



## First Presbyterian Church

Christian Family Sunday and Mother's Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Minister: The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr

Director of Music: Kathleen Howard

Reader: Lilly Duncan

**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, 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: Debbie LaBonte      Elevator: Brenda Fisk  
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/](http://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

**PLEASE TURN OFF**



**YOUR MOBILE PHONE**

- \* 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 Organ Prelude

Andante Cantabile

*Josef Hayden*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God

Minister: With all those in heaven and on earth, let us say together:

All: salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Minister: Let us praise God with joyful hearts.

All: We come before the throne of God to worship day and night.

Minister: Called together by the Holy Spirit, let us rejoice and sing.

All: We will hunger and thirst no more; Christ brings us eternal life.

Opening Hymn # 434:

For the beauty of the earth

*Words & Music: Public domain*

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine, to the earth so freely given,  
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: God of the ages, God of today, you are compassion - our cup overflows.

All: You are hope; you lead us into green pastures.

Minister: You are truth; you lead us beside quiet streams.

All: You are life; you restore our souls.

Minister: Morning, noon and night, O God, you are the source of our joy.

All: We gather to worship you as one family of your people, honouring you as our Creator, trusting you as our Saviour, celebrating you as the Spirit who gives us life. Amen.

### The Chancel Choir

### Tender Mercies

*Travis Boyd*

### Prayer of Confession

Minister: Trusting in your compassion and grace, we confess to you, our sins.

All: Merciful God, we confess we stray from your ways like lost sheep; we follow the devices and desires of our own hearts, ignoring the needs of others and seeking more for ourselves. We judge ourselves more generously than others and fail to offer others the forgiveness we seek from you. Forgive the ways we betray your love. Return us to your paths of truth and mercy. Amen.

### Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Minister: Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, for we are being rooted and grounded in his love. The forgiveness he offers is a gift of this love. Receive God's forgiveness with faithful hearts, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other.

### A Message and Prayer for our Children and Youth

#### Hymn # 11:

#### The Lord's my shepherd

*Words & Music: Public domain*

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie

in pastures green; he leadeth me

the quiet waters by.

2. My soul he doth restore again,

and me to walk doth make

within the paths of righteousness

e'en for his own name's sake.

3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,

yet will I fear none ill,  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

4. My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint  
and my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

*to hear God's word....*

### Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Lilly: Let us pray. God of wisdom, as we listen to your Word recorded by generations of your people, fill us with understanding by the power of your Holy Spirit. Reveal the mysteries of faith to us, so that we may grow in faithfulness, following Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

Psalm 23: (read in unison)

### A Song of David

All: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me beside still waters, restores my soul, and leads me in right paths for the sake of the Lord's name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for the length of my days.

### Reading from Scripture:

Acts 9: 36 - 43

*New International Version (NIV)*

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Lilly: In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas). She was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time, she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them, and when he arrived, he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing, that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

Lilly: 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:

Share His Love

*William J. Reynolds*

The Meditation

We are ALL Valued in God’s Family

Today is **Christian Family Sunday**, a special time when we pause to reflect on the beauty, strength, and value of family - not just our biological families, but our spiritual family in Christ. This morning, I want to take us to a powerful story in the book of Acts - one that does not involve a famous preacher, but a quiet servant named Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. Her story reminds us that **every member** of our faith family - young and old, loud or quiet, up front or behind-the-scenes - has immeasurable value in God’s eyes. But too often, our societal “blindness” prevent us from seeing that value in each other.

As an example, I am using a famous quotation attributed to Mao Zedong that states, ‘*Women hold up half the sky*,’ This powerful quote emphasizes the importance of gender equality and acknowledges the intrinsic value of women in shaping the world. It serves as a reminder that women are not just passive entities but active participants in all spheres of life, from the family unit to the workforce and beyond. But too often, traditional beliefs and prejudices have relegated women and girls to secondary roles, limiting their potential and denying them opportunities to fully participate in society’s development. Gender inequality and discrimination hurts whole societies, not just women, by allowing half a population’s human resources to go untapped. There is extensive empirical evidence that educating girls, investing in maternal health care, and empowering female entrepreneurs helps to lift entire communities out of poverty.<sup>1</sup>

Even Mao Zedong’s China has not met the lofty aspirations of its founder – working women still make much less than men, their educational opportunities are limited, the “glass ceiling” prevents qualified women from moving up in management, and women still bear the majority of the burden of housework and childcare. It could also be said that women hold up half the church (or, in some cases, more than half the church!) Every church community I have called home has had a woman, or a group of women, whose work was so vital that

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/education/girls-education>

without them, the congregation would dissolve into complete disarray. This Sunday's lectionary passage from Acts describes one such woman.

Tabitha was a disciple devoted to good works. The Greek word for "disciple" that Luke uses here, **μαθήτρια** (*mathētria*) is the first and only use of the word in the feminine form. (Remember this the next time you hear someone say it is not "biblical" for women to be leaders in the church.) Tabitha was not preaching in the synagogue. She was not healing the sick or being a missionary overseas for the church. But Luke makes a point of referring to her as a "disciple". Her ministry was to make clothes, care for widows, and serve her community quietly. Luke calls her by her Aramaic name, Tabitha, which was how she was likely known to her faith community. But he also shares her Greek name, Dorcas, which suggests that her work and charity were known among the greater public.

When Tabitha dies, it is the community's widows who are most distressed, gathering around Peter to show him their clothes, made by this female disciple. Without the support of their faith community, these widows would perish. Tabitha's ministry to these vulnerable women was essential to their survival in a world that devalued and marginalized women, especially those without husbands. So, the widows, and the larger faith community, recognizing Tabitha's importance to so many, sent for Peter, and through the power of prayer, Peter raised Tabitha from the dead. The raising of Tabitha reminds us that sometimes God works because the community believes together. It is not always the power of one person's faith - but the faith of a family, a group, a church body, saying, "*Lord, we believe.*"

The resurrection of Tabitha is a miracle story that Luke likely tells to solidify Peter's increasing power and send the message that the God who raised Jesus from the dead is still at work in the world. But the desperation of this community upon the loss of Tabitha speaks to another important theme in the book of Acts: valuing and using **all** of a community's resources for its health and wholeness, including those (the women) devalued by the culture and society at large.

Today, as we mark both Christian Family Sunday and Mother's Day, we join with many faith communities that will pause to recognize the women and caregivers essential to families. But, considering Tabitha's story, faith communities might also pause to reflect on **all** their God-given resources. Whose work, if lost, would we be desperate to resurrect? Who could contribute to the work of the community in ways we have not considered? Who does society devalue that could find a home among us?

On this Christian Family Sunday, the message is simple and powerful:

- Every person, in our own families, & in our faith family, has an important role to play.
- Every act of service and love matters.
- Every family can be a place where faith, legacy, and miracles happen.

God used a woman with a needle and thread to change lives. Imagine what God can do with your own family, and our faith family - our love, our prayers, our unity - when we recognize,

value, and use to the fullest for **all** its members. We are all, uniquely and distinctively, part of God's family! Amen.

### Blessing the Word in our Lives

Minister: Great is the glory of God, and great is God's Son who came to bring salvation to many. To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb, blessing and glory and might forever and ever! Amen.

### Hymn # 649:

### How clear is our vocation, Lord

*Music: Public Domain*

*Words: Fred Pratt Green ©1982 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614*

1. How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call;  
to live according to your Word, and daily learn, refreshed, restored  
that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
2. But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear,  
if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.
3. We mark your saints, how they became in hindrances more sure,  
whose joyful virtues out to shame the casual way we war your name,  
and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.
4. In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you -  
the cross you hung upon - all you endeavoured done.

### *Responding in love with thanksgiving*

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

Minister: Shepherding God, you walk with us and show us how to love each other. We now turn to you with our hopes and concerns and love for others in these uncertain times. Draw near to us and to all those for whom we pray, so that your love will be known in the world this day. Nurturing God, on Christian Family Sunday, we pray for the families we belong to in which we received some reflection of your unconditional love.

We thank you for parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, for the generations who started our families and all they gave to us. Today we thank you for all those who parented us and we pray for loving parents throughout the world, especially those in places of conflict and violence who are worried for their children and the future, praying especially for families in Afghanistan, Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen, Venezuela, Democratic Republic of



Congo, and Sudan. Strengthen every caregiver's hope and courage by the power of your Spirit and create peace in the world so all children can grow up in safety. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Minister: God who holds all people in your hands, we pray for families in our community and around the world in these uncertain times. We remember families in need: those struggling with economic upheaval, unemployment and the high cost of living, those who know sorrow because someone has died or gone away, those who live in pain or fear, or face discrimination and injustice. Surround all people with your love and courage; bring them support from their neighbours and communities and guide each child and your person into the future. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Minister: God of the nations, we pray for the family of nations in this time of threat and conflict. Change the hearts of leaders bent on destruction or conquest, greed and self-promotion. Give wisdom, courage and strength to those who seek justice through negotiation and advocacy and protect all those who serve to fulfill God's call for love, integrity and the flourishing of creation. Bring peace with justice to this troubled world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Minister: God of love, we pray for each other and for our church family. We give you thanks for the friendship and fellowship we share and the unique gifts each one brings to our life together. Rekindle our energy for ministry and mission and show us our path into the future. Make us a beacon of hope in your name. Lord, in your mercy,  
**People: hear our prayer.**

Minister: Caring God, the Good Shepherd, guiding us through dark valleys and green pastures, we thank you for your presence with us in all times and situations as we offer together the prayer you gave us as one family of followers:

**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 the Easter season, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and his rising. As we present our offering, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us, and the hope we have in Christ Jesus, even in these troubled times.



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, thank you for all we have received from you in Christ and in creation; your generosity to us overflows. Bless the gifts we bring and use them and us in the service of your reign of justice and peace, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Guide.

### Sending Hymn # 691:

### My shepherd is the King of love

*Words & Music: Public domain*

1. My shepherd is the King of love  
whose goodness fails me never;  
for all things good from God above  
restore my soul forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul is guided,  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with heavenly food provided.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love you sought me,  
and on your shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with you, dear Lord, beside me;  
your rod and staff my comfort still,  
your cross before to guide me.
5. You spread a table in my sight,  
anointing grace bestowing,  
and, oh, what rapture of delight:  
your cup is overflowing.

6. And so, through all the length of days  
your goodness fails me never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
within your house forever!

### Benediction and Choral Amen

Minister: May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the Lord, whose steadfast love is as constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

### The Postlude

### Rejoicing

*Georg Friderich Handel*



"I could not get medical help in time because we did not have enough money," says 65-year-old Ruqaiya, who lives in Afghanistan. Ruqaiya's life took a challenging turn ten years ago when she fell on ice, resulting in partial paralysis. Despite her impairment, she helps care for her youngest son, who has a hand impairment, two daughters-in-law, and two young grandchildren while her two oldest sons work as porters in Kabul, struggling to earn enough. Before her injury, Ruqaiya was known for her skill in weaving and was able to earn a decent income. Now unable to weave, she faces significant financial hardship, made worse by the political and economic situation in the country. Relief came when Ruqaiya received cash assistance through a PWS&D-supported project. She purchased essentials like oil, pulses, flour, rice and salt, meeting her family's food needs during the harsh winter.

*A Mission Moment from The PCC*

Happy Birthday to:  
(May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>)

PATRICK MUNRO – May 13<sup>th</sup>

DORIS HALLETT – May 13<sup>th</sup>

MARY ELLEN STEPHENSON

May 13<sup>th</sup>

DENISE KENT – May 13<sup>th</sup>

### Office Hours – May 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 10 am. to 11:25 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.

Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – 10 am. to 11:25 & 1 pm. to 4:30 pm.

Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – 10 am. to 1:30 pm.

## First Presbyterian Church MAY CALENDAR

**LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY** - 1<sup>st</sup> 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** - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month

### Stewardship Moments: Inspiring Generosity

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life...it makes  
sense of our past, brings peace for today, and  
creates a vision for tomorrow.

*Melodie Beattie*



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

**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

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

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

- May 11 **MORNING WORSHIP (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary  
Coffee Hour in the Church Hall – following Worship.  
Christina Duncan leads worship at St. Lawrence Lodge.
- May 15 **Meeting of the SESSION** - 7 pm. in the Red Room.
- May 18 **MORNING WORSHIP (5<sup>th</sup> 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 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary  
No Coffee Hour – Sunday Supper Ministry.  
Reverend Marianne leads worship 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>. Please speak to Brenda Fisk or Quentin Robinson if you can help.



"No child should go hungry! Please support 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 donate and share 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>>.

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



**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.*







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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The M.O.V.E. Committee is planning a garage/yard "sale" and will also 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:**

- 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 30<sup>th</sup>**
- 3) **Cakes for Sunday Supper Desserts – very popular! Cakes can be left in the kitchen on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> (Prep Day) or on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.**
- 4) **Sunday Supper Volunteers are needed on Prep Day, May 24<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**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. Send your submissions to [firstkirk@truespeed.ca](mailto:firstkirk@truespeed.ca) or leave them at the Church Office.



**Thousand Islands Ministry 2 Men and Bethel CRC** invite you to a **Men's Breakfast and Workshop** on Sat., May 31<sup>st</sup>, from 8:30-11:30 am at **Bethel Christian Reformed Church - 117 Windsor Drive in Brockville** **Topic: "Aging Gracefully, Living with Grace"** **R.S.V.P. to Mike** [<vandyke4541@gmail.com>](mailto:vandyke4541@gmail.com)

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

**CROSS TOWN IMPACT CHARITY GOLF Tournament**

**Fundraising EVENT**

**TICKETS \$135**  
DINNER ONLY \$75

**JUNE 27TH, 2025 | FRIDAY**

**TICKET INCLUDES:**  
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Shared Power Cart  
Steak or 1/2 Chicken Dinner

**REGISTRATION:**  
12 Noon  
SHOT GUN START 1 PM

**OTHER FEATURES:**  
On Course Activities  
Live Auction  
Silent Auction  
\$500 Hole-In-One

**LOCATION:**  
Cedar Valley Golf & Country Club  
7021 County Rd 29  
Brockville, ON  
K6V 5T4

**REGISTER TODAY**

**SIGN-UP TODAY!**  
"FOR 15 YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH AND FAMILIES. YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES."  
ED | GREG HOULDRIFT

**info@crosstownimpact.com**  
Info call | Tom Alle | 613-123-4567

**CROSSTOWNIMPACT.COM/GOLF**



### Myanmar Earthquake Response

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](#) and with matching funds at [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#). 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.



### Voices from the Grassroots

by Maria Carmona

Maria is PWS&D's Asia program coordinator. From March 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Maria attended the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) at the United Nations. She attended as a representative of the Ontario Council for International Cooperation.

The General Assembly Hall of the United Nations was abuzz with voices as everyone waited in anticipation for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to deliver his remarks. Speaking at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Guterres stated, "We share a common vision: a world of equality, where the human rights of women and girls are realized in full. Let's keep working together to make this vision of gender equality a reality for all." At the opening of the session the day before, UN Member States adopted the [Political Declaration](#) which represents the commitment of governments to respect, protect, and uphold the rights, equality, and empowerment of every woman and girl. "I felt privileged to walk the halls of the UN for the first time – a realization of a lifelong dream," Maria shared.

### Unity in diversity

I felt privileged to walk the halls of the UN for the first time – a realization of a lifelong dream. As I attended various official meetings, and events organized by Member States and civil society organizations, I was inspired by the unity despite the diversity. I witnessed individuals from different countries, different sectors, with different genders, different faiths, different approaches all working together toward the same goal of gender equality.

It was the first time I heard of the Multi-faith Advisory Council (MFAC), which was established to provide advice and support to the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development. The MFAC is made up of 45 diverse religious leaders and





heads of faith-based organizations. It is co-chaired by Rudelmar Bueno de Faria of the [ACT Alliance](#), of which PWS&D is a member.

### Her voice

In the middle of all the activities, I paused to remember [Lilawati](#), a 16-year old girl from Mudwa village in rural Bihar, India, who raised her voice against child marriage in her community. She said, "I want to study and achieve my dreams. I do not want to waste my life like this. I will be a role model to other girls." Lilawati is one of the participants of PWS&D's Karuna Project which aims to empower girls through raising awareness about the rights of girls and through livelihood opportunities to make them financially independent. While Lilawati may not have the chance to make it to the UN, I know that I have the responsibility to bring her message and amplify her voice in spaces I have the privilege of navigating.

After attending a session on gender apartheid in Afghanistan, I remembered the thousands of Afghan women and girls who are raising their voices to restore their right to education. Afghanistan is the only country in the world where girls are banned from attending secondary school and higher education.



### Pray for Gaza

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.



### The 150<sup>th</sup> General Assembly June 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The General Assembly 2025 meetings and events will be held at McMaster University in Hamilton from Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> until Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 p.m. Please join us for this music-filled evening as we celebrate 150 years together.

The 2025 GA webpage 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/>

