



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.

OCTOBER 2026

Barry's Blog



AN INVITATION TO THANKSGIVING

***"Enter his gates with
thanksgiving and his
courts with praise; give
thanks to him and praise
his name." (Psalm 100:4)***

The one hundredth psalm, with its call to worship, is one of the most well known of all the Psalms. However, its familiarity can make it difficult for it to impact our hearts and our lives. In many ways, it's easier to study passages that are less familiar because then we aren't as complacent in our understanding, that means that we don't assume that we already know them.

We should never feel so comfortable with the invitation to thanksgiving that we brush over it, as if it were only rhetoric. This psalm urges us into action! As God's people, we are called to joyful worship and to thankful praise. We are to live lives of gratitude. "Make a joyful noise" is an invitation to exuberant, vocal adoration. Such praise should not be treated as a forced obligation, as if we've swallowed something distinctly unpalatable. Instead, it should be a response to God's activity in our lives, which leads us, to borrow a phrase from C.S. Lewis, to be "surprised by joy." The opportunity for worship lifts the spirits of the genuine believer—and nobody is left out of the exhortation. God has made "all the earth" for the praise of His glorious grace.

The invitation also beckons us to "enter ... his courts with praise." Consider the experience of the commoner outside Buckingham Palace in London, where the best you can do is poke your nose through the railings and hope for a fleeting glimpse of royalty from afar. The gate is purposefully closed to protect the sovereign. But

that is not our experience with the God. Jesus' death tore the temple curtain in two (Matthew 27:51) and opened a new way of living for us. Through Jesus we have gained access to the Father, and the gates are thrown wide open in welcome to all who accept the invitation!

Gratitude draws us out of ourselves into something bigger than we could ever imagine. Perhaps gratitude is one of the most powerful acts that we can engage in on a daily basis, as it frees us from fear, releases us from anxiety, and emboldens us to do more and even dare more than we could ever envision on our own. What if we lived a life of gratitude to God every day?

What if we took time each day to, not only count our blessings, but also to name them? I think that if we did that we would live changed lives! What blessings are you missing out on?

Blessings, Rev. Barry Doner



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

YOUR SESSION: The Session of First Presbyterian Church is made up of seven elders who are committed to God and who have accepted the call to represent the congregations' needs and interests to the minister. Jim Anderson, Barbara Bain, Peter Cheshire, Donna Drapkin, Klaas Koiter, Mary Sheriff and Sue Thorburn meet monthly to discuss issues within the church, including the welfare of the people within our individual districts. Please feel free to contact your elder at any time with questions, requests, or concerns. The Session depends on two-way communication with you to be able to operate efficiently and effectively. If you don't know who your elder is, please contact Donna Drapkin for assistance. (905-484-3727 or donnadrapkin@bell.net). Every member and adherent in our church is precious and we want to be sure we are hearing what is important to you.

CARING KITCHEN APPRECIATION NIGHT

On Saturday, Sept 26, Laura Laird sponsored an appreciation night for the Caring Kitchen Volunteers.



It included a potluck supper, dessert, and refreshments followed by a pleasant evening outside with a bonfire.



With chairs in a circle around the covered bonfire, there were lots of conversations and sharing all evening.

All were given an opportunity to

summarize why they volunteered at Caring Kitchen, and Heather reminded us that we are the hands and feet of Christ. We concluded that such service is a joy.

This conversation was later followed with a few new facts about our volunteers' most absurd lifetime occurrences.

Lots of laughter accompanied our stories. Thank goodness that what is



shared at the campfire, stays at the campfire. (I hope!)

It is unfortunate that not all of our volunteers were able to come. You were missed!

We did have some international friends join us ... K.P. and Suraj, (and along with Jochebed) revealed a bit about their backgrounds, their immigration journeys, and even a bit about arranged marriages in their Indian culture. We are so grateful for opportunities like this to slow down, connect, and enjoy one another's company. What a blessing our church community is!



PIG ROAST RESULTS: The Board of Managers is pleased to announce that we raised over \$7000 from the Pig Roast.

Thanks to everyone's support. We are so grateful to have a wonderful church family with willing volunteers. This was a tough year without Ann's leadership and organization but we forged ahead with great success. From coordinating with MGCC, selling tickets, coordinating of the pig roasting and carving, silent auction, decorating and setting the tables and MCing. It took a village of Presbyterians. Thank you so very much to everyone involved.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SUNDAY:

The Sunday Service was a beautiful combination of choir/music, readings,

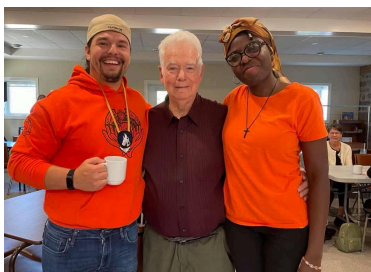


land acknowledgement, the mystery bag, and a special speaker. The Congregational Life Team, via Jill St. Amant and Rev. Barry, invited Bronson Black to address our congregation in regards to this "newer" nationally celebrated day. He addressed the issue from an indigenous/metis mindset, and helped us to understand the importance of the past, present, and future in respect of "Every Child Matters".

Bronson was warm, friendly and knowledgeable and spoke from his heart. We are so appreciative of his point of view and his words of hope. He received a standing ovation.



After the service, Bronson offered to explain and perform a smudging for anyone who was interested. A great number participated and a calm was experienced as Bronson approached everyone individually with his sage and sweetgrass smudge and eagle feather, and offered healing of the head, senses, heart/chest, and back. He urged us to let go, and move forward.



Afterwards, Bronson joined us downstairs for goodies and refreshments as well as socialization time.

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.



FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM



Every Monday
Caring Kitchen
11:15 - 12:45



Every Wednesday
Bible Study
1:15 - 3:00



Every Thursday
Stitch & Chat
10:00 - 2:00

<i>October</i>	October 4	Communion Sunday with Mortgage Burning
	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"



20 Robert St. East
Penetanguishene ON, L9M 1A3



Website
firstchurchpenetang.com



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First Church Presbyterian Penetanguishene



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@firstchurchpenetang



A STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Watch for winter activities in the November newsletter ... or in the weekly bulletin.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS:

We are aware of problems with our Live Streaming of church services. With our awesome AV team of technicians we are attempting to eradicate the issue. Thank you for your patience. In October, we plan to improve the aesthetics of our basement lift room and to build a storage shed for outside maintenance equipment for our church property. Thanks to all our volunteers who make our church safe and a place of beauty to worship in.

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.

PAGE TURNERS BOOKCLUB: A POSSIBLE NEW GROW BEGINNING JANUARY 2027 (if enough interest): A book club is an exciting way for book lovers to read a variety of books and have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on what they have read. It is a great time to meet others and socialize over a topic of discussion.



*Each month a different book will be distributed to participants to read.

*Books will be available for each month on the last week of the prior month. A list of each month's book will be made available.

* There are a variety of ways to obtain the book we will be reading. Heather Doner will have copies available to be picked up from the church. Should you like an e book, large print, or audio book copy please check with your local library. (Should you require help with any of these options Heather would be glad to walk you through it)

* Our meetings will take place via Zoom. Prior to each meeting a zoom link will be sent to your email.

Join us as we discuss books from a variety of genres, best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, multicultural, religious and not so much. We will read and discuss books that make you happy, sad, frustrate, shock, challenge and make you think. You will be challenged to read something you never thought that you would.

Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer or speak with Heather Doner.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our **Fellowship Team** is looking for a few volunteers to join the team! If you enjoy helping bring people together and creating opportunities for fellowship and connection within our church community, we'd love to have you join us. Interested? Please speak with **Nancy Horne** or **Jean Hall** for more information. Thank you to

everyone who helps make our church community so welcoming!

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 to 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.

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



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!

ALL ARE WELCOME

Come as you are. Bring a friend!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Penetanguishene

SERVING WITH LOVE.
BUILDING COMMUNITY.

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.

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICES

In-Person Services
are Sundays at
10:25AM. Our services
are also streamed on
our YouTube channel
@firstchurchpenetang

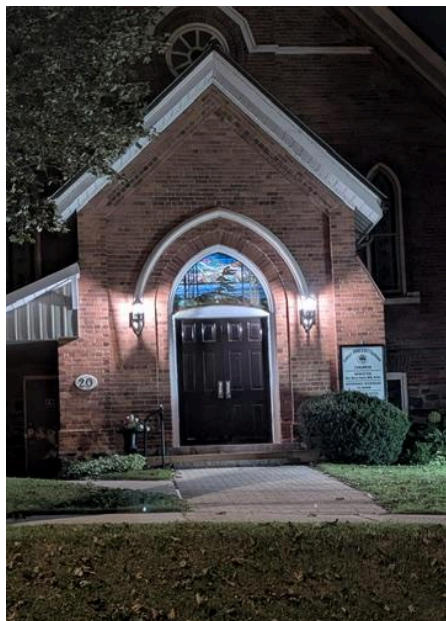


Remember that children participating in our service may be shown online as the service is live-streamed.

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.



Submitted by Laura Laird.

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

