

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

"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

- Galatians 4:4-5

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

JUNE 2026

Beware AI — We are human beings, not robots

“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” (Galatians 4: 4-5, NIV)

Attending a recent webinar offered by the Global Leadership Summit, I was informed that a recent survey of teens revealed the following:

- nearly 1 in 5 teens (or 19 percent) reported that they or a friend have had a romantic relationship with AI
- nearly half (42 percent) had used AI as a “friend”, for mental health support, or to escape real life
- more than 1 in 3 said it was “easier to talk to AI than to their parents”.



These statistics were quoted by a Christian leader in support of the need for the church, and especially church leaders, to take seriously the challenges and the dangers of allowing AI to shape and disciple new and future generations.

What the statistics point to is the deep hunger and longing for intimacy, meaning, and purpose that is real for all people, especially those in the early years of life as adults.

No matter how insulated or isolated people may appear to be, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of us yearn for relationships that answer the cry of the human heart: to belong.

Reflecting on the sad reality of those seeking meaning in machines, I am drawn to the centre of God’s plan and action in redeeming, reclaiming, and restoring a people designed to live in a wonderful, inspiring, and wholly satisfying relationship with God: God chose to become human! Jesus Christ became a human being! “When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman ...”

God initiated a new relationship with people who were estranged from Him, Who created us, but from Whom we had rebelled and gone our own way. Rather than turn us over to ourselves, or worse — rather than sending a robot to chase us and capture us — God lowered Himself to our level, becoming human.

Jesus was born of a woman, born as a baby, and grew as a man. Jesus lived fully a human life — eating, drinking, sleeping, walking, speaking, listening, suffering, and dying. He knew what it was to be insulted, mocked, ridiculed. He experienced betrayal and abandonment. All of this was part of God’s design to demonstrate His love for us, to draw us by the magnet of His love back to a meaningful and permanent relationship with God. He is the Father Who adopts us as His sons and daughters and for whom He has designed a satisfying and everlasting future.

Beware AI — We are human beings, not robots

Let us grasp the significance that God did not send a machine, or a robot, or a disembodied spirit to us: “God sent His Son, born of a woman ...”

All people, including Christians, have and will reap some benefits from advances in artificial intelligence, but AI is not and cannot be the redemption of humanity. God has a far better plan: He created us in the first instance in His own image; He has come in the person of Jesus to reclaim us for Himself; and He continues through the presence of the Holy Spirit to transform us into His likeness.

Let us pursue the personal relationship He longs to have with each of us.

Your pastor, a person in relationship with a real Person,
James T. Hurd

Retirement of Pastor James in September 2026

After 40 years of congregational ministry, nearly 25 of those here at Parkwood, Pastor James has decided to retire from active ministry effective September 1st, 2026. We praise to God for his grace and favour, which we have seen through the pastoral care and leadership of Pastor James here at Parkwood for a quarter of a century. We also thank God for Karen’s unseen sacrifices and for carrying a special responsibility while Pastor James cared for our spiritual needs and struggles here at Parkwood over the course of this period.

Pastor James’ notice requesting leave to retire was received by the Presbytery of Ottawa at its meeting on May 15, 2026 and is scheduled for full discussion at the next meeting to be held on June 16, 2026 at Parkwood. A group of five members from Parkwood have been appointed by Session to attend this meeting and to testify to the great works of Pastor James’ hands at Parkwood and beyond during all these years.

We will set an appropriate time in the coming months to bid farewell and send off our beloved brother and leader. Stay tuned.

- submitted by Paul Mkandawire,
Clerk of Session



Missionary Visit - Leah Hopp



Welcome to our Special Guest: Leah Hopp

Parkwood-supported missionary working in the Karamoja Region, Uganda

Join us as Leah shares how God is at work through her ministry and the ways the gospel is advancing in Karamoja.

**Saturday June 6, 2026
10:00AM, Fellowship Hall
(Breakfast will be served)**

**Sunday June 7, 2026
During the worship service**



**SAVE
THE
DATES!**

All are welcome!
Please come, listen, and
encourage Leah in her ministry!

- submitted by Viris Williams,
Mission Team

From the Editor: **July Digital Pulse**

The next edition of the Parkwood Pulse will be for the month of July. Send in your submissions by Sunday, June 28th to

parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

Lunch and Learn - June 15th



Connected Canadians
Canadiens Branchés

LUNCH AND LEARN

PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CONNECTED CANADIANS

Cyber Safety Workshop: Social Engineering Awareness

Learn from Connected Canadians how scammers use impersonation, manipulation, and urgent requests to trick people online, with practical tips to recognize and respond safely.



DATE

Monday, June 15th, 2026



LOCATION

10 Chesterton Dr.



LUNCH (Free Will Offering)

12pm - 1pm



INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION

1pm - 1:45pm EST (45m)



ONE-ON-ONE TECH SUPPORT

1:45pm - 3:15pm EST (1h 45m)

Bring Your Device

Get 1-on-1 help with your technology questions from a Connected Canadians mentor with your laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

To Register for one-to-one tech support, contact the Parkwood church office at 613-225-6648 or Email: office@parkwoodchurch.ca

Supported by



For more information, contact Connected Canadians at:



1-877-304-5813 (toll-free)



info@connectedcanadians.ca

Stewardship

May 8, 2026

Dear members, adherents, and friends of Parkwood Church,

“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?” (Psalm 116:12)

As we invite you to share in a season of stewardship, we would like you to step back a little bit, look around, and give thanks for the many ways in which the Parkwood community has found a lot of favour in the eyes of God. We are deeply grateful for our community at Parkwood and the way we have grown together in faith. Through your generosity and kindheartedness, we have been able to maintain our church building, set up a livestreaming system in the sanctuary, grow our Sunday school program, and welcome newcomers from different parts of the world. Through your profound sense of stewardship, we have also been able to support mission work within and outside of Canada, pay off the external loan from recent church building expansion, maintain a healthy benevolent fund to support those among us in financial distress, and maintained our outreach to a local college and the wider community.

However, as we look to the coming months, we face specific challenges such as ever-increasing utility bills, significant necessary repairs to our church building, and increasing staff costs, all of which means that our current operational budget needs a significant extra push over and above our regular givings.

To continue this important work, we are asking you to consider prayerfully making a special personal pledge to Parkwood’s operational costs above your regular tithes. We aim to raise at least \$20K by the end of the year to top up our regular givings and bridge the deficit. The Scripture reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 that... ‘each man shall give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.’

You can donate by enclosing your gift in your offering envelope and returning it in person on Sunday, marked at the back ‘personal pledge’. If you do not currently have offering envelopes, you can enclose your gift in a regular envelope marked ‘personal pledge’ with your name and mailing address to facilitate issuing a tax receipt.

You can also donate online by e-transfer to donate@parkwoodchurch.ca. Please include your name and postal address and mark your donation ‘personal pledge’.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Parkwood and for answering this stewardship to support our congregation’s mission.

In His service,

James T. Hurd
Minister

Paul Mkandawire
Clerk of Session



Parkwood Church Activities June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom)	3 7:00pm ESLConversation 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	4 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	5 7:00pm Youth Group	6 10:00am Leah Hopp
7 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:30am Cursive Writing Lessons 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	8	9 7:00pm Facility Management Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	10 7:00pm ESLConversation 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	11 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	12	13
14 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	15 12:00pm Lunch & Learn: Cyber Security & Device Help	16 7:00pm Presbytery @ Parkwood	17 7:00pm ESLConversation 7:00pm CANHAVE Annual General Meeting 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	18 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	19	20 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom)
21 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	22 7:00pm Session	23 July Calendar Deadline	24 7:00pm ESLConversation	25 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	26	27 Thrift Sale
28 July Digital Pulse Deadline 10:00am Worship & Church School 12:30pm Young Adults Lunch & Discussion	29	30				