

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.”*
(Psalm 51:10)

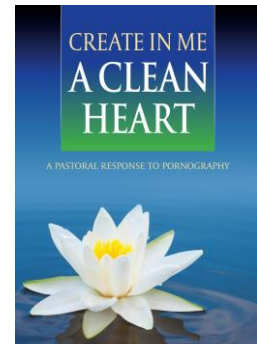
Lent is a season in the Christian liturgical calendar that invites us to pause and listen more closely - to God, to one another, and to the quiet movements of our own hearts. In a world that often urges us to move quickly and stay busy, Lent gently calls us in another direction: toward prayerfulness, honesty, and renewal. The prayer of Psalm 51 reminds us that God’s work in us is not about perfection, but about transformation. We come before God not to prove or excuse ourselves and our faith, but to be made new and to seek God’s guidance for us.

Psalm 51’s prayer acknowledges that renewal is something God creates within us. A “clean heart” is not one we manufacture through our own efforts alone, but one shaped by grace. During Lent, we are invited to open ourselves to that spiritual work - knowing that God can restore what feels worn, heal what feels fractured, and renew what has grown weary.

Many people undertake practices during Lent to make space for this renewal. Some suggested spiritual practices include:

- Setting aside time each day for prayer, devotional or Scripture reading, allowing silence to become a place where God can speak.
- Undertaking a time of “fasting” or simplifying life, not as deprivation or punishment, but as a way of loosening the grip of material, worldly distractions and remembering what truly sustains us. Reducing social media use, foregoing that extra cup of coffee, or limiting TV screen time are examples of activities from which we can “fast”.
- Committing to acts of generosity, justice, and compassion - through giving, volunteering, or advocacy - become outward signs of the inward renewal God is bringing about.

For those looking for guidance and inspiration during this season, the church’s Lenten devotional booklet, *The Sanctuary for Lent*, will be available in the Sanctuary, in the Church Office, or by mail upon request. As we journey toward the cross and the hope of resurrection, may this season be a time when we pray honestly, live attentively, and trust deeply in God’s renewing grace. May God indeed create in us clean hearts, and place within us spirits ready to follow where Christ leads.



The Reverend
Marianne Emig Carr

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In Christ, Reverend Marianne

The JOURNEY through HOLY WEEK



March 29th
PALM SUNDAY - 11 am.
 with Communion
 worship led by the Reverend Ian Johnston



April 2nd
MAUNDY THURSDAY – 7 pm.
 Service of Tenebrae with Communion
 worship led by the Reverend Marianne Emig Carr



April 3rd – **GOOD FRIDAY**
Walk of the Cross – 9:30 am.
 beginning on the steps of the Court House

Ecumenical Worship
 11 am. at First Presbyterian Church
 worship led by members of the Brockville
 & Area Ministerial Association



April 5th
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – 6:20 am.
 at Centeen Park
 worship led by members of the Brockville
 & Area Ministerial Association

EASTER SUNDAY – 11 am.
 celebrating Jesus' Resurrection!
 worship led by the Reverend Marianne Emig Carr

**A BROKEN
 CHRYSALIS**



My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, my now wife Jean, fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.

Finally, the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny gray wrappings. But then, one by one, the gray cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty grave clothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen". The grave clothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His grave clothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because He lives, nothing is impossible.

*For people of First Presbyterian Church, your box of Church Envelopes contains a special one marked "Easter Offering". This year, donations received in that special envelope will be divided equally in support of **PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT** and **INTERVAL HOUSE**. For those of you who do not have envelopes, please use a Visitor's Envelope found in your pew if you are attending a service of worship OR give using any of the suggestions provided on the last page of this newsletter. However you choose to give, please include your full name and address and clearly write "My Easter Offering". If you prefer your Easter gift be used to support the ongoing expenses of the Church, include your gift in your regular givings.*

Why does the Church observe Lent?

Lent is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian liturgical calendar, observed for many centuries as a time of preparation for Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Traditionally lasting forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (excluding Sundays), Lent mirrors Jesus' forty days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness - a time of testing, reflection, and spiritual discernment. This period is marked by repentance, prayer, and growth in faith as Christians prepare to walk with Christ through his passion, death, and resurrection.

Historically, Lent emerged in the early centuries of the church as part of the preparation for Baptism at Easter. Early Christians used this season to instruct and examine new believers who would be baptized at the Easter Vigil, and it gradually became a wider practice of repentance and spiritual renewal for the whole community. Over centuries the observance took on a more penitential character, and by the time of the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE the forty-day Lenten fast was becoming standardized in many parts of the western church.

One of the most recognizable features of Lent in worship is the use of **the colour purple**. Purple has long been associated with both penitence and royalty. It reflects both the humble acknowledgment of sin and humanity's need for God's mercy, and it also points to Christ, who reigns in love and comes to redeem the world. Churches often use purple in banners, altar hangings, and vestments throughout Lent as a visual

reminder of the season's sacred and reflective nature.

In the Reformed tradition, the observance of Lent has a distinct history. During the time of the Reformation in the 16th century, leaders such as John Calvin and other Reformed theologians objected to the formal observance of Lent as a mandated season, arguing that Scripture does not command the church to observe particular holy days beyond the Lord's Day. Reformed worship documents like the *Westminster Directory for Public Worship* (1644) reflected this emphasis, focusing Christian life on weekly Sabbath worship and specific calls to repentance rather than a formal liturgical calendar.

However, starting in the mid-20th century, many congregations in the broader Reformed family have welcomed Lenten observances - including Ash Wednesday services, personal disciplines, devotional readings, and intentional reflection - as meaningful ways to prepare for Easter. Such practices are approached as voluntary spiritual disciplines rather than prescribed requirements, rooted in the conviction that believers are called continually to repent and grow in Christ.

However we observe Lent today, whether through traditional liturgical colors, devotional readings, personal times of prayer and self-examination, or intentional giving, the season invites us to grow in faithfulness, compassion, and attentiveness to God's presence. It prepares us not only to remember Christ's suffering, but also to rejoice in his resurrection - aligning our hearts more closely with the hope of Easter.

Names of Jesus

I N O N V L W N M L F P Z T M P S C Z P X R P G
 K V D D A W I P D W D R E H P E H S D O O G I D
 G N A Q O M O G B N D U X N M W X F D Y Z W M O
 B Q J G X K F E H O U H R Y K K F Q P O Q G M G
 J C H F E A S O G T M K R G D K B I J S R S A F
 W Q V I B M V F N Q O O E O W J L Y Z B I Q N O
 S A R E D F O U Y O Q F E Z E W G D Q P U W U N
 B Y Y L B B T D X T S R T S D L V X X F C Z E O
 T N S A M Z B S N M Q J U H I C F J E S I C L S
 E I G A H Y G R H A O S W S E M K G I T E H U J
 B D L X R K W Q V N A R Z C R W T U K M C H Z L
 X H N U H F Y G V K W H N V J R O G E K A A O H
 W U N T Z E N I V S J D P I C X B R U S E C X I
 N U T F A G R U H A Q U Z L N H E S L U P I N F
 Z L Y P R S Q M Q A K O Z S A G O Z H D F F S A
 E U A Q A V M K L I P J K C W S U B E O X X P
 K D X V I C I E K F J S G G L K Z T J Z E Q D V
 C M I H B D E L V O T B S Y Y M C P A H C B R T
 T O J V P J X I C T R U N E N A C K W R N H O M
 R Y Z G M R D F C Z U G A D M D V J Z Q I W W N
 I K F W N U T E I J T J M B W K E X N R R P R V
 Q I X N I F I S M Y H E Y Y Q J Y J P Q P E I B
 Q K B U Y C O W F T S I R H C O L Y Z V Z Q U L
 U O Q R B H H Y S Q F J B Z J Z B S S I K M X E

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Lamb of God | Prince of Peace | Alpha and Omega |
| Word | Immanuel | Savior |
| Morning Star | Vine | Light of the World |
| Good Shepherd | Life | Truth |
| Way | Messiah | Son of Man |
| Son of God | Christ | Jesus |

ONLINE LENTEN SERVICES

presented by the Reverend Marianne Emig Carr
 Below are the links and the corresponding dates:

March 25th: <https://youtu.be/L-p60DA1Xk>

April 1st: <https://youtu.be/y9Ww3EEkZ7M>



Each video is scheduled to go "live" at 11 pm. the evening before.

FAMILY!

Those we are most proud of, who bless our lives every day, who make us smile, and warm our hearts.....whether on two legs or four!

from Anna Smallegange
Sharing a picture of my 13 great-grandchildren - Jocelyn, Scarlet, Preston, Spencer, Alexa, Elijah, Sarah, Michaela, Kaylee, Kaleb, Weston, Jordynn and Josie.
My favourite Christmas gift every year - updated! *I feel very blessed!*



THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm,
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price Jesus paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve God better
In all that I do and say.

It is also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to his care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let him be.

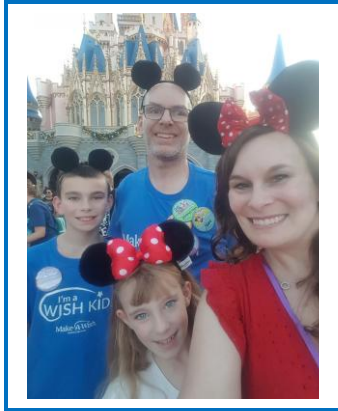
by Verna Thomas

from Josie Close - sharing a picture of my 3 great grandchildren: Sloane, Bentley & Colt
AND my birthday surprise! Abigail (Abby) - 7 yrs.



from Louise Lackey
This cross was given to me by my sister many years ago. I have carried it in my pocket ever since!





Jeremy Moussette

Jeremy Moussette is Eleanor Bingley's great grandson. He recently went with his parents, Amanda and Marc, and sister, Felicity, to Walt Disney World in Florida on a **Make a Wish Foundation** trip. Jeremy has aneurysms in his coronary artery and a serious

deficiency disorder. Jeremy loved Ratatouille and Star Wars rides, and Felicity enjoyed Dumbo the Flying Elephant. The family is thankful for the opportunity to travel and have Jeremys wish granted. They shared a lot of smiles.



- * Reverend Marianne
- * her stepdaughter Diana and
- * her grandsons



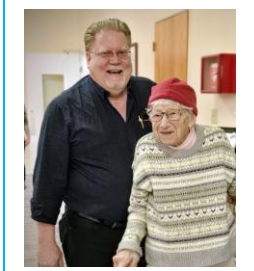
*What a flipping fantastic night! Thank you to everyone who came out to our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** - and a huge thank you to all the volunteers who mixed, flipped, served, set up, and cleaned up. We could not have done it without you!*



Congratulations to our three door prize winners--enjoy your winnings! 🍀



100% of the proceeds of the Pancake Supper go, as always, to First Presbyterian Church's table ministries, which nourish so many in our community in body and spirit.



Shrove Tuesday is always a sweet way to begin the Season of Lent - gathered in fellowship, laughter, and plenty of maple syrup. Now we step into this holy season together. ❤️

LOAVES & FISHES

EMPTY BOWLS

FUNDRAISING EVENT

C* Road Church, 3545 County Rd. 27,
Saturday, March 28th 2026, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Lunch & Live Music 🎵

\$40 for soup by local chefs and a lovingly handcrafted bowl made by local Artisans
\$5 children under 12 • under 5 eat free (does not include pottery bowl) • Lunch without bowl \$15
Tickets can be purchased by e-transfer financelafb@gmail.com
(please reference Empty Bowls in message and include your email and contact number)
OR Scotia Bank (both locations) • Loaves & Fishes 613 345 6498

The hope is that each time the empty bowl is taken from your cupboard, it will serve as a reminder that someone else's bowl was empty and that on this occasion, you helped Loaves and Fishes alleviate hunger in our community.

Riverbank Pottery Studio
Scotiabank
ECHO Clothing Co.
The Crafty Potter
LOAVES & FISHES
MOVE THAN JUST A MEAL

Just Another Vase?

I have a vase! Actually, I have several. But only one like this. It is nothing spectacular; just a simple brass vase with a windmill etched into its surface. Most people barely give it a second glance, which is probably why it is now in my possession. It is filled with an assortment of greenery, a few sprigs of colour added to liven it up and compliment the various seasons. Visitors are more likely to comment on the arrangement the vase holds, rather than the container itself.

But I know things! I know it is a WWII shell casing. They were found scattered all over Europe during and after the war. Some became personal souvenirs; others were cleaned up and decorated by individuals, occasionally companies, looking to sell them to boost income. I have no idea where mine was found or originated. I do not know whether it was launched by allies or foes. There are markings on the bottom that I have never researched because that has not been important to me.

I do know it was presented to my parents when they hosted a going-to-Canada event for friends and neighbours in April 1952. I know because I was there! I have questions that I now wish I had asked my parents – but it is too late for that. I once asked my sister Ada, but she had no answers for me either. So, I can only guess.

I suspect the vase was found locally since our town was located so close to the German border. I suspect it may have been tooled by an acquaintance who was a metal worker by trade. I also assume it was presented to my parents to be a constant reminder of all they, their neighbours, and friends had experienced; the hardship, the losses suffered, hard-fought freedom regained. It is too bad inanimate things cannot talk, for I am certain the vase holds lots of stories, surely a secret or two as well. I do know the vase always occupied a prominent space in every home we lived in – a cherished memento to human service and sacrifice.

Like most such ornamental things it will eventually end up in a second-hand or antique shop along with others like it. No one will ever know where it originated, how many kilometers it traveled. No one will care about its precarious voyage across the Atlantic in a large wooden crate and its eventual train ride to its final destination in a new country. No one will know how my mother cried when she was finally reunited with our earthly possessions, some of which did not survive the saltwater journey unscathed.

But I know what I know and I am sharing this story with my family in the hope that they too will regard this simple relic, not as a symbol of war, but as a memorial to the courage and resilience of ordinary people during the most difficult of times. This is why I am also sharing it with you, my church family!

Love, Margriet



The PUZZLE CHALLENGE



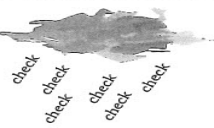

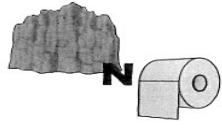
The Puzzle Challenge in the Advent/Christmas 2025 Issue was the **CHRISTMAS CAROL MATCH**. It was required to match the song lyric on the left with the song title on the right. Anyone who wished to participate was asked to submit his/her completed "Match" Sheet to the Church Office by December 31st. The entry with the most correct responses would enjoy dinner with the editor and her hubby. Two "Match" Sheets were submitted – both with the same number of correct responses! So, both participants were rewarded with lunch at the Cedar Valley Golf & Country Club – special guests of Mark & Marianne (editor).

Congratulations to JANET LEBRUN and KAREN MAHON!



The next 'CHALLENGE' is below!

This is a REBUS Puzzle. You are required to look at each picture and guess what each picture is saying. For example – the solution to the first picture is 'Crossbow'. Submit your answers to the Church Office by Easter Sunday 2026. The entry with the most correct responses will again enjoy a meal with the editor and her hubby. Should there be a tie for the most correct, a name will be drawn.

B B O W W	 EASY	COFFEE
CHOICE CHOICE CHOICE CHOICE	 Spring Summer Autumn Winter	I'LL GET IT
 check check check check	I'm You	 ILL
AGENT	 N	noon good

1. CROSSBOW



2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

WE ARE TRAVELLERS!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LENT/EASTER 2026

My Amazing Vacation to England – May 11th to 21st, 2024!
courtesy of Daughter Gillian and Granddaughter Paige

I had been thinking that I had seen the last of England and Scotland as I have reached the grand old age of 88 years and carry a back injury incurred in 2013. Putting the two together, I get a bit tottery at times!



Out of the blue, Gillian asked me if I would like to go with Paige and herself to assist. Not just to go to England, but to **Mousehole** (a small fishing village and fishing port in Cornwall, England, UK. It is approximately 2.5 miles south of Penzance on the shore of Mount's Bay. The village is in the civil parish of Penzance and a place where I had frequently said that I would like to visit. Over here you might say

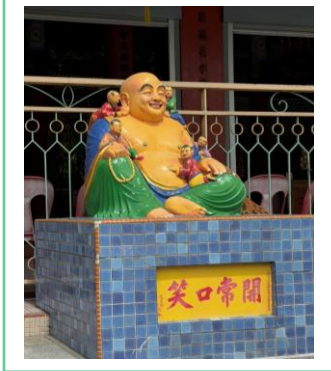
that it was at the top of my Bucket List. Well, it had been on my list for many years even when I lived in England, but with David more often “at sea” than at home the opportunity did not present itself. So here I was being offered the opportunity and did I take it? - You bet I did!

I was very excited and very nervous about being able to sleep ‘sitting up’ on the flight over and probably keeping the other two awake. So, when Air Canada announced a last-minute sale for Business Class I took it and had a bed for the night flight to London, England. We arrived next morning early, connected with our driver who took us to our hotel in Reading. We were booked in for lunch at a nice restaurant where we had the great pleasure of meeting up with our first set of relatives my great niece Kirsty, her husband JP, and three lovely daughters who were not the least bit shy with us. Following a visit to Marks and Spencer’s (a must) we went back to our hotel for a rest and recharge of our batteries, then out for supper then bed. The following day we were off to Mousehole by train. The trip was an adventure going through little stations and seeing the English countryside flash by.

We were met in Penzance by my niece Jane who had arrived in Mousehole with her husband Tim and dog Boo. Paige, Gillian and I had an AirBnB in Mousehole! Jane and Tim had another close by. Cliff walks were sign posted so Paige immediately donned her hiking gear and was off with Tim for a five-mile hike. Mousehole was just perfect. My bedroom window overlooked the water. As it was tidal, I was treated to seeing the considerable drama of the water receding and returning twice a day. Quite a few boats were securely anchored just feet from my view and when the tide was on the ebb they just settled on the sand and gently tipped over on their side - tide coming in they refloated. Better than TV! Jane, Tim and Boo were with us for 5 days. We enjoyed exploring Mousehole, dining in Pubs, shopping and watching the children play in the water. Not to be outdone, Paige prepared for a swim and in she went only to find The English Channel rather cold! Sadly, we said goodbye to Mousehole but took lovely memories with us as we travelled on to our next stop.



Milly Garside



Our recent cruise through Taiwan, China (Hong Kong), the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore was more than a memorable journey - it became a quiet lesson in how people live, hope, and persevere across nations shaped by very different histories and relationships with the Western world.

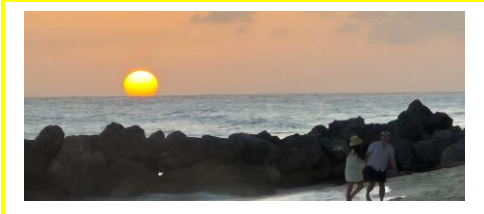
We were struck by how uneven prosperity can be, both between countries and within them. In many places, modern ports and thriving tourist districts stood close to modest neighborhoods where families work hard to meet daily needs. Western trade and tourism bring opportunity, yet their benefits are not always shared evenly, reminding us how fragile and precious economic security can be.

In Vietnam, we encountered a perspective that gently challenged our assumptions. Several people spoke with appreciation for their leadership, describing stability and a sense that decisions are made with the common good in mind. Whether or not we share their system, listening to their gratitude helped us approach another culture with humility and respect.

Across all these countries, despite differences in politics, wealth, and culture, we met the same human hopes - for family, peace, dignity, and a secure future. As Christians, this journey reminded us that every person is created in God's image, and that we are called to meet the world not with judgment, but with compassion, gratitude, and prayer.



Lisa Sizeland & Marie Mujahid



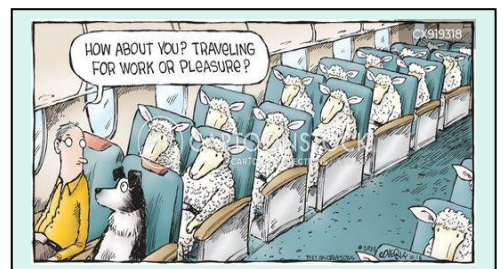
Michel and Debbie LaBonte during their recent trip to Barbados!

Frozen Windows...

Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning:
"Windows frozen; will not open!"

Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer."

Wife texts back ten minutes later:
"Computer really messed up now!"





is located on the shores of Lac du Castor Blanc in Gracefield, Quebec. Under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the 280 acres of camp property serve as a summer camp for youth and families, a tent and trailer loop for short- and long-term campers, and a year-round retreat for guests.

Gracefield Christian Camp offers day and overnight camping programs for children, youth and families through the summer. A Christian Camp sees God's presence permeating both nature and human activities. Campers explore the wonder and beauty of nature and in doing so, they begin to understand the character of God the creator. Every day offers opportunities to put faith into action. Campers learn through doing, hearing, exploring and reflecting. Camp activities are designed to be accomplished

<u>Date</u>	<u>Camp</u>
July 5-17	The Way (Age 14-15)
July 5-10	Trailblazer 1 (Age 7-12)
July 5-10	Adventure (Age 10-12)
July 12-17	MADD (Age 10-15)
July 19-Aug 7	LIT (Age 16-18)
July 19-31	Bridge (Age 10-15)
July 19-24	STEM (Age 10-15)
July 19-24	Explorer (Age 7-9)
July 26-31	Woodlander (Age 13-15)
July 26-31	Trailblazer 2 (Age 7-12)
Aug 2-7	Frontier (Age 13-15)

through support and encouragement to one another, demonstrating what it is to be part of a Christian community.

Over the last several years, First Presbyterian Church has offered bursaries to children and families in our community to attend a week of summer camp. Many of these children would not have otherwise been able to afford to have this opportunity.

We are pleased to be offering children's and youth camping programs for the summer of 2026. If you are interested in a bursary to send your child or children to Gracefield this summer, please contact the church by phone at 613-345-5014 or by email at firstkirk@truespeed.ca.

We invite you to check out the Gracefield website (<http://www.gracefieldcamp.ca>) for more information and to see what summer camping programs are available!



Bus transportation from Ottawa to Gracefield and back is available at an additional cost of \$40/person. If you have any questions, please contact the Camp office at 1-888-493-2267 or by email at info@gracefieldcamp.ca.

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE - MARCH 31st!

P. A. DAY CAMP FAITH IN ACTION

**Friday, January
30th, 2026**

The First Church P. A. Day Camp program continued this month with our third Camp of the 2025–26 school year, welcoming 22 campers and student helpers for a day of games, crafts, and learning together. A highlight of the day was a visit from Katelyn Stojadinov, Community Outreach Coordinator with the Leeds & Grenville S.P.C.A., who shared details about their compassionate work of caring for animals as they await their “forever” homes. Campers also learned about the upcoming *Cupcake Day* fundraiser, and responded generously by bringing donations of paper towels, toys, treats and other essential items to support the SPCA’s ministry of care. In the afternoon, campers enjoyed a visit to the Brockville Public Library for stories, crafts, and free play. We are thankful for the Library’s continued hospitality and partnership for our P.A. Day Camps.

We give thanks for Denise Kent (Christian Education Coordinator), our volunteers, and the people of First Presbyterian Church, whose faithful support makes P. A. Day Camp possible. Our next Camp will be held on **April 24th, 2026**.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LENT/EASTER 2026



PEWS FOR SALE

Length

58"	\$165.00	no end & no cushion
59"	\$165.00	no cushion
75"	\$215.00	
82"	\$235.00	
86"	\$245.00	
95"	\$270.00	no cushion
105"	\$355.00	no cushion
124"	\$365.00	
127"	\$360.00	
144"	\$410.00	
149"	\$425.00	
151"	\$425.00	
165"	\$470.00	
170"	\$480.00	
180"	\$510.00	
186"	\$525.00	
189"	\$535.00	

If someone wanted a pew cut down to a specific length we have someone who could do that at a reasonable charge. ALL pews listed are at the front of the church. Pews in the areas currently used are NOT available for sale. If you would like to buy a Pew, please contact Quentin Robinson at thesession@truespeed.ca or leave a message at 613-301-4159.



CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LENT/EASTER 2026

submitted by **Quentin Robinson**

On February 1st there was a meeting of the congregation to present a new budget for the project. The new budget included figures for projected income and construction costs. There was also a budget for projected operational income and expenses of the new apartment building.

A key element of the new budget was a funding request to the Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) to cover 75% of the construction costs of four “affordable” units. This application was for \$699,000. Despite receiving an enthusiastic endorsement by the Leeds & Grenville County Council we have been advised that this application was not approved by the Ontario Ministry of Housing, as they received more project requests than there was funding for.

This is a significant set back that brings into question the financial viability of the project. Consequently, construction work on the project will not start unless new funding can be found.

In other news on the project:

1. The Trustees met with Steve Norton of CMLS on February 18th. The Trustees signed an agreement with Mr. Norton who will guide our request for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to insure the mortgage of the new building and make it possible to get a mortgage amortized over 50 years. Mr. Norton will serve as our broker in arranging for the financing of construction costs/mortgage.
2. Gord Graff, the architect, discussed with us his concern over trying to fit two, one-bedroom apartments on each floor of the Sunday School building. He is recommending that we consider building just one, two-bedroom apartment on each floor instead. This would reduce the total number of apartments to ten rather than twelve.

It may also attract more interest amongst potential tenants if we have both one- and two-bedroom suites available.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

February 24 marks the 4th anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. A statement entitled, Ukraine, Canada and the Church - Calls to Action and Prayer, has been prepared by an ecumenical coalition. Read more and download the statement here:

https://bit.ly/2026_Ecumenical_Statement_Ukraine

TIDBITS from the PCC

2026 General Assembly

The 151st General Assembly will meet at York University (Keele Campus) from Sunday, June 7th until Thursday, June 11th, 2026. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, attended by an equal number of ministers and elders who are commissioned by Presbyteries. The Assembly votes on matters of theology and polity that affect the whole denomination. It receives, discusses, and makes decisions on reports from committees, petitions, overtures, references, and appeals. Its decisions are made carefully. Some issues require study over several years. The General Assembly elects a moderator - a minister or elder - who presides over the Assembly and continues in an inspirational and ceremonial role for a year, until the next General Assembly.

Getting to Know the Nominees for the Moderator of the 2026 General Assembly

The nominees for Moderator of the 2026 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada are:

* **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**

First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, Ontario and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Caintown, Ontario.

* **The Reverend Cherie Inksetter**

Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church, Toronto, Ontario.

* **The Reverend Lara Scholey**

St. Columba by-the-Lake Presbyterian Church, Pointe-Claire, Quebec.

Members on the constituent roll of the Presbyteries will be provided with a link to the online voting platform. Details of the voting process have been sent to the Presbytery clerks. **The name of the Moderator-elect will be announced on April 1, 2026.** We give thanks for Marianne Emig Carr, Cherie Inksetter and Lara Scholey, and invite the church to pray for each of the nominees.

TODAY IS A GOOD DAY! take a chance; want more; be amazing; pursue your passion; have fun; sing your heart out; be brave; make a difference; touch a soul; move forward; be grateful; cherish little things; believe; stay strong; live well!



Take Action for Cuba



[The Presbyterian Church in Canada](https://bit.ly/take-action-for-cuba)

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its relief and development agency, PWS&D, are concerned about the humanitarian crisis in Cuba caused by the US embargo and trade restrictions on fuel and other essential supplies. Learn how you can take action for Cuba here: <https://bit.ly/take-action-for-cuba>

Do Not Send Roses Without Knowing What Each Color Means

“[Roses] are and have always been a symbol of love,” said April & Ashley Co-CEO and Founding Member Tyler Francis in a press release. “Roses are timeless. They never go out of style, they just get better, and the various hues have different meanings universally.” Below, we outlined all there is to know about rose colors, from traditional deep reds to vibrant, peach-toned petals. What each rose colour symbolizes can change from country to country, but in Canada and the U.S., there are a few agreed-upon meanings for every colour of rose.

Red - A traditional symbol of affection, red signifies love and passion - the perfect colour to gift to a significant other. An arrangement of red roses or scattered petals is a classic choice for Valentine's Day and anniversaries.

Yellow - Yellow roses signify friendship and good luck, making them a great color to give friends or family. You could also choose a yellow rose arrangement when giving a congratulatory gift for a monumental occasion, like a graduation or promotion.

White - Purity, loyalty, and new beginnings are often associated with white roses. This makes them fairly versatile; you could incorporate white roses into a romantic bouquet or gift them to someone celebrating a major life event.

Pink - Pink roses depict admiration and appreciation, offering an alternative to red roses for a romantic partner. A pink rose arrangement can also show a close family member or friend that you care about them.

Purple - Royalty and luxury are the two key meanings of gifting a bouquet of purple roses. This hue works for any happy occasion, though its special meaning could work well for a housewarming gift, or someone celebrating a new job.

Peach - Delicate, peach-colored roses often reflect sincerity and gratitude. Gifting peach roses is a meaningful "thank you" gift for all occasions, including holidays like Mother's Day. You could also use them as a centerpiece while hosting dinner.

Orange - Orange roses represent enthusiasm, energy, and desire. What makes orange roses a go-to is how versatile they are; you can gift these colored roses romantically to a partner or as encouragement for a friend.

Cream - Often perceived with grace and thoughtfulness, cream roses make for a sweet and elegant option expressing gratitude and comfort. It can even be a "just-because" bouquet!

Blush - Beautiful blush-colored roses represent innocence and gentle affection. They are another beautiful way to show your partner you care, or to let your friend or family member know you are thinking of them.

Adding Color to Your Garden

You can keep these meanings in mind when creating a rose garden, too. For example, planting vibrantly orange rose bushes will bring life and energy to your backyard, whereas blush-colored roses will create a sweet and delicate look to your garden.





Earth Day

April 22nd, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LENT/EASTER 2026

Facts You Probably Did Not Know

- Earth Day is the **largest secular civic event in the world**.
- It inspired the **Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act**.
- The name “Earth Day” was almost “Environmental Teach-In.”
- More than **1 billion people** now participate in Earth Day activities each year.
- Some countries observe Earth Day on the **spring equinox**, but April 22nd is globally recognized as the main event.

Earth Day 2026: What to Expect

Looking ahead to **Earth Day 2026**, momentum is building. The focus is expected to stay aligned with clean energy, but with increased pressure on governments to **deliver actual policy shifts**, not just promises. New global reports on emissions and climate resilience will likely shape the conversation. Expect to hear more about environmental equity, climate adaptation, and sustainable infrastructure. Mark your calendar for **April 22nd, 2026**, and start thinking now about how your workplace, school, or community can raise the bar.

Earth Day Activities That Are not Boring

If “Earth Day activity” makes you think of colouring sheets or picking up gum wrappers then think bigger.

Plant something. A tree, a windowsill herb garden, native wildflowers. Anything green.

Go meatless for the day (or the week). Agriculture accounts for a huge chunk of emissions. Your lunch matters.

Host a zero-waste lunch at home or at work. No disposables, no plastic wrap, no excuses.

Audit your energy use. Get real about your electricity bill. Replace bulbs. Unplug things.

Clean up your local park, trail, or beach. Bonus points if you bring a friend and post the before/after.

Vote with the planet in mind. Local elections matter. Policies matter. Leaders who actually believe in science. They really matter.

Talk about it. Post about Earth Day, host a dinner conversation, share what you are doing and why. Change spreads when it is contagious.

How to Get Involved After April 22nd

Earth Day is not a one-day detox. It is a launchpad. Join a local climate group. Support businesses with real sustainability goals. Make your home more efficient. Sign petitions. Read up. Keep learning. And above all: keep going. Sustainability is not a destination. It is a practice. Keep the momentum. Keep the pressure on. Keep showing up for the only planet we have got.

Conclusion

Let’s be blunt: Earth Day is not about hugging trees. It is about **making noise, making change, and making it last**. Whether you lead a team, a classroom, a family, or just your own recycling bin, you have leverage. Real leverage. Because this movement does not need a million perfect environmentalists. It needs **millions of people doing a few things better**. Earth Day is not just a commemoration. It is a check-in. A gut-check. A chance to ask: *Are we still asleep at the wheel, or are we finally gripping it with both hands and driving somewhere worth going?*

Earth Day - Make it personal. Make it loud. Make it count. Because it is not just Earth Day. It is *your* turn.



June 6th, 2026

First Church is again planning to hold a garage/yard “sale” and will also be handing out snack bags of cookies. Watch for more information in the bulletin, on the church website, and on our social media accounts as we get closer to June 6th.

AN EASTER STORY

A good boy named Eli used to live in a quiet village surrounded by gentle breezes and lush hills. Eli loved many things, like helping his mother with the cooking, climbing trees, and chasing butterflies, but most of all, he loved visiting a calm garden outside of town. The garden was surrounded by tall olive trees, bright flowers, and birds that sang beautiful songs all day. But what really set the garden apart was the man who came there often - Jesus. Jesus was compassionate, loving, and kind. In addition to helping the poor and healing the sick, he shared heartwarming stories about God and his unending love. Eli would sit at Jesus’ feet and listen carefully. Even if he did not understand everything, his heart was always at peace. One evening, as the sun was setting, Eli noticed the adults in the village whispering. People looked worried and sad. A few were crying. Then Eli heard the heartbreaking news - soldiers had taken Jesus away. The next day, Eli learned that Jesus had been crucified. He could not understand why someone so good would be hurt. His heart was broken. That afternoon,

he walked slowly to the garden. Near the back, a big stone had been rolled in front of a small cave. People said Jesus had been buried there. Eli placed a small flower beside the stone. He sat quietly and whispered, “I miss you, Jesus.” The garden felt still. Even the birds seemed to stop singing. Three days passed.

On the third morning, the sun rose bright and warm. Eli returned with another flower. But something was different - the stone had been rolled away! Eli ran to the cave and looked inside. It was empty. “Where is Jesus?” he cried. Suddenly, a gentle light filled the garden. Eli turned and saw a man under the olive trees. His eyes were kind, and he smiled. “Do not be afraid,” the man said. “Jesus is not here. He is alive!” “Alive? But... he died!” Eli said, amazed. “Yes,” the man replied. “But He has risen, just as he promised.” Eli’s heart was as bright as the sun after a storm. “Jesus is alive!” he said as he hurried back to the hamlet. He is still alive!

To listen, people came out of their houses. Some people laughed, some sobbed, and some gave their kids tight hugs. Everyone thought that something really unique had occurred. The garden was once again a happy place after that day. Eli came often, to grin, not to weep. The flowers were more vibrant. The birds began to sing more loudly. And Eli was aware that love will always triumph, even under the most difficult circumstances. Every spring, when flowers bloom and birds sing, children still tell the story of Eli, the garden, and the stone that rolled away. They remember that Easter is not just about chocolate eggs and bunnies - but about hope, new life, and the greatest love of all.

Songs For Springtime!

ELMER ISELER SINGERS
Lydia Adams, Conductor and Artistic Director

Saturday April 18, 2026 4 p.m.
doors open at 3:30

St. Lawrence Anglican Church
80 Pine Street, BROCKVILLE

Adults \$40 Students \$20
Children under 12 free

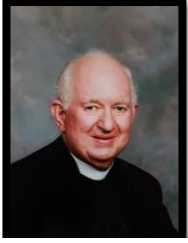
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 Celebrating 40 Years!

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM -
Brockville Community Choir members
ONLINE* at brockvillechoir.ca
* service fees will be applied

NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR

DON RIVOIRE





A MESSAGE from our MINISTER in ASSOCIATION Spring(ing) Towards Lent and Easter

Many people have expressed we are living in a fast-paced society and that the rush has taken its toll. The Christian worship calendar has vaulted from the Manger to Golgotha and Easter. The joys of our Christian journey envelops us in the incredible wonder of the Cross. The foundation of our Christian faith is the crucifixion. It is the heart of our life in Jesus. We see crosses just about everywhere - in art, on buildings, as jewelry etc. We talk about it and sing about it. But how much do we really understand about the cross of Jesus Christ?

There is nothing we humans have done that compares with what Jesus accomplished by His death. All of humanity's achievements will be destroyed, but the work on the cross lasts forever (2 Peter 3: 1-13). It is the single most important and amazing event in history. St. Paul understood the importance of the cross. When he first went to Corinth he said, *I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified* (1 Cor. 2: 1-2). Paul considered this the most essential message, because apart from the crucifixion there is no hope for the world, no salvation and no eternal glory. In our preparation to celebrate Easter with deep appreciation for Jesus' sacrifice for us, we must think about this most extraordinary of events.

The cross was planned and ordained by God before He created anything. He planned a path of reconciliation. God chose us *before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him* (Eph. 1:4). And to accomplish this, He planned the crucifixion of His Son before he created anything (1 Peter 1:20). Every detail was designed by Him beforehand, predicted by the prophets, and carried out by the Jews and the Romans just as He ordained. None of it was outside His control; it all came to pass just as He set forth.

The cross of Christ is the greatest demonstration of God's love for humanity. He proved His love for us by sending His Son into the world to be a substitution sacrifice for our sins. We are recipients of His goodness. No blessing can compare with His expression of love toward us (Acts 2: 23).

Jesus' sacrifice is the only true path to forgiveness. It is important that we understand Christ does not need to be sacrificed again every time we sin. His work on our behalf is once and for all (Hebrews 9:12). As a result, our salvation can never be lost.

The effect of the cross reaches into the past, present, and future. Even though the crucifixion happened in a moment in time, it is an eternal event and is not limited by time (Rom. 3:25).

Let the cross and the One who willingly subjected Himself to it be the focus of your thoughts, worship, and gratitude during this beautiful season. Have a blessed Easter as you remember Christ's death and resurrection.

Joyfully and Prayerfully Yours,
Reverend Ian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2025

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- * **Instagram:**
www.instagram.com/firstpresbrockville/
- * **YouTube Channel:**
<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/>
- * **Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services**
every Sunday 7 am. and 5:30 pm.



First Presbyterian Church is a dynamic, inclusive and historic church in the heart of downtown Brockville. The congregation, which has been praising God for over 200 years, is committed to creating a vibrant family in Christ and sharing the Good News of God's love with all.

First Presbyterian Church is situated on traditional lands of the Anishnaabe Haudenosaunee Territory and Mississauga peoples. We acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Reverend Marianne, Reverend Ian, Quentin Robinson, Margriet Westendorp, Mark Leslie, Debbie LaBonte, Eleanor Bingley, Marianne Bimm, Milly Garside, and Lisa Sizeland for your contributions to this edition. It would not happen without all of you!

You can give.....

- by **e-transfer** to firstkirk@truespeed.ca
- by pre-authorized remittance (**P.A.R.**)
<https://presbyterian.ca/plannedgiving/pre-authorized-remittance-par-program/>. Contact the Church Office.
- by **mail** to First Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 885, 10 Church Street, Brockville, Ontario, K6V 5W1
- by delivering your offering envelope through the mail slot in the Church Street door. The envelopes will be collected daily.

BROCKVILLE COMMUNITY-WIDE
CLEANUP
Saturday, April 25th, 2026
9AM-12PM

First Church will participate again this year, on Saturday, April 25th - 9 am. We will be cleaning up George Street Park, with hot chocolate and cookies afterwards at the church. Volunteer to help by email to firstkirk@truespeed.ca