



First Presbyterian Church

Rally Sunday, Sept. 6th, 2026 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost
(The First Sunday in the Season of Creation – Forest Sunday)

Minister: The Reverend Marianne Emig Carr

Director of Music: Kathleen Howard

Reader: Max Chapman

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 using the park facilities on this level.
- * **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** – Church School will resume on Sunday, September 13th.
- * **COFFEE HOUR** – Coffee Hour will resume on Sunday, September 13th, 2026. To volunteer to host, bake or bring food to any coffee hour sign the sheet in the Church Hall or call Tamara Chapman.

- * 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/@firstpresbyterianchurchbro482/streams>
- * **Cogeco/Channel 10/700 Services** every Sunday at 7 am. and 5:30 pm.
- * For **pastoral care or assistance**, please call the Church Office at 613-345-5014 or 613-340-3310. You may also call or text Reverend Marianne at 613-449-5042.

the people of God gather....

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship God

Minister: Sing to God a new song.

People: We will worship God, our Maker!

Minister: Let us praise God with song and dance,

People: For God is gracious and loving!

Minister: Let us bring God glory and honour,

People: Praise the Lord!

Opening Song:

Morning has broken

(Hymn # 814 - PCC Book of Praise)

Words: Public domain

Music: Gaelic Melody

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 springing 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!



Prayer As We Approach God

Minister: God of grace and glory, as we begin this Season of Creation, we are reminded that your creative power is beyond imagining.

People: Your love is wider than the whole universe, your mercy is beyond the highest heavens, your wisdom is deeper than the seas.

Minister: Maker of all things, you became one of us in Jesus Christ,

People: walking the roads we take each day, experiencing the joys and frustrations of life in your world, and preaching your reign in word and action.

Minister: Through your Spirit, you are present with us in every time and place to comfort and challenge us.

People: For all that you have been, are and will be, we worship you as Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and always.

Prayer of Confession

Minister: In recalling all that you have done and all that you are, we recall what we have done and who we are, and we confess to you and one another our sins:

People: God of majesty and mercy, although Christ offers us peace, we confess we are a people divided; we harbour fears and jealousy which set neighbour against neighbour, group against group and nation against nation. We pursue our own selfish profits and pleasures which harm creation and the wellbeing of all people. Have mercy upon us, O God. Set us free from our old ways to serve you as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Minister: From now on, as the Apostle Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Thanks be to God that we can make a new start today and every day.

Gracefield Camp 2026

Max Chapman

Song:

He's got the whole world

Words & Music: Public domain

(Hymn # 339 - PCC Book of Praise)

1. He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole wide world in his hands,
he's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands.
2. He's got the sun and the moon in his hands....
3. He's got the wind and the rain in his hands....
4. He's got the tiny little baby in his hands....
5. He's got everybody here in his hands....

to hear God's word

Prayer for Insight and Understanding

Max: God of Word and Wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit, so that by your light, we may see clearly what you call us to be and to do. Engage us by your truth so we know how best to follow Christ Jesus, your living Word. Amen

Psalm 148 (read responsively)

Max: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Max: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

People: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Max: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created,

People: and he established them for ever and ever - he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Max: Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

People: lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

Max: you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

People: wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

Max: kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

People: young men and women, old men and children.

Max: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

People: And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

All: Praise the Lord.

The Scripture Lesson

Joshua 1: 1-3 and 7-9

New International Version (NIV)

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Max: After the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them - to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips. Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Max: 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 Message

Living Water: Remembering Our Source

There is something wonderfully appropriate about beginning a new season of ministry near the St. Lawrence River. We cannot see much of the river from where we are sitting today. The trees have something to say about that! But we know it is there. And the St. Lawrence has been here for a very, very long time. Long before any of us were here, Brockville was a town. Before there were roads or churches or bridges, this river was here. It has shaped the history and life of this community in countless ways. It has been a route of travel and trade, a source of food and livelihood, and a gathering place for generations. And long before Brockville existed, Indigenous peoples lived along the river.

We gather today on land with a long Indigenous history and near a river that has sustained life for centuries. That is worth remembering. And it is especially worth remembering as we begin the liturgical **Season of Creation**, with its theme: “**Living Water**”. Water is one of the most ordinary things in our lives, and yet every living thing depends upon it. We know that water connects us to something much larger than ourselves. The water in the St. Lawrence has travelled through places we will never see. It has fallen as rain, flowed through streams, gathered into lakes, and continued its journey.

And the ancient words of Scripture tell us that water can teach us something about God. Psalm 148 calls the whole creation to praise its Creator - the heavens and the earth, the mountains and trees, the animals and birds, everything that has breath and life. And in the Book of Joshua, God’s people stand at another body of water - the Jordan River - on the threshold of a new chapter. Perhaps that is where these passages meet us today.

The psalmist in Psalm 148 colourfully paints a picture of the whole creation joining together in one enormous chorus of praise. And I note that creation does not need us to give it a reason to praise God. The trees do not need a worship leader. The birds do not need a hymn book. The river does not need a sermon. Our campers who spent time this summer know this all too well! Creation simply *is* - and in its being, it reflects the glory of its Creator. We did not create ourselves. We did not create the earth. We did not create the water that sustains us. Everything we have ultimately comes as a gift from God.

That may sound obvious, but it is surprisingly easy to forget. We turn on a tap and water appears. We buy food in a grocery store without seeing the fields where it was grown or the water that helped produce it. We can begin to imagine that we are independent - that we are self-sufficient. But Scripture keeps reminding us that **we are part of creation**. Remember the creation story in Genesis, where God created all life, including humankind, before making humanity stewards of the created world.

In our passage from Joshua, Moses has died, and Joshua is facing an enormous responsibility. He is about to lead the people into a new chapter. God tells him to prepare to cross the Jordan. The river stands between what was and what will be. The people do not know exactly what lies ahead. Joshua certainly does not have all the answers.

And yet God tells him: “*Be strong and courageous.*” Why? Because “*the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*” That is a fitting message for us as well on this Rally Sunday. A new Church School year begins next week. Summer is winding down, and students are back in school. Our congregation is returning to regular rhythms of worship, learning, fellowship and service. There will be joys ahead. There will also be challenges and uncertainties. We do not know everything that the coming year will bring. But we do not need to because the message to Joshua is also a message for us: **Remember who is with you. Remember your source of life.**

And that brings us back to the river. Living on the St. Lawrence River reminds us that if water is God’s gift to creation, then it is also our calling to care for and protect it. We are called to use it wisely. We are called to ensure that our neighbours – here and around the world – have access to clean and safe water. Caring for creation means protecting our waters from pollution, remembering that clean rivers, streams, and oceans are not ours alone – they are home to countless creatures and a gift for generations yet to come.

The language of stewardship can sometimes make it sound as though creation belongs to us and we have simply been given the job of managing it. But perhaps the deeper truth is that we belong to creation. We all belong to the land, the water, and the earth – to the community of life that Psalm 148 calls to praise God. We are participants in God’s creation, called to care for what has been entrusted to us.

On Rally Sunday, we look forward to getting started again. We gather our children and youth. We begin Church School. We reconnect after the summer. We look ahead to another year of worship, learning and service but, perhaps this year, we can begin with something even more basic: **Remember.** Remember the God who made us. Remember the water that gives us life. Remember the earth that sustains us, remember the people who have lived with and cared for these lands and waters for generations, the St. Lawrence River and the role it has played in the life and history of this community.

And remember God’s promise to Joshua: “*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*”

Wherever this coming year takes us, God goes with us. When the path is clear, God is there. When the way forward is uncertain, God is there. When we are celebrating, God is there. When we are struggling, God is there. And as we begin the Season of Creation, may we also remember the God who is the source of all life, the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end. Amen.

[Blessing the Word in our Lives](#)

Minister: Gracious God, help us remember that you are the source of all life and that all creation belongs to you. May your Word take root in us, guiding us as we cross the rivers and

boundaries that lie before us. Help us to walk forward with gratitude, courage, and trust. Amen.

Song:

I've got peace like a river
(Hymn # 750 – Celebration Hymnal)

Words & Music: Public domain

1. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
2. I've got love like an ocean.
3. I've got joy like a fountain.

Responding in love with thanksgiving

Prayers of the People, the Lord's Prayer

Minister: God of love, Creator of heaven and earth, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings of this life: for making us in your image to love and care for one another; for the gift of Christ, who redeems and guides us, and gives us a pattern for everyday living; and for the work of the Spirit, who moves in us, through us and beyond us, renewing the face of the earth.

In this Season of Creation, open our eyes to the wonder of your world and remind us that we are part of the web of life you have created. Teach us to receive the gifts of the earth with gratitude, to care for the waters, the land, the air and all living things, and to remember that creation is not ours to possess, but your gift entrusted to our care. In your loving kindness, hear us now as we pray for the places and people where your love and grace are needed.

We pray for the church in this place and around the world, facing so many new challenges while responding to so many enduring needs. Give your people courage to be peacemakers, servants of justice, and faithful stewards of your creation. May the church bear witness to your love in a world that so desperately needs hope.

We pray for this beautiful and fragile planet, the home we share with all living things. For the waters that sustain life, for the forests and fields, the oceans and rivers, for the creatures of the earth and sky, and for communities whose lives and livelihoods depend upon them. Give us wisdom to live more gently and faithfully upon the earth. For children and youth who worry about the future of our planet and their place in that future. Give them hope rather than fear and give all of us the courage and wisdom to make the changes that will allow future generations to flourish.

We pray for places in our world torn apart by conflict and violence. We remember especially the people of **Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, Iran, Gaza and Myanmar**, and all who live

with war, fear, destruction and uncertainty. Where there is violence, bring peace. Where there is hatred, bring reconciliation. Where there is injustice, bring courage to those who seek what is right. Where there is suffering, bring comfort and healing. And where there seems to be no way forward, make a path toward peace.

We remember all who have been forced to flee their homes - those who have become refugees and displaced people, those searching for safety across borders and within their own lands, and those who long simply for a place where they can live without fear. Guide them to places of welcome and safety. Give them hope when hope seems distant, and new life when all that is familiar has been lost. Move us in Canada to be people who welcome the stranger and recognize your image in every person seeking refuge.

We pray for those who govern in this community, this province, our federal government, and the nations of the world, that they may find the wisdom and courage to bring about justice for all in the decisions they make. Give them a deep concern for the vulnerable, a commitment to peace, and the wisdom to protect the earth that has been entrusted to us.

We pray for the homeless and the hungry, for the unemployed and the uncertain, for those without clean water, safe shelter or enough food, and for all who struggle with daily decisions for their families and their future. May they find the resources they need, the support of caring communities, and the hope that comes from knowing they are not forgotten.

We pray for those who mourn, for those who face illness or isolation, for those whose lives have been disrupted by violence or disaster, and for all whose situations we carry in our hearts this day.

God with us, we thank you for your all-embracing love that touches all life and each life. As we journey through this Season of Creation, help us to remember that we are part of your living world, connected to one another and to all that you have made. Make us people of compassion, people of peace, people who care for your creation, and people who carry hope into places where hope is needed. Keep us in communion with those dear to us who now live with you, and with all your children throughout the world who long for peace, safety, justice and new life. We join our voices with theirs in gratitude and hope, praying the words Jesus taught us:

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: As we begin this Season of Creation, we are reminded that everything we have is gift: the water that gives us life, the earth that sustains us, the beauty that surrounds us, and the people with whom we share this world. Our offering is one way we remember our Source. We give not because everything belongs to us, but because everything belongs to God. As we bring our gifts today, may we offer them with gratitude, trusting that God can use what we share to bring hope, healing and new life to our community and to the wider world. Let us receive the offering today.

You can give to First Presbyterian Church.....

* 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: Gracious and generous God, you are the source of all that is good. We give you thanks for the abundance of your creation, for water and earth, sky and sea, for plants and animals, and for the gift of life itself. Receive these gifts we bring today. May our gifts, our choices, and our lives be an offering of gratitude and praise. In the name of Christ, through whom all things are made new. Amen.

Sending Song:

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah!

Words & Music: Unknown

1. Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!

The Benediction

Minister: The Apostle Paul teaches that we owe no one anything but to love one another. So go with God's hope in your hearts to share that love with everyone you meet. And may God, the Source of Love, Christ, the Face of Love in action, and the Spirit, the transforming

power of love, go with you to bless you and move through you to heal and bless God's world. Amen.

Please gather in front of the trees for a congregational picture.
Office Marianne will direct you.

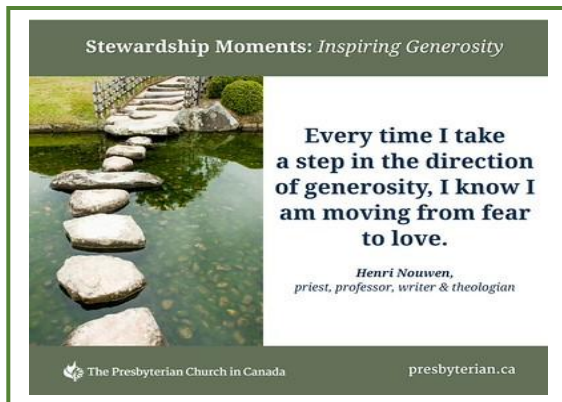


This morning, SEPTEMBER 6th - LOAVES & FISHES Sunday. Our Church supports the work of this restaurant with our donations of money and time. This ministry assists so many and we are thankful to be a part of it. Donations of food can be left in the basket at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office (macaroni type pasta and coffee are great choices) during the week. Donations of money are welcome in your regular offering envelopes or online donations. Please mark all envelopes clearly. Thanks!



Children living at Samuel House as well as some disadvantaged local children in Micske, Romania, play, study and enjoy nutritious meals together in a loving family-like Christian environment. They celebrate their birthdays and Christian holidays and in the summer attend summer camp. Without state support, Samuel House depends on domestic and international donations and this is where your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing come in. Csilla Bertalan, Director of Samuel House, writes, "Thank you for holding the children in our care in your prayers. And thank you for sharing your resources with us so that they may live their lives in fullness."

A Mission Moment from The PCC



Happy Birthday to (Sept 6th to 12th):

ELIZABETH WESLEY – September 3rd

THOMAS McCUE – September 4th

FRANCIS LEBRUN – September 5th

LAURA MACKAY-VILLENEUVE – September 6th

BONNIE BURKE – September 10th

Happy Anniversary to:

GLENN MCAULAY & JIM ANTONIOU – Sept. 11th

Available this morning from Office Marianne

Copies of the SEPTEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR!



Office Hours – September 8th to 12th

Monday, Sep. 7th – Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday, Sep. 8th – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, Sep. 9th – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Thursday, Sep. 10th – 10 am. to 4:30 pm.

Friday, Sep. 11th – 10 am. to 1 pm.

As the summer months come to an end, please remember **THE CHALLENGE!** How did you spend your summer? Where did you go? Whom did you visit? Send pictures and stories etc. to firstkirk@truespeed.ca anytime now. Thanks!

First Presbyterian Church

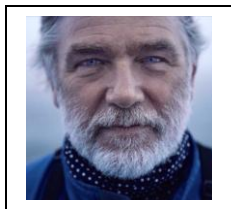
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sep 06 **RALLY SUNDAY** on the Upper Level of St. Lawrence Park - 11 am.
- Sep 10 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** resumes in the Choir Room at 3 pm.
Hand Bell Choir rehearsal resumes at 4:15 in the Red Room.
- Sep 13 **RECOVENANTING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**
11 am. in the Sanctuary. Church School begins. Coffee Hour follows worship.
- Sep 15 **CRAFT & CHAT** resumes in the Parlour at 1 pm.
* Meeting of Seaway/Glengarry Presbytery
- Sep 16 The **SESSION** will meet in the Red Room at 7 pm.
- Sep 20 **PRESBYTERIANS SHARING SUNDAY** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary.
Church School continues. Coffee Hour follows worship.
- Sep 27 **TRUTH & RECONCILIATION SUNDAY** - 11 am. in the Sanctuary.
Church School continues. Sunday Supper Ministry - No Coffee Hour.
- Sep 30 **ORANGE SHIRT DAY**



Upcoming Events

- Morning Mingle at The Core - Tuesday, September 8
- [St Lawrence Writer's Festival](#) - Sept. 10-13
- [Doors Open 1000 Islands](#) - Friday, Sept. 18
- [Miracle on King Street](#) - Saturday, Nov. 14
- [Santa Claus Parade](#) & River of Lights Launch - Saturday, Nov. 28
- Brockville Tourism Symposium - Dec. 9



**You Are Invited To
An Evening with Dr.
James Raffan
Speaker, Writer,
Explorer**

Topic: Telling Tales from Arctic Trails

Date: Friday, October 16th

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: Wall Street United Church,
Hosted by: Indigenous Sub-Committee of
the Outreach Committee

**Everyone is Welcome! Admission
is Free! Refreshments are
Provided!**

**For further information, contact
Donna at greenhj@ripnet.com**

BROCKVILLE COMMUNITY CHOIR COME SING WITH US!

Soprano – Alto – Tenor – Bass

Do you like to sing? Do you enjoy choral music?

Enjoy timeless classic music?

– WE ARE RECRUITING! –

REGISTRATION & FIRST REHEARSALS

Wednesday, September 9th & 16th, 2026

Registration 6:30 pm

Rehearsal 7:00pm – 9 pm

Some FAQs About the Choir

Our Artistic Director is **Madelyn Mensen**

Our Collaborative Artist is **Abe TeGrotenhuis**

Adult membership dues are \$100 per session (2 per year)

Students are welcome - no membership dues for
students.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays starting at 7 pm to 9 pm
at St. Lawrence Anglican Church

All are welcome to attend for up to 3 rehearsals with no
commitment.

Join acclaimed Canadian writer, explorer, and storyteller James Raffan for an unforgettable journey into the Arctic. Drawing on decades of travel throughout the circumpolar world, Raffan shares remarkable encounters, surprising discoveries, and the enduring stories of the people, landscapes, and wildlife that define this extraordinary region in changing times. Rich with adventure, history, humour, and insight, Telling Tales from Arctic Trails explores what the Arctic can teach us about resilience, imagination, reconciliation and our relationship with the land. Through vivid storytelling and stunning images, Raffan brings one of the world's most compelling frontiers vividly to life.

