



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 9th, 2025

The First Sunday in Lent

Minister: **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard**

Reader: **Francis LeBrun**

Welcome to worship! Thank you for joining us from wherever you are! In-person services of worship continue, with online options available 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 volunteers, in the Church School Room off the Church Hall, for a time of fun and faith-centered activities, at the beginning of the service. The children will rejoin their families in time for communion.
- * **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.
- * **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 sign the sheet in the Church Hall or call Tamara Chapman.

ASSISTING YOU THIS MORNING

Greeter: Brenda Fisk Elevator: Kade LeBrun
Sound and Video Team – Quentin Robinson, Kade LeBrun
Michel LaBonte and Mark Leslie



- * Our website and social media accounts:
<https://pccweb.ca/firstchurch-brockville/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Firstkirk/>
www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/
<https://twitter.com/firstkirk>

NEED A RIDE?
Call Executive Taxi!
A free service provided by
your M.O.V.E. Committee

- * YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams>
- * **Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services** every Sunday at 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.

the people of God gather....

The liturgical colour for this Sunday is Purple.

Purple marks the seasons of penitence and preparation (Advent and Lent).

The Organ Prelude

Prelude in G Minor

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God

This liturgy was written by the Reverend Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls.

Minister: In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to abandon God,

All: for the false hopes of indulgence, arrogance and certainty.

Minister: During our Lenten journey, we recognize we too are tempted,

All: to turn aside from seeking only God and God's ways.

Minister: As we worship, may we celebrate all the bounty of God's grace,

All: and always return with mindfulness and gratitude to God.



When we respond to poverty, hunger and conflict in our global village, we discover God's resurrecting power. The hungry are fed, the vulnerable are cared for, the sick are healed, and the poor are raised up. **This Lenten season, let us faithfully respond to Christ's call to serve those in need.**

Opening Hymn # 200: Lord Jesus, who through forty days

Words & Music: Public Domain

1. Lord Jesus, who through forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins, and at your side to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win, oh give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.
3. As thirst and hunger once you bore, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and daily live by your most holy word.
4. And through these days of penitence, and through the Passiontide, now, evermore, in life and death, Lord Christ, with us abide.
5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering overpast, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: Holy and merciful God, you are our refuge and strength.

All: We rejoice in your grace and love which has called creation into being, and makes all life complete.

Minister: We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals your loving purposes for all people; in his face we glimpse your love; in his life we see the pattern for our lives.

All: We bless you for the Holy Spirit who guides us and strengthens us, drawing us into the embrace of your tender love.

Minister: And so, we praise you, O God, our eternal, creating parent who loves us with motherly care,

All: united with Christ, our Saviour, and your Holy Spirit, the breath of life, Three in One, now and always. Amen.

The Chancel Choir

Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

Herman Stumpf

Prayer of Confession

Minister: Almighty and most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in things we have done, and things we have neglected to do.

All: We have held back from giving to protect what we have. We have not trusted in your goodness and relied on the world's empty promises instead. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall become. Help us to serve you by serving your world with generous spirits and hearts. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Minister: Hear and believe in the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone. The new life has come. Know that you are forgiven, and so, in Christ, forgive one another.

Hymn # 57:

You who dwell in the shelter of our God

Words & Music: Michel Joncas ©1991 New Dawn Music

to hear God's word....

Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Francis: Let us pray. As your word is read, heard, and preached, O God, send your Holy Spirit to aid our understanding and nurture our faith with the Good News in Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Psalm 91: 1-16 (read responsively) **Assurance of God's Protection**

Francis: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord,

All: “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

Francis: For God will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

All: God will cover you with his pinions; you will find refuge under God’s wings. God’s faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Francis: You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,

All: or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Francis: A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

All: You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

Francis: Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

All: For the Lord will command the angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Francis: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

All: You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Francis: Those who love me, I will deliver;

All: I will protect those who know my name.

Francis: When they call to me, I will answer them;

All: I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

[Reading from Scripture:](#)

Luke 4: 1-13

New International Version (NIV)

Francis: **Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where, for forty days, he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on

bread alone.” The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Francis: 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:

I Must Tell Jesus

arr. Mark Hayes

The Meditation

Fill In The Blank_____

Minister: I think you and I would agree that there is no question that life right now is turbulent, filled with stress, anxiety, fear, (fill in the blank _____). Our way forward seems to be so uncertain and ominous.

One of my favourite books (actually a series of three books) is “*The Lord of the Rings*”. In the first book, “*The Fellowship of the Ring*”, the hobbit Frodo Baggins and the wizard Gandalf, along with others, are staring at the increasing menace of Sauron, the evil force that inhabits the kingdom of Mordor and is threatening to take over the rest of Middle-earth.

Frodo and Gandalf are talking to each other just before the Fellowship of the Ring, a group of hobbits, humans, elves and dwarves are getting ready to take the path to Mordor, facing the near-impossible task of bringing Sauron down by destroying the Ring of Power, of which Frodo has possession. In this conversation, we hear the following:

*“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”*¹

If given a choice, it is safe to say that most of us would not intentionally choose difficult times or thorny paths in life. Now, it may be that our prior choices may cause us to stumble onto these paths. Or perhaps the choices of others around us have create harsh and hostile circumstances that force us onto this path. However they happen, we often are faced with difficult, challenging, anxious (fill in the _____) times in both our temporal and our spiritual lives.

¹ J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, publisher: George Allen & Unwin (1954)

As you may know, the forty days of Lent (not including Sundays), recall Jesus' experiences when he was "*led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil*" (Luke 4: vv. 1–2). Now, the Spirit does not just drop Jesus off in the wilderness to fend for himself. The Spirit continues to be with him, enabling him to grow stronger through this season of testing. Right before Jesus begins his wilderness sojourn, he is baptized by his cousin John and by the Holy Spirit. It is both the Spirit's anointing of Jesus in baptism, **plus** Jesus' faithfulness to God amid testing that help to prepare him for his mission. It is not an either/or option – both baptism and testing were necessary for Jesus to fulfill God's intention for him. Likewise, simply being chosen and baptized is not sufficient preparation for us to fulfill the mission to which we are called as the people of God. We must be tested, often by being led to places of hunger, despair, suffering, (fill in the blank_____). Only then do we learn dependence on God, who graciously provides for all our needs in all of life's seasons.

A popular notion of the season of Lent is that we must "give up something." We are often asked, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Various responses are expected: red meat, sweets, alcoholic beverages, (fill in the blank _____). Perhaps we need to give up this simplistic notion of Lent. Instead of giving something up, perhaps we need to take something on, to fill in the blank with something new. Might I suggest that we fill in the blank with "intentionality" and "receptivity to God's grace" as two things to take upon ourselves during Lent? When I mean "intentionality", I mean that we intentionally and thoughtfully undertake practices of fellowship, prayer, Scripture meditation, generosity, and justice. These are just a few examples of how we might "fill in the blank" as activities to "take upon ourselves" this Lent.

Jesus also shows us, during those forty days in the wilderness, how to be receptive to God's grace. Jesus did not ask for trials and temptations; he accepted that they could not be avoided if he would do God's will. Jesus' season of testing was not just for a day or two. His season of forty days of temptation suggests to us that we may also have to faithfully endure seasons of long and protracted difficulty. As you reflect on your own faith journey, where have you experienced God's faithfulness in the wilderness? How were you receptive to God's grace? (Fill in the blank_____). Jesus' example of intentionality and receptivity to God's grace shows us the way to turn toward God, rather than away from God, during our trials and temptations. If we see the Lenten season as a time to deliberately look for and be receptive to the grace of God, we will meet a faithful God who leads us not only into the wilderness but also through the wilderness.

I am sure we all are like Frodo Baggins when facing difficult times, where we think "*I wish it need not have happened in my time.*" But the wizard Gandalf reminded Frodo (and us) that we do have choices in how we respond to hardships. Jesus chose not to be overwhelmed by the devil's temptations and the struggles in the wilderness, but to respond to them with the power of the Holy Spirit. By deciding to respond faithfully to the

hardships/fears/anxiety (_____fill in the blank) that we face, in this Lenten season, and in all our seasons, God is with us and seeks to draw us into a deeper relationship. We as people of faith know what to do when we need to fill in the blank in our lives. Amen.

Blessing the Word in our Lives

Minister: We have heard the word of God - the word of love. We have heard the word of God - the word of grace. We have heard the word of God - the word of service and ministry. Let us be inspired by this word and go out to serve God and each other.

Responding in love with thanksgiving

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

Minister: God of grace, you are our Judge and our Hope. Transform us with your love and harness our energy for your purposes in the world into which Christ came and for which he died. Hear us now as we pray for the world, the church and our community. We pray for your creation, staggering under the demands of human activity and expectation. May this planet be held in reverence in every culture. Where we are tempted to use resources carelessly, where human lifestyles endanger homes and habitats of other peoples or other species, where immediate gain tempts people to give no thought for the future, send your wisdom to guide citizens and decision makers to act responsibly. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for the Church facing the challenges of rebuilding ministry and mission in times of uncertainties and possibility. Where congregations are tempted to guard traditions and resist new possibilities, where members magnify differences instead of celebrating our unity in Christ, where energy for leadership and community life has grown tired, send your healing and transforming grace. Lord, in your mercy.

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for relationships tested by conflicts and the lack of mutual understanding. Where families are tempted to nurse grudges and harbour complaints, where friendships have been wounded by misunderstanding or neglect, where workplace tensions have arisen over clashing opinions or exhausting demands, send your reconciling and restoring mercy. Lord, in your mercy.

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for the world, filled with increasing threats and conflicts. Where countries are torn by unrest and persecution, where communities are diminished by prejudice and discrimination, where those with power and authority degrade or dismiss their critics,

empower those who work for just solutions and advocate for the powerless. We especially pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Afghanistan, Sudan, Yemen and Haiti. Lord, in your mercy.

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: We pray for all who are troubled and find it hard to face uncertain times, we pray for those who face illness or loss of any kind, for those challenged by economic hardship, and for those faced with the reality of death, their own or of someone dear. In silence, we name those on our hearts this day. Embrace each one with your compassion and courage. Lord, in your mercy.

People: hear our prayer.

Minister: Even as we remember the many challenges around us, we give you thanks for the blessings we know, for moments of pleasure, for laughter shared, for conversations that brightened a day. Thank you for your steadfast love and the comfort we draw from your presence with us in all things. And now we offer together the prayer Jesus taught:

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](#)

[Invitation to the Offering](#)

Minister: We all have something to share. As we present our offering this morning, know that what we share enables the Church to reach out in Jesus' name, meeting needs, offering hope, and working for the justice Jesus proclaimed.

You can give.....

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

* by e-transfer to firstkirk@truespeed.ca

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

[Offering Praise Song # 830](#)

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 thank you for all the goodness we receive in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer to share in the work of the kingdom Jesus declared and bless our lives so that we may be witnesses to his love and mercy. Amen.

Communion Hymn # 555:

Worship the Lord

Words: Fred Kaan ©1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Ron Klusmeier ©1977 Ron Klusmeier CCLI License # 20312607/20312614

1. Worship the Lord, (worship the Lord)

worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing, and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness, worship and work must be one!

2. Worship the Lord, (worship the Lord)

worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

Praying and training that we be a blessing, and by our handiwork daily confessing,
we are committed to serving humanity, worship and work must be one!

3. Worship the Lord, (worship the Lord)

worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

Called to be partners with God in creation, honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice, worship and work must be one!

4. Worship the Lord, (worship the Lord)

worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

Bringing the bread and the wine to the table, asking that we may be led and enabled,
truly united, to build new communities, worship and work must be one!

5. Worship the Lord, (worship the Lord)

worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

Now in response to the life you are giving, help us, Creator, to offer our living, seeking a just and a healing society, worship and work must be one!

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Minister: Like a tent in the wilderness, the table of God stands open and ready as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing. So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished; come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort; for here, Jesus – who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places – waits to meet us and welcome us in, offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength, for the journey still to come.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with you also.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: Creator God, out of that barrenness called chaos you called into life all that is good and true, your face shining in the starlight, your voice echoing in the crashing waves, your heart, your hopes, your love poured into those created in your image. But setting their minds on all the desires which temptation revealed to them, they began to rebuke you, denying your dreams for them, thinking only of themselves. You continued to speak of your promises, through the prophets, but they did not listen to the love which formed them. So, you asked the One called Blameless to leave your side and walk before you, coming to share your faith in us. Therefore, we join our voices with those from every time and in every place, and with the choirs of heaven, who forever sing your praises:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Minister: You are holy, God of Abraham and Sarah, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, is blessed forever. When he could have stumbled over our distrust, he called us to follow him into your promises; when our rejection could have weakened his faith, he grew strong in his

commitment to deny himself; when he could have remained silent, he declared your salvation to all, when he could have hidden his face in fear, he turned towards Jerusalem, going to his death and into the grave, that you might give life to all who had died to sin. As we come to the Table he has prepared, we declare that in his crucifixion and resurrection we find that mystery we call faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Here, at this table, where the gifts of the bread and the cup are offered to us all, pour out your Spirit of healing and hope. Feed us with the bread of heaven and the cup of life which can make us whole once more, so we can go to serve as your faithful people, and when we are brought home to you, when we are gathered with our sisters and brothers from all the ends of the earth, we will sing your glory and grace forever, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Words of Institution

Minister: Before going out into the wilderness of the Garden, Jesus sat down to eat and drink with his friends. To show them the challenge of the way ahead, and offer them gifts for that journey, he took bread – sustaining and wholesome – and poured wine – earthy and warming – sharing these as signs of his continuing presence with them throughout time to come. And now, remembering that moment, and recognising that its promise is also for us in this time and place, we too break bread and share the cup with each other. And in that action, we recognise and affirm with joy that Christ is present with us now, and throughout time to come.

Prayer after Communion

Minister: God of desert and wilderness, of bread and wine, we came to this Table hungry, and we leave feeling full - full of hope, full of promise, full of what could be. For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table, we caught a glimpse of the way things could be: a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed. Is there anything holier than that? Thank you for nourishing our curiosity alongside our spirit and our conviction. May we always seek after you the way you seek after us. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen.

Sending Hymn # 574:

With the Lord as my guide

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee

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**1. With the Lord as my guide I will walk through the desert,
rest by the water, run in the wind.**

**With the Lord by my side, I will stand on the mountain,
drink from the fountain of love deep within.**

2. With the Lord as my guide I will see all the talents,
accept the balance of who I am.

With the Lord by my side, say yes to the calling,
fear not the falling, trust in God's plan.

3. With the Lord as my guide I will work with my sister,
care for my brother, bend with their pain.

With the Lord by my side, we will rise up together,
strengthen each other, courage regain.

4. With the Lord as my guide, I will rise in the morning,
praise for the dawning beauty of day.

With the Lord by my side, I will sing, sing forever,
always a lover, seeking God's way.

The Benediction

Minister: Go in peace; be of good courage, hold fast to what is good, render no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honour all people, love and serve the God and may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Christ and Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

Choral Amen

Words & Music: Douglas Nolan

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Tender Shepherd, gently lead us, guide us as we go our way.

Gentle Lamb, protect and keep us safe within your heart to stay. Amen.

The Organ Postlude

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter C. Lutkin, arr. Hal H. Hopson



Did you know that gifts to Presbyterians Sharing provide the foundation for what we do together as the Presbyterian Church in Canada? Through our gifts, we provide funding for ministries with vulnerable people and appeal to governments to take action and prioritize funding to protect our planet, stop racism and discrimination, eliminate poverty and more. We equip leaders through theological colleges, conferences and webinars. Coaches and mentors walk alongside congregations as they seek out new directions. Grants help launch new faith communities and renew established ones. We work with international partners to share the

good news of Christ. We speak up for children's rights and the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and their families. We provide spaces for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to walk together on a journey of healing and reconciliation. Together, we are working to build a church where all are welcome.

A Mission Moment from The PCC

Stewardship Moments: Inspiring Generosity

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

Maya Angelou



Office Hours – March 10th to 14th

Monday, March 10th – 10 am. to 11:30 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.

Tuesday, March 11th – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, March 12th – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Thurs., March 13th – 10 am. to 11:30 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm

Friday, March 14th – 10 am. to 1:30 pm.

MEN' BREAKFAST!

Saturday, APRIL 5th, 2025

at Stacked Restaurant

Email Quentin at

thesession@truespeed.ca

if you can attend.

First Presbyterian Church

MARCH CALENDAR

LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of each month

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

FPC HAND BELL CHOIR - Thursday Afternoons at 4:30

FPC CHANCEL CHOIR – Thurs. Afternoons - 3 pm. – Choir

Rm; Sun. Mornings - 9:30 am. - Choir Rm

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

ONGOING PROJECTS: Grocery Bags, Egg Cartons, Survival Kits (Food Bank), Pop Cans for Maintenance, Breakfast Bags (Food Bank), Sunday Supper Ministry

COMMUNITY GROUPS using the Church Building:

EMBERS/GUIDES – Monday Evenings at 6 pm. in the Church Hall

DSLGC Cooking Class - Thursday mornings – Thursday afternoons **DSLGC Cricut Group** - Tuesday afternoons

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

Mar 09 **MORNING WORSHIP (First Sunday in Lent)** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary - Communion

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

* Reverend Marianne leads worship at St. Lawrence Lodge

Mar 12 **Meeting of the SESSION** – 7 pm. in the Red Room.

Mar 16 **MORNING WORSHIP (Second Sunday in Lent)** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

Mar 18 **Meeting of SEAWAY/GLENGARRY PRESBYTERY** – via zoom.

Mar 23 **MORNING WORSHIP (Third Sunday in Lent)** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary

No Coffee Hour – Sunday Supper Ministry in the Church Hall.

* Reverend Marianne leads worship at the Wedgewood.

Mar 30 **MORNING WORSHIP (Fourth Sunday in Lent)** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary

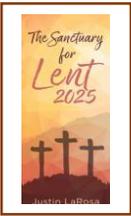
Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

Copies of OUR DAILY BREAD and the MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR are available this morning on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary.

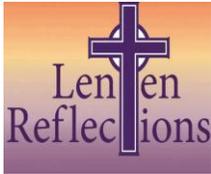


IT'S ALMOST TIME for ANOTHER EDITION! The next edition of "THE CHALLENGE" is planned for distribution mid-March! Your stories and pictures of family times shared, friendship get-togethers, Lenten and Easter traditions, recipes, travels, and history anecdotes are such an important part of each publication! Also, stories and pictures of favourite memories of church events, projects, activities, and special services etc. are interesting. PICTURES ARE GREAT!!!

Whatever you think might interest our readers. Email your stories and pictures to firstkirk@truespeed.ca or leave them at the Office! **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 16th!** Thanks.



The Sanctuary for Lent 2025 contains brief readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Day, including a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice - all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. This annual favourite will help you faithfully journey through Lent as you prepare to experience the joy of the Resurrection. Copies available on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary or in the Church Office.



Lenten Noon Hour Mid-Week Services 2025 at Wall Street United Church
Meeting weekly on successive Wednesdays at 12 noon until April 16th. Services are followed by a light soup lunch at 12:30 pm. Services will be in-person and on Facebook live.

Mar. 12th – Reverend Marianne Emig Carr

Mar. 19th – Reverend Daniel Hayward Mar. 26th – Dr. Catherine Cavanaugh
Apr. 2nd – Rev. Donald Wachenschwanz Apr. 9th – Reverend Wendy McLean
Apr. 16th – Reverend Catherine Oxenford-Grant

Dates for Your Calendar

The Season of Lent begins this Sunday, March 9th
The Season of Lent continues for five Sundays.
Then Holy Week begins.

Palm Sunday with Communion – April 13th

Maundy Thursday with Communion – April 17th – 7 pm.

Good Friday Walk of the Cross – April 18th
starting at First Baptist Church at 9:30 am.

Ecumenical Good Friday Worship – April 18th
at Wall Street United Church at 11 am.

Easter Sunday – April 20th

Spring Meeting



St. Clare's Anglican Church

2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester, ON K0C 2K0

Date:
Friday,
March 14

Time:
2:00 p.m.

Everyone
welcome



Guest Speaker: **Chinelo Agom-Eze**
Senior Policy Advisor

There has been much talk in the news lately of cuts to foreign aid. Chinelo will draw on her experiences from her recent learning tour to Rwanda to discuss the true impact of the humanitarian work we, and so many others, do.

For more information contact **Henry Reinders**
at ontario@foodgrainsbank.ca or 519-373-2769

Journey through Lent with Reverend Marianne



Reverend Marianne will be recording and posting short Lenten services weekly through Lent. The services can be accessed on the Church YouTube Channel:

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

CHEESE!

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Caintown is again offering delicious cheese (Wilton Cheese Factory) as a fundraiser. Orders must be received by March 16th and can be sent directly to Shannon Morrison.

shannonmorrison1976@gmail.com

Full details are available from the Church Office.



ALTERNATE MEETING LOCATION

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

20389 Church St.
Lancaster, ON
K0C 2K0

Date: **Friday, March 14**

Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Everyone welcome



YOU CAN ATTEND EITHER MEETING



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025 (March 8th)
For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment
 How PWS&D is bringing this year's theme to life
 and turning it into action.

Lilawati Stands Against Child Marriage in India

In Bihar, India, an alarming 80 per cent of girls are forced into early marriages. Not only does this reduce the likelihood that they will complete school, but it makes young girls - married as early

as 12 years old - more susceptible to trafficking for child labour and sexual exploitation. Bihar region also ranks among the states with the highest rates of domestic violence, with 58 per cent of married women reporting instances of violence. The Karuna Project at the Duncan Hospital aims to empower and protect girls through raising awareness about their rights among decision-makers in households and villages, and local government workers. Since poverty is one of the root causes of neglect for girls' rights, the project also provides livelihood and income-generating opportunities for marginalized families.

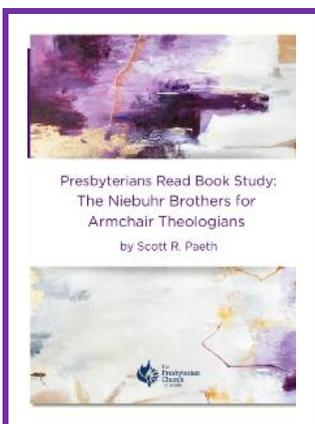
"I will be a role model to other girls." Lilawati uses what she has learned to speak out against child marriage in the community and in her home.

Lilawati Kumari is a 16-year-old from Mudwa village who participates in the Karuna Project. In one of the classes she attended, she learned about the negative effects of early marriage, as well as how to advocate against it. Lilawati decided that she would raise her voice against child marriage - both in the community and in her home. Lilawati's two sisters had both been married at a young age, and her parents were planning the same for her. However, she told her parents that she had other plans: "I want to study and achieve my dreams. I do not want to waste my life like this." Lilawati reasoned with them that if they did not stop the marriage, she would call the child helpline and make a report. Despite her stunned parents' continued efforts to persuade her, Lilawati stood her ground and eventually convinced them to stop trying to force the marriage. Through continued conversations with her parents about child marriage, the laws against it, and its effects on girls, Lilawati helped them understand the negative impact of early marriage on a child's life, and on the broader society. They are now supportive of Lilawati as she pursues her education.



Lilawati is excited to bring what she has learned about the rights of women and girls to others in her community. She says, "I have taken the first step in my family and will be a role model to other girls so that they can take a stand against child marriage in their homes and work towards fulfilling their dreams. I will encourage them to pursue higher studies. Seeing me shine, many people in the community will allow their girls to study and stop early marriages. I thank the Karuna Project for the valuable lessons they are teaching us through these adolescent classes."

This project receives support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. PWS&D is a member of the Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of 15 churches & agencies working together to end glob



Presbyterians Read

In this Presbyterians Read Book "*The Niebuhr Brothers for Armchair Theologians*", Dr. Scott R. Paeth offers an accessible introduction to the life, thought and influence of Richard and Reinhold Niebuhr. While they were from the same family and social background and graduates of the same school, their understanding and approaches to theology and politics were different. Both brothers were committed to applying Christian faith and ethics to such topics as war, pride, democracy, fascism, economy, greed, the relationship between rights and freedom, social justice, and race. These topics are significant themes for our age, and their wisdom has something to say about our times. They write from an American perspective but speak to Canadians, as our culture and politics are deeply influenced by American politics and religious expression. The study guide will include prayers, background, questions and suggestions for

broader reading to support those who engage with the book. In addition, it will contain an introduction, four study modules and a conclusion.

You can register now for this Presbyterians Read Online Discussion. You will join the Reverend Dr. Emily Bisset online to discuss this timely Presbyterians Read book, "The Niebuhr Brothers for Armchair Theologians" by Scott R. Paeth. The first online discussion session takes place on Wednesday, March 12th from 6-7 p.m. The group will continue to meet online on Wednesdays through to April 16. To download copies of the study guide, go to <https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/presbyterians-read/>

To learn more and register for the online discussion visit: <https://presbyterian.ca/webinars/presbyterians-read-lent-book-study-the-niebuhr-brothers-for-armchair-theologians-by-scott-r-paeth/>



**THE BROCKVILLE PRESBYTERIAL
OF THE WMS
2024 AGM**

**Tuesday, 1st April, 2025
9.30 am to 3 pm**

SIGNS OF HOPE IN NEPAL

**Knox Morrisburg Presbyterian Church
10 First Street
Morrisburg, ON**

**Guest Speakers: Rev. Sarah Kim, Cathy Reid, Janet Brewer and
Deb Stimpfil**

Lunch \$12.00

Worship * Prayer * Guest Speakers * Study

*Please preregister by 25th March with
Janet Jones at 1-613-803-8663 or janet.i.jones@outlook.com*

We welcome all!

**SYNODICAL
OF
QUEBEC AND EASTERN ONTARIO**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**FRIDAY APRIL
25TH 9:30-3pm**

**ST PAULS
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
KEMPTVILLE
(319 Prescott Street)**



LUNCH \$15

THEME: RESILIENCE

SPEAKER DIANA KEMP ON CUBA

**To Register: email Judy Messenger
jamessenger93@gmail.com
or
Call: 613-258-5538 by April 17th
(to book lunch)**



Cuba: Call for Increasing Humanitarian Aid and Development Assistance

Canadian churches, trade unions and other non-governmental organizations are working together to encourage the Government of Canada to increase aid to Cuba in this time of exceptional need, and to ensure humanitarian aid and development assistance is not restricted by U.S. sanctions and other measures.

Cubans describe their living conditions as the worst they have experienced before the 1959 revolution. Cuba is still suffering an economic slump provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effects of the downturn are magnified by the decades-long imposition of sanctions (sometimes referred to as the "embargo") by the United States. Between 2007 and 2022, Cuba has dropped 30 places in the Human Development Index (from 53 in 2007 to 83 in 2022). In 2024, UNICEF placed Cuba - for the first time - as a country where a third of the country's children are living in poverty. This year, also for the first time, Cuba requested support from the World Food Program for powdered milk for children under seven. Read more about the call - <https://presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/>

