**First Presbyterian Church**



**Sunday, May 18th, 2025**

**The 5th Sunday of Easter**

Minister:  **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard** Reader: **Linda Osmond**

Hand Bells:**Persephone Antoniou, Heather Dundas, Peri Howlett**

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**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 –** TheChildren 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, following the Children & Youth Message this morning.

**\* HEARING IN THE SANCTUARY -** First Church has available a system of FM RECEIVERS and HEADSETS. They are for use by those who find it difficult to hear in the Sanctuary. If you would like to use one this morning, visit our Sound Technician.

\* **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: **David Paul** Elevator: **Lloyd Osmond**

Sound and Video Team **– Quentin Robinson, Kade LeBrun**

**Michel LaBonte and Mark Leslie**

**NEED A RIDE?**

**Call Executive Taxi!**

A free service provided by your M.O.V.E. Committee



**\*** Our website and social media accounts:

[**https://pccweb.ca/firstchurch-brockville/**](https://pccweb.ca/firstchurch-brockville/)[**https://www.facebook.com/Firstkirk/**](https://www.facebook.com/Firstkirk/)

[**www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/**](http://www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/)

[**https://twitter.com/firstkirk**](https://twitter.com/firstkirk)

**\*** YouTube Channel: [**https://www.youtube.com/ @firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams**](https://www.youtube.com/%20@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 Organ Prelude** **Largo** *Georg Friderich Handel*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship God**

Minister: Praise the Lord!

**All: Praise God in the heights!**

Minister: Praise God, all you angels; praise God, all creatures high and low!

**All: Rulers of the earth and all peoples, praise God’s holy name!**

Minister: All people together!

**All: With one voice, let us praise the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn # 706:** **Come, let us sing of a wonderful love** *Words & Music: Public domain*

**1. Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,**

**tender and true, tender and true;**

**out of the heart of the Father above,**

**streaming to me and to you:**

**wonderful love, wonderful love**

**dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**2. Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell**

**joyfully came, joyfully came,**

**came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,**

**sharing their sorrow and shame:**

**seeking the lost, seeking the lost,**

**saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**3. Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet:**

**why do they roam? why do they roam?**

**Love only waits to forgive and forget;**

**home weary wanderers, home:**

**wonderful love, wonderful love**

**dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**4. Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love;**

**come and abide, come and abide,**

**lifting my life till it rises above**

**envy and falsehood and pride:**

**seeking to be, seeking to be**

**lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

**Prayer As We Approach God**

Minister: Holy God, the first and the last, beginning and end of all things, you are worthy of praise from all your creation.

**All: Sun, moon, and stars praise you. Earth, sea, and sky praise you.**

Minister: Every living thing praises you in its own way.

**All: And so, we praise you in our human diversity, joining our varied voices with all your creatures in heaven and on earth.**

Minister: You fill our lives with the wonder of your love in Christ Jesus. Your Spirit moves throughout the world to reveal your purpose for every living thing.

**All: Receive our prayers and praise this day, for you are the Source of our life and our hope, Holy God, ever Three and Ever One.**

**The Chancel Choir** **I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say** *arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar*

with Hand Bells

**Prayer of Confession**

Minister: As we praise your perfection, we recognize our shortcomings and confess to you our sin to begin again with you and one another:

**All: Loving God, Jesus commanded us to love one another so the world would know we follow him. Yet we confess we do not always love one another, as Jesus loves us. The world has seen our squabbling, our history of hypocrisy, and our lack of compassion for those who are in pain. Loving God, forgive us. Lord Jesus, continue to love us. Holy Spirit, fill us with love, so that the world will witness your love in our words and actions. Amen.**

**Assurance of God’s Forgiveness**

Minister: Jesus taught us that no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. Christ has laid down his life for us and invites us to love one another as he has loved us. Let us rejoice in his forgiving love and share it with each other day by day.

**A Message** and **Prayer for our Children** and **Youth** **God’s Love is for Everyone**

Minister: Have you ever been a bit anxious about meeting someone because they were different? Maybe they spoke a different language, ate different foods, or looked different from you? That is kind of what was happening in today’s Bible story. Some people in the early Church thought that only certain people could be part of God’s family. But Peter told them something very important.

Peter had a dream where God showed him animals that Jewish people were not supposed to eat. But God said, “Do not call something unclean that I have made clean.” Then Peter met a man named Cornelius, who was not Jewish. He was a centurion – a high-ranking soldier in the Roman Army. So he was not Jewish, but he believed in God. Right after Peter had his dream, he was invited to meet with Cornelius and his family. When Peter shared the good news of Jesus with him, Cornelius and his whole family were filled with the Holy Spirit - just like the disciples who were Jewish! Peter realized something big: *God loves everyone*, and *anyone* who believes in Jesus can be part of God’s family. What does that mean for us? It means we should never think someone is too different to be loved by God. It means we can share Jesus with *anyone* - no matter where they are from, what they eat, or how they live. God's love is for *everyone*.

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for loving everyone and showing us that your family is open to all people. Help us to love others the way you do and to share Jesus with everyone. Amen.

**Hymn # 435:** **All things bright and beautiful** *Words & Music: Public domain*

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,**

**all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.**

**1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,**

**God made their glowing colours; God made their tiny wings.**

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,**

**all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.**

**2. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,**

**the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them, every one.**

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,**

**all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.**

**3. The rocky mountain splendour, the haunting curlew’s call,**

**the great lakes and the prairies, the forests in the fall,**

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,**

**all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.**

**4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell**

**how great is God almighty who has made all things well.**

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,**

**all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.**

***to hear God’s word….***

**Prayer for Insight and Understanding**

Linda: Let us pray. Your word, O God, is our source of hope and truth in a world filled with deception. Fill us with your Spirit as we listen to your word read and interpreted, so that it satisfies our thirst for wisdom and truth. Amen.

**Psalm 148:** (read responsively)

Linda: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise the Lord in the heights!

**All:** **Praise the Lord, all the angels; praise the Lord, all the host of heaven!**

Linda: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars! Praise the Lord, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

**All**: **Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created, who established them forever and ever, and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Linda: Praise the Lord from the earth,

**All**: **you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God’s command!**

Linda: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**All: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

Linda: Rulers of the earth and all peoples, leaders and all judges of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**All**: **Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted, whose glory is above earth and heaven.**

Linda: The Lord has raised up a horn for the people, praise for all the faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to their God.

**All: Praise the Lord!**

**Reading from Scripture:** **Acts 11: 1 - 18** *New International Version (NIV)*

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Linda: Peter Explains His Actions

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds.Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

Linda: 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:** **How Great Is Our God**

*Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash, arr. Mark Hayes*

**The Meditation** **Breaking Down Barriers**

On April 15th, 1947, twenty-eight-year-old Jackie Robison became the first African American player in Major League Baseball when he stepped onto Ebbets Field in Brooklyn to compete for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson broke the “colour barrier” in a sport that had been segregated for more than fifty years. Most baseball fans are aware of this bit of history. Jackie Robinson’s number 42 has been retired and honoured across Major League Baseball. Since that spring day close to 80 years ago, the landscape of MLB looks very different. Men from every nation, race, and language play “America’s pastime.” In fact, the MVP of the 2024 World Series was Freddie Freeman, a Canadian. Watching baseball, or any other high-profile professional sport, we do not even think about all the diversity of the participants. We just enjoy watching athletes display their amazing talents for our enjoyment.

Likewise, our story today from the Book of Acts is an exercise in breaking down barriers. It begins with Peter reporting to the church leaders in Jerusalem, and it sounds like he is going to be “called on the carpet”. He had been eating with “uncircumcised men.” Now, you will remember that Jesus was accused of doing the same thing - eating with sinners and “unclean” people. So, Peter was in good company, but that did not make his confrontation with the Jerusalem leaders easy. The debate was, essentially, who is “in” and who is “out.” The tension was between those drawing a narrow circle of inclusion around the gospel (which would be the traditional view) and others who thought Jesus’ gospel meant expanding the circle until all God’s children were welcome at the table.

Would the Gentiles have a place? That was the question hanging in the balance along with the integrity and expansion of the early church. Fortunately, God had a witness. Peter was the pivotal figure, the rock, whose confession changed the dynamics of Jesus’ relationship with his followers and opened the door to discipleship. Remember the promise that the risen Lord made to his disciples, that they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)? The fulfillment of this promise is nowhere more evident than in the boldness of Peter’s testimony in Jerusalem. God empowered Peter, an ordinary fisherman, to play a significant role in the mission of the church.

God enables ordinary people to be witnesses to the gospel. This can be frightening, because it voids our excuses that we are not gifted enough, not old enough, not good enough to get the job done. God has always had the audacity to choose ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the service of God’s reign. Such a realization should give us hope and strengthen our resolve to join the cloud of witnesses from Abraham, Sarah, and Moses to Esther and Jeremiah, Peter and Paul. Peter gave testimony to the church leaders about a vision he received while praying on the roof. He saw a sheet being lowered from heaven with a variety of creatures on it. He was told to “kill and eat.” Peter refused because the food was “profane” and “unclean.” Then he heard the crucial line, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane” (10:15). This cycle repeated three times, and then everything was taken up into heaven.

This vision was followed by the arrival of three men from Caesarea who appeared at the door. Peter was instructed by the Spirit to go with them and not distinguish between “them and us” (11:12). When he arrived at Cornelius’s house and preached, the Spirit led the Gentiles present to salvation. Peter concluded that God had given them the same gift God had given to Jewish believers. Then he asked the profound question, “Who was I that I could hinder God?” (v. 17). Think about the astonishing insight contained in that question. If God so loved the world that Jesus came not to condemn the whole world but to save it, who are we to try to limit the mission of God to redeem humanity?

Every time we exclude someone from full participation in the redemptive efforts of God; Peter’s question should trouble us and the church. What if the church had closed the door to the Gentiles, and Christianity had remained a sect within Judaism? Peter was persuaded that God the creator did not intend to exclude anyone from the community of God’s care. His conclusion was revolutionary.

We in the faith community often use the word “discernment”, which also can be defined as “perception”. Peter discerned the connection between his vision and the three visitors. Luke makes it clear that the gift of discernment is the work of God’s Spirit. If there is to be hope for the church in these days when there is so much dissension and division, both in faith communities and in the wider world, then we must pray for visions that bring us the gift of discernment. We need to be open to see God’s reconciling Spirit at work.

More amazing than Peter’s vision and reaction to that vision, was how the leaders in Jerusalem responded. They listened and were open to the new reality Peter envisioned. They could have said, “You are out of your mind, and this is wrong!” But the Holy Spirit inspired them to listen and to change. The early church, listening to Peter’s story, perceived this challenging message: the gospel is for **everyone**. And the author of Acts tells us that once they heard it, they responded with wisdom and joy.

A barrier was broken down. Acts 11:1-18 is not just a history lesson. It is a mirror. It challenges us to examine our own hearts and to ask: Are we standing in God’s way? Are we open to the amazing breadth and depth of God’s mercy?

As we go about our business in the church, the world is watching. Do we have anything to offer that distinguishes us from other groups characterized by dissension and division? Do we build barriers to keep others out, or do we open the doors and welcome them in? God is in the business of breaking down barriers. God invites us not only to witness God’s work of removing obstacles but to participate in it. Let us be people who welcome, not withhold. Let us be conduits of grace, not gatekeepers. And when God moves beyond our expectations, may we not resist, but rejoice. Amen.

**Blessing the Word in our Lives**

Minister: Embracing God, through your Word read and proclaimed, move us today into fresh encounters with Jesus. Make us a servant of your love, so that others may know how much you love them, and we may know how much you love us. Amen.

**Hymn # 763:**  **To show by touch and word**

*Words: Fred Kaan ©1975 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614*

*Music: Ron Klusmeier ©1974 CCLI License # 20312607/20312614*

**1. To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,**

**to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth**

**we need, O God the will to find the good you had of old in mind.**

**2. Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,**

**our hearts to long for truth till pride-of-self is lost.**

**For every challenge that we face, we need your guidance and your grace.**

**3. Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule and norm,**

**and let our lives portray your word in human form.**

**Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.**

***Responding in love with thanksgiving***

**Prayers of the People, the Lord’s Prayer and Choral Amen**

Minister: Creating God, you have given us so many wonders in this world you created. We thank you for spring sunshine and refreshing rain; for colours exploding in blossoms opening, grass greening, and gardens sprouting. Thank you for all the signs of new life around us this Easter season. Make the earth fruitful in this growing season, so that food will be plentiful for the hungry.

**People: Caring God, hear our prayer.**

Minister: God of new life, we pray that we might learn to care for our planet as your gift before it is too late. We pray for scientists and all those who work tirelessly to teach us how to look after the environment. Renew their energy for the responsibilities they carry. We pray for leaders in government, business and communities, that they will make care for the earth a priority, for the sake of generations yet to come. Inspire each of us to do all we can, no matter how small or insignificant our efforts may seem, to walk more respectfully on the face of your creation.

**People: Caring God, hear our prayer.**

Minister: God of the small and insignificant as well as powerful and influential, we thank you for our families and friends who offer us love and encouragement as we move through life. We pray for those families and communities whose lives have been disrupted by war and conflict, who worry about safety each day and what the future will hold for them. We especially pray for the innocent and vulnerable in places like Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan.

**People: Caring God, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Guide all those with decision-making power to consider the lives of the vulnerable as very precious and make policies that protect the future for them. God of the vulnerable, we pray for all those whose future is uncertain; for those who are facing illness or waiting for treatment; for those mourning the loss of someone dear; and for those who feel lonely or discouraged.

**People: Caring God, hear our prayer.**

Minister: We pray for those who are homeless or unemployed, for all who know hunger or despair, and for those facing danger or discrimination every day. Empower us with your Spirit to reach out to those in need, in this community and in places distant from us, so that we can make your love tangible in their lives, in Jesus’ name.

**People: Caring God, hear our prayer.**

Minister: God of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for this community that gathers in Jesus’ name, for the warmth and welcome offered here, for friendship and faithfulness discovered, for learning and leadership shared with each other. Thank you for the hope that rises in us through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Make us expressions of that hope to each other and to the world you love for Jesus’ sake, as we join our voices with his followers around the world, praying the words he taught us:

**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: The season of Easter is unfolding while the gifts of spring also remind us of God’s generosity in Christ and in creation. May the gifts we offer show our gratitude for God’s goodness to us, and the hope for new life we have in Christ Jesus.

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](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca)

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

**Offering Praise Song # 79**

**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 bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ’s love, and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Bless the gifts we bring and make them signs of hope and renewal in the world we serve in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

**Sending Hymn # 255:** **Now let the vault of heaven resound** *Words & Music: Public domain*

**1. Now let the vault of heaven resound**

**in praise of love that doth abound,**

**“Christ hath triumphed, hallelujah”;**

**sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear,**

**repeat their song of glory here,**

**“Christ has triumphed, Christ hath triumphed!”**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**2. Eternal is the gift he brings;**

**wherefore our heart with rapture sings,**

**“Christ has triumphed, Jesus liveth!”**

**now doth he come and give us life;**

**now doth his presence still all strife**

**through his triumph. Jesus reigneth!**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**3. Oh fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;**

**set heart and will on things above,**

**that we conquer through thy triumph;**

**grant grace sufficient for life’s day,**

**that by our life we ever say,**

**“Christ has triumphed, and he liveth!”**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**4. Adoring praises now we bring,**

**and with the heavenly blessed sing,**

**“Christ hath triumphed, hallelujah!”**

**Be to the Father and our Lord,**

**to Spirit blest, most holy God,**

**thine the glory never ending!**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Benediction** and **Choral Amen**

Minister: Hear the words of Jesus: *If you love me, then listen to my voice and do what I say. And I and my Father will draw close to you and will make our home within you. I am leaving you with a gift - a gift the world cannot give: peace of heart and mind. So do not let your heart be troubled or afraid.* Go from here to love and serve the Lord, confident in the peace that Christ offers and the energy and hope with which the Spirit fills us. Amen.

**The Postlude** **Allegro** *Johann Walther*



We extend our love and sympathy to Karen Doherty and Richard Beckstead on the death of their father **PAUL WILLIAM BECKSTEAD** on Saturday, May 10th, 2025, at St. Lawrence Lodge in Brockville. The celebration of Paul Beckstead’s life was held on Wednesday, May 14th, 2025, in the Chapel of the Barclay Funeral Home. Arrangements are entrusted to Barclay Funeral Home & Chapel. Please remember Karen, Richard, their families and the Beckstead family in your prayers.

United Mission to Nepal works with communities to educate and offer interventions leading to better understanding and improved mental health. This includes capacity building in mental and psycho-social health with local health facility staff, helping to integrate mental health services into existing health care systems and training people to recognize mental health needs in their community and know how to respond. Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help with this life-saving work in Nepal. *A Mission Moment from The PCC*



A person smiling for the camera

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**Happy Birthday to:**

(**May 18th to May 24th**)

**SPENCER MOREAU – May 18th**

**Happy Anniversary to:**

**ROGER & BONNIE BURKE - May 20th**

**JIM & BARBARA BARBOUR - May 21st**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Office Hours** – May 18th to 23rd

**Mon., May 19th – Victoria Day – Church Building closed.  
Tuesday, May 20th –** **10 am. to 11:25 & 1 pm. to 2:30 pm.**

**Wednesday, May 21st – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.**

**Thursday, May 22nd –** **10 am. to 11:25 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.  
Friday, May 23rd –** **10 am. to 1:30 pm.**

**MAY 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**

**–** Thursday Afternoons - 3 pm. Choir Rm; Sun. Mornings - 9:30 am. - Choir Rm

**SUNDAY SUPPER MINISTRY -** 4th Sunday of each month

**ONGOING PROJECTS:** **Grocery Bags, Egg Cartons,** **Pop Cans** (Maintenance)**, Breakfast Bags** (Food Bank)**, Sunday Supper Ministry, Socks for Warm Feet.**

**COMMUNITY GROUPS using the Church Building:**

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

DSLG Cooking Class - Thursday mornings – Thursday afternoons; DSLG Cricut Group - Tuesday afternoons

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

May 18 **MORNING WORSHIP (5th Sunday of Easter) -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour in the Church Hall – following Worship.

May 19 **Victoria Day Stat Holiday** – Church Building and Office closed.

May 20 Presbytery of Seaway/Glengarry meets at Riverview Presbyterian Church in Iroquois

May 24 **CAPITAL PROJECT OPEN HOUSE** – 10 am. to 2 pm.

May 25 **MORNING WORSHIP (6th Sunday of Easter) -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

No Coffee Hour – Sunday Supper Ministry. Reverend Marianne at the Wedgewood.

May 26 Reverend Marianne leads worship at Rosedale and Sherwood Park Manor

May 30 **P. A. DAY CAMP** – 9 to 3 pm. in the Church Hall.

**The Open House at First Church, for the Capital Project, has been re-scheduled to Saturday May 24th from 10 am. to 2 pm. Invitations will be circulated to neighbours inviting them to come and find out about the Capital Project. We will need volunteers to help distribute invitations on May 13/14 and to help with refreshments on May 24th. Please speak to Brenda Fisk or Quentin Robinson if you can help.**

A sign with a balloon and a sign

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**GRACEFIELD CAMP - SUMMER**

Summer registration for camp is now open! More information about Gracefield and the summer camping schedule is available by visiting <https://gracefieldcamp.ca/>. First Presbyterian Church will sponsor campers again this summer for a wonderful experience in God’s great outdoors. **Would you like to sponsor a child to camp?** Would you like to donate to the sponsorship fund? *Please contact the church office for more information and ways to donate.*

A black background with green text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

First Presbyterian Church is taking part in the **BIG GIVE** (a nation-wide opportunity for congregations to bless their communities with extravagant giving) on next Saturday, June 7th, 2025. The M.O.V.E. Committee is planning a garage/yard “sale” and will malso be handing out snack bags of cookies. Please set aside gently used household items, books, games, puzzles, pots, pans, dishes, and clothing (clean and smoke-free). Volunteers will be needed to help with sorting, set-up, and cleanup. We are also looking for donations of packaged snack bags of homemade cookies (nut-free, please!) to give out on the day. Items can be dropped off at the church (just ring the bell) and left in the Lower Hall.



**from the M.O.V.E. Committee – NEEDED:**

A book cover with colorful letters

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**1)** At least one volunteer to assist with the Church School program on Sunday mornings.

**2) Volunteers to assist at the P.A. Day Camp on May 30th**

**3)** Cakes for Sunday Supper Desserts – very popular! Cakes can be left in the kitchen on Saturday, May 24th (Prep Day) or on Sunday, May 25th.

**4) Sunday Supper Volunteers are needed on Prep Day, May 24th and on Sunday, May 25th.**

**To volunteer for any of these activities, please call the Church Office 613-345-5014.**

The summer issue of the **CHALLENGE** is almost right around the corner! It is time to write those stories about church life, find poems of inspiration, dream (in writing) about summer plans, find jokes and humorous articles and stories. Stories about recent travels would be really interesting! Please send your submissions to [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca) or leave them at the Church Office.

A cartoon of a person reading a book

AI-generated content may be incorrect.



**The 150th General Assembly**

A logo with a tree and a flame

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**June 1st to 5th, 2025**

The General Assembly 2025 meetings and events will be held at McMaster University in Hamilton from Monday, June 2nd until Thursday, June 5th. Committee reports and special guests will be welcomed. Commissioners and Young Adult Representatives from across the country will meet to discern Christ's will as decisions are made. All proceedings will be livestreamed with recordings made available on YouTube.

The General Assembly begins on Sunday, June 1st, with opening worship at Central Presbyterian Church in Hamilton at 7:30 p.m. The Reverend Pat Dutcher-Walls will deliver the Message. The theme is "A Hope and a Future" from Jeremiah 29:11. All are welcome to attend this service. The first sederunt takes place after the service, during which the new Moderator will be elected.

The 150th celebration of The Presbyterian Church in Canada will be held at McMaster on Monday, June 2nd, at 7 p.m. Please join us for this music-filled evening as we celebrate 150 years together.

The 2025 GA [webpage](https://bbox.blackbaudhosting.com/webforms/linkredirect?srcid=58670366&srctid=1&erid=-1070447675&trid=dfbd307f-fd88-49ed-b6c3-6160d733328b&linkid=284860422&isbbox=1&pid=0) provides information about the General Assembly. Reports and information will be added over the coming weeks. Please check the page regularly for updated information. [**https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2025/**](https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2025/)

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**P.A. DAY CAMP**

A group of kids playing in a playground

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**Friday, May 30th, 2025**

Our Mission Project for this P.A. Day Camp is in support of the Brockville & Area Food Bank’s **Summer Snack Pack** program. The program supports families that are clients of the Food Bank during the summer months when school breakfast and lunch programs are not available. The Camp will be collecting items for the Snack Packs, including juice boxes, instant oatmeal packets, dried fruit, pudding cups, Jello cups, fruit cups, cheese crackers, Dunkaroos and instant noodles.

If you would prefer to make a financial donation, please make out your cheque to First Presbyterian Church, send a donation by e-transfer, or include cash donations in an envelope. Please mark your donations “Brockville & Area Food Bank Summer Snack Pack Program” and provide a full name and address so the Church can issue you a tax receipt for your donation. Thank you!



Summer vibes are in the air, and Downtown Brockville is excited to share some upcoming openings and events you will not want to miss:

☀️ Friday, May 16th

– The [Brockville Railway Tunnel](https://brockvilletourism.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae57f531dfe2011812c21903&id=8051314186&e=ba4513d26e) opens at 2pm

☀️ Saturday, May 17th

– [Treetop Trekking opens](https://brockvilletourism.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae57f531dfe2011812c21903&id=28468eedc0&e=ba4513d26e) for the season

☀️ Saturday, May 17th – [AQ Tunnel Train](https://brockvilletourism.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae57f531dfe2011812c21903&id=da9f9ff537&e=ba4513d26e) rides begin through the Brockville Tunnel

☀️ Saturday, May 24th – [Fulford Place](https://brockvilletourism.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae57f531dfe2011812c21903&id=badea1514e&e=ba4513d26e) opening weekend

☀️ Saturday, May 24th – [Shop the Street](https://brockvilletourism.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae57f531dfe2011812c21903&id=95610f9113&e=ba4513d26e) returns to Downtown Brockville

☀️ Monday, June 2nd – [Kayak Rentals](https://brockvilletourism.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae57f531dfe2011812c21903&id=a9e58f2ee8&e=ba4513d26e) launch at St. Lawrence Park

☀️ Monday, June 2nd – [Patio Passport](https://brockvilletourism.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2ae57f531dfe2011812c21903&id=c865b3ed05&e=ba4513d26e) program kicks off

Get ready to explore, shop, and soak up the sunshine in Brockville!



**Can You Imagine? Exploring the Bible Through Art, Photography and Imagination with Richard Topping**

You are invited to learn alongside people from various Christian traditions at an easy-going and conversational event. Appropriate for clergy, church leaders, and lay people of all kinds, Richard's deep love of scripture and breathtaking photography will offer a unique and expansive way of exploring the Bible.

**When:** Saturday, May 31st, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at [Crieff Hills Retreat Centre](https://bbox.blackbaudhosting.com/webforms/linkredirect?srcid=58670366&srctid=1&erid=-1070447675&trid=dfbd307f-fd88-49ed-b6c3-6160d733328b&linkid=284860427&isbbox=1&pid=0). Tickets from $35-$70 include coffee, tea, refreshments, and a farm-to-table lunch. Special dietary requests can be accommodated if noted at the time of booking.

In addition, you can join Richard Topping the evening before at Crieff Hills for an exclusive showcase of his work.

**When:** Friday, May 30th, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are $25 and include a glass of wine, snacks, and access to the exhibit. Space is limited, so be sure to book early.

Book your tickets for either of these events at

https://crieffhills.com/programs/events/?bblinkid=284860428&bbemailid=58670366&bbejrid=-1070447675