**First Presbyterian Church**



**Holy Humour Sunday, May 4th, 2025**

**The 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Minister:  **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard** Reader:**David Paul**

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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.

Cartoon of a cartoon of a king and two kings

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**NEED A RIDE?**

**Call Executive Taxi!**

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

**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: **Janice Walroth** Elevator: **Bob Walroth**

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://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 Prelude** **March** *John Williams*

A cartoon of men standing next to a poster

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship God**

Minister: Sing a new song!

**All: a joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth!**

Minister: Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God,

**All: who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday.**

Minister: Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

**All: We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat.**

Minister: For God has taken ordinary things,

**All: and made them extraordinary. Sing a new song!**

**Opening Hymn # 530:** **I come with joy** *Music: Public domain*

*Words: Brian A. Wren ©1995 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614*

**1. I come with joy, a child of God,**

**forgiven, loved and free,**

**the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,**

**in love laid down for me.**

**4. The spirit of the risen Christ,**

**unseen, but ever near,**

**is in such friendship better known alive among us here,**

**alive among us here.**

**5. Together met, together bound**

**by all that God has done,**

**we’ll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,**

**the love that makes us one.**

**Prayer As We Approach God**

Minister: Holy God, as you have taken what we call an absurdity and turned it into possibility;  
**All: as you have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias where once there was a gray dawn**;

Minister: as you have called us out of the tombs we inhabit into an undreamed-of tomorrow, we praise you for this day!

**All: Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide day.**  **Amen.**

A cartoon of two boys singing

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**The Chancel Choir** **I Will Sing** *Max Dyer*

**Prayer of Confession**

Minister: God of joy, we know that you have blessed us richly, yet so often, we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments*.*

**All: You gave us Jesus Christ, raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. But we act like we do not know it!**

Minister: Forgive us, God! Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh,

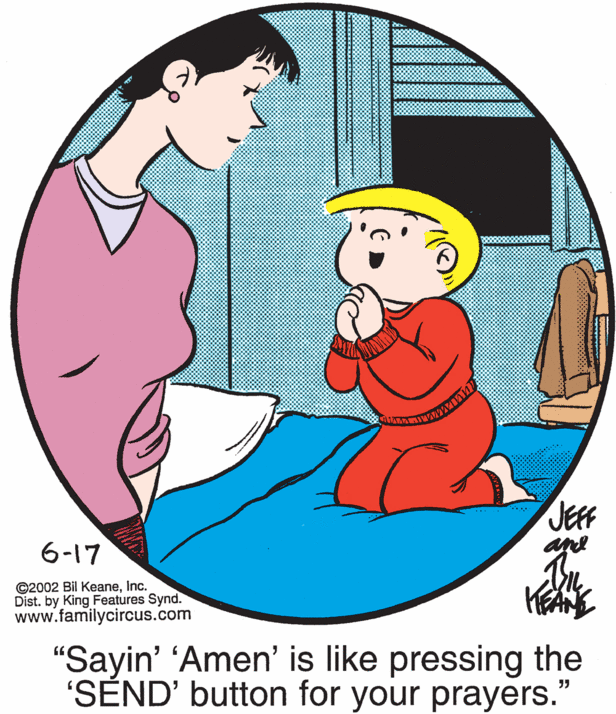
**All: and that your promise is for true joy in every circumstance, and life forever. Amen.**

**Assurance of God’s Forgiveness**

Minister: The Apostle Paul wrote that the Cross of Christ is foolishness to many, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. By this power, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God for the wisdom to live as forgiven and joyful people.

**A Message and Prayer for our Children &Youth** **Time to Party!**

Good morning, everyone! Today is *Holy Humor Sunday*! That means we celebrate the JOY of Jesus’ resurrection - and the way God’s love surprises us and makes us laugh with happiness! I brought a few party things today - a party hat, confetti, and noisemakers. Can you tell what kind of day it is? That is right, it is a party day!



In our Bible story today, Jesus tells a story about a young man who made a *really* big mistake. He took his dad’s money and ran off to have fun - but then he lost everything. He had no food, no home, and ended up feeding pigs! Can you imagine living with pigs? But then, something amazing happened. He went back home, hoping his father would just let him work like a servant. But do you know what his dad did? He RAN to him, gave him a big hug, and threw a huge party! 🎉 He was SO happy his son was back. God is like that dad. Even when we mess up, God does not stay angry. God forgives us, hugs us, and throws a party in heaven just because we are back. So, guess what? Easter is not just about serious stuff. It is also about JOY! Jesus is alive, and that is the best surprise party ever. Let us celebrate that God’s love is bigger than any mistake - because God always welcomes us home with open arms... and maybe even a noisemaker or two! 🎉

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for loving us no matter what. Thank you for always welcoming us back when we mess up. Help us to remember your joy and share it with others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Hymn # 406:** **Jump with joy**

*Words: © 1994 The Presbyterian Church in Canada - Music: Public Domain*

**1. Jump with joy for Jesus’ life everlasting, hallelujah!**

**Jump with joy for Jesus’ life everlasting, hallelujah!**

**Jump with joy for Jesus binds us together, hallelujah!**

**Jump with joy for Jesus binds us together, hallelujah!**

**Sing now with gladness, hallelujah!**

**Sing now with gladness, hallelujah!**

**Joyfully praising, hallelujah! Joyfully praising, hallelujah!**

**2. Jump with joy, for Jesus’ love is eternal, hallelujah!**

**Jump with joy, for Jesus’ love is eternal, hallelujah!**

**Jump with joy, for we are one now in Jesus, hallelujah!**

**Jump with joy, for we are one now in Jesus, hallelujah!**

**Dancing our praises, hallelujah!**

**Dancing our praises, hallelujah!**

**Shouting with laughter, hallelujah! Shouting with laughter, hallelujah!**

***to hear God’s word….***

**Prayer for Insight and Understanding**

David: Let us pray. Breathe your Spirit upon us, O Lord, as we listen to the Scriptures. Open our minds and hearts to receive your living Word and fill us with your renewed hope and joy. Amen.

**Psalm 98:** (read responsively)

David: O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things.

**All: God’s right hand and holy arm have won the victory.**

David: The Lord has made known the victory,

**All: and has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.**

David: The Lord has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

David: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**All: break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

David: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

**All: with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

David: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

**All: make a joyful noise before the sovereign Lord.**

David: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**All: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth. The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

**Reading from Scripture:** **Luke 15: 11 - 32** *New International Version (NIV)*

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David: **The Parable of the Lost Son**

Cartoon of a person standing in clouds with a sign

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So, he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ And he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. **2**‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in, so his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I have been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

David: 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:** **Jesus Put This Song Into Our Hearts** *Graham Kendrick*

**The Meditation** **The Joke Is On Us – and It Is Grace!**

He is risen! (He is risen indeed!) And not only is he risen, but death has been *punked*. The devil got played. The tomb is empty, and God pulled the greatest April Fool’s prank in history: when all the powers of darkness thought they had won, Jesus walked out of the grave with a smile.

As I think most of you know, Holy Humour Sunday is traditionally the Sunday after Easter, celebrating God's triumph over death with joy and laughter. Well, we moved it to the Sunday afterwards, because it is May the 4th – and may the Fourth be with you!

We have gathered here today not just to worship, but to laugh a little. And not the polite church kind of laugh - you know, the one that is barely a puff of air through the nose. No, I am talking about the real, belly-shaking kind of laughter. Because let us be honest, God’s grace is so ridiculously extravagant, it is funny.

Today’s story? A kid who treats his dad like an ATM, ends up in a pigsty, comes back home with his proverbial tail between his legs and gets a party for it!! If that is not holy humor, I do not know what is. The story today begins with the words, “A man had two sons.” And immediately we know this is going to be a drama, because nothing says “family dysfunction” like siblings and an inheritance. The younger son walks in and basically says, “Dad, I cannot wait for you to die. Can I have my money now?” And what is even crazier - *the father gives it to him!* This is the biblical version of someone saying, “Hold my wine. Watch this.” Spoiler: it does not end well. The son takes the money and runs. Vegas? Atlantic City? Rio? We do not know, but we know from the parable that he blows it all on what the King James Version delicately calls “riotous living,” which is code for *things your grandma would disapprove of*. But once he runs out of money, the regrets start!



Now our hero, the younger son, is broke and friendless. He is in some foreign country far away from his family and his Jewish traditions. He is so desperate for work that he finds a job feeding pigs - which for a Jewish boy is about as low as it gets. And to top it off, he is hungry enough to say, “That pig slop is looking kinda good.” This is what I call a “come to Jesus” moment, also known as: “I have made some **baaaad** life choices.” But here is the plot twist: the passage says that he “comes to himself”. He realized things back home were not so bad. He rehearses a speech. “Father, I have sinned. I am not worthy. Let me be your hired hand.” He figures he can earn his way back with a little groveling and a lot of manual labour. Now, the parable does not say that the younger son was **sorry** for what he had done in taking his portion of the inheritance and blowing it all. It is like when someone gets pulled over for speeding by the police. They are not sorry that they did it but are sorry they got caught. What he does not expect (and I think Jesus’ listeners did not expect it either) is that his father — the one he insulted and shamed — has been waiting at the window like a lovesick fool, ready to sprint like a madman the moment he sees him.

In first-century Middle Eastern culture, no respectable man *ran*. Running was for children and slaves. But this father hikes up his robes, exposes his knobby knees, and *runs*. Why? Because this is a comedy - a *divine* comedy. And the joke is this: the son’s sin was not stronger than the father’s love. The father does not even let the boy finish his speech. “Quick! Get the robe, the ring, the sandals, the ribeye - my son was dead, and now he is alive!” It is a homecoming party for the ages. Heaven throws a feast every time one sinner turns back. There is music, dancing, and probably someone in the corner playing the tambourine like they are on "Canada’s Got Talent." Now enter the older brother. He hears the music and sees the celebration. The servant tells him what happened. And what does the big brother do? He throws a hissy fit. He says, “I have been here the whole time, working hard, and nobody ever gave me so much as a goat.” (Side note: if you are comparing your happiness to a goat, maybe it is time for a new measuring stick.) “This son of yours…” he says, not “my brother!!” Naturally, the older brother is bitter. He kept the rules. He did his chores. He never asked for a party. And now he is watching the black sheep get a barbecue in his honour. The father goes out to him, too, and pleads with him. Again, this behaviour would have shocked Jesus’ 1st century listeners – the patriarch of the family had absolute authority over everyone in the household. To act as this father did would have shamed and dishonoured him in the eyes of society. But he goes out to the older son and begs him to come in. “Everything I have is yours. But your brother was dead and is alive again. That is worth a celebration!” The parable does not tell us what the older brother ultimately does. It is a story. But the story ends with the older brother standing outside, refusing to come in, while the father pleads with him. Just like the Pharisees Jesus was talking to. And maybe, just maybe, just like us sometimes. And that is the punchline of the whole story: God’s grace offends our sense of fairness - and it is hilarious. The younger son gets forgiven. The older son gets invited in. Nobody *deserves* the party - but the party is open anyway.

That is what Easter is about: God overturning expectations, rewriting endings, and inviting everyone - rebels and rule-followers alike - to join the celebration of new life. God’s love does not make sense. It throws parties for the messed-up kid, runs toward the regretful, and invites the grumpy older brother to dance anyway.

So on this Holy Humour Sunday, remember:

\* The joke is not on the sinners — it is on sin.

\* The joke is not on the faithful — it is on pride.

\* The joke is not on the cross — it is on death.

And the punchline is resurrection, reconciliation, and a feast that never ends. Come into the joy of your Father. The music’s playing. The feast is ready. And yes, God has a sense of humour. Just look in the mirror.

**Blessing the Word in our Lives**

Minister: Lord of laughter, through your Word for us today, open our eyes to see through the absurdities of this world and to confront them with good humour rather than faithless despair. Fill us with the hope that only comes from you, so we may be inspired to go out and share your joy and laughter with all. Amen.

**Song:**  **Joy to the world, the Lord’s alive**

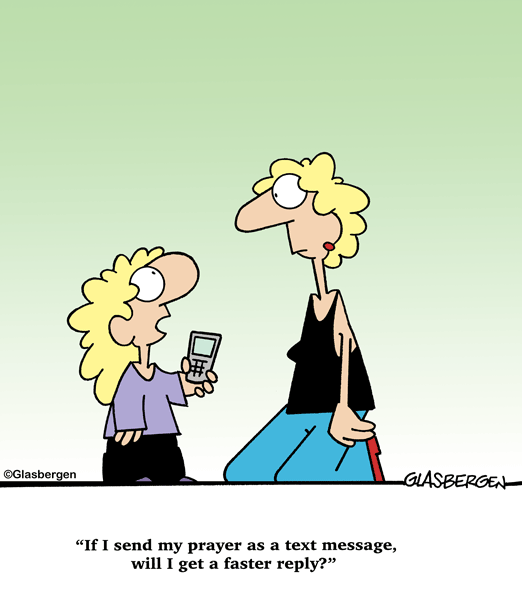
*©2004 by Paul Lintern, reprinted with permission – tune ‘Joy to the world’*

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord's alive.**

**Awake, rejoice and sing!It's just as he had said - he's risen from the dead.**

**Salvation now he brings. Salvation now he brings.Salvation, salvation now he brings.**

**2. Joy to the World, the empty tomb proclaims a victory,of light compelling, a great dispelling**



**of darkness in the world, of darkness in the world,**

**of darkness, of darkness in the world.**

**3. Joy to the World, our Saviour reigns.**

**Let heaven and earth proclaim**

**the glories of his righteousness,**

**and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,**

**and wonders, and wonders of his love.**

***Responding in love with thanksgiving***

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

Minister: O Lord, giver of joy and laughter, we thank you for giving us so many gifts in our lives: For the moments of laughter and unbridled joy you give to us: for opportunities to laugh at ourselves, for the belly laughs of children, for friends and family who love us because of our quirks, and not just in spite of them, for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise, for those who have hope even when others think there is no hope, for saints in the Lord who overflow with laughter and spread your joy to all of us.



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

Minister: For the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds; for teaching us that we can be born again, for the woman who finds a lost coin and calls her friends and neighbours to celebrate, for the father who is willing to look like a fool as he runs to greet his prodigal son, for the generosity of the landowner who will pay workers a whole day’s wage when they only worked one hour, for tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains, for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.

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

Minister: Loving God, we look at our world today, at the pain and suffering we see in conflicts such as Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, and Afghanistan. We wonder how we can laugh in the face of homelessness, poverty, addictions and mental health challenges suffered by so many. But we also know the truth and hope of the Resurrection, for the great reversal of the Gospel: that the last shall be made first, that the rejected stone became the cornerstone, that those who wish to become great must serve, that the lost will be found, that the small will become great, that though you are Wisdom, you choose to forget our sins, that when we are weak, your strength shines through us. We also pray for the newly elected Canadian government, and that our government will faithfully represent all Canadians with justice and hope.

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

Minister: Thank you for the gift you gave us of your Son Jesus Christ. We can laugh because of the most amazing thing of all – that you conquered death, that the tomb is empty, that light shone so bright that it overcame the darkness. Thank you for all that he taught us, including teaching us how to pray…

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,** **hallowed be thy name.** **Thy kingdom come.** **Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** **Give us this day our daily bread,** **and forgive us our debts,** **as we forgive our debtors.**  **Lead us not into temptation,** **but deliver us from evil,** **for thine is the kingdom, and the power,** **and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**The People’s Offering for the Work of Christ’s Church**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Minister: In this season of Easter, we rejoice in God’s precious gift to us of Jesus’ death and resurrection. As we present our gifts to God, may our generosity reflect God’s goodness to us and the joy we have found in Christ Jesus.

Cartoon of a person holding two stone tablets

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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, Ontario, K6V 5W1

**Offering Praise Song # 79**

Cartoon of a person holding a stone on a cliff

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**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, thank you for the hope we can claim in your resurrecting power. Bless the gifts we bring so they may spread that hope in the world you love. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Sending Hymn # 641:** **One more step along the world I go** *Words & Music: Sydney Carter*

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**1. One more step along the world I go.**

**One more step along the world I go.**

**From the old things to the new keep me travelling along with you.**

**And it’s from the old I travel to the new.**

**Keep me travelling along with you.**

**2. Round the corners of the world I turn.**

**More and more about the world I learn.**

**All the new things that I see, you’ll be looking at along with me.**

**And it’s from the old I travel to the new.**

**Keep me travelling along with you.**

**3. As I travel through the bad and good,**

**keep me travelling the way I should.**

**Where I see no way to go, you’ll be telling me the way, I know.**

**And it’s from the old I travel to the new.**



**Keep me travelling along with you.**

**4. Give me courage when the world is rough.**

**Keep me loving though the world is tough.**

**Leap and sing in all I do.**

**Keep me travelling along with you.**

**And it’s from the old I travel to the new.**

**Keep me travelling along with you.**

**5. You are older than the world can be.**

**You are younger than the life in me. Ever old and ever new,**

**keep me travelling along with you.**

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

Minister: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say, rejoice! Focus your thoughts on all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. May the God of hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope and laughter today and always!

**The Postlude** **Main Theme** *John Williams*

Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, the Presbyterian Church in Canada supports many vital outreach ministries across Canada. One such ministry is Rivière des Prairies, a mission of the Presbytery of Montreal that plays a significant role in outreach within the city’s east end. This mission focuses on connecting with immigrants where there is a growing presence of new Canadians, mainly from Cameroon. Rivière des Prairies celebrates multilingualism in its church services and children’s programming, creating an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada. Through these efforts, the mission fosters a strong sense of community and supports individuals on their shared faith journey. *A Mission Moment from The PCC*

**Happy Birthday to:**

(**May 4th to May 10th**)

**ANDREW CAMERON – May 4th**

**MILLY GARSIDE – May 4th**

**ELIZABETH MUNRO – May 5th**

**SHARRON JACKSON – May 6th**

**Happy Anniversary to:**

**BRIAN & DOREEN BARNES - May 5th**



**Office Hours** – May 5th to 9th

**Monday, May 5th – 10 am. to 11:25 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.  
Tuesday, May 6th –** **10 am. to 4:30 pm.**

**Wednesday, May 7th –** **10 am. to 4:30 pm.**

**Thursday, May 8th – 10 am. to 11:25 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.  
Friday, May 9th –** **10 am. to 1:30 pm.**

A poster for a concert

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Cartoon of a person sitting at a desk with two men in black robes

AI-generated content may be incorrect.



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**TODAY, SUNDAY MAY 4th is LOAVES & FISHES Sunday -** Our Church supports the work of this restaurant with our donations of money and time. This ministry assists so many, and we are thankful to be a part of it. Donations of food can be left in the basket at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office (macaroni type pasta and coffee are great choices) during the week. Donations of money are welcome in your regular offering envelopes or by online donations. Please mark all envelopes clearly. Thanks!

**JUST for LAUGHS!**

A Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation.  After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God’s divine will.

At the Baptist Church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a waterslide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God’s creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the waterslide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish Synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him.

**First Presbyterian Church**

**APRIL 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

**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 04 **HOLY HUMOUR SUNDAY (3rd Sunday of Easter) -** 11 am. in the Church Hall.

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

May 06 **Meeting of the M.O.V.E. Committee** – 10 am. in the Church Hall.

May 11 **MORNING WORSHIP (4th Sunday of Easter) -** 11 am. in the Sanctuary

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

Christina Duncan leads worship at St. Lawrence Lodge.

May 15 **Meeting of the SESSION** – 7 pm. in the Red Room.

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

Coffee Hour, following worship, in the Church Hall.

***Highly populated WiFi environments: Isn't that an interesting phrase? Guess what, with all the "wireless" mics, page turners, tablets and other equipment in the sanctuary, this has become a "highly populated WIFI environment". Add to that everyone who walks in with a cell phone, and we have a problem maintaining connections. You can help by turning off any cell phone, Bluetooth or other WiFi device you have in the sanctuary if possible. (Not just muting but actually turning off). Thank you.***



**GRACEFIELD CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

Summer registration for camp is now open! More information about Gracefield and the summer camping schedule is available in the CHALLENGE or visit <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.*

**The Open House at First Church, for the Capital Project, has been re-scheduled to Saturday May 24th, 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

AI-generated content may be incorrect.



"No child should go hungry! I am supporting Impact Malawi’s mission to feed the most vulnerable in 30 villages. They have launched a fundraiser to raise $20,000 for maize to provide daily porridge to 700 children, nursing mothers, pregnant women and seniors — the only meal many will have. Please join me by donating and sharing this campaign to fight hunger and malnutrition! To learn more about Impact Malawi visit:

[www.impactmalawi.org](http://www.impactmalawi.org/)<[http://www.impactmalawi.org](http://www.impactmalawi.org/)>.  
Click here to donate: <https://www.givesendgo.com/GFGM3>

Cartoon of a cartoon of a snake going into a boat

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**MORE JUST for LAUGHS!**

A man goes out ice fishing one morning. He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above: “There are no fish here.”

The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he is about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, “There are no fish here either.”

He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he’s even finished walking, the voice says, “I am telling you, there are no fish here!”

The fisherman says, “God, how can you be so sure there aren’t any fish here?”

The voice replies, “This is the ice rink manager.”

Copies of the **MAY PRAYER CALENDAR** are available this morning on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary.

**Myanmar Earthquake Response**



On March 28th, Myanmar and Thailand were struck by a devastating earthquake measuring 7.7 in magnitude. The current death toll is over 3,700 with thousands more injured or missing. Entire communities have been destroyed, leaving thousands of people homeless. Exacerbating the issue in Myanmar, communities hit by the earthquake were already hosting over 1.6 million people displaced from elsewhere in the country. Priority needs include emergency shelters, food, clean water, medical care, and other non-food items. PWS&D is able to respond through our ecumenical networks and coalitions, including [ACT Alliance](https://actalliance.org/act-news/act-alliance-announces-myanmar-appeal/) and with matching funds at [Canadian](https://foodgrainsbank.ca/news/earthquake-myanmar-and-thailand/)[Foodgrains](https://foodgrainsbank.ca/news/earthquake-myanmar-and-thailand/)[Bank](https://foodgrainsbank.ca/news/earthquake-myanmar-and-thailand/). Please keep the people of Myanmar and Thailand in your prayers. Support our response by donating through your church envelope or visitor envelope found in your pew. Indicate the gift is for **Myanmar Relief**. Cheques should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

[**Pray for Gaza**](https://bbox.blackbaudhosting.com/webforms/linkredirect?srcid=58660749&srctid=1&erid=-1072957049&trid=162a3d14-9a70-451e-8dad-e54d7ae147e9&linkid=284742682&isbbox=1&pid=0)



Amidst urgent need for a new ceasefire in Gaza, humanitarian aid is largely being blocked from entering the area. A lack of food and supplies is only exacerbating widespread hunger.

**We urge you to join us in prayer:**

God of justice, we come to you with heavy hearts as violence and suffering continue in Gaza. We pray for the many families who have lost everything and who are hungry, sick and displaced. We ask that you open the hearts of leaders to choose peace over violence and work toward an immediate and permanent ceasefire. We pray that humanitarian aid will reach those in need. In your mighty name. Amen.



We extend our love and sympathy to Betty Todd on the death of her husband **DOUGLAS GARY TODD** on Thursday, April 24th, 2025, in the Brockville General Hospital The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr officiated at the service in memory of Gary Todd on Wednesday, April 30th, 2025, at 1 pm. in the Chapel of the Irvine Funeral Home. Arrangements are entrusted to the Irvine Funeral Home & Chapel. Please remember Betty, Cheryl, Susan, and Trevor and the Todd family in your prayers.

Cartoon characters sitting under a tree

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

