

PARKWOOD PULSE

PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Stay tuned to your Parkwood Pulse and email newsletters for updates on in-person events.

Your Parkwood Pulse is online with digital editions. Submissions can be sent in to parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

**"Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn."**

-Romans 12:15

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00AM, or, if not able to come in person, join us online!

**DECEMBER 2025
- JANUARY 2026**

Elders: God's design for life together in Christ's Church

Here at Parkwood Church, we recently elected, ordained, and admitted new elders. This has led some to ask some good questions: "What is an elder?" - "What does an elder do?" - "Why is an elder assigned to me?"

Here is an attempt to offer some answers.

Introduction

Under the old covenant, God's guidance to Moses, provided through his father-in-law Jethro, was to ordain elders to share in the oversight of God's people. (Exodus 18:17-24) In the new covenant, Christ commissioned the apostles, who were in turn guided by the Holy Spirit, to ordain elders to oversee the welfare and witness of the church.

What (or who) is an elder?

The aim of the elder is to "set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:11, NIV) An elder, then, is a mature Christian who seeks, together with other elders, to share in serving as an example to believers in the way we strive to live as disciples of Jesus. The Greek word for elder is *presbuteros*, from which we get the English word presbyter, which simply means elder. A "presbyterian" church is a church led, or governed, by elders.

What does an elder do?

Elders provide leadership in the church. Principally this is done in two ways.

One way is that elders share with the pastor in the spiritual oversight of the church. "Shared leadership" is a key feature of the presbyterian form of church government. Elders (plural, and together) share equally in discerning God's plans for the church, and in leading the congregation to embrace Christ's mission for the church in the world.

The second and equally important way is that elders help to nurture Christians in faith and life as followers of Jesus. Each of us is called individually to a personal relationship with Jesus as Saviour and Lord. We are also called to live in community as members of one family. Elders aid in supporting individuals in their relationship with Jesus, and also in strengthening the bonds that unite us together as members of Christ's one body.

Why is an elder assigned to me?

Each elder is assigned a small group of members and adherents. Sometimes an elder in a neighbourhood is assigned a group of households located near each other. In other instances, an elder's "district" is a group of people who may be connected in other ways. For example, young families who might share a common language, or common interests, may be a small group within a larger congregation, and are assigned together to the oversight of a particular elder.

Elders share with the pastor the responsibility to support all who are part of the church, and all who are seeking to discover, grow in, and share the love of God found in Jesus Christ. One person, even a pastor,

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cannot and is not called to "do it all". We celebrate God's gifts of leadership among all the elders, and share together in the vital work of "shepherding the flock of God", as undershepherds in the service of our Great Shepherd, Jesus.

Elders in action

Elders listen. Elders watch. Elders encourage. Elders seek to offer wise counsel. Elders mentor. Elders pray. Elders warn. Elders support. Elders befriend.

Elders lead in welcoming people to worship. Elders stand with those making profession of faith and on behalf of the congregation welcome them with the right hand of fellowship. Elders support those being baptized. Elders follow up with calls, cards, texts, e-mails, conversations, and visits. Different people in different circumstances communicate using different means. Elders are encouraged to find the best ways to connect with each one in their district, to foster good communication, and to develop trust. In this way, we are able to rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15), and to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

Conclusion

We pray and hope that all elders will develop healthy connections with those in their respective districts, and that all members and adherents of the congregation will have an open and healthy relationship with their elder.

In Christ, Your teaching elder, in partnership and with gratitude for all our serving elders,
James T. Hurd

Presbytery Youth Event



Men's Breakfast Relaunch!

The relaunch of the Parkwood Men's Breakfast on November 8th was a great start. Fourteen men enjoyed coffee, muffins and fellowship, sharing a bit about their faith journey and what was "on their heart". The ratio of (white/grey hair/beard) to total attendance was quite high, but a good time was had by all. Those present agreed that December was busy enough, so we'd meet again in January, most likely January 10th: same time, same place - 8:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for notices as the new year approaches.



Meet for Breakfast



- submitted by Don Pestaluky and Gord Walford

Advent & Christmas Services



Theme: The gifts of Christmas



Sunday, November 30 - 10:00AM

Advent I - Hope



Sunday, December 7 - 10:00AM

Advent II - Peace



Sunday, December 14 - 10:00AM

Advent III - Joy

Sunday, December 21 - 10:00AM

Advent IV - Love



Wednesday, December 24 - 7:00PM
Christmas Eve - The Life



Thursday, December 25 - 11:00AM
Christmas Day - Two birth-days:
Jesus' and mine



Sunday, December 28 - 10:00AM
New life for a new year



From the Editor: February Pulse

The next edition of the Parkwood Pulse will be
for the month of February. Send in
your submissions by Sunday, January 25th to

parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca



Income Tax Receipts and Donation Envelopes

The Envelope Secretary reminds everyone that 2025 income tax receipts can include only those tithes and offerings received on or before December 31, 2025. This is in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Policy.

Please note: tax receipts for envelope holders with donations made between January 1, 2025, and February 28, 2025, have already been receipted on March 1, 2025. Tax receipts for envelope holders with donations made between March 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025 will be available in late January 2026.



2026 church offering envelopes will be available in the Gathering Place on Sundays throughout December or by contacting the office to arrange pickup.

Church offering envelopes are available for anyone who would like to financially contribute on a regular basis to the programming at Parkwood Church throughout 2026. Individuals are assigned a unique envelope number for the year and provided with a box of donation envelopes. The box includes envelopes for each Sunday of the year and for special occasions such as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Donation amounts are accumulated for the year and a tax receipt is issued at the end of the year. All donations remain private and confidential.

If you do not already have church offering envelopes, but plan to support the ministry of Parkwood through 2026, you may want to consider obtaining a box of donation envelopes by contacting the church envelope secretary.

For the convenience of those who do not have offering envelopes or for those who have left their envelopes at home, generic envelopes are provided at the ends of each pew. Please be sure to include your complete name and address, including your postal code, for receipt purposes.

Other than by church envelopes, your contributions to Parkwood Church may be made by e-transfer, by PAR (preauthorized remittance using automatic monthly debits to your bank account or credit card) or through Canada Helps. Please note that donations through Canada Helps will be receipted by Canada Helps. For those making donations by e-transfer and PAR, a tax receipt will be issued through Parkwood at year-end, based on the accumulation of annual donations.

If you have any questions concerning church envelopes or donations, please contact the envelope secretary. Betty Paul - Parkwood Envelope Secretary. Phone: 613-225-4878
Email: [bettebrunswick@primus.ca](mailto:bettybrunswick@primus.ca)

- submitted by Betty Paul



Buy Nothing Project - Volunteers Needed

Buy Nothing Project is part of Facebook - www.buynothingproject.org.



It is a platform for the giving items no longer needed or wanted, as well as making requests for needed items. Items can be small (leftover potatoes from a large purchase) or big (dining room furniture). The website states "Buy Less. Share More". It is sponsored financially by a charity, Angels for Angels.

We would like establish a ***buynothingparkwoodchurch*** group and are looking for a few people to be administrators of the group. This would involve taking the online Buy Nothing Academy, a seven-part course on how to set up the group. Once the ***buynothingparkwoodchurch*** group is established, administrators from Parkwood would monitor the group.

Anyone willing and interested in helping to set up a ***buynothingparkwoodchurch*** group, please contact Marcia Harten by email to: marcia.harten@gmail.com.

- submitted by Marcia Harten

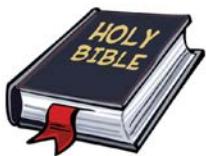
Summary of Session Meeting - November 24th, 2025

- We are asking for a volunteer to act as an administrator for the Buy Nothing initiative at Parkwood. Members of the congregation are requested to prayerfully consider offering to serve in this position.
- Our Church school program continues to do well thanks to the parents who bring their children to Parkwood every Sunday morning and to the wonderful team of teachers who teach and supervise our children during Sunday school.
- Christmas dinner is planned for December 13th. Those interested in attending should contact Pamela Pestaluky for a free ticket. The dinner will be followed by an evening of Christmas carols.
- Nineteen people attended the pastoral care communion on Tuesday, October 28th, 2025.
- We are excited at the prospect of some individuals and families professing their faith and receiving baptism during worship on December 7th, 2025.
- We are pleased to announce plans to hold our annual congregational meeting on February 28th, 2026. The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall starting at 7:00PM. All members and adherents are welcome!

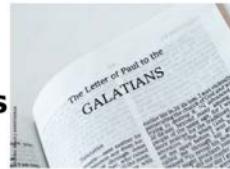


- submitted by Paul Mkandawire,
Clerk of Session

Announcements - Barrhaven Bible Study, Pause Table



Barrhaven Bible Study 2026 Winter Session Letter of Paul to the Galatians



Do you have questions such as:

- How can I be sure I'm saved?
- Don't I need to do something?
- Do Christians need to obey the law?
- What is the gospel?

The study of Galatians will help us understand the gospel better. Galatians stands out as the first letter that declares that believers are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone.

- Wednesday evenings via Zoom
- January 7, 2026 - February 4, 2026 weekly
- 7:30PM - 8:30PM



For more information or to register, contact John Fair at 613-823-9970 or fairmj@magma.ca or contact the Parkwood office.

Algonquin College Pause Table



Purpose: To give encouragement to students during stressful examination time



Date: Tuesday, December 9th, 2025



Time: 10:00AM - 2:00PM



Place: Algonquin College, Student Commons Building, front entrance



Donations needed: (for 300 to 500 students)



- ✓ PRE-PACKAGED items (chips, granola bars, crackers etc.) with the list of ingredients
- ✓ Fruit (e.g., bananas, apples, oranges)
- ✓ Beverages (Various juice boxes)
- ✓ Cash donations - Mark "Algonquin Pause Table" on your donation envelope
- Items are accepted at Parkwood Gathering Place, **Monday, December 8th, from 1:30 -3:30PM.**
- X No home-baked items are allowed



Volunteers needed - to assist at the Pause Table on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025.



Contact:

John and Martha Fair, 613-823-9970 or fairmj@magma.ca if you can donate or assist at the Pause Table



Parkwood Church Activities December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1			3 1:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	4 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	5	6 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom)
7 Advent II White Gift Collection 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	8 12:00pm Lunch & Learn. Topic: Christmas Memories. 1:30pm Algonquin Pause Table Drop off to 3:30 pm	9 10:00am Algonquin Pause Table to 2 pm 7:00pm Christmas Carols with the Letson Hall Blind Choir @ Chesterton Towers	10 7:00pm Policy & Planning Team Meeting. 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	11 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	12 6:00pm Youth Group Christmas Party	13 6:00pm Christmas Dinner.
14 Advent III White Gift Collection & Dedication 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	15 7:00pm Session	16	17 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	18 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	19	20
21 Advent IV 10:00am Worship & Church School	22	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service.	25 11:00am Christmas Day Worship Service	26	27
28	29 10:00am Worship & Church School	30	31			