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.

NOVEMBER 2026

Barry's Blog



Remembering…

There is an old joke that goes something like this… One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Johnny was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, *"Good morning son."*; *"Good morning pastor"* replied the young man, focused on the plaque. *"Sir, what is this?"* Johnny asked. *"Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service"* replied the pastor. Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque… Little Johnny's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, "Which one sir, the 8:30 or the 10:30 service?"

We smile at this joke, and it is amusing for sure, but I wonder how many young people today really understand what Remembrance Day is all about? Do they understand the sacrifice that was made for them? Do they recognize that the freedom they enjoy today has been bought for them at great cost?

I consider myself fortunate to have grown up in a home in which I understood the importance and significance of Remembrance Day at an early age. My Dad is a trumpet player, and has played the Last Post more times than I could ever count… whether he was playing at the Cenotaph in Collingwood, Nancy Island in Wasaga Beach, the new Cenotaph in the Beach, or at my school assemblies, or at countless funeral services for veterans, the significance of Remembrance Day will never be lost for me.

When I was growing up, I was simply proud to see my Dad on my school stage or standing at the Cenotaph… I could tell my friends, "That's my Dad!" I was proud that it was my Dad that was playing the Last Post… Now I am proud, not only that he has played at these services, but also, I am proud of why he did it, and more importantly, for the impact it has had on me.

As I stood at the Cenotaph then as a child, and as I stood watching my Dad many times since, I am also struck by the stories I hear from the veterans who speak at these occasions. Whenever I hear veterans speak of their experience, whether in wars of years gone by or whether it is wars they are engaged in today…. No soldier ever stands up and says "Look at me …" Instead on Remembrance Day we see these courageous men and women quietly and very proudly wearing the tiny red poppy and at times struggling to even stand at attention… their quivering hand firmly held in a salute at the remembrance of brothers and sisters – literal and figuratively who gave everything they had in service to God and country on bloody battle fields decades earlier.

As a Minister, I now have the privilege of conducting many Remembrance Day services,
many of which my Dad has played the Last Post. I am honoured and humbled to be able to follow in his footsteps and, in my own small way, make sure that the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom will never be forgotten. We will remember them…

Blessings, Rev. Barry Doner



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

MISSION TEAM NEWS - FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

We continue to support those who are dealing with food insecurity through our Christmas Food Drive. Items will be donated to the Georgian Bay Food Network which provides support for Penetang, Midland and surrounding areas. Your donations are gratefully received. This Mission Team initiative will continue through the month of November.

Please see the poster for a list of suggested food items. Your donations may be placed in the box in the Lobby. Please check off items that you have donated on the lists provided. Thank you again for your caring support.

FROM THE CARING KITCHEN



Congratulations to the congregation of 1 st Presbyterian Church on an October of very successful activities. As the month of Thanksgiving, we are definitely thankful for God's many blessings.

Caring Kitchen has celebrated its 1 st anniversary. Special thanks to the generosity of time, gifts, and financial support of our congregation towards this outreach project. The need of our community is illustrated by the number of new guests each week. The Blessing Table (new or gently used items) is a definite success and it is a joy to see happy smiles as they find clothes, a coat, footwear, or personal needs items and celebrate their blessing.



On Monday, the 19th of October, community sponsors were invited to join us for cake and coffee. Our links with various community groups and services have multiplied over the last year. We are so thankful for their support. Of special mention, please note that the Penetanguishene Lions' Club, and the Rotary Club of Midland have both kindly donated $1000 towards our expenses. This comes at a very crucial time of our budgeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL of our volunteers for their many efforts in making this outreach possible… SO VERY MUCH APPRECIATED! Special thanks to Donna Drapkin, Jochebed Nyarko, Vicky Henderson, Carol Burton, and Laura Laird for putting in all those extra hours, and Ruby Degenaar for being our purchasing agent for most of the year. Your prayers for continued success of Caring Kitchen are most appreciated.

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM



After August's Feast and Fun, and September's Open Doors events, the October sharing event "Talents, Gifts, Hobbies, and Skills" completed a successful trio. It was so good that Klaas and Martin were able to record this celebration for those at home so that they could "participate". Dee illustrated her gifts by acting as MC. Many thanks to Lincoln, Jim, Michael, Becky, Jamie, Jochebed, Gary, Rhonda, and Rev. Barry for their varied and interesting presentations. So sorry that Jim couldn't make it due to illness, but Rhonda did her best to present his nature drawings. Get better soon Jim! It always amazes me how blessed our congregation is with God given talents that we can often be so unaware of. Sharing and storytelling are true unique gifts and we thank God that He has brought us together within our church family – each with our own calling.





Shall we try again next spring for another Talents, Gifts, Hobbies and Skills sharing?

ps – Congregational Life Team members - upcoming November meeting. Watch for email.





FINANCIAL UP-DATE TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

OPERATING ACTUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS $146,271 $153,713
DISBURSEMENTS 139,510 161,104
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) $ 6761 $ (7,391)

While we show a small surplus, we have a few expenses still to pay – a new shed,
possible purchase of a snow blower and recent repairs to the dishwasher. Your continued
support when considering your weekly givings is very much appreciated.

PERHAPS NOW IS THE TIME TO CONSIDER PAR (Pre- Authorized Payment)
See any member of your Board or Jill St Amant our envelope secretary.

MEMBERSHIP: Have you considered joining the church as a member? If you would like to learn more about what that means, please contact Rev. Barry.

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!

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.

Events in our Community

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 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.

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**

