

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 in print and also online. Submissions can be sent in to parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

"But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you,
Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

Isaiah 43:1

Join us for worship on Sundays
at 10AM, or connect with us
online through our livestream!

FEBRUARY 2025

A late but timely New Year's meditation

Isaiah 43:1-5 - "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. ... For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour ... Do not be afraid, for I am with you." (NIV)

One of the highlights of 2024 was our New Year's Eve gathering. About 75 people shared in at least part of the evening of December 31st and the wee early morning hour of January 1st, as we gathered in the Fellowship Hall and then the sanctuary. Approximately equal numbers from the congregation of Parkwood Church, the Ottawa Korean Presbyterian Church, and the Assemblies of God Portuguese-speaking congregation joined together for an informal time of table games, conversation, and refreshments for a couple of hours mid-evening, before sharing in a watchnight service including prayer, song, scripture, and reflection on the year past and future.

Since my teen years, I have always valued New Year's Eve as a time for reflection, and have fond memories of previous watchnight services. One of the central components is the opportunity to sing New Year's hymns, including "Standing at the portal of the opening year", which we sang together as 2025 began. Our Korean friends introduced us to a new one which is likely to become a valued favourite, entitled, "By gentle powers lovingly surrounded".

As we continue to step into the year 2025, many of us face a host of uncertainties. A new government for our southern neighbours, the resignation of our Canadian prime minister, a provincial election: all of these added to continuing conflict in eastern Europe, an unsettled peace in the Middle East, a new regime in Syria, ongoing conflict and displacement in Sudan, not to mention a host of other places and situations, are cause for much stress and strain on the global level. More immediately pressing for many in our midst, the challenge to find or maintain adequate housing, food, and employment, or access to medical care and timely treatment, compound issues of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

All of this can be — and for many is — overwhelming.

For those who were unable to join us for worship on the eve of the new year, or as an encore for those who did, I call attention to the gem of a gift given to the church of Jesus Christ by Frances Ridley Havergal, an English poet and daughter of an Anglican minister, who lived only to the age of 42. The second and third stanzas of her hymn, "Standing at the portal of the opening year", put in memorable verse words given by God to the prophet Isaiah.

"I, the Lord, am with thee, be thou not afraid;
I will help and strengthen, be thou not dismayed;
Yea, I will uphold thee with my own right hand;
Thou art called and chosen in My sight to stand.

He will never fail us, He will not forsake;
His eternal covenant He will never break.
Resting on His promise what have we to fear?
God is all-sufficient for the coming year."

A late but timely New Year's meditation

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, imprisoned amid the horrors of World War II, wrote a letter on December 31, 1944, which was the last new year's eve of his life. The letter was smuggled out of the prison, and provided the basis for a hymn, later translated into English by Fred Pratt Green as "By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered", but which from Korean has been rendered as "By gentle powers lovingly surrounded". The chorus and the second and fourth verses of this, sung in Korean but with the English translation available to our view, offers tremendous comfort, and in the context of many watching with bated breath unfolding political upheaval in their ancestral homeland, gives us a strong and confident word of faith and hope for the year ahead:

By gentle powers lovingly surrounded
With patience we'll endure, let come what may.
God is with us at night and in the morning
And certainly on every future day.

And should it be your will once more to grant us
To see the world and to enjoy the sun,
Then we will all the past events remember
And finally our life with you is one.

The worries of the old year still torment us
We're troubled still by long and wicked days.
Oh Lord, give our frightened souls the healing
For which you've chastened us in many ways.

By gentle powers lovingly surrounded
With patience we'll endure, let come what may.
God is with us at night and in the morning
And certainly on every future day.

In my copy (acquired in 1983) of the English translation (published in 1953) of Bonhoeffer's "Letters and papers from prison", the final sentence reads: "At even, and at morn, God will befriend us, and oh, most surely on each new year's day!"

I am thankful for faithful believers — both those who have gone ahead and those who now walk with us — who give us words and music to sing, and who show us how to walk by faith and not by sight.

Your pastor, facing the new year in confidence, in Christ Jesus,
James T. Hurd

From the Editor: **March Pulse**

The next edition of the Parkwood Pulse will be
for the month of March. Send in
your submissions by Sunday, February 23rd to

parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

Upcoming Events in February

Parkwood's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 22, at 7:00PM** in the Fellowship Hall and all members and adherents are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served at 6:30PM prior to the meeting.



On Saturday, February 15th, 6:00PM-9:00PM

Parkwood will be holding an
"International Night" to recognize our multi-cultural congregation.
More details to follow in the coming weeks!



Wednesdays - ESL Conversation Group

ESL Conversation Group

*Are you looking to improve your
English conversational skills?*

Wednesdays (Jan. 29 – Mar. 5)

7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Parkwood Church Library

**Register today by signing
up in the Gathering Place or
through the church office!**



Phone:

613-225-6648 ext. 114

Email:

office@parkwoodchurch.ca

Wednesdays - Junior Gym Nights

Junior Gym Nights

**Wednesdays
(Jan. 29–Mar. 5)
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Grades 1–4**

Please register either through
Pamela Pestaluky
(613-226-3089 or pamelapestaluky@live.ca)
or the **church office**
(613-225-6648 ext. 114
or office@parkwoodchurch.ca)

Session Summaries - December, January

Summary of the minutes of the session meeting held on Dec 16th, 2024

- About 300 students dropped by the Pause Table at Algonquin College for food and drinks. Thanks to John and Martha for spearheading this outreach, and to everyone who contributed time and other kinds of resources.
- Parkwood would like to extend our thanks to the Assemblies of God congregation for donating and installing four solar-powered external lights, to help illuminate the parking lot.
- Many thanks to Joanne Meredith for volunteering to partner with Pam Pestaluky as a church school teacher.
- Thank you to Holly and Pam for attending a marketplace at Fisher Park School and selling Christmas planters as part of our fundraising and outreach.

Summary of the minutes of the session meeting held on Jan 27th, 2025

- Wednesday gym night for youth in grades 5-12 will not start until an appropriate venue has been found.
- We had a successful Christmas Lunch and Learn to conclude the year 2024. Stay tuned for details from the Pastoral Care Team about the first Lunch and Learn for the year 2025, planned to take place in March.
- We also had a successful New Year's Eve worship and fellowship that brought together about 75 people from Parkwood, OKPC, and Assemblies of God (Portuguese) congregations. It was a great evening of prayer and conversation.
- The next special appeal for March will support Matthew House Ottawa. Matthew House is a non-profit that provides shelter, furnishings, and community to refugees and those transitioning to permanent housing. More details to come in due course from the Mission Team.

- submitted by Paul Mkandawire,
Clerk of Session



Parkwood Church Activities February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	3	4 1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	5 7:00pm Junior Gym Night 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	6 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	7 7:00pm Youth Group	8 6:00pm Young Adults' Dinner & Discussion
9 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	10	11 7:00pm Facility Management Team (Zoom)	12 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:00pm Junior Gym Night	13 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	14	15 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom) 6:00pm International Night
16 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	17 Family Day - Church office closed	18 March Calendar Deadline	19 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:00pm Junior Gym Night	20 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	21 7:00pm Youth Group	22 7:00pm Parkwood Annual Meeting; Refreshments at 6:30 pm
23 March Pulse Deadline 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	24 7:00pm Session	25	26 7:00pm Junior Gym Night 7:00pm ESL Conversation	27 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	28	