# "a future and a hope"

Jeremiah 29:11

1.45 40

## 2025



### ...a future and a hope.

#### Jeremiah 29:11

Israel suffered the destruction of everything that was familiar and reliable when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in 587 BC. People grieved the loss of their identity as well as their homes and institutions; they wondered how they could be people of faith and sing the Lord's song in a strange new context. Into the pain and chaos, Jeremiah Chapter 29 spoke a message of future hope.

Jeremiah offered no false hope or quick fixes. The way ahead was not clear for the people of God and the prophet called for endurance, fortitude and trust. What was clear, was the need for the people to settle into their new reality and maintain their faith and trust in the God of the unexpected. Rather than deny or rebel against the reality of their situation, people were called to see their current situation clearly but to also look beyond it. The prophet encouraged the people to embrace what was, while trusting in God's plans to give them a future and a hope.

By the grace of God, the church has been called to live in uncertain times today. But looking back 150 years, we see that God has been faithful through the generations and is faithfully working some new thing among us now even if it is hard to discern. We are called to make peace with our times and circumstances and to move ahead, preparing for the next new thing. The road ahead is long and will not always be easy. There will be clouds along the way, but there will also be the hopeful breaking of dawn. We call this journey hope and the future resurrection.





50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 presbyterian.ca

The Presbyterian Church in Canada acknowledges that it meets, worships, and works on the traditional territories of many Indigenous nations and peoples across what is now known as Canada. We acknowledge the treaties made across this land and that our national office, on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples, is on lands that are part of the Dish With One Spoon Treaty as well as Treaty 13 (the Toronto Purchase Agreement), held by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

The church comes from a tradition steeped in an understanding of holy ground and acknowledges that it is still learning how to walk humbly on that ground. Part of our learning to walk humbly, as The Presbyterian Church in Canada, is learning the history of the land and the history of the peoples first in relationship with it, as well as what treaties have been made and how they are being lived out. And so we acknowledge with respect the importance and sacredness of the land to the Indigenous peoples and nations who are the traditional keepers of it; the significance the land holds within Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices, and the rooted care for the land, plants, animals and waters that Indigenous nations and peoples have shown for thousands of years. We acknowledge the treaties that have been made and the importance they hold.

Only first having acknowledged with respect and gratitude the First Nations and peoples of these lands, we acknowledge the church's identity and marred relationship with the land and the First Peoples as The Presbyterian Church in Canada—a church that participated in colonization. Guided by our 1994 Confession, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, and our 2024 Apology for our complicity in colonization and the residential school system, the PCC commits to repair and redress for the harm we caused as an active participant in colonization, and to a future of walking humbly on this holy ground.





## JANUARY 2025

Family and friends gather for the baptism of Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. The Dutch royal family took refuge in Canada during World War II. [June 29, 1943]

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7	8	9	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord	13	14	15	16	17	18 World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ir
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Baptism at Family Church of Heritage Green n Stoney Creek, ON by the Rev. Alex Douglas. Baptism assures us that we belong to God, are blessed with new life in the Spirit, called by Christ to follow him and commissioned by him to a lifetime of loving and serving God and one another, always seeking to understand the faith we have been called to.





### FEBRUARY 2025

Women and children attending Madurai Education Centre for child labour workers in South India. [1995-1996].

SUNDAY MOND	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
					1	
2 PWS&D Sunday 3	4	5	6	7	8	
9 10		12	13	14	15	



Education for girls in countries like Afghanistan makes a long-term difference in alleviating poverty.

In a world with too much poverty, injustice and



oppression, through agencies like PWS&D, the church works with local partners to address the root causes of poverty and to seek sustainable transformation in the most vulnerable communities around the world. WeRespond.ca





# MARCH 2025

Unloading Christmas cards from Canada at the Mustard Seed Office in Taipei, Taiwan. An initiative began by Lillian Dickson to spread scripture and Christmas cheer. [1956]



The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan sent masks and other PPE to The Presbyterian Church in Canada to protect against Covid-19. [March 20, 2020] Read the full story in the Presbyterian Connection Fall 2020 issue *To Canada with Love, from Taiwan* 

The relationships the PCC has

with over 50 church partners around the world are marked by friendships, shared history, mutual support, care and learning together about how to be followers of Christ in many cultures and contexts. Differences in language, culture, theology and styles of worship are transcended as we continue Christ's ministry in the unity of the Holy Spirit.





### APRIL 2025

A nurse educates new mothers on newborn health care at the Embangweni Mission Hospital in Malawi.

Photo credit: Paul Jeffrey/PWS&D



G-7671-FC-29

Miss Hermanson capping a first-year student at the Mackay Hospital in Taiwan. From 1931 to 1966, Miss Hermanson served as a missionary, registered nurse and teacher at the Mackay School of Nursing. [1961]

Jesus was a healer as well

as a teacher. He saw people's physical, spiritual, and psychological suffering and social exclusion, and reached out to heal them as a sign of God's coming new order. The church continues Christ's healing ministry with partner churches, hospitals, medical schools, and clinics worldwide.





Canada - P - 750 kofod



Canada - P-756 Kofod |









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### MAY 2025

Photo negatives depicting the lives of Indigenous people on Mistawasis Reserve; Mistawasis Church; the grave of Chief Mistawasis; the ministry of the Rev. Stephen How. [1964]

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>1 1</b> Christian Family	10	17	11	15	16	17



Session elders of Mistawasis with former Moderator the Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) Faris in 2023. Top left to right: Lawrence Black, the Rev. Dr. Bob Faris, Keith Head and Norma Johnstone. Bottom left to right: Eva Ledoux and Linda Johnston.

> Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church was established at the Mistawasis



Nehiyawak First Nation shortly after the signing of Treaty Six in 1876. The church serves the community through programs and pastoral care. Mistawasis Memorial Church is one of eight transformative and justice seeking ministries with Indigenous people within the PCC.

presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/ indigenous-ministries





### JUNE 2025

Young Adult Representatives addressing the General Assembly in Halifax, NS. [2023]



G4705-fc-2

Commissioners listen to a Young Adult Observer appeal for an increase in the stipends of deaconesses at General Assembly in Halifax, NS. [1970] More details in the Presbyterian Connection Summer 2024 issue *Remarkable Moments: Young Adult Observers*.

The church is called to be together, to learn together, to make decisions together, to listen to one another and to new voices as we discern the mind of Christ and the things God is doing. We believe that through such communal activity, subject to the Word of God and inspiration of the Spirit, the discernment we do together is better than the decisions any one of us would make alone.

National Indigenous Peoples Sunday	10	±,	10	±0		Peoples Day	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						



### **The Presbyterian Church in Canada**







11,000

children and youth

#### What Presbyterians Sharing gifts do

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing provide the foundation for what we do together as a denomination. The budget is passed by the General Assembly to support the work the church decides to undertake, seeking to further God's mission and continue Christ's ministry in the world.

**Together,** we provide funding for ministries with vulnerable people and appeal to governments to take action and prioritize funding to protect our planet, stop racism and discrimination, eliminate poverty, address missing and murdered Indigenous women, end the overdose and housing crises and more. We acknowledge our footprint on the planet and commit to greening congregational buildings, reducing travel and phasing out single-use plastics. We commit to working for affordable housing for all.



#### **Out of every** \$100 given to **Presbyterians Sharing**

- **\$65** equips ministries in Canada by providing grants for congregations, camps, theological colleges and other ministries, producing educational resources, hosting webinars and events and supporting governance and justice work.
- **\$14** accompanies **mission partners** sharing the good news across the globe
- **\$12** supports ministries with **Indigenous people** 
  - **\$9** provides **good stewardship** of gifts with effective finance and administration

780 congregations 102,000

members and adherents

1,254

Languages and cultures from Taiwan, Korea, China, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Latin America, South East Asia, Indigenous communities, Quebec and many more are reflected in congregations across Canada (From statistical reports submitted by congregations in 2023).

**Our mission,** in a world where many do not know the gospel, is to tell the biblical story in ever new and creative ways.

**Our mission,** in a world wounded by sin, is to point to the redemptive work of Christ and the life-changing presence of the Spirit.

**Our mission,** in a world burdened with anxiety and apprehension, is to provide a place of sanctuary, tranquility and renewal in the name of the One who said, "I will give you rest."

Our mission, in a world where many are oppressed, excluded or ignored, is to call for personal righteousness, justice and reconciliation in the Church and in the world and to hear, respect and cherish all God's children.

Our mission, in a world of limited resources, is to use God's gifts wisely and fairly for the good of all.

**Our mission,** in a world of many nations, peoples, denominations and faiths, is to learn from one another and work together for the healing of the nations.



A service of repentance, healing and hope.

#### **Committees**

The work of the denomination is overseen by committees consisting of people nominated by presbyteries and congregations from across Canada. Through committees and working groups the General Assembly advises the moderator, confirms church doctrine, participates in healing and reconciliation, and supports congregations, Indigenous ministries and more. In 2023, there were over 245 people serving on over 30 committees and working groups. Each year around 200 commissioners from congregations across Canada form the General Assembly to determine the church's direction.

#### **Fund Support**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is blessed with resources to support creative initiatives that congregations engage in.

Funds are available to support programs for ministry with children and youth, worship, lay training, continuing education, conferences, building projects, mission work and scholarships.

To learn more, visit: presbyterian.ca/funds or email canadianministries@presbyterian.ca



#### Presbyterian **World Service** & Development

is the development, relief and refugee sponsorship agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The ministry of PWS&D is rooted in the living hope of Jesus Christ. Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. Working with local partners and through ecumenical organizations, PWS&D provides emergency assistance and supports food security, health, livelihoods and human rights programs around the world.

Board of World Missions (Nigeria). The Rev. Rick Fee with students (1960s).



### **JULY** 2025

Children at St. David's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, ON ready to go for day camp at Crieff Hills, ON. [1977]





Photo from Canada Youth. [2016]

Camps, conferences, youth groups, church school and VBS provide young people

26	
25	
24	31
23	30
22	29
21	28
20	27

with opportunities to connect with one another and create relationships of support and integrity, to learn, explore faith and doubts, and to investigate who God calls them to be. This year marks 95 years of Camping Ministry within the denomination (reference 1930 A&P). presbyterian.ca/contact/camping





# AUGUST 2025

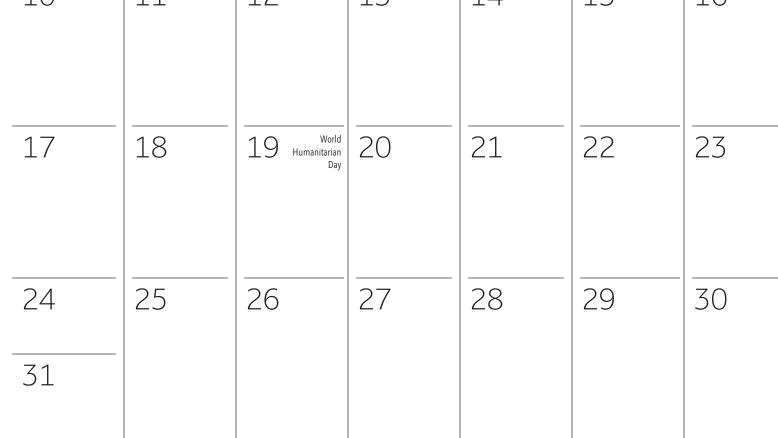
The Raw Carrot is a not-for-profit social enterprise based in Paris, ON, that addresses the underlying causes of poverty and marginalization through supported employment. The PCC provided funding to launch the initiative.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Civic Holiday (NT, NU, ON, PE, SK) BC Day (BC) Heritage Day (AB) Natal Day (NS) NB Day (NB) Terry Fox Day (MB)	5	6	7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
10	11	12	13	14	15	16



Dr. de Vleeschouwer and Home Mission workers loading boxes of food and other essentials for Hungarian refugees arriving in Canada—one aspect of Presbyterian port work to support immigrants. [1956]

Jesus loved to gather with those who reached out to him in hope.



Around tables, the things needed for life—food, fellowship, faith and respect—were shared generously with and by the one who came to give life abundantly. Presbyterian congregations and ministries have a long history of acting on the reality that we cannot receive the bread, wine and fellowship at Christ's table and not work to ensure everyone receives those things around many tables.





# **SEPTEMBER** 2025

Phil Fontaine and the Rev. George Vais shaking hands at General Assembly 2014, the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Confession.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labour Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 World Literacy Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20



Phil Fontaine and the Rev. George Vais in 1994 when the Confession was first offered.

Confessing and apologizing for the church's role in colonialism and running residential schools are steps on the road to repairing and building relationships and trust in the course of healing from the trauma residential schools and colonialism caused. The journey is long and takes many steps and generations for us to begin







# OCTOBER 2025

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, ON, and separated for three years, Nasro Adan Mohamed is reunited with her husband, Liiban Khadiye and their child, Afnaan Liiban. Congregations' support in sponsoring refugees —a long and complex process—and the work of the national office make such reunions possible.





Dorothy Lukes, Port Worker for the Diaconal Ministries and Women's Missionary Society in Montreal welcomes two young people. [1950]

Jesus began his life as a refugee when his family fled to Egypt to escape the terror of a foreign colonial power. The church has always had a spiritual vocation to welcome the stranger and shelter the poor and persecuted. The Reformer, John Calvin, a refugee himself, defended refugees against xenophobia and fear. Presbyterian congregations continue to welcome refugees fleeing many kinds of danger. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

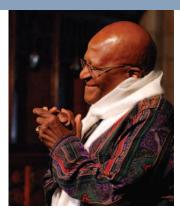




# NOVEMBER 2025

2023 Cutting Edge of Mission Award Recipient: The Parents Circle–Families Forum, a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 600 families who have lost immediate family members to the ongoing conflict and who work together for reconciliation and a just resolution to the conflict. Laila AlShekh and Robi Damelin accepted the award.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 All Saints Day
2 Daylight Savings ends	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14	15



The 1993 Cutting Edge of Mission Award Recipient: Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, President of the All Africa Conference of Churches; Nobel Laureate. istock

The church is sent to engage in God's revolutionary mission, which



requires it to listen for prophetic voices and be on the cutting edge: responding with risky love, creative imagination, and decisionmaking without precedent. Truth-telling, peace-seeking, and reconciling relationships are all signs of the good news of God at work in the church and world. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is strengthened by learning from people with a prophetic vision and a message of hope.





## DECEMBER 2025

Children in Bethlehem re-enact Christ's birth. Photo taken by Shaun MacDonald, former Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine-Israel.





Choir at the Presbyterian Church of St. David, Halifax, NS at Christmas. [1949]

"Fear not...You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger..." The angel's message first came to troubled people and places and it continually comes to us again as a reminder that God came into the world in human form in all its frailty, and we cannot remain the same.



#### O for a world...where love is lived and all is done in justice and with praise.

From Hymn 130 O for a world (words by Miriam Therese Winters)

### **Worship and Liturgy**

presbyterian.ca/worship

The church lives to praise God. We have no higher calling than to offer the worship that belongs to God day by day, Sunday by Sunday. Worship draws us into the work of Christ.

Even now he intercedes for the world to which he came and for which he died. In union with him, the church prays for the healing and the salvation of the world.

(From Chapter 7 of Living Faith).

- Sunday Worship Planners
- Lectionary readings and resources
- The Liturgical Year
- Baptism
- Holy Communion
- Advent and Christmas
- Lent, Holy Week and Easter
- Bulletins
- Services from Book of Common Worship
- Foundational Documents
- Prayer Partnership



Vigil for children who attended residential schools. Winnipeg, MB.

"Christians cannot eat and drink at the table-where all are welcome and none goes hungry or thirsty—and continue to condone any form of discrimination or any social or economic policy that results in huger or other forms of deprivation."

Daniel L. Migliore in Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology

#### **Social Action**

#### presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action

Our work is grounded in the biblical call to seek God's justice. Living Faith, one of the church's subordinate standards, demands the exercise of power for the common good, challenging oppression, protecting the rights of all, and creating well-being in society by focusing on employment, education and health (Living Faith 8.4).

- Ecological Justice
- Indigenous Justice
- Social and Economic Issue
- Immigration and Xenophobia
- Gender, Sex and Inclusion
- Anti-Racism
- Peacemaking
- Health and Wellbeing
- Crime and Restorative Justice
- Human Rights among Nations and Peoples
- Abuse and Exploitation

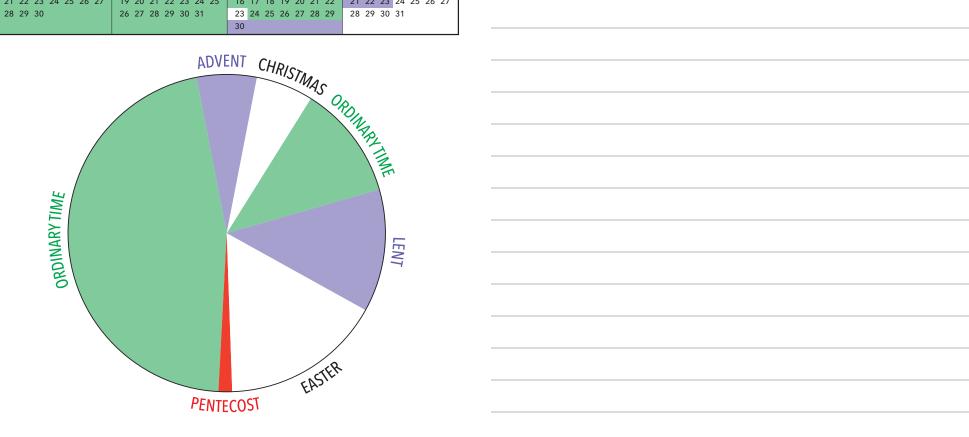


#### Colours of the Church Year 2025

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28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
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### **Dates of Significance**



### The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

#### Online Exhibits

Learn more about our collection through exhibits highlighting anniversaries of historic events, the lives of key figures, communities of the denomination, and the impact of the residential school system.

#### Managing Files

Check out our edition of Step into Your Archives Newsletter to learn how your congregation can manage computer files. Information on organizing and storing textual congregational collections can be found through the Managing Your Congregation's Records resource.

#### Digital Resources

Find information on accessing residential school records or exploring historic publications (i.e. Presbyterian Record). Review guidelines for transferring records of dissolving congregations. Learn about our digitization and microfilm program and view record listings to discover the history of the PCC. The mission of the Archives and Records Office is to ensure that the documentary evidence of the life and work of the church is preserved and accessible. The Archives' multi-media holdings span from the eighteenth century to present day. The vast majority of this material is unique and irreplaceable. These records document the decisions, actions, events, responsibilities, assets, property and activities of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. 2025 marks the 150th anniversary of the denomination, as the photos in this calendar reflect.

