

PARKWOOD PULSE

PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

"I will not leave you as orphans;
I will come to you."

- John 14:18

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

JUNE 2025

Are you coming?

“Come to me ...” - Jesus said. (Matthew 11: 28)

Jesus also said, “I will come to you.” (John 14: 18)

Our lives are filled with comings and goings. Warmer weather, and changing seasons, bring more opportunities to travel: whether it is around the globe to see sites and to connect with family or friends, or simply to go outside our houses to sit and see and smell the flowers.

People come: some to visit, some to help, some to work, some to play, some to teach, some to learn. The comings in our lives are varied: we come to others, and others come to us. All of these comings, though, have a common thread: we interact with one another.

It is vital for each of us — for our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health — that we connect and interact with others.

The pandemic, however, gave rise to increased isolation and a reduction in connections. We would all do well to think about the importance of comings and goings in our lives, and especially now as opportunities increase to be out and about.

Do we intentionally plan for goings and comings — even those that might seem to be “chance” encounters? If we believe that God directs and guides our lives, we would do well to recognize that what we think are random comings and goings are actually God-appointed appointments, designed to enable us to share blessings.

I am struck by the number of places in the Bible where we are told that God comes to visit His people. Jesus came to share life with individuals, and encouraged individuals to share life with each other.

Two examples of God-orchestrated comings: In Genesis 47:5, Pharaoh, blessed by his prime minister’s wise leadership during years of famine, said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you,” and Jacob pronounced a blessing upon Pharaoh. Some time later, as Jacob’s final days on earth drew near, Joseph came to visit his father, and in Genesis 48:2 we read that “When Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to you,” he rallied his strength and sat up on the bed, and gave blessings to his grandsons.

Two more illustrations of Jesus’ comings: In Luke 18:16, Jesus, displeased that the disciples were attempting to send the children away, said instead, “Let the little children come to me.” Mark tells us that Jesus “took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.” (Mark 10:16) Jesus, coming to Zacchaeus, and finding him in a tree, says, “Come down!” and after visiting him in his house goes on in Luke 19:9 to say, “Today salvation has come to this house.”

How will God come to you today? Or who may come to us, bearing God’s grace for us? Let us be ready to receive whoever may come to us today.

Similarly, to whom will you come today? Let us also be eager to come to others, bearing the image of God, in the name of Jesus, and in the clothing of the Holy Spirit.

Are you coming?

May Jesus' coming — and the promise of His coming again — encourage us to come to Him, and to come in His Spirit to others, inviting them to join us in coming to Jesus. We will be blessed — and we will bring blessings!

Your pastor, thankful for Jesus' coming, then, now, and yet, and for blessings to share,
James T. Hurd

Visit to Carlington Community Connection

In February, surrounded by two large Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) apartment towers, I entered the main entrance and was greeted by Chaplain Steve. We walked together to the Carlington Community Connection (CCC) office on the main floor. I met some volunteers, some clients, and also got introduced to Jeff, the program director at CCC. I had a conversation with Chaplain Steve about the spiritual counselling he provides to those in need, helping them explore their faith-life. Through my chat with Chaplain Steve, I learned two of main reasons people attend a church for the first time are: (1) when a friend invites them, or (2) in a personal search. These folks are often looking for a place to have “fellowship” (in the sense of fostering social connections) in an isolated world.

I got a tour of the facility with Jeff: the kitchen, where snacks are enjoyed, and seating areas where laughter and games bring people together. Then we explored the arts and craft centre, that was (at the time of my visit) temporarily closed. As Jeff and fellow volunteer lead Therese explained, this was due to a flood elsewhere in this OCH tower, where pipes had frozen and burst, causing damage to the arts space and the prized artworks of clients. It was obvious to me that, while important for health and safety, the decision to close this art space temporarily was very difficult. I could tell the connections made here were important to all. I hope it can reopen soon!

Jeff and I also explored some other “connectors” that CCC is increasingly trying to grow and network with. We explored the Caldwell Family Centre (1475 Caldwell Avenue) and talked with a volunteer cook, who helps with their hot meal service program. This volunteer explained with joy and excitement about how this was a way to give back to a program that had been a vital help to this same volunteer in an earlier time of need. It was a full circle moment of generosity and care!

I hope and pray the work of CCC can continue and more fellowship moments can happen. May these be a starting point for conversations that lead to wise counsel, pointing people towards God, and to experiencing the love of God through Jesus Christ. My thoughts and prayers are for more Holy Spirit-equipped volunteers and leaders, like those I met during my visit at CCC. That is my hope!

Please note that Parkwood Church supports the CCC through a regular yearly Mission team budget contribution. This article is to help raise awareness for the services and spaces that CCC provides to those in need in the Carlington neighbourhood, just steps away from our Parkwood Church doors - our neighbours, whom we can pray for and support.

- submitted by Derek Newton,
Mission Team

Parkwood Church Activities June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship & Communion & Church School	2	3 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	4 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	5 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	6 7:00pm Youth Group	7
8 10:00am Worship & Church School	9	10 1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Facility Management Team (Zoom)	11 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	12 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:00am Worship & Church School	16 12:00pm Lunch & Learn: Peter Paul on mapping 7:00pm Policy & Planning Team Meeting (Zoom)	17 5:00pm Presbytery @ Parkwood Church	18 7:00pm CANHAVE Annual General Meeting 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	19 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	20	21 1:00pm Presbytery Youth Event
22 10:00am Worship & Church School	23 7:00pm Session	24 July Calendar Deadline	25 7:00pm Youth Group	26 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	27	28
29 July Digital Pulse Deadline 10:00am Worship & Church School	30					