, and to have access to and control over resources. **Partnership** - PWS&D believes in dynamic relationships that involve mutual learning, trust and shared vision. Healthy partnerships are accountable, ethical, equitable, flexible and respectful.

THE CHALLENGE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2024

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Minister

The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr
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Director of Music

Kathleen Howard
Email: kmaryhoward@live.ca

Children's Ministry

Denise Kent
Email: denisekent1957@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Quentin Robinson

Email: thesession@truespeed.ca

- * **Website:** pccweb.ca/firstchurch-Brockville
- * **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Firstkirk>
- * **Twitter:** [Twitter.com@firstkirk](https://twitter.com/firstkirk)
- * **Instagram:**
www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/
- * **YouTube Channel:**
<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/>
- * **Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services**
every Sunday 7 am. and 5:30 pm.

First Presbyterian Church is a dynamic, inclusive and historic church in the heart of downtown Brockville. The congregation, which has been praising God for over 200 years, is committed to creating a vibrant family in Christ and sharing the Good News of God's love with all.

First Presbyterian Church is situated on traditional lands of the Anishnaabe Haudenosaunee Territory and Mississauga peoples. We acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Reverend Marianne, Quentin Robinson, Margriet Westendorp, Moira Gilmer, Mark Leslie, Michel LaBonte, Eleanor Bingley, Bob & Janice Walroth, Tamara Chapman, Janet LeBrun, Marianne Bimm and Denise Kent for your contributions to this edition. It would not happen without all of you!

You can give.....

- by **e-transfer** to firstkirk@truespeed.ca
- 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, Ontario, K6V 5W1
- by delivering your offering envelope through the mail slot in the Church Street door. The envelopes will be collected daily.

OUR NEW YEAR'S WISH for YOU is that you have someone to love, have meaningful work to do, and have things greater than yourself to believe in; that you have a reason to smile every day and a shoulder to cry on when you need it; that you keep your integrity even when the choices are hard; that you
Love deeply,
Give freely,
Forgive willingly,
Laugh easily.
And live well enough to be grateful every day.

and!
from all of
us at First
Church
**A VERY
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and a
BLESSED
NEW YEAR!**

