



First Presbyterian Church

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday, June 29th, 2025

3rd Sunday after Pentecost (Canada Day)

Minister: **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

Director of Music: **Kathleen Howard**

Reader: **Ian Loughrey**

Guest Flute Trio: **Andrew Cameron, Kathleen Howard, Karen Mahon**

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 and 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. The next Coffee Hour will happen on Sunday, September 14th, 2025. 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: **Annis Moreau** Elevator: **Mark Leslie**

Sound and Video Team – **Quentin Robinson, Kade LeBrun**
Michel LaBonte and Mark Leslie



- * Our website and social media accounts:

<https://pccweb.ca/firstchurch-brockville/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Firstkirk/>

www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/

<https://twitter.com/firstkirk>

- * YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams)

[@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams](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.

NEED A RIDE?

Call Executive Taxi!

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

PLEASE TURN OFF



YOUR MOBILE PHONE

the people of God gather....

The Organ Prelude

Variations on “Cwm Rhondda”

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God

Minister: It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

All: Let us sing praises to God’s holy name!

Minister: We will declare God’s steadfast love in the morning,

All: and God’s faithfulness night after night.

Minister: Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

All: for God is good and we know God’s blessings.

Minister: Let us worship God with grateful hearts.

All: We will give God thanks in our prayers and praise.

Opening Hymn # 833:

O Canada

Words & Music: Public domain

1. O Canada our home and native land,
true patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
the true north strong and free.
From far and wide, O Canada,
we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free;
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: Faithful, fruitful God, you created our minds to grow in wisdom. You created our hearts to expand with love.

All: You created our voices to sing your praises forever. We bring you our worship with joyful thanks, turning to Jesus for grace and guidance.

Minister: Fill us to over-flowing with your Holy Spirit so that the fruit of the Spirit will bound in our lives.

All: May we worship you in spirit and in truth, and serve you in the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Flute Trio

Aus dem Barock

anonymous - arr. Kathleen Howard

Prayer of Confession

Minister: Faithful, fruitful God, you call us to follow you, whatever the circumstance, yet we confess we prefer to remain where we are.

All: You offer us new beginnings, yet we continue to make the same choices, guided by our own desires. We make excuses for avoiding your challenge to change. Forgive us, O God. Let the wind of your Spirit blow through us. Cleanse us with your mercy, fill us with the fire of your love, and energize us to serve you when the challenge seems too great for us to face. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Minister: In Christ, we are a new creation. The old life is gone, and the new life has come! Trust that God loves you and forgives you. Do not be afraid to make a new start! Amen.

The Children's Message

You Are Free? Now What?

So, last Thursday was the last week of school before the summer! How does it feel? When school ends, it feels like freedom, right? No more math tests, no more spelling, no more bells ringing! Just summer fun!

Let me show you something. (*Hold up a backpack full of books, pencils, binders, lunch box, etc.*) This is a school backpack. It is full of stuff you need for class. It is kind of heavy, right? (*Then hold up an empty backpack.*) And this one? It is empty. It is like your summer backpack. Light! Free! You do not have to carry all that anymore!

In today's Bible reading, the apostle Paul writes: "**Christ has set us free!**" and "**Do not use your freedom to do whatever you want - use it to serve one another in love.**" That is important. When we are free - like free from school or when we live in a free country like Canada - we get to **choose** what we will do. We could just do whatever we feel like: sit on the couch all summer, fight with our siblings, grab the last cookie every time...**OR** we could use our freedom to do something loving:

- Help your parents or a neighbour with gardening or mowing the yard.
- Share our things with others
- Send a text or email to a friend to let them know you are thinking of them.
- Volunteer at church or in the community,

This week is Canada Day. Canada is a country that values freedom - people can worship freely, go to school, be themselves. That is something to celebrate! But freedom is not just about

doing whatever we want. It is about doing what is right. The Holy Spirit helps us use our freedom well - with **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**. That is called the **fruit of the Spirit**. Summer is a great time to grow those fruits!

Let's pray together: Dear God, thank you for the gift of freedom. Help us to use our freedom to love others and grow good fruit like kindness and joy. Thank you for summer fun and for your Spirit that helps us. Amen.

Hymn # 814:

Morning has broken

Words: Public domain

Music: arr. John W. Wilson 1983 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI License # 20312607/20312614

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird;
praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
praise for them singing fresh from the Word.
2. Sweet the rain's newfall sun lit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass;
praise for the sweetness, praise for the morning,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning;
born of the one light Eden saw play;
praise with elation; praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day!

to hear God's word....

Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Ian: God of grace and faithfulness, open our minds to your truth, our hearts to your love, and our hands to do your will as we listen to the Scriptures. With your Holy Spirit, equip us to follow Jesus, who is your Living Word. Amen.

Psalm 16 (read responsively)

Ian: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

People: I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

Ian: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

People: Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

Ian: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

People: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

Ian: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

People: in the night also my heart instructs me.

Ian: I keep the Lord always before me;

People: the Lord is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

Ian: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

People: You show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

The Scripture Lesson

Galatians 5: 1 and 13-25

New International Version (NIV)

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Ian: **Life by the Spirit**

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Ian: 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 Meditation

Freed From, Freed For

It is the first weekend of summer break for most of the students in our area. For children, teens, teachers and school staff, there is a new sound in the air: a deep breath, a sigh of relief. The final bell has rung, the last locker is emptied, and school is out. And the cry goes up: “**We are free!**”

We also celebrate Canada Day this coming week, brings its own celebration of freedom. We wave flags, wear red and white, start the barbecues, light the fireworks, and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy: to speak, to gather, to worship, to live in relative safety.

And today, as a church, we are also celebrating **freedom in action** - volunteer service. The people who give of their time, their energy, their gifts - not because they must, but because they *can*. Because they *want to*. Because the love of Christ has taken root in their lives. So yes. It is a time full of freedom. But that raises an important question, one that Paul asks the Galatians, and one I will ask you today: **What are we free *for*?**

Paul begins Galatians 5 with a bold declaration: “**For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**” Remember our story from last week, where Jesus drove out the impure spirits that had enslaved a man. We are told he is sitting at Jesus’ feet, *clothed and in his right mind*. That is a picture of **freedom**: healed, restored, and ready to follow Jesus.

In our text today, Paul tells the Galatian Church - “**You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters... only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.**” Now just a minute, Paul. On the one hand, you are telling us not to “submit to a yoke of slavery”, but in the next breath you are saying “become slaves to one another”? How can we do both?

Well, we **can** do both, when we reflect on what Paul is saying in light of last week’s Gospel story. Remember, the man who was demon-possessed wanted to go with Jesus. But Jesus told him to stay where he was and share his story with those around him. And he did! Paul tells the Galatians that, just like Jesus set the Gerasene man free from the impure spirits, Christ set them free **from** what enslaves them - fear, sin, hatred, selfishness. But Paul also told them that they are freed **for** something: to love, to serve, to walk by the Spirit. The same applies to us - freedom in Christ is not about doing whatever **you** want. It is about being freed from **yourself**, so that you can love others well.

Let us go back to the kids for a moment. Imagine a 10-year-old finishing school for the summer and announcing, “I am free now. So, I am not brushing my teeth, not doing chores, not listening to anyone ever again!” Now technically, that is freedom. But it is also a recipe for chaos, cavities, and some very grumpy parents.

Paul knew that if freedom was misunderstood as “do whatever feels good,” it would not lead to life. It would lead to brokenness, to being so focused on our own greedy desires that we never know the joy and freedom of being in relationship with each other and with God. Paul warns: **“If you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”** (v.15)

Freedom without love turns into selfishness. And selfishness eventually turns into conflict, envy, division, a focus on “me first” - the very things that break communities apart. Paul offers a better way. He says, **“live by the Spirit.”** Let the Spirit guide you, shape you, and bear fruit in you. Because when you let the Spirit lead, something beautiful happens: You do not just *talk* about love - you *live* it. And that is when he gives us the list so many of us know: **“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”**

These are not rules. They are the natural result of a life rooted in Christ, guided by the Spirit, and shaped by love. Think about fruit on a tree - it does not have to force itself to grow. It grows when the tree is healthy and well-rooted. It is the same with us. When we live in Christ, when we walk in step with the Spirit, these qualities grow in us - and they bless others.

This brings us to today: Giving thanks for our volunteers. What are volunteers doing, really? They are using their freedom in Christ not to serve themselves - but to serve others in love. They come early to get the coffee going for coffee hour. They bring the goodies which we all enjoy. They make sure the sanctuary is ready for worship – bulletins out, livestream and sound on, people greeted at the door as they come in. They sing songs, drive neighbours, call those who are sick. They maintain our church building, so it is safe and welcoming. And on and on! They could do something else with their time. But they choose this. And in that choosing, they become **signs of freedom**. They are not serving out of guilt or obligation. They are not trying to earn God’s love. They are **free** - and they are **using their freedom to love**. This is what Paul is talking about in our text today. This is the fruit of the Spirit in action.

And what about Canada Day? We give thanks this coming week for freedoms people have fought to protect. But what good are our freedoms if we only use them to serve ourselves? We are free to speak - but what if we use that freedom to encourage others and to advocate for justice for those on the margins? We are free to worship, but what if we use that freedom to be the church, the Body of Christ, not just inside the building, but in the world? Our passage today reminds us that true freedom **is not** doing whatever we want. It is when we are freed by Christ **from** ourselves and freed **for** lives as the fruitful, spirit-filled people of God. Amen.

[Blessing the Word in our Lives](#)

Minister: O God, our faithful teacher of truth, by your Spirit, reveal your Word for us today. Stir in our hearts and minds and strengthen us to respond in faithfulness. Amen.

Hymn # 635:

Brother, sister, let me serve you

Words & Music: Richard Gillard

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1. Brother, sister, let me serve you. Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister, let me serve you. Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Responding in love with thanksgiving

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

Minister: God of all the earth, we pray today from the piece of the world we call Canada, land of mountains and prairie, boreal forest, and tundra, a land of beauty from coast to coast to coast. Thank you for democratic government, for health care, for social safety nets and municipal services delivering reliable electricity and clean water. In a country with so many blessings we confess that these are not distributed equally - there are First Nations communities without safe drinking water, there are people who are hungry and unhoused, and there are many who are not caught in any type of social safety net. God of purpose and promise,

People: receive our prayers.

Minister: Help us hold our governments to account, raising issues of inequality and racism. Help us do better as a country, addressing historic injustice and systemic abuse. Even now as we are in a state of climate crisis, help our governments make choices focussed not only on this generation but on generations to come, not only on human welfare, but on the welfare of all your creatures. God of purpose and promise,

People: receive our prayers.

Minister: Thank you for religious freedom, and freedom of expression which many countries do not enjoy; protect us from public discourse steeped in hatred. We pray for the

peace of the world, especially holding in prayer the people of Gaza, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Haiti and Yemen. Guide Canada to be a voice for peace, using our many resources to help the most marginalized in our world. God of purpose and promise,

People: receive our prayers.

Minister: Thank you for the beauty of the summer season here in Canada – the lakes, the trees, the fruits and vegetables of the fields and orchards, times spent with family and friends. We pray for teachers, staff and students during the summer break, and for all those who are travelling to see loved ones near and far. Bring rest and renewal to those who are weary – refresh them in body, mind and spirit. At the same time, let us also be mindful of those for whom summer is no respite from hunger and poverty. Let us continue to care for and support those who are struggling to meet basic needs in our community, knowing that hunger does not take a holiday. God of purpose and promise, **People: receive our prayers.**

Minister: Thank you for the gifts of all those who serve in volunteer capacities in our congregation. Our church's mission and ministry in Brockville and the area could not happen without them!! God of all good gifts, we give you thanks for these wonderful people with whom you have blessed us. May the witness of those who give so much of themselves, body, mind, treasure and spirit mould us so that reaching deeply and giving freely becomes a pattern of our lives as well, as we follow in the footsteps and in the model of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. God of purpose and promise,

People: receive our prayers.

Minister: We gather all our petitions, spoken and unspoken, and lift them to you, Creator God, so that through them, and us, your reign on earth may come to pass, where peace and justice bless us all, where war and conflict will be no more, and where all humanity will be filled with the fruits of the Spirit, praying in the name of your son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, saying,

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: According to the Apostle Paul, the fruit of the Spirit includes kindness and generosity, gifts of God we enjoy. As we present our offering, may the Spirit fill us with generosity, and multiply our kindness for the sake of Christ our Lord.

You can give.....

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

* by e-transfer to firstkirk@truespeed.ca

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

Offering Praise Song

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: O God, we know you to be kind and generous, so we bring our gifts in gratitude and joy. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and on our lives, so that we may bear the fruit of your Spirit in every situation and relationship, through Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.

Sending Hymn # 324:

Great is thy faithfulness

Words & Music: Public domain

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not; thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness; great is thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in eloquent witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness; great is thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness; great is thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

The Benediction and Choral Amen

Minister: Go to be fruitful in all that you do! Share the Spirit's love, joy, peace, and gentleness with everyone you meet. Convey kindness, patience, and generosity to your every encounter with others. In so doing, you not only live by the Spirit, but you also bring the Spirit with you. As you go out into the world today, may the love of Jesus Christ, the joy of God our heavenly parent, and the peace of the Holy Spirit go with you today and always! Amen.

The Organ Postlude

Allegro

Henry Purcell



With support from Presbyterians Sharing, staff of the Synod of Saskatchewan provide essential support to congregations and presbyteries through a variety of programs. These include youth initiatives, Vacation Bible School, intergenerational Messy Church, seniors' ministries, and rural summer activities led by seminary students. This funding also helps support a dynamic summer program at Camp Christopher, which offers primarily inner-city children the opportunity to engage with nature and experience a week in a welcoming, inclusive Christian community. Regional staff in Saskatchewan also assist congregations in nurturing their ministries, providing resources for congregational development and helping churches cultivate a missional focus that reaches people of all ages.

A Mission Moment from The PCC

First Presbyterian Church

LOAVES & FISHES SUNDAY

- 1st Sunday in July – Donations can be left at the Church Office during the week.

CRAFT & CHAT – summer break

FPC HAND BELL CHOIR - summer break

FPC CHANCEL CHOIR – Summer break

SUNDAY SUPPER MINISTRY - 4th Sunday of each month

ONGOING PROJECTS: **Grocery Bags, Egg Cartons**

Pop Cans (Maintenance), **Breakfast Bags** (Food Bank), **Sunday Supper Ministry.**

COMMUNITY GROUPS using the Church Building:

EMBERS/GUIDES – Summer Break

DSLGC Cooking Class - Thursday am & pm

DSLGC Cricut Group - Tuesday afternoons

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

Office Hours – June 30th to July 4th

Mon. June 30th – 10 am. to 10:50 & 12 pm. to 4:30 pm.

Tuesday, July 1st – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, July 2nd – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Thursday, July 3rd – OFF (Canada Day Holiday)

Friday, July 4th – 10 am. to 1:30 pm.

Happy Birthday (during July) to:

BRENDA FISK – July 1st

JIM BARBOUR – July 9th

TAMARA CHAPMAN – July 14th

FINLEY VILLENEUVE – July 17th

BETTY McNAIR – July 19th

MARIANNE EMIG CARR – July 21st

ANNIS MOREAU – July 24th

ANDREW DUNCAN – July 31st

Happy Anniversary (during July) to:

IAN & MARY ELLEN STEPHENSON – July 1st

HALF MOON BAY (Gananoque)



See the tallest cathedral ceiling at Historic Half Moon Bay during the **Sunday, June 29th Service of Worship.**

Minister: The Reverend MARIANNE EMIG CARR Everyone is Welcome!

There is pick up by our **free ferry service** at the PUC docks at 3 p.m.

Schedule of Ministers visit

<https://www.halfmoonbay.site/> In the event of inclement weather, the services are held at the Thousand Island Boat Museum.

SERVICES of WORSHIP in the Summer Months

Sundays, July 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Minister: The Reverend John Wilderspin
First Baptist Church

at First Baptist Church - 10 am.

Sundays, August 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Minister: The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr
First Presbyterian Church

at First Presbyterian Church - 11 am.

Rally Sunday, September 7th

at St. Lawrence Park - 11 am.

Minister: The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr

During the month of July, the congregations of First Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church will come together to worship at First Baptist Church at 10 am.

For this month, First Baptist will produce the order of service each Sunday morning, as well as provide music and musical guests, readers and greeters. This provides the many volunteers from First Church, who provide this support each Sunday morning during the year, with the opportunity to have a break and worship with their families.

In August, First Church will provide the volunteers and produce the bulletin, outreach deliveries, and the prayer calendar.

During July, you are encouraged to pray for the health and safety of friends and family and for the care and well-being of all those in need in

our community and around the world.

A note about givings: During July, envelopes from First Church folks should be placed on the offering plates each Sunday morning. The envelopes will be collected at the end of each service and brought back to First Church for banking. The loose collection at services in July will remain with First

Baptist Church. The loose collection in August will remain with First Presbyterian Church. Etransfers will be available as usual, and envelopes can be left at the church office during the week.

Stewardship Moments: Inspiring Generosity

There is a will for our life, other than our own will.
There is a will for our money, other than our own will.
There is freedom in letting go of our own will.

Dr. Walter Bruggemann (1933 –), scholar & theologian

**During this quiet time, Lord Jesus, speak to me.
Fill Thou my heart with love divine. Thy Spirit let
me see. And in the summer months, be with me
every hour, that I may bring thy love to all; and
spread thy healing power. Amen.**



As violence continues in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, humanitarian needs on the ground only increase, while the ability to deliver aid is blocked by Israeli government forces. With thousands of families displaced, schools and hospitals bombed, thousands of children killed, and an emerging famine, our impetus to act is greater than ever - **your support will make a difference.**

Despite the challenges, PWS&D is responding through our ecumenical networks and partnerships at ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food and other humanitarian assistance where and whenever possible. **The scale of need is immense, and we need your help to respond.** With your gifts, PWS&D and our partners will be able to provide cash and food assistance, access to water and sanitation services, shelter, primary health care and mental health support.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada asks that people pray for an end to violence and a just peace in the land of Christ's birth.

God of truth, mercy and peace, God of life and reconciliation, we mourn the suffering and murder of your people and we pray for a just peace and reconciliation for the people of Palestine and Israel who have endured the burden of violence and conflict for so long. Console those who grieve, heal the injured, comfort those who are alone and afraid, protect those who are held hostage, and restrain those who would cause more violence or act cynically for political gain and power.



We join with communities around the world calling for an end to the violence.



The Summer edition of the Presbyterian Connection newspaper is available on the tables at the rear of the Sanctuary. The deadline for submissions to the Fall Edition is July 17th.



From Despair to Hope in Malawi Impact Stories, Malawi

by PWS&D partner Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), Malawi

Meet Peter Simon, a 56-year-old father of four from Kumbewe Village, in the Balaka district of Malawi. Like many families in Malawi's southern region, Peter's life took a difficult turn when El Niño-induced drought and floods struck the country.

"I watched almost all my fields get washed away. The little that was left did not survive," Peter shared. "Farming, which used to sustain my family, was no longer reliable."

As food became scarce and maize prices soared beyond his reach, Peter's once stable life began to spiral. He relied on his traditional mat weaving business to make ends meet, but even that became a challenge. The raw materials he used, usually sourced from nearby riverbanks, were washed away by floods. "Life was unbearable. I was living in fear, not knowing where the next meal for my children would come from," he recalls.

But then came a ray of hope, through the El Niño Emergency Response Program. With support from Presbyterian World Service & Development and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Peter's family and 1,700 other vulnerable households received MK90,000 [about \$71] monthly, through cash transfers which were distributed between November 2024 to March 2025.

"The cash transfer changed everything," Peter said with a smile. "I was able to buy food for my family, pay my children's school fees and slowly rebuild my life. Just look at me now—so healthy!"

As a wheelchair user, Peter also took a moment to appreciate CARD's commitment to inclusivity. "I am especially grateful that CARD did not leave behind people with disabilities," he said. "Life is already hard for us and finding food is even harder. This help came at the right time."

Peter's story is one of many, but it stands as a powerful reminder that timely humanitarian support can restore dignity, hope and health to those hit hardest by climate shocks. Thanks to the cash transfer program, Peter is living with a renewed sense of purpose for his family's future.



The PCConnect newsletter will take a two-month break over the summer. Wishing you some time for rest and relaxation during July and August. We will be back again with lots of content in September. See you then!

WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me...I know we've been friends for a long? time...but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is." Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally, she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

