



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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Barry's Blog Small Gestures



In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says ***“and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”***

What a little thing... to give a cup of cold water? Jesus emphasizes this by his use of the word *“even.”* We often imagine discipleship as requiring huge sacrifice or entailing great feats, and sometimes that is exactly what discipleship comes to. But at other times, Jesus seems to say, it's nothing more than giving a cup of cold water to one in need. Or offering words of comfort to someone who is grieving. Or a listening ear to someone in need of a friend... or dare I say it...offering a hug to someone to show them you care... Or offering a ride to someone without a car. Or volunteering at the local foodbank. Or... well, you get the idea.

The life of faith is composed of a thousand small gestures. Except that, according to Jesus, there is no small gesture. Anything done in faith and love has cosmic significance for the ones involved. You probably know as well as I do, the story of *“The Star Fish Thrower”* -- the one about the little boy tossing starfish after starfish into the sea. When asked why, he replies that if they don't get back in the water soon, they'll dry out and die. Looking at a beach strewn with thousands of starfish, the man responds that he can't possibly hope to make any difference. To which the boy responds by tossing another one into the ocean, and says, *“I bet it made a difference to that one!”*

What do we do in the meantime? Just do what we can... where we are... Because Jesus has promised to come in time to redeem the world, to fix all damage, to heal all hurts, and to wipe the tears from every eye... Our task is to devote ourselves to acts of mercy and acts of compassion... small and large, not trying to save the world -- Jesus has promised to do that! -- but simply trying to care for the little corner of the world in which

we have been placed. And so even a cup of cold water can make a huge and unexpected difference to those to whom we give it and, according to Jesus, such acts have eternal and cosmic consequences!

This is what true hospitality looks like... I believe that hospitality lies at the heart of Christian discipleship... and this is what Jesus was getting at... Looking for opportunities to welcome strangers, and show compassion to those in need... But how often do we walk by those kinds of opportunities? They're all around us... if we would simply open our eyes and pay attention. A cup of cold water is a gift that everyone can give because it is the smallest of gifts. Even this, the smallest of gifts, is precious to the person receiving it, because it sometimes it is the gift of life itself.

Hospitality frees us to offer a cup of cold water to someone who might be in a situation completely foreign to our experience; someone in a world that is outside our limited understanding. And when we are brought into relationship with one another by the bond that hospitality creates, there is no more host and guest, no more insider and outsider; there is only a space in which we listen to, and learn from one another, valuing and honouring one another until all the uneven ground on which we stand... becomes level.

Blessings, Rev. Barry Doner



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

FUN AND FEAST RECAP

What a **wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and fun!** Thank you to everyone who came out last Friday for our Fun & Feast potluck. It was so special to gather around the table, share the delicious dishes everyone brought, enjoy some games, and spend time together.



There was plenty of laughter, good conversation, and that wonderful feeling of being together as a church family. A heartfelt

thank you to everyone who brought a dish, helped out, joined in the games, or simply came to share in the evening. **You helped make it such a warm and memorable afternoon!**



and enjoy one another's company. What a blessing our church community is!

THRIFTING: I love thrifting. Some of my favourite things I have picked up in thrift stores. They are places where you can find incredible bargains and treat yourself without spending a lot of money. New2You Thrift Store at 27 Main St in Penetang (beside Rawson's Butcher Shop) has some great buys. They also have great hearts. They are affiliated with the Midland store (same name) on King St. They donate a percentage of their sales to local charities and recently presented a generous cheque for \$910.00 to Mary Sheriff for our Caring Kitchen outreach! Please make a point of dropping in and supporting this community-minded organization. Thank them for their generosity.



FUNDING REQUESTS: If you belong to an organization or business that from time to time donates money to worthy charities, please speak to Donna Drapkin who is in the midst of appealing to a number of local service groups for financial support for Caring Kitchen. It is very expensive to feed all those people

each week. If you are on PAR for our church, and would like to support Caring Kitchen, all you have to do is email Jill St Amant and ask her to designate that additional monthly amount to the Caring Kitchen. Alternatively, you can put any extra donations to Caring Kitchen in an offering envelope and write Caring Kitchen on it. Every little bit helps.

MISSION AWARENESS PROJECT

Our 2026 Summer Food Drive ends this week. The Mission Team would like to thank all who contributed to this very important effort to help those dealing with food insecurity. Our toiletries drive will continue during the month of September. The box will still be located in the foyer. Again, thank you so much for your generous contributions.



FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM



<i>September</i>	September 6	Communion Sunday
	September 12	Annual Pig Roast at Midland Golf & Country Club
	September 13	Grandparents Day
	September 16	Bible Study Begins
	September 19	Doors Open Simcoe 10am - 4pm
	September 20	Truth & Reconciliation Sunday <i>We encourage you to wear orange shirts.</i>
	September 26	Caring Kitchen Volunteers Potluck
<i>October</i>	October 4	Communion Sunday with Lunch
	October 11	Thanksgiving Sunday
	October 18	Downstairs after service - Caring Kitchen 1st Anniversary
	October 19	Caring Kitchen - 1 year Celebrated with Weekly guests
	October 25	Following the Service - "Talents, Gifts, and Sharing"
<i>November</i>	November 1	Daylight Saving - Communion Sunday
	November 29	Advent Begins
<i>December</i>	December 6	Communion Sunday
	December 13	Christmas Cantata
	December 24	Christmas Eve Service

We look forward to worshipping, serving and growing together in faith and fellowship!

Watch for fall activities in the October newsletter ... or in the weekly bulletin.

LAST CALL FOR AUCTION ITEMS: Thank you to all that have purchased and now we would like your support for the Silent Auction Portion of this event.



This is not a yard sale, so we are asking for **new** or very nearly new items with a minimum retail value in the range of \$30. These can be items you have on hand or you could request a donation from your favourite retailer.

Tables have been set up in the Meeting Hall (Sign on Counter at Window to Robert St) for you to drop off your donations.

Please drop off your items before Sept 4th, 2026

There remains much organizational work that needs to be done for the Auction, so we ask that donations be dropped asap and please before September 4th.

The church will be open tomorrow, Tues. Sept 1 from about 9:30 - 2:30; and on Wed Sept 2nd from about 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Thank You for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated.

SIGN UP NOW AVAILABLE- Look for the sign up sheets for the next "Talents, Gifts, and Sharing" Event (October 26, 2026 after the Sunday service). Looking for 8-10 participants to share their stories and interests...5 to 8 minutes each.



THANK YOU: Massive thank you to Rev. Glynis Faith and Elder Angela Kirton for your leadership and support to our congregation while Rev. Barry was on holidays.



PHOTO DIRECTORY: If you would like to volunteer to arrange a new photo directory for our church, please talk to Donna Drapkin.

THANK YOU to Klaas Koiter and his team of Martin Smith and Jamie Dalzell who each week work tirelessly behind the scenes to run our sound system and to air our worship services each Sunday. We appreciate their expertise and their commitment.

THANK YOU to Mary Sheriff for her leadership of Caring Kitchen and for the enormous amount of time she put into a grant request from the Ontario Trillium foundation. May God help us to continue to fund this community outreach.

Events in our Community **Stitch & Chat**

We're back! Summer break is over and we are back meeting every Thursday 10am-2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your projects, bring your lunch, or just bring yourself. Coffee, tea and conversation are always available. Please join us.



THE LIFE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED: The first Bible study this season will be on the John Ortberg book ***The Life You've***

Always Wanted. "The author presents readers with life on the edge - one filled with new meaning, hope, change, and a joyous, growing closeness Christ." Because the books are on back order we are delaying our start to Wed, Sept 16. For those of you who have not yet attended one of our studies, we always start at 1:15 with some hymn singing (It's about making a joyful **noise** not celestial harmony), followed by lots of discussion about the topic at hand. Rev Barry brings his unique brand of scholarly wisdom and humour as he leads us through the Scriptures. You don't need to know anything about the Bible in order to attend. Everyone is welcome. We finish about 3:00.



to
to

You're invited to

CARING KITCHEN

FREE LUNCH • GOOD FOOD • GREAT COMPANY

A warm welcome for everyone!

WHEN:
Every Monday
Doors Open: 11:15 a.m.
Meals Served: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Drop-in - All Are Welcome!

WHERE:
First Presbyterian Church,
Penetanguishene
20 Robert St. E.
(Use the lower Robert Street doors - look for the sandwich board!)

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Delicious, simple meals
Friendly faces and community connection
A welcoming space for everyone
Always free!

COME AS YOU ARE. BRING A FRIEND!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Penetanguishene
SERVING WITH LOVE. BUILDING COMMUNITY.

FEED THE HUNGRY: If you would like to volunteer on a Monday (one time only or as often as you like), Caring Kitchen would love to have you join their happy roster.



We all so enjoy our time not only with our appreciative guests, but

also with each other as we work together to serve our local community. Acts 20: 35 quotes Paul as saying, "In everything I [Paul] did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Please speak to Mary Sheriff (705-526-7591) or Donna Drapkin (905-484-3727) for more information.

DOORS OPEN SIMCOE COUNTY: This year we were invited to participate in Doors Open Simcoe County, Sat, Sept 19, from 10-4:00. The Ontario Heritage Trust works with communities across the province to open the doors, gates and courtyards of their unique and most fascinating cultural and historical sites



so that you can explore the stories inside. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase our beautiful church and addition. Volunteers from our congregation will be present to welcome visitors and to answer questions. We will also be selling delicious hot lunches downstairs with proceeds going to help fund

Caring Kitchen. Even if you don't visit any other important sites on the tour, come out and support Caring Kitchen by buying lunch. Would you like to volunteer some time to help or do you have any questions? Speak to Donna Drapkin at 905-484-3727 or donnadrapkin@bell.net

WALK WITH US: Dee, Jamie, Lincoln, Weston and Jill are all participating in the Kidney Walk as well as the Terry Fox Run/Walk this September. If you would like to join our team and/or donate reach out to Dee at deannalilianpalazzo@gmail.com



REMINDER:



IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICES

In-Person Services are Sundays at 10:25AM. Our services are also streamed on our YouTube channel [@firstchurchpenetang](https://www.youtube.com/@firstchurchpenetang)



Remember that children participating in our service may be shown online as the service is live-streamed.

STAY CONNECTED: Have you checked out our updated website lately? Have you signed up to receive our electronic newsletter and weekly bulletin?

And don't forget to follow us online! Find us on Facebook @First Presbyterian Church Penetanguishene and Instagram @firstchurchpenetang.

We'd love for you to be part of our growing online community! It's a great way to stay up to date on worship, events, community activities, announcements, and all the wonderful things happening at First Church.

We'd also love your pictures! We're always looking for more photos from our church events, activities, gatherings, and social times to help showcase the life and spirit of our church community. Have some great photos to share? Send them along to Dee at firstchurchpenetang@gmail.com.

Have something you'd like us to share? If you have an announcement, event, photo, story, or other information you'd like included in an upcoming bulletin or shared on our social media, please send it to Dee by Tuesday evening.

Thank you for helping us stay connected and share the life of our church with our congregation and wider community!



Thank you for being part of our church community!

Cora's Corner



Cora Nuspel

FREEDOM

We try so hard to live just right
We work, we fret, we cry
But when we turn to God and pray
The burdens say goodbye.

Now with this freedom we can move
To sing and speak Christ's praise
Our sins removed, our guilt is gone
Let the Holy Spirit guide our ways.

Cora Nuspel