

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

"See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

- Matthew 6:28-29

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

OCTOBER 2025

Rain and sunshine ... both express God's beauty and produce God's fruit

As a young child, my grandmother who was living in the US sent me a block of four postage stamps, which illustrated the slogan “Plant for a more beautiful America”, promoted by Lady Bird Johnson, wife of Lyndon Johnson, who was president of the US from 1963-1969. The stamps were issued in January of 1969, and featured a variety of bright-coloured flowers, each with a different exhortation:

- Plant for more Beautiful Cities
- Plant for more Beautiful Parks
- Plant for more Beautiful Highways
- Plant for more Beautiful Streets

I admired the stamps in my album, but even more loved to see real flowers in full bloom while travelling by car along streets and highways, or while walking on foot through parks and along sidewalks. I vividly remember horticultural shows with all kinds of bright flowers, and I envied the gardeners in whose yards such beautiful plants grew and blossomed during our all-too-short summers in northern Ontario.

Observing Thanksgiving in Canada on the second Monday of October brings to mind certain well-known hymns, including “For the beauty of the earth”. F. S. Pierpoint wrote these words in the fifth verse:

For each perfect gift of Thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

The hymn expresses thanksgiving for beauty — both earthly and heavenly — and beauty both physical and spiritual.

Clearly Jesus had an eye for beauty, and especially wild flowers. “See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.” (Matthew 6:28-29, NIV)

In the beginning, God the Father planted a garden, and assigned Adam and Eve to tend that garden. God the Son called attention to the beauty of lilies, and esteemed such God-created flowers to be infinitely more beautiful than the finest clothing worn by royalty. He points out, though, that such “grasses of the field” are only temporary, and what is today lush and green and full of life is tomorrow dried and dead and destined for the fire.

Yet Jesus makes it plain that God is the author of beauty, and counts human lives made in God's own image as of infinitely more value. The apostle Paul goes on to tell us that God the Spirit names the flowers and fruits produced in human lives in whom the Spirit is alive: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Rain and sunshine ... both express God's beauty and produce God's fruit

It is vitally important that we remember that in order for flowers to grow, both sunshine and rain are needed in generous measures. Too much of either without the other is not good, and yet we are too often prone to complain about the rain, when we want the sun. Harvest thanksgiving provides us with an opportunity to give thanks, and also to stop and remember that God's provision of both rain and sunshine are equally important in producing the beautiful flowers and trees that mark our cities, parks, highways, and streets. We may plant, but it is God who causes the rain to fall and the sun to shine and the growth necessary for there to be a harvest.

Similarly, "rain" and "sun" are needed if there is to be growth in our spiritual lives. We need dark days and seasons of rain, and we need bright days and seasons of sun, in order to grow and ripen the fruits of love and joy and peace, and patience and kindness and goodness, and gentleness and faithfulness and self-control.

As we mark Thanksgiving, let us ponder with wonder and awe God's hand in both designing and sustaining our lives. Let us rejoice in Jesus, whose Spirit is the author of our re-birth, and who orders and shapes our growth, through all the seasons of our lives.

Your pastor, eyeing the beauties of summer and autumn,
and thankful both for the rain and the sunshine which produce them;
and thankful even more for the beauties of lives grown by both "rain" and "sun",



James T. Hurd

Blind Choir - Volunteer Needed**VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO HELP WITH BLIND CHOIR:**

The Letson Hall Chorus is a group of enthusiastic singers and musicians who are visually impaired.
We meet on Tuesday evenings (7:00PM-9:00PM).

This year, an additional volunteer is needed to help choir members on/off ParaTranspo buses, and with refreshments. Volunteers are always welcome to join us for the singing too. :-)

Interested to learn more? Please give us a call. You may meet some people you will never forget.
Peter Paul: (613) 225-4878 / peterpaulnb@gmail.com

- submitted by Peter Paul

Lunch and Learn - October 20, 2025

Lunch and Learn for October

Topic: The role of a pharmacy and a pharmacist in health care. How pharmacies can meet health care needs with medications, vaccinations, safety, and information. He will also discuss drug interactions and safe supplements for seniors.

There will be an opportunity for questions following the presentation.

Speaker: Sal Osman, pharmacist at Pharmasave Carlingwood Pharmacy



Lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by the guest speaker.
Freewill offering for lunch.



For more information contact the Parkwood church office 613-225-6648.

Everyone welcome!

From the Editor: **November Pulse**

The next edition of the Parkwood Pulse will be
for the month of November. Send in
your submissions by Sunday, October 26th to

parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca



CANHAVE: Parkwood Connection and 30 Years!

This year, 2025, marks the 30th anniversary of CANHAVE. CANHAVE is a Canadian-Ugandan partnership that continues to support orphaned children in Uganda, a country in Africa, in their education.

From humble beginnings here amongst Christian brothers and sisters at Parkwood Presbyterian Church, to those in nations and lands across the ocean, strong bonds have been formed through education and giving orphaned children a lasting hope: CANHAVE continues to make great changes and proclaim the love of Christ, through action and support.

CANHAVE is a special group, making sure kids have food, clothing, a place to live, and an education - all the things they need to grow up strong and happy. They do this because Jesus teaches us to take care of each other, especially the children who need love and support.

Children have three terms a year. They follow the same curriculum in primary schools throughout the country. Each child writes a national exam in Primary 7. Many of the children attend private schools and stay in boarding residences. Some of the CANHAVE students attend a vocational school.

Your support can change the child's life for the better: educate a middle school child for a year or help one of the young persons to become an independent entrepreneur. Please consider viewing testimonials of students whom benefited from the CANHAVE program, at this weblink:

<https://canhave.org/2025/05/21/thank-you-video-testimonials-from-our-canhave-alumni-female-students-nathalie-and-tracy-maria/>

To give to this ministry, you can use the offering envelope, and mark "CANHAVE" on the "OTHER" line.

Online donations can be made at donate@parkwoodchurch.ca and please indicate in the "Comments" section: "Special Appeal - CANHAVE"

Thank you in advance for your generous support. Please note that donations to special appeals are above and beyond our regular offering that support operations and maintenance of Parkwood Church month by month.

You can find more information on other methods to donate on this website:
<https://canhave.org/ways-to-give/>



- submitted by Derek Newton,
Mission Team

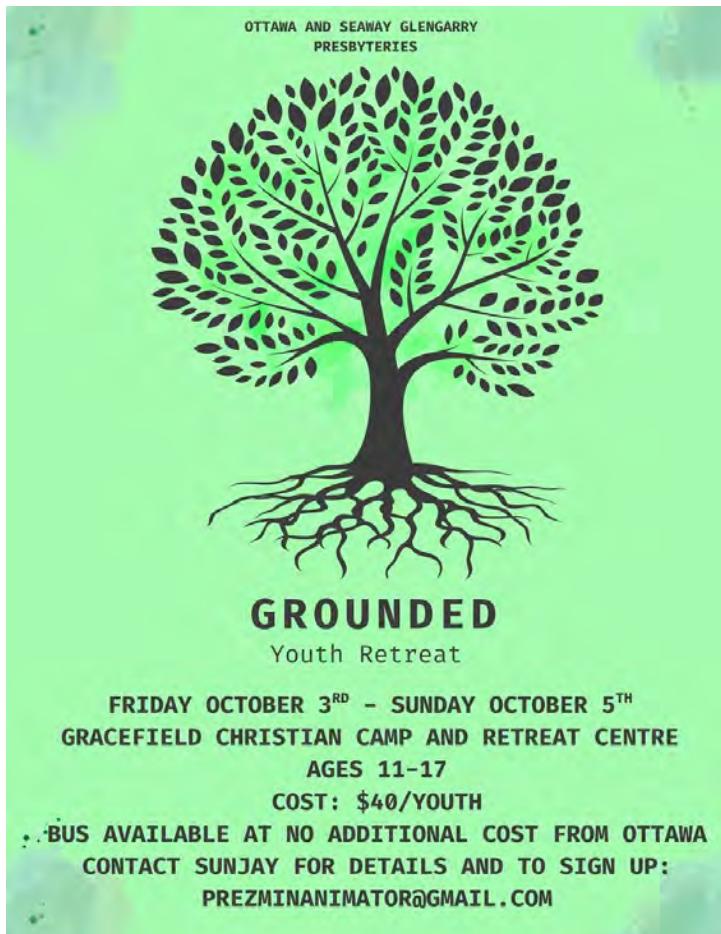
Note from Facility Management Team

As of August 2025, Parkwood pays the City of Ottawa an annual fee for collection of up to three items of solid waste every other week. The 4th and subsequent solid waste items incur an additional charge of \$4.40 per item. Note that this surcharge only applies to solid waste, e.g. garbage bags and garbage bins going to landfill. Green bins, blue bins, and black bins are included without limit in the annual fee.

In an effort to stay within the three-bag limit for solid waste, Parkwood should now endeavour to only include in our garbage those items that cannot be placed in our green bins, blue bins, or black bins. The users of Parkwood facilities are urged to properly use the green bin for organic waste (including food-stained paper-based food containers, such as pizza boxes and fast-food containers, paper towels, tissues, and napkins), the blue bins for glass and plastic (including washed plastic fast food containers), and the black bins for paper and clean cardboard boxes, large and small.

- submitted by Jim MacFie

Fall Youth Retreat - October 3rd-5th



The Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry are delighted to share the return of the Fall Youth Retreat, taking place Friday, October 3rd through Sunday, October 5th at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre. This event is for youth aged 11-17.

This year's theme is Grounded: how do we stay grounded in Jesus as the core of our faith in the midst of everything else life throws our way?

The weekend will include worship, learning, and camp activities like archery, hiking, crafts, and wide games (games that take place across the property).

Pray for the youth and leaders attending this weekend event.

EFC Letter



September 2025

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Rev 2025/09/20

Pastor James T. Hurd
Parkwood Presbyterian Church
10 Chesterton Dr
Ottawa ON ON

Dear James,

I am writing you to ask for your help and prayers. We only do this type of mailing every 3-5 years as an effective way to reach out to the congregants of the affiliate churches we serve.

The EFC is concerned over the issue of medical assistance in dying (MAiD) for those with mental illness alone. It's time to act if we want to protect people with mental illness from euthanasia.

In 2021, the government passed a law expanding euthanasia to people who are not nearing death, including when mental illness is a person's only medical condition. The provision allowing MAiD for mental illness is scheduled to take effect in March 2027.

There is an opportunity to have this provision scrapped. On June 20, 2025, an MP introduced a private members bill, Bill C-218, that would exclude a mental disorder from being considered a "grievous and irremediable medical condition" for the purposes of MAiD. If this bill is passed, this would mean that no one would be eligible for MAiD on the basis of mental illness alone. Passing legislation often takes months to years, so the time to act is now.

This is a very important bill, and the EFC whole-heartedly supports it. However, because this is a private member's bill, it needs broad support to pass. As such, we are strongly encouraging concerned Canadians to urge their MPs to support Bill C-218 this fall.

I am asking for your help to distribute the enclosed letters to your congregants some time over the next few weeks to inform them of this crucial issue, so they may understand more clearly what's at stake, take action as they feel moved to, and pray more effectively.

We value your affiliation with the EFC and are very grateful for your help and prayerful support.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Guretzky
President/CEO and Resident Theologian

Parkwood Church Activities October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 10:00am Worship & Communion & Church School	6 7 1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	8 9 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	10	11		
12 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:00am Worship & Church School	13 Thanksgiving Monday - Church office closed	14	15	16 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	17 7:00pm Youth Group	18
19 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	20 12:00pm Lunch & Learn	21 November Calendar Deadline	22 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	23 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	24	25 10:00am Cariboo House Churches Missionaries Visit
26 November Pulse Deadline	27 7:00pm Session	28 2:00pm Pastoral Care Communion	29 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	30 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	31	