



# First Press Newsletter

The Newsletter for First Presbyterian Church, Penetanguishene

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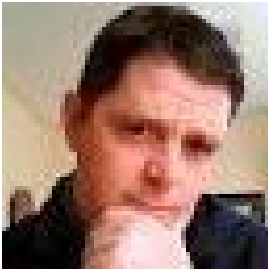
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we meet on traditional lands that have significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon them, and whose practices and spiritualities were tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today.

June 2026

## Barry's Blog

### Summer Sabbath Time



The old Porgy and Bess tune that declares, "*Summertime, and the livin' is easy*", no doubt was written when life was so much different than what it is now. If you're like most people, you are hoping

that summer will be a time to kick back and relax a little, but maybe you're afraid that it will end up like most other summers with lots to do and flying past far too quickly. Isn't summer supposed to be footloose and fancy-free? What happened to sleeping in and time to rest and unwind? Are relaxing summer days merely a thing of the past?

Now, it seems like the summer can instead be filled with days when the kids are bored and whiny, plans get cancelled, work interferes with vacation time, the AC goes out, and traffic is horrendous. Days when we lose our patience, harbour a bad attitude, and have had quite enough of family time. Days when we feel powerless against the exhaustion of our busy schedule and stress rules the day.

We all need a break from the busyness of life from time to time. Resting isn't just a good idea, it is, in fact, modelled by both God and Jesus. God rested after six days of creating the universe. God also instituted the Sabbath so that we would get the point that no one can work without a break along the way. Today it seems that we don't have Sabbath days anymore, but merely, Sabbath moments. Even Jesus, with more sermons to preach, more people to heal, and more tasks to accomplish, often went apart to rest a while.

I am not sure why it is that some of us feel guilty or unfulfilled if we are not busy all the time. We wear busyness as a badge of honour... When people ask how we are doing, our common response is, "I'm busy!" Tanks that run on empty

all the time soon lack the stamina to cope spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and relationally. It's important to realize that not everything needs to be done—at least not done *right now*. This Summer, it may be more important than ever to sit back with a tall glass of your favourite beverage and contemplate the beauty of God's creation.

So carve out a little Sabbath time this Summer and refresh your heart and spirit with blessedness instead of busyness. And don't worry; the chores will still be there. They aren't going anywhere!

*Blessings, Rev. Barry Doner*



*Thank you for your continued giving to the church and its mission in the community and world.*



**MISSION AWARENESS PROJECT:** Thank you to the congregation from the Mission Team for your support of Mission Awareness Sunday and your gracious support for the luncheon that followed through your purchase of tickets. Thanks to your generosity, over \$1000 was raised for the PWS&D campaign “Respond to Emergencies (PWEMRF01)”. Special thanks to the continued support of Doug Rawson of Rawson’s Meat and Deli located at 27 Main St, Penetanguishene who generously donated the delicious ham for our luncheon. Next time



you see Doug be sure to thank him for his support and thank you for your support for his shop as well!



The Mission Team will be operating its summer food and toiletries drives again this year. Food items will be donated to the Georgian Bay Food Network and toiletries will be collected for distribution later in the fall. A list of suggested items for donation will be posted in the foyer along with the boxes for collection. Information on the wide impact made by the Georgian Bay Food Network can also be found there. The food and toiletries drive will run during the months of June, July and August. Your donations are gratefully received. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Mission Team for further details.

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM:**



The Congregational Life Team had an excellent brain storming session after the April 12th service. Thanks to all who came out.

On May 31st, we met again after service to "flesh out" some activities for the coming year.

**CEMETERY CLEAN UP:**

Massive thank you to the team who cleaned up the Presbyterian Cemetery this month as well as our amazing Lunch hosts Ruby and Laura!



**THANK YOU:** A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful Sunday School students and teachers for the thoughtful and kind gesture shared with all the ladies this past Mother’s Day.



Your care, creativity, and loving hearts made the day extra special and reminded us all of the joy that comes from simple acts of kindness. We are so grateful for each of you and the love you

share with our church family.

**DOORS OPEN!** First Presbyterian Church has been invited to participate in Doors Open Simcoe County this Sept 19, 2026. This is an exciting opportunity for us to welcome new people into our beautiful building. More details will follow but first the application form! One of the questions relates to the architectural style of our church and I have absolutely no idea how to answer this. If any of you have some architectural knowledge or can make a suggestion, please speak to Donna Drapkin (905-484-3727 or donnadrapkin@bell.net ). Thanks for any help you can give.

**THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT FIRST PC FINANCIALLY**

First of all, thank you for your support! All gifts to First PC are received gratefully and kept under the strictest confidence. Early each year, you will receive an income tax slip from our envelope secretary Jill St Amant. There are presently three options for donations.

1. We now accept funds by e-transfer. This is a very easy way for people to give their financial support to First PC. On your banking website, go to money transfers, add our church to your contact list - [gifts4firstchurchpenetang@gmail.com](mailto:gifts4firstchurchpenetang@gmail.com) - and then make

