

MINISTER’S MESSAGE



The Reverend
Marianne Emig Carr

Inside this Issue

- Pg. 2**
Summer Worship
- Pg. 3**
Love Oma
- Pg. 4**
Our Joys
- Pg. 5**
The PAST!
- Pg. 6-7**
JAPAN!
- Pg. 7-8**
SOUTH AFRICA!
- Pg. 9**
RECIPES
- Pg. 10**
Catching Up
- Pg. 11-12**
General Assembly
- Pg. 13**
A Mission Project
- Pg. 14**
The PWS&D Page
- Pg. 15**
from Reverend Ian
- Pg. 16**
The END!

A Growing Season

Summer arrives with an invitation many of us eagerly await. The pace changes, gardens flourish, trees fill with green leaves, and many of us make plans for vacations, gatherings, and time outdoors. Perhaps this is fitting, because in the church calendar we have just entered – Pentecost - which is often called the Church’s growing season.

As spring turns into summer, and we continue to see nature grow and flourish all around, the liturgical season of Pentecost reminds us that God is always at work, helping us mature as disciples. Yet spiritual growth is not always about doing more. Sometimes we mistakenly think that growth means filling every available moment with activity. But God also teaches us that growth requires rest.

Psalm 23 reminds us: *“He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.”* Before God sends us out, God invites us to slow down. Before God asks us to bear fruit, God nourishes and restores us. Summer can become a holy season of renewal if we allow it to be. Perhaps growth this summer will be found in simple moments: enjoying a morning coffee outdoors, taking an evening walk, reading a good book, spending time with family, or simply giving ourselves permission to rest. God is present in all these moments.

As you enjoy vacations and slower summer days, I encourage you to make room for God to meet you there. Ask yourself: How is God inviting me to grow this season? Perhaps through gratitude, prayer, generosity, or just learning to slow down and rest without guilt. The good news is that God is not absent during summer. The Shepherd still walks beside us, leading us to green pastures and still waters, restoring our souls day by day. May this be a summer of both growth and grace, Spirit-filled

energy and holy rest, trusting that wherever this season takes us, God is already there, helping us to grow in faith and trust.



**HALF MOON BAY
(Gananoque)**
See the tallest cathedral ceiling
at Historic Half Moon Bay
during the **Sunday, June 28th**
Service of Worship.
**Minister: The Reverend
MARIANNE EMIG CARR**

In Christ, Reverend Marianne

Services are at 4 p.m. and there is pick up by our **free ferry service** at the PUC docks at 3 p.m.

SERVICES of WORSHIP
in the Summer Months

Sundays, July 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Minister: **The Reverend John Wilderspin**
First Baptist Church
at First Baptist Church - 10 am.

Sundays, August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Minister: **The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr**
First Presbyterian Church
at First Presbyterian Church - 11 am.

Rally Sunday, September 6th
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.

Church School will not be offered in July or August or the first Sunday in September. Church School will resume on Sunday, September 13th.

Reverend Marianne is on holiday for the month of July. For pastoral care or assistance, please call **613-345-5014** or **613-340-3310**
Email firstkirk@truespeed.ca Office Marianne will help you find the person to assist you with pastoral care needs.



BE SAFE!
BE HEALTHY!
BE HAPPY!
ENJOY FAMILY!
ENJOY FRIENDS!
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Pray for those in our church family who will celebrate a birthday during the months of **JULY**: Brenda Fisk (1st), Susan Clarke (3rd), Ryan Perkins (6th), Jessica Perkins (8th), Jim Barbour (9th), Jasper Ross (10th), Tamara Chapman (14th), Finley Villeneuve (17th), Betty McNair (19th), Marianne Emig Carr (21st), Johnathan Kramaric (21st), Annis Moreau (24th), Andrew Duncan (31st), **AUGUST**: Chevy Perkins (1st), Roger Burke (1st), Persephone Antoniou (2nd), Frankie Chapman (3rd), Brian Barnes (3rd), Barry Carr (5th), Kathleen Howard (6th), Isabel MacDonald (10th), Bob Runciman (10th), Glenna McAulay (10th), Elizabeth Robinson (10th), Katie Kramaric (11th), Kim Duncan (15th), Kaye Barnard (25th).

Pray for those in our church family who will celebrate an anniversary during the months of **JULY**: Ian & Mary Ellen Stephenson (1st), **AUGUST**: Michel & Debbie LaBonte (14th), Barry & Marianne Emig Carr (27th).

REMEMBER
WHEN...

Bob Stick held Thursday evening auctions at their home? Having a young child, I never had the opportunity to attend, but I quickly developed “love it!” or “hate it!” relationship with whatever useful treasure found its way



to our door. Eventually, we introduced ourselves to Saturday auctions. We would make our way to the most promising one advertised in the newspaper. It might last all day! Talk about getting an education! The actual home on the property was usually off limits to the general public, occasionally even to the family, so we hoped there would be a sign directing us to a distant, freshly scrubbed outhouse. We had enough sense to bring two lawn chairs and an assortment of liquid refreshments and a light picnic lunch so we would not die of hunger or thirst. Once settled, it would be foolish to leave before you were truly done, in case you missed out on the one thing you really, really wanted. Over the years, if the sale promised to be a profitable one, there would be porta potties, a caterer selling hot dogs and drinks, and a giant tent to shield us from the elements.

Farm and estate auctions were the best. The men, and a few women too, made their way to the farm equipment first thing in the morning, leaving the rest of us to inspect the household goods Oh, what treasures we uncovered! Never let anyone tell you that auction sales were not educational! First, you had to register, You learned you must pay cash, possibly a cheque would be accepted for larger purchases if someone would vouch for your honesty. Then you were given a bidding card with your number on it and off you went. **Lesson:** never wave at acquaintances for fear that you will be accused of bidding on something you are not remotely interested in. That happened quite often. **Lesson:** do not let others see which items you are interested in. Better to walk past it ten times and pretend to love the ugly thing next to it, to discourage competition.

After a while you learned to distinguish between antique dealers and the general public by their bidding techniques, and I have no doubt that novices like ourselves provided a whole other level of entertainment. Then there were obvious family members who would spend outrageous amounts of money to possess memorabilia that obviously meant more than sibling relationships. We never figured them out...it just made us sad.

Most people embraced it all energetically but me, not so much. I was never very bold. A formidable woman scored a ‘box lot’ of items, one of which I really liked. The sweetheart said I should learn to do my own “wheeling and dealing” and just ask her if she would sell me that one thing. I thought I was going to pass out on my way over to her, but I managed to stammer my request. She let me have it – although there was no “dealing”. She ended up getting all the other stuff for nothing. AH...but success was sweet!

Sometimes several smaller estates would be combined and the sale held at an auction hall. They were fun too! One of my favourite finds of all time became mine for the sum of two dollars – but we had to stay until 2 am. Worth every minute spent waiting, but I am sure my beloved would not agree.

Live auctions have become extremely rare. I miss them. In spite of occasional disappointments, they were great experience. We made new friends. Many once-loved possessions were given a 'second life'. Every outing left us with a story or two to share with friends over coffee after church on Sunday. Any young'uns reading this will tell you they have never heard of such a thing, but 'golden oldies' like me, we remember...

Love, Oma (Margriet)

OUR JOYS
OUR FRIENDSHIPS!

What a joy to celebrate a century of life and love!

Following worship on April 19th, the congregation of First Church gathered with Isabel Cameron and her family to mark her 100th birthday - a beautiful milestone filled with gratitude, laughter, and cherished memories. We give thanks for Isabel's life, her faith, and the many ways she has blessed our church community.



Happy 100th Birthday, Isabel!



What a joy to celebrate a year of crafting, laughing, great treats and enjoying friendships new and timeless! On Tuesday, June 2nd, the ladies of Craft & Chat gathered for a delicious potluck luncheon to celebrate a year passing and the joys of summer yet to come. The guests who were invited to join the ladies enjoyed the warmth and friendship of this fun-loving group. Craft & Chat meets every Tuesday afternoon during the church year. Ladies are welcome whether they craft or not. It is fun to just sit and chat! Craft & Chat meets again on Tuesday, September 15th.



JANET LEBRUN! Janet and her husband Francis will enjoy an afternoon at the theater with the editor Marianne and her husband Mark Leslie. The choice of what theater and what show is still pending but look for a picture or two in the Advent Issue. Janet provided all the correct answers to the Rebus Puzzle in the Lent/Easter Challenge. Kathleen Howard placed second and Karen Mahon, third. Well done to all the entrants! Check out the Advent Edition, coming this fall, for the next Puzzle. And....good luck!

A BLAST
from the PAST

On a quiet
Thursday
afternoon,

Ruth Lor Malloy, her niece **Linda Malloy** and **Gloria Lor Spoden** visited First Presbyterian Church hoping to visit the Sanctuary and reacquaint themselves with the Church building. Andrew Cameron kindly showed them the Sanctuary and toured them around the building. It had been many years since they were a part of the church family, and it ended up being a treat to see all the changes over the years. When they were in the choir room, Andrew showed them the gowns that had been used over the years. Gloria told him that when she was in the choir, the gowns were black – quite a while ago! Gloria sent us this picture with Ed Flanigan at the Lions' Music Festival. Gloria is in the middle (5th one, either way.) Ruth left us a signed copy of her book *'Brightening My Corner'* – for inclusion in our archives. The book will be available in the church office for anyone who would like to read it, until Thanksgiving.



Submitted from
the photo album
of Jill Flanigan for
'The Challenge'.
Recognize anyone
you know...
or remember!

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and could not find a space with a meter. He put a note under the windshield wiper on his car that read: 'I have circled the block ten times. If I do not park here, I will miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses.'

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note ' – I have circled this block for ten years. If I do not give you a ticket I will lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.'

The TRAVEL SECTION

JAPAN GREAT DISCOVERY 2026

The challenge of sharing the recent travels of Lloyd and Linda Osmond has been sitting on my “to do” list since we returned from a two-week tour of Japan on May 3rd, 26. I realized that trying to describe our very busy itinerary would be difficult, so this is more of a summary, highlights, and random impressions.



Our first tour day in Tokyo, as a group of twenty-six jet lagged North Americans, was a physical challenge. We walked over 10 kilometers and used many subway lines all under the watchful eyes of two guides. No one got lost and we got to experience the “crush” of bodies squeezing into the subway car at rush hour. The entire city and the subways are extremely clean and quiet. It is hard to find a garbage can in a lot of places, but people do not litter. We quickly realized that people were very polite, gentle and respectful. Bowling is very common.

The big cities of Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto demonstrated how Japan is modern and high tech, while also preserving and valuing their history and customs, their ancient shrines and temples, and old towns. There are over 80,000 registered Shinto shrines and over 75,000 Buddhist temples in the country. We lost count of the number we visited. Pilgrimages through ancient forests, along stone paths and steps, passing waterfalls attract both locals and tourists. Large groups of well-disciplined uniformed students were a common sight. It was fun when a student would give a big wave and practice saying “Hello”, or if you caught them with a glance and a smile, they would flash a smile and bow.



A sobering visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum still has me lacking for words. I will quote the words of Hiroshima Higan-No Kai on the sign near the Bell of Peace: “ ***We dedicate this bell as a symbol of Hiroshima Aspiration: Let all nuclear arms and wars be gone, and the nations live in true peace! May it ring to all corners of the earth to meet the ear of every man, for in it throb and palpitate the hearts of its peace – loving donors. So may you, too friends, step forward, and toll this bell for peace!***”

Random comments that are wonderful memories:

1. Seeing Mount Fuji out our hotel window first thing in the morning and at night while soaking in an onsen, a natural hot spring. Should I say these are segregated, since you cannot wear a bathing suit?
2. Visiting Nara, a city founded in the 8th century, seeing Daibutsuden, the tallest wooden structure in the world and trying to feed the free roaming deer that come down from the mountains. Let’s just say that one was very impatient waiting for a biscuit and nipped at my derriere to hurry me up!
3. Staying overnight at a monastery, eating vegan meals sitting on the floor and sleeping on futons.
4. Many Food Memories: Learning about making and eating ramen noodles, visiting a wasabi farm which was beautiful and eating wasabi ice cream,



visiting a miso factory and of course eating a miso-based lunch, learning about and tasting sake, and eating very fresh sushi. Lloyd kindly passed his portion to me.

5. Slippers and robes: In several restaurants and hotel rooms slippers were provided and street shoes had to be removed. At the monastery we all wore slippers and robes to dinner.
6. Toilets: Without doubt, I declare that Japan has the best and cleanest toilets. Interesting features are warmed seats, music options and different “freshening up water features”.
7. Tactile paving, textured ground surface to assist those visually impaired is very common on sidewalks and in subway stations.
8. Walking through the Bamboo Grove in Kyoto felt wonderful.
9. One evening our entire group dressed in traditional Japanese attire. Wearing a kimono and Lloyd in a nagagi was fun and I think our whole group looked pretty good.



Looking back, I appreciate this wonderful trip and am starting to forget the jet lag and fatigue of a very busy adventure.

Linda Osmond & Lloyd

Justice and Joy in South Africa A Journey of Learning, Faith, and Hope



Earlier this year, Barry and I were blessed to participate in the Justice and Joy Study Tour to South Africa organized by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Alongside ten other participants, Rev. Dr. Robert Faris (our guide), and Grace McCreary from the PCC National Office (who kept “the herd” organized), we embarked on a 17-day journey to deepen our understanding of history, justice, faith, and the

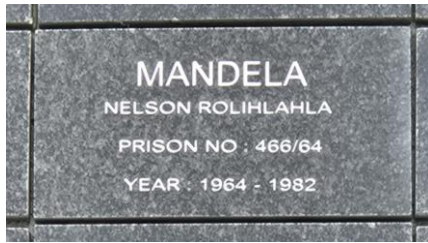
resilience of the human spirit.

Our first seven days were spent in Cape Town, a city of breathtaking beauty that also bears deep scars from its colonial and apartheid past. Everywhere we went, we encountered stories of both suffering and hope. We walked through the historic Company Gardens, visited the Slave Lodge, and learned more about South Africa’s history at the Groote Kerk Dutch Reformed Church, one of South Africa’s oldest churches.

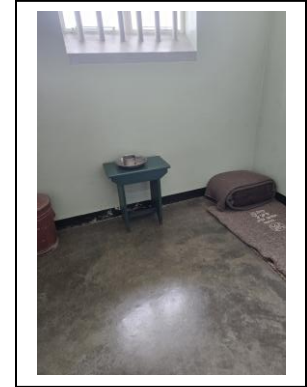
We also visited St. George’s Cathedral, where Archbishop Desmond Tutu faithfully proclaimed God’s vision of justice and reconciliation during some of the country’s darkest years. At the District Six Museum and the



Truth to Power exhibit at Desmond and Leah Tutu House, we heard the stories of communities uprooted by apartheid and of courageous individuals who refused to remain silent in the face of injustice. One of the most moving experiences was our visit to Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela and many other anti-apartheid activists were imprisoned for years. Standing in the



place where freedom was so fiercely denied, we were reminded that hope can survive even the harshest circumstances, and that reconciliation is not a destination but an ongoing journey.



The second half of our trip took us to Volmoed Retreat Centre near Hermanus, where we spent seven days learning, reflecting, and building relationships. A particularly meaningful experience was our visit to Zwelihle Township, where members of the Volmoed Youth Leadership Program drumming group welcomed us with warmth, joy, and hospitality that transcended language and cultural differences. For more information, go to their website: <https://volmoedyouth.org.za/>.



We were privileged to learn from several renowned South African theologians, including John de Gruchy, Allan Boesak, and Robert Vosloo, whose wisdom challenged us to consider how faith communities can actively participate in God's work of justice, healing, and reconciliation.

As a group, we also spent considerable time each evening reflecting on what we had learned, and how the South African truth and reconciliation process compared to the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation initiative with Indigenous peoples here in Canada. The wider issues of colonialism and how churches have been complicit in perpetuating apartheid practices were also considered in detail, resulting in painful awareness of our own privilege as white settlers in Canada. There was also discussion about similar patterns of colonial apartheid currently




taking place in Gaza and the West Bank. Of course, no trip to South Africa would be complete without experiencing its extraordinary natural beauty. A safari at Kruger National Park offered moments of awe and wonder as we encountered some of God's magnificent creatures in their natural habitats.



Throughout the journey, one lesson emerged again and again: justice and joy are not opposing ideas but faithful companions. Joy is not the absence of hardship; rather, it is the resilient hope that God continues to work through ordinary people, communities, and churches to bring healing and renewal to the world. While we acknowledge our painful colonial past, the opportunity to learn, and share what we learned with others, will help to increase awareness of the Church's history and work to address deeply embedded 'colonial' attitudes in our present communities and promote healing and understanding. We returned home with grateful hearts, new friendships, and a renewed commitment to listen deeply, seek justice, and participate in God's ongoing work of reconciliation wherever we are planted. My hope is that the experiences we all shared during our time in South Africa will continue to shape our life together, both in the wider Presbyterian Church in Canada, and closer to home here at First Church, as we seek to be faith communities that embody both justice and joy in our own corners of the world.

Reverend Marianne

LEMON PIE SQUARES

- 
- Crust - 1 1/2 cups Grahm Cracker Crumbs
- 1/4 cups Brown Sugar
- 5 tbsp. Butter
- 1/2 tsp. Ginger
- 1/2 tsp. Lemon Zest

- Filling - 4 ozs. Cream Cheese
- 4 egg yolks at room temperature
- 1/2 cup + 1 tbsp. Lemon Juice
- 2 tsp. Lemon Zest
- 1 can Eagle Brand Condensed Milk

- 1) Line an 8x8 pan with parchment paper. Combine crust ingredients and press mixture firmly into pan. Bake at 350 for 7 to 10 minutes.
- 2) Increase oven temperature to 375.
- 3) Using paddle attachment, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add yolks and mix with whisk attachment until combined. Continue on medium-high one minute more.
- 4) Add condensed milk, lemon juice and zest and whisk well.
- 5) Pour over crust. Bake 15 - 18 minutes.
- 6) Cool to room temperature and refrigerate overnight.
- 7) Top with whipped cream and serve.

YOU
ASKED
FOR
THESE!!

SKOR DELIGHTS

- Ingredients - 255 g. box of Ritz Crackers
- 270 g. bag of Skor Bits
- 300 ml can of sweetened condensed milk
- 450 g. can of French Vanilla Icing

Crush the Ritz Crackers and pour them into a medium bowl. Add the sweetened condensed milk and the Skor Bits. Mix well and press into a greased 8x8 pan. Bake at 350 for 15 to 20 minutes or until the edges start to bubble and caramelize. Cool completely and cover with icing. Enjoy!

AROUND the CHURCH
submitted by
Reverend Marianne

THE BIG GIVE

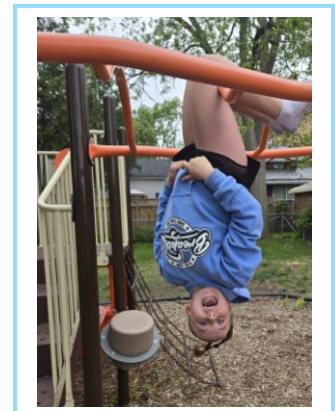
First Church again took part, with

other Brockville churches in the Big Give on June 6th with a big rummage giveaway! The Church Hall was filled with clothing, books, toys, household items, sports equipment, and so much more, and we were delighted to share all that with our community—all completely free. We gave away hundreds of items and received countless smiles in return! Thank you to our amazing volunteers and to everyone who came by. It was a joy to experience the spirit of generosity, connection, and community together. The Big Give will again be held on June 5, 2027



P.A. DAY CAMP at First Church!

What a fantastic final P.A. Day Camp of the 2025-26 school year! On May 29th, campers came to First Presbyterian Church and enjoyed a wonderful day of games, crafts, outdoor fun, and learning about kindness in the Church Hall. They also visited the Brockville and Area Food Bank and donated an amazing 66 lbs of food to support our community! A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers and especially to Denise Kent for planning all our P.A. Day Camps this school year. We wish all our campers and families a safe and happy summer. Our next P.A. Day Camp will be held on October 26th, 2026.



BROCKVILLE COMMUNITY CLEANUP 2026



First Presbyterian Church was proud to be part of the 2026 Brockville Community Cleanup at George Street Park on April 25th. Our team spent the morning clearing yard waste and picking up garbage, helping leave the park fresh, clean, and ready for spring.

A big thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to make a difference in our community!





Reflections from the 151st General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

The 151st General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada gathered commissioners, staff and visitors from across the country at York University in Toronto for five days of worship, prayer, discernment and discussion. As a commissioner representing our Presbytery, I was reminded that the church is much more than reports and decisions. It is a community of people seeking to follow Christ faithfully in a changing world. Here are a few highlights from my experience.

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

One of the most significant discussions focused on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). The Church Doctrine Committee presented an updated statement reaffirming the denomination's opposition to MAiD as a response to suffering and death, while expressing concern that its increasing normalization could weaken support for palliative care, mental health services and other forms of compassionate care. At the same time, the Assembly recognized the need for pastoral resources to support clergy and caregivers as they accompany individuals and families facing difficult end-of-life decisions. The General Assembly moved to refer this matter to the Life and Mission Agency to prepare such resources and report back to the next General Assembly.

Artificial Intelligence and Ethics

The Assembly considered the growing impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on society and the church. Commissioners discussed ethical concerns around privacy, bias, accountability and environmental impacts. The General Assembly adopted six guiding principles from the Rome Call for AI Ethics, which were the result of a conference called by the Vatican in 2020. These principles include transparency, inclusion, accountability, impartiality, reliability, and security and privacy. The Assembly also emphasized the importance of creation care as these technologies continue to develop, as AI data centers consume vast amounts of electricity and water.

Ecumenical Voices

The General Assembly was blessed by inspiring speakers from Canada and around the world. Indigenous elder and storyteller, Jim Bear Jacobs Presbyterian

Church (USA) Indigenous leader and storyteller shared stories of communities of faith protecting vulnerable immigrants and refugees during the ICE operations in Minneapolis this past February, stressing that much of the opposition to ICE came from the grassroots – from ordinary people of all backgrounds and faiths, together doing extraordinary things.

We also heard from Deacon Basem Thabet and Nader Anton Abuamsha from the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), Middle East Council of Churches, who spoke movingly about the horrors of life in Gaza and the West Bank under Israeli occupation, and encouraged The Presbyterian Church in Canada to continue its partnership, advocacy and prayers for the people of the Middle East. Their message was simple and powerful: “Stand with us.”

Signs of Hope

There was also much encouragement throughout Assembly sessions. We heard about the life-changing ministry happening through Presbyterian camps across Canada, the imaginative work of the Change Leadership Team as it helps the church discern its future, and ongoing efforts in Indigenous ministries and justice work. Each day began with worship that reflected the creativity, diversity and gifts found throughout our denomination.

General Assembly is never simply a series of meetings. It is a reminder that we belong to something much larger than ourselves: a church that is striving, however imperfectly, to love God, love our neighbours and faithfully bear witness to Christ in Canada and around the world.

to explore General Assembly 2026 in more detail visit -

<https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2026/>

Reverend Marianne



New Minister

Recently a large seminar was held for ministers in training. Among the guests were many well-known motivational speakers. One such boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, “The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!” The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, “And that woman was my mother!” The crowd burst into laughter and he gave his speech, which went over well.

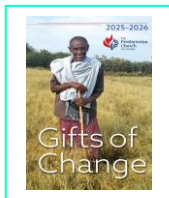
About a week later one of the assistant ministers who had attended the seminar decided to use that joke in what was his first sermon to the congregation. As he shyly approached the pulpit one Sunday, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. He was notably very nervous and getting to the microphone he said loudly, “The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!” His congregation sat shocked. After standing there for almost 10 seconds the pastor finally blurted out, “...and I can't remember who she was!”



CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT!

The Church School Children have been selling crafts (hand-made by the children) for a donation, at Coffee Hours since the beginning of June. The money raised will be used to support a project of the children's choosing from the PWS&D's Gifts of Change Catalogue including: * **Sowing the seeds of Food Security** * **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** * **Education for Every Child** * **Planting Trees** * **Sending Sick Children to**

Camp * **Empowered to Prosper.** By giving a Gift of Change, the children will be helping to make a difference in the lives of people in Canada and around the world. **GOOD NEWS!! As of Sunday, June 21st, the children have raised \$361.50.** Thanks to all of the Church School Children and Youth for their hard work and for the continued support of the congregation. Sunday, June 28th is the final day to contribute to the project by etransfer or in your church envelope.



The 2025–2026 Gifts of Change catalogue is now online, and hard copies are available in the church office. Giving a Gift of Change makes a difference in the lives of people in Canada and around the world. No matter what you choose to support, you can be sure your funds will be used effectively.



Congratulations to:
MARIANNE EMIG CARR
 (pictured with her teacher Alex Fleurieau Chateau) - Festival Star

MICHEL LABONTE
 (pictured with his trumpet partner Eileen Tencate) - Festival Prize Winner
 at the Brockville Music Festival in April of this year. First Presbyterian Church is very proud of both these talented musicians and all the festival participants.



DON RIVOIRE
DON SHEPPARD
NELLIE VAN DYK
MAE WONG LOW
TOM DAVISON



The Ng'ambi Family's Journey to Food Security and Resilience

In rural Malawi, in Mwanyesha Village, 30-year-old Vincent Ng'ambi lives with his wife and five children. Until recently, the family shared a small, dilapidated house that offered little shelter from the weather. The effects of climate change meant that the farming methods the family had traditionally relied on were no longer enough to provide enough food, leading to shortages that had to be endured until the next harvest. Vincent explained that excessive dry spells had affected crop production, and they could harvest only four bags of maize, which was not enough to feed the family until they were able to harvest again. The family needed to engage in low-wage labour to meet basic needs, such as the children's school development fund, clothing and food.



Their situation started to change when the family participated in the Lupembe food security project, implemented by PWS&D's partner, the Synod of Livingstonia Development Department (SOLDEV). The program introduced and trained Vincent in climate-smart agriculture technologies, self-help groups and household visioning as a way to fight climate change. During the household training with the Community Agent who encouraged them to articulate their dreams and aspirations for the future, Vincent and his family identified improving food production, increasing income, and constructing a safe, better house as the key goals. Using what he had been taught, Vincent adopted the technologies right away. With the project staff's extensive technical know-how in agronomic practices, maize production increased significantly, and he also diversified the crop by growing sesame, which he harvested.

Referring back to the family's household visioning plans and the goals they set out, including constructing a safe home, Vincent moulded 6,000 bricks for the construction of the three-bedroom house with a seating room. With the money from crop production, more materials were bought to finish the house. The remaining profit from the crop sale allowed the family to buy clothes for themselves and save for the self-help group. "We are so grateful and proud of what we have achieved today. Thanks to the household visioning training we were able to dream bigger and set goals for our family. Our new house, made with strong bricks and covered with iron sheets, is a symbol of our hard work and determination. We shall be living in it and finish next year with cement flooring and windows," he explained with tears of joy. Today, the family plans to expand their climate-smart agriculture practice to 0.8 hectares and is exploring opportunities to secure loans from the Tikolerane self-help group to start a small business. For the Ng'ambi family, the project's impact goes beyond one season's harvest. The new farming practices, savings habits, and family goal setting are becoming part of everyday life, lessons their children can grow up with and carry forward from generation to generation.

Visit - <https://presbyterian.ca/2026/04/09/faith-in-times-of-darkness-an-update-from-lebanon/> to learn more about Lebanon!



Presbyterian
World Service
& Development

<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/>



A MESSAGE from our MINISTER in ASSOCIATION **Pentecost Calling!**

Some things have been constant over the years in my life in ministry. Many faithful members who sit in the pews and listen to sermons every Sunday, have no confidence or motivation to serve and seem to be disconnected. Do you ever feel more like a spectator than an integral part of the congregation? If so, you may be missing out on what Christ intended his church to be - his body, which is composed of many members who are gifted in a variety of ways.

If you are a believer, you have been equipped to serve the Lord. God has provided all you need to obey him. Equipping you for service began at the moment of your salvation when the Holy Spirit regenerated your spirit and brought it to life. The Spirit also gave you a special spiritual gift to enable you to serve in the way God planned. He gives a gift to every believer, and you are not an exception.

A spiritual gift is a gift of divine grace freely given through no merit of our own but as an act of God's favour toward us. It is a special ability by which we can carry out the work God has called us to do. We do not get to choose which one we want because the Spirit gives them as God desires (1 Cor. 12:11). The lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:2-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11; Ephesians 4:11. Our responsibility is to discover our gift and employ it in serving one another.

Natural talents are inherited abilities and interests that are given at birth to all people (Psalm 139:13-16). Both spiritual gifts and talents originate from God and often work together in our service to him. These gifts are not given to us for our own growth, enjoyment, and sense of satisfaction in the Lord. We are blessed in employing them; they are for the benefit of others. Paul teaches: *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* (1 Cor. 12:7). Simply having a spiritual gift is of little value if it is never used in the church / congregation. Our goal is to become good managers of God's gift of grace. Otherwise we are like the slave in Luke 19:12-27.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 teaches that there are varieties of gifts, ministries, and effects. I believe each of us is given one of the motivational gifts as listed in Romans 12:6-8. Once you discover how God gifted you and begin serving, your gift will be sharpened, and you will become more effective. It may take some time, but God will be faithful and direct your steps. Your responsibility is faithfulness, not results. God alone is responsible for the results.

I invite you to discover the joy of knowing that you are obeying the Lord and contributing to the growth and building up of the Church - His body, of which our congregation is a part of. The congregation's health is contingent upon all the members functioning fully according to God's purpose, which includes you. When you said "yes" to Christ, He knew that you would need fellow believers for growth and encouragement, and that they would need you as well.

Joyfully and Prayerfully Yours,
Reverend Ian

First Presbyterian Church

10 Church Street, P.O. Box 885
Brockville, Ontario, K6V 5W1
Phone: 613-345-5014
E-mail: firstkirk@truespeed.ca
Office: Marianne Bimm Cell 613-340-3310
Custodian: Brian Barnes Cell 613-340-2724

Minister

The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr
Cell 613-449-5042 Office 613-345-3708
Email: rev.marianne@myhighspeed.ca

Director of Music

Kathleen Howard
Email: kmaryhoward@live.ca

Children's Ministry

Denise Kent
Email: denisekent1957@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Christina Duncan

Email: christinaduncan@bell.net

* **Website:** pccweb.ca/firstchurch-Brockville

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

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

* **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, Margriet Westendorp, Mark Leslie, Linda Osmond, Denise Kent, Bonnie Burke, Gwen Paul and Jill Flanigan, and Gloria Lor Spoden 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.



A FINAL REQUEST

CAKES or CUPCAKES
are needed for
the Sunday
Supper, on
Sunday, July 26th.
Donations can be
delivered to the
church office
during the week
before or to the
church kitchen
on Sat. July 25th.
THANKS SO MUCH

