

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 the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."

- Psalm 33:11

Join us online for worship on Sundays at 10AM, or, if able, join us in person!

MARCH 2025

Compass versus GPS

Psalm 33:11 - But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.” (NIV)

Fewer people use printed, paper maps today; more rely on a GPS (global positioning service) device. Most carry a cell phone, which either “with data” or in range of an active wireless connection, provides the one carrying the phone with instant (if not always accurate) knowledge of where one is! Very few people actually carry a separate, handheld compass (although I have discovered that there is one on my cell phone, under “Utilities”).

The value of a compass is that the needle always points north. If one is lost, and has no idea where one is, the ability to determine which direction is north, even when the sun is hidden in the sky, is a very helpful and reassuring gift.

Whether walking on land or driving on the road, or spinning around in a canoe or other boat on water, one can orient oneself and move forward in a consistent direction.

There is much turmoil and change in the world today. The constant barrage of news, announcements, and changes can be very unsettling, and can be the source of much confusion and anxiety. Relief and reassurance can be found in having a compass. A compass points consistently in one direction, and allows us to orient ourselves in one consistent direction, even if we don’t know where we are.

God provides in His word a compass for life. The needle of God’s compass, rather than pointing north, points to the Lord Jesus. God originates and fulfills and returns to the One through Whom all things were created, in Whom salvation is to be found, and Who is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

If we are focused on the direction of the north-pointing needle of the compass, and move in that direction, we may very well encounter all kinds of obstacles and barriers around which we may need to take various detours, including some long and hard ones. We may not always know in advance the challenges of the terrain to be navigated, but if we continue to seek to follow — and return to following — the north-pointing needle, we will ultimately be travelling north. Similarly, following the One who is the Way, and who marks out the way for us, we will retain the assurance that God knows where He is leading us. This is especially important when the way is clouded, and the circumstances and situations in which we find ourselves are unsettled and upsetting.

We may not always know exactly where we are (as the GPS might tell us), but we may know with clarity and certainty the direction in which we are moving (as the compass tells us): we are following Christ, Who is the way!

Compass versus GPS

I encourage all of us to reread Psalm 33, which begins with “Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous”, ends with “May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.” — and in between reminds us that “the plans of the Lord stand firm forever.”

Wisdom is expressed by those who remind us while reporting the latest news: “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” (Proverbs 19:21, NIV)

Your pastor, thankful for a compass when wandering in the wilderness, and thankful for the treasure of God’s word while wandering through this world,

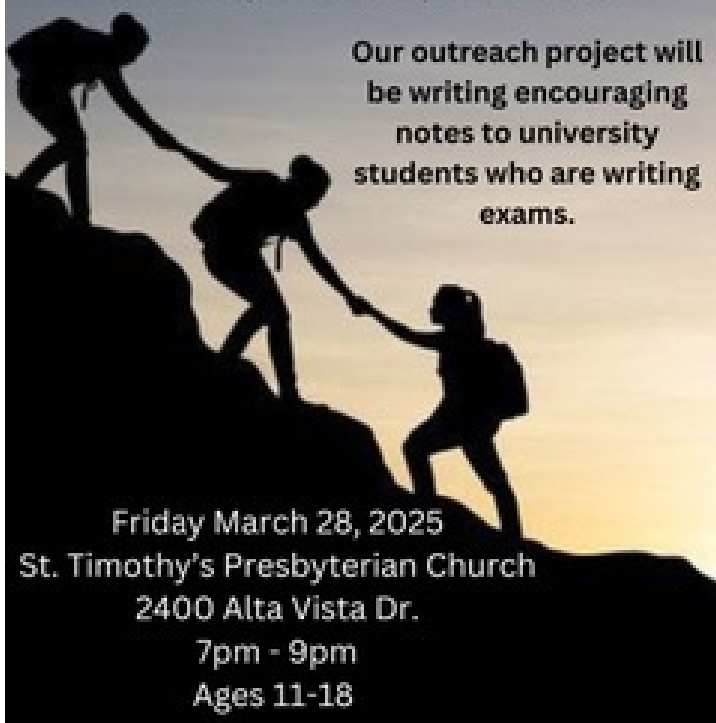
In Christ,
James T. Hurd.

March Events

LIFTED

A Youth Event hosted by Ottawa Presbytery
Join us for a time of fellowship, worship,
activities, discussion, and snacks.

Our outreach project will
be writing encouraging
notes to university
students who are writing
exams.



Friday March 28, 2025

St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church
2400 Alta Vista Dr.

7pm - 9pm

Ages 11-18

Lunch and Learn - March 17th

Please join us on Monday, March 17 at noon
for our next Lunch and Learn.

This month, we'll welcome
Mark Moss, funeral director and manager at
Hulse, Playfair, & McGarry West Chapel,
who will outline necessary procedures and
process when dealing with the death of a
family member.

Lunch is served at noon, followed by the
presentation at 1:00PM.

All are welcome to come!

For more information, please contact the
church office.

Mission Team Special Appeal - Matthew House

This first special appeal in 2025 is for Matthew House. This charitable organization welcomes refugee claimants from around the world through its refugee services. It provides a bed, food, and essential support in a family-style atmosphere for more than 140 people at a time in its eight reception houses and 16 transition houses in Ottawa. Until they find employment and a place to live, the staff walk with the residents every step of the way as they begin their journey to independence.

The reception houses are the first step for residents beginning their journey with our refugee services. Here they receive support on a daily basis from our staff and volunteers onsite. Following a 2-3 month period here, residents either move to other long term housing options, or to one of our transition homes. Historically our housing residents stay with us for 3-4 months until they secure work permits, employment, and longer-term housing. However, increasing challenges are making it harder for residents to move out and onto their next stage.

This gap in housing supports has led us to expand to include transition homes. Transitioning from our original housing program, these residents no longer require day-to-day support. Staff are onsite on an as-needed basis, and tenants continue to access the support they need from the Matthew House team. Each resident we move into our transition homes frees up a space for us to welcome and support another newly arrived homeless refugee.

Immediate needs of residents. For donations of food, bedding (blankets, quilts, comforters, towels), and clothing (for winter, adult-sized coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc.) please call 613-591-6681 or email us at info@matthewhouseottawa.org to understand our residents' current needs. Frozen meals and non-perishable food items, and financial donations are welcome so Matthew House can continue to welcome refugees. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact Matthew House for details and an application form.

Do you have a car that you don't need anymore? Donate it to Matthew House! You will receive a generous tax receipt, and the car will be put to use immediately to support the work of Matthew House. Contact David at dbotha@matthewhouseottawa.org for more info.

More information is found on their website: <https://www.matthewhouseottawa.org/refugee-services>

Their **staff list** is given at: <https://www.matthewhouseottawa.org/team-partners>

Please mark your givings envelope "Matthew House". On-line donations may also be made to donate@parkwoodchurch.ca. and state in the comments section "Special appeal Matthew House". Thank you for your generous support. Please note that donations to special appeals are above and beyond our regular givings that support Operations and Maintenance of Parkwood church month by month.

- submitted by John Huber,
Mission Team

Easter Blood Drive - March 29 - April 5

Sharing on behalf of the Easter Blood Drive team, there is an upcoming week-long initiative to encourage Christians to remember the Easter message, of Christ Jesus whose blood was shed for us, and in turn reflect on how we as Christians can serve and give of ourselves. Often, this giving is a generosity of many forms; time, talents, treasures, and more.

However, for this campaign specifically, the Easter Blood Drive team is asking people throughout Ottawa to consider a tangible and physical donation, either whole blood or plasma. It is a demand that is both urgent and ongoing, and if you determine such giving is in you (an individual decision), it is a way to tangibly help those in need of such medical intervention. It is a reminder and reflection of the Easter message of Christ Jesus. This campaign is a partnership of the Love Ottawa organization, CHRI radio, and the Canadian Blood Services organization. To join in the 2025 campaign, follow these steps:

1. Go online to **www.blood.ca/PFL**
2. Select “partners” from the menu
3. Select “join an existing team” and start entering your team’s name
4. Select your team, “Easter Blood Drive”
5. Book your next appointment with your team via “team bookings” (visible under your team name) or individually.

Important dates for 2025 Easter Blood Drive campaign:

March 29th & 31st, April 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th in 2025 (Blood Donation) Ottawa Blood Donation Clinic - 1575 Carling Ave, Ottawa ON

March 29, 2025 (Plasma Donation) Ottawa Plasma Centre – 110 Place d’Orléans, Ottawa ON

For more information; go online to www.easterblooddride.ca and www.blood.ca/en/blood/donating-blood or email the Easter Blood drive team at info@easterblooddride.ca or you can talk to Derek Newton for more information.

- submitted by Derek Newton



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

**BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES**

Lent Evening Services 2025

Lent Evening Services

During Lent we offer a series of Sunday evening opportunities to worship and reflect on Jesus and His journey to the cross.

Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

Theme: Who is this?

March 16 – Who is this?

March 23 – Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him!

March 30 – Who is this who even forgives sins?

April 6 – Who is this ... who told you to pick it up and walk?

April 13 – Who is this Son of Man?

April 17 (Maundy Thursday) @ 7:30 p.m. –
Who are you, Lord?

Parkwood Church
10 Chesterton Drive
Ottawa, ON K2E 5S9

Phone: 613-225-6648
Email: office@parkwoodchurch.ca
Website: parkwoodchurch.ca

RightNow Media

rightnow MEDIA

**FREE ACCESS TO +20,000
BIBLE STUDY VIDEOS**

Every person at our church has free access to biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—now streaming on your favorite device.

**Get Free Access**

1. Click the link in your email invitation or visit <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/user/ParkwoodChurch>
2. Create your free account.
3. Download the app for your device and start browsing!

android chromecast  iPhone & iPad **Roku**  tv fireTV

Parkwood Church Activities March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 5:00pm CANHAVE Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:00pm Junior & Senior Gym Night	6 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	7 7:00pm Youth Group	8 Clocks Go Ahead
9 10:00am Worship & Church School & Mission Appeal 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	10	11	12	13 7:00pm Parenting Teens Course 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	14	15
16 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00pm Lenten Service	17 12:00pm Lunch & Learn: What do you do when someone dies? 7:00pm Policy & Planning Team Meeting (Zoom)	18 April Calendar Deadline 7:00pm Presbytery @ Gloucester Church, Ottawa	19	20 7:00pm Parenting Teens Course 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	21 7:00pm Youth Group	22 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom) 6:00pm Young Adults' Dinner & Discussion
23 April Pulse Deadline 10:00am Worship & Church School 11:30am Worship 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00pm Lenten Service	24 7:00pm Session	25	26 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	27 7:00pm Parenting Teens Course 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	28	29
30 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00pm Lenten Service	31					