# **PARKWOOD PULSE**

PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**S**tay 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

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If one remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit."

- John 15:5

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

**APRIL 2025** 

## **Shoots**

# Isaiah 11:1 - A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." (NIV)

Along with the disappearance of snow and the return of warmer temperatures, the surest signs of spring are little shoots of green grass and tiny buds on the twigs of trees: signs of new life, and the promise of more to come!

Shoots are signs of new life. With the arrival of spring, plants and trees which gave every appearance of being dead during the long winter begin to show signs of new life and growth.

At Christmas, Christians commonly read and (rightly) understand the words of Isaiah 11 which foretell the coming of Jesus as the "shoot" from the "stump" — the One born of King David (Jesse's son) who will shepherd and save God's people. Similarly, as we approach Easter, we are reminded that God through his servant Isaiah describes the life of Jesus in terms of a shoot: "He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground." (Isaiah 53:2) In the days leading up to Good Friday, we read of Jesus' suffering and death foretold in the same chapter at verse 5: "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Jesus is the "shoot" of new life — born to live, born to die, and also born to live again!

God describes His covenant people in ancient Israel using the same image — as a "shoot". "They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendour." (Isaiah 60:21)

The apostle Paul picks up on Isaiah's image of the "shoot" when he addresses the Gentile church in the letter to the Romans. He says that even though the ancient kingdom of Israel was cut down and carried off into captivity, the remnant would return, and live again.

Addressing the Gentiles, Paul says of the descendants of Israel that "some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root." (Romans 11:17)

Jesus, in the parable of the barren fig tree, highlights God's patience and desire that those whom He plants, fertilizes, and tends will bring forth fruit. Jesus Himself says, "I am the vine ... and immediately adds, "You are the branches." "If one remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit." (John 15:5)

The shoot that appears in early spring is, by God's appointment, intended to bear the fruit of the summer and the harvest. The seed of faith, planted in each of our lives, is intended to bring forth lives producing the fruits of righteousness and of God's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. These plants and flowers adorn the garden of life!

# **Shoots**

Let us see and share and celebrate signs of new life — both physical and spiritual. Physical life includes buds and blossoms, plants and trees, birds and animals. Spiritual life includes professions of faith, arrival of new members, calling of new elders, singing of new songs — and songs in new languages — and the sharing of new gifts in loving and faithful service. Let us give thanks for sprouting seeds and shoots, and the promise of a harvest yet to come.

Your pastor, rejoicing among shoots and signs of new life, physical and spiritual, in God's world and in Christ's church,

James T. Hurd



# Session Meeting - February 24th, 2025

- Session has received a letter from the Presbytery thanking Parkwood for the donation of \$500 to the Centennial Bursary Fund. The donation will support students preparing for ministry.
- We applaud the work of Facility Maintenance for installing a chair rail in the Garden Room to protect the walls from scratches.
- We continue to observe a significant increase in the number of children attending services at Parkwood. Session also welcomes the news that Jacinta Waithera will team up with Lorrie McEwen in teaching children in the church school.
- At Easter this year, we plan to receive individuals who wish to become full members of Parkwood through profession of faith or by transfer certificate. Anyone interested should contact his or her district elder or the Parkwood church office.

- submitted by Paul Mkandawire, Clerk of Session





# **Easter Sunrise Service and Pancake Breakfast**

**Date:** Sunday, April 20, 2025 **Time:** 6:00AM, sunrise at 6:08AM





**Place:** The Arboretum – part of Agriculture Canada's Central Experimental Farm **Directions:** See the website at: https://parkwoodchurch.ca/arboretum.html

Pancake Breakfast following the service, about 7:00AM in the Fellowship Hall

- Gluten free pancakes available!
- Please sign up, noting the number of people that will attend. A sign-up sheet will be available on the Gathering Place kiosk, or you can contact the office at office@parkwoodchurch.ca or by telephone at 613-225-6648 ext. 114.

# Algonquin College Pause Table - April 15th

Purpose: To give encouragement to students during the stressful examination period

Date: Tuesday, April 15th, 2025

Time: 10:00AM-2:00PM

Place: Front entrance of Robert C. Gillett Student Commons Building



### 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
- Donations can be dropped off at the church on Monday, April 14th, 2:00PM-4:00PM.

### Volunteers Needed!

If you are willing and able to assist at the Pause Table during the day on Tuesday, April 15th, please contact John and Martha Fair at 613-823-9970 or fairmj@magma.ca. As well, please reach out if you are able to donate snacks or for more information about this cause. Thank you for your support!

# **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?



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

# **Presbytery 150th Anniversary**

# YOU'RE INVITED

BY THE PRESBYTERY TO CELEBRATE

THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

**Sunday Afternoon Worship Service** 

St. Paul's May 4th, 2025 at 3:00 pm

971 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa

Followed by light refreshments

# **Presbytery 150 - Brief History of Parkwood**

In the 1960s, Ottawa was expanding rapidly beyond its boundaries. One major area of expansion was in Parkwood Hills, a part of the township of Nepean. In response, the Presbytery of Ottawa encouraged the development of a congregation in Parkwood Hills. On September 20, 1964, a worship service was held in the Parkwood Hills Public School on Tiverton Avenue. Rev. Ron Balsdon, serving as part-time minister, led the growth of the initial group to 100 adults and 50 children within nine months. The Presbytery approved the formation of a congregation on February 14, 1965.

In 1967, Rev. Leslie Files was appointed by the Board of World Missions (BWM) to be a full-time minister. The property at the corner of Meadowlands and Chesterton was purchased. The farmhouse on the property became the manse for the minister and his family.

While the congregation continued to meet in the school, a building committee was formed. After fundraising and substantial donations, a church building was constructed adjacent to the manse and the first worship service in the new church building was held on March 17, 1974.

Rev. Files received a call from a congregation in Calgary in 1975. The BWM appointed Rev. William Palmer to Parkwood later that year. When Rev. Palmer's wife Florence graduated from Presbyterian College in 1979 and received a call to the Kenora Fellowship Centre, Rev. Palmer was then appointed to work near there. Rev. James Crabb served as stated supply for Parkwood from 1979 into 1980. In 1980, Parkwood became a self-supporting congregation and was able to call its own minister. On September 14, 1980 Rev. Floyd McPhee was inducted as minister to begin what turned out to be a 21-year period until his retirement in 2001. Several years after his retirement, the congregation decided to name Rev. McPhee Minister Emeritus.

In parallel with the peak general interest in church attendance in the early 1980s, Parkwood provided two worship services. The need for expansion of the church building was becoming evident. An expansion fund was established, an architect was engaged, and there was support for the minister and his family to receive a housing allowance to help with the purchase of their own home. The various rooms in the manse were then used as meeting rooms and classrooms, as well as a nursery. The renovated manse was dedicated as the Fellowship Centre on November 14, 1989.

Within a few years, in the 1990s, there developed a general sense that the church building should be renovated to expand the sanctuary and narthex areas, develop an appropriate church office and kitchen, improve the usage of Fellowship Hall, and add a lift. An expansion fund was established and aided by a significant financial gift from a "Mulvagh bequest" - the construction took place and the renovated facility was completed in October 1996.

Rev. James Hurd started his ministry at Parkwood on December 2, 2001. Around 2010, it became generally apparent that Parkwood should begin its transition out of the aging manse building, which was needing significant repairs and safety upgrades. A building project plan (Building to Serve) was

# Presbytery 150 - Brief History (cont'd) & May 4th

developed with the goal to raise a significant amount of money to fund the replacement. The Fellowship Centre was decommissioned on April 12, 2015. The newly constructed expansion and renovation was dedicated on October 30, 2016.

As with most other congregations, Parkwood needed to respond quickly to the emergence of COVID in early 2020. Livestreaming was quickly developed and evolved to higher technical standards. A period of no in-person worship took place from early 2020 to mid-2022. By 2023, in-person attendance began to grow and on-line participation began to decline, although it continues to play a vital role for some folks in the congregation.

In September of 2024, Parkwood celebrated the 60th year since its first worship service in the school in 1964. A worship service was held outside on the lawn adjacent to the church building. A banner highlighting our 60th anniversary was designed and produced to hang on the front of the church. Average attendance at our worship service in early 2025 is generally back to the pre-COVID average attendance. The congregation now has a more multi-ethnic blending than before COVID.

• To celebrate the 150 years of the PCC, the Presbytery is planning to publish the history of every congregation. This note is Parkwood's contribution to the Presbytery's project.

- submitted and prepared by Dennis Featherstone

The Presbyery of Ottawa is organising a special service of worship on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 3:00PM at St. Paul's Church, 971 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, to celebrate and give thanks for 150 years of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.



Calling ALL youth! As part of the Presbytery's 150th anniversary celebration on Sunday May 4th, the planning committee has invited youth to join the celebration and has suggested the following areas for participation: reading Scripture, ushering (welcoming people and helping them find a seat as well as helping with the offering), or serving refreshments.

If any of these areas interest you, please reach out to Sunjay Henry via email at prezminanimator@gmail.com or on Instagram @prezzyyouthonfire by April 1st.

# **Easter Blood Drive - Ending 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 Bloor 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:

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

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

- submitted by Derek Newton



# **Barrhaven Bible Study**

We will continue our study of the Gospel of John picking up at Chapter 17. All are welcome to join!

Date: Wednesdays, March 26th - June 18th, weekly

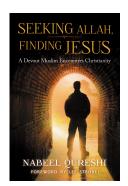
Time: 7:30PM - 8:30PM, via Zoom



For more information, contact John Fair at 613-823-9970 or contact the office. John will then provide the Zoom link and notes for the study.

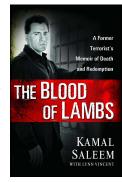
- submitted by John and Martha Fair

# Parkwood Library - New Books



**Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus by Nabeel Qureshi** is the riveting story of a devout Muslim who encounters and embraces Christianity, complete with friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams along the way.

**The Blood of Lambs by Kamal Saleem** is the story of a former terrorist, schooled in ruthless violence. A life-changing crisis led him to question this lifestyle and to experience the unconditional love of God.

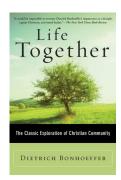




**John Ortberg in his book Soul Keeping**, states that the health of your soul makes the difference between deep, satisfying spirituality, and a restless dispassionate faith.

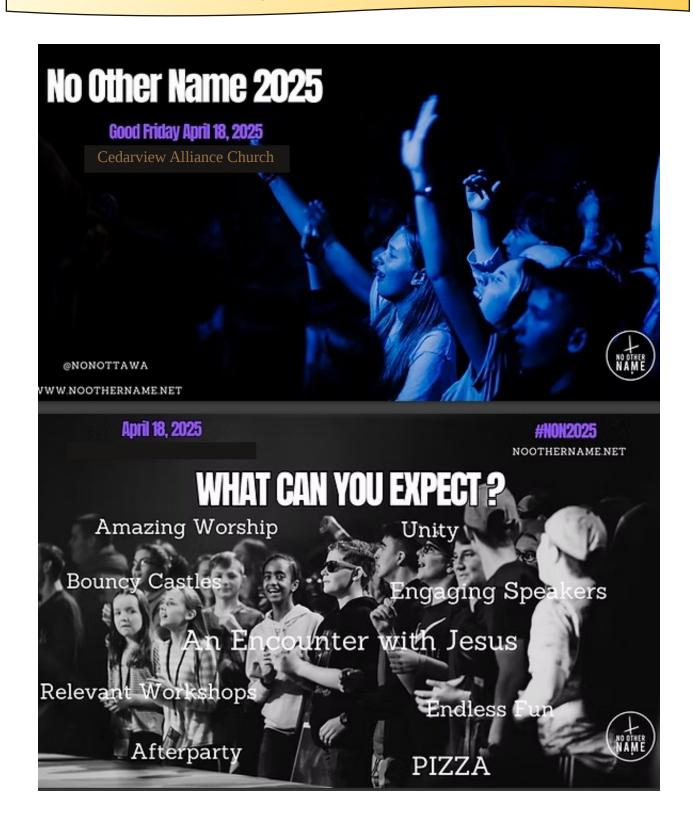
**Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community** is Dietrich Bonhoeffer's inspiring account of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi

years in Germany. Bonhoeffer was martyred by the Gestapo near the end of World War II for plotting to assassinate Hitler.



- submitted by Alta MacFie

# **Good Friday Youth Event - No Other Name**



# Parkwood Church Activities April 2025

Saturday	ري د	12	19	<b>26</b> 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom) 6:00pm Young Adults' Dinner & Discussion	
Friday	4	11	9E	7:00pm.Youth Group.	
Thursday	<b>3</b> 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	16 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:30pm Maundy Thursday 11:00am Good Friday 7:00pm Junior Gym Night Service & Communion Service 7:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)  Study (Zoom)  (@ Cedarview Allianc	<b>24</b> 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	
Wednesday	2 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:30pm Music Rehearsal 7:00pm Junior Gym Night 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	9 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:30pm Music Rehearsal 7:00pm Junior Gym Night 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	16 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:00pm Junior Gym Night 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Junior Gym Night 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	30 7:00pm ESL Conversation 7:00pm Junior Gym Night 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)
Tuesday	1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	<b>&amp;</b>	15 10:00am Algonquin College Pause Table to 2 pm 7:00pm Facility Management Team (Zoom)	May Calendar Deadline	29
Monday		7	<b>14</b> 2:00pm Algonquin College Pause Table Drop off to 4 pm	<b>21</b> 12:00pm Lunch & Learn: Birding 7:00pm Policy & Planning Team Meeting (Zoom)	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Session.
Sunday		6 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00pm Lenten Service	13 Palm Sunday. 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00pm Lenten Service	Easter Sunday. 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service @ Arboretum 7:00am Pancake Breakfast. Coffee @ 6:45 am 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom).	27 May Pulse Deadline 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)