

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

"That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his work — this is the gift of God."

- Ecclesiastes 3:13

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

NOVEMBER 2025

God's mark: Gift giving

As the calendar turns to November, many people begin to turn their minds to December: the month in which Christmas is celebrated.

This year, 2025, the season of Advent (which many Christians observe in anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth as a baby, as one of us) actually begins in November — on the last Sunday — November 30th.

The theme for Advent this year is “The gifts of Christmas”. We will focus on the gifts of Christmas: hope, peace, joy, love — and the greatest gift of all — Jesus.

Our modern observation of Christmas is often marked by giving and receiving gifts. This leads many people in the weeks or months prior to Christmas to prepare the gifts: either by making or buying specific gifts for specific people.

It is good for us to discover that rather than a specific “thing” or “package”, God shows us that gift-giving is at the heart of who God is, and how God reveals who He is:

The Old Testament tells us that the gift of life itself is the gift of God. Ecclesiastes 3:13 says: “That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his work — this is the gift of God.”

The New Testament tells us that our lives, marked by sin, earn us death, but God gives us life. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NIV)

How do we know God? How do we learn how God relates to us? God shows us: through the gifts He gives to us.

Our life — including our food and drink, and our work — are all gifts, designed by God to bring us satisfaction, which in part is another work for joy.

Eternal life — beginning in our being “born again” through faith in Jesus Christ, and with the promise that it is forever — is God's greatest gift, offered freely to all who will receive.

The marks of eternal life are hope, peace, joy, and love. Our sure and certain hope is revealed in the resurrection of Jesus from the death and the promise of His return. God's peace surpasses and transcends our understanding. The joy of the Lord is our strength. God's love never fails. Faith, hope, and love remain, and the greatest of these is love. These are the gifts of God.

As we begin our preparations for Christmas, let us reflect on the nature of gift-giving, and our God Who gives. May the gifts we prepare to share with others reflect and embody God's gifts to us.

Your pastor, grateful to receive what God gives, and to give what God provides: hope, peace, joy, love,
and Jesus — the life!
James T. Hurd

Mark Your Calendars for Our Annual Christmas Dinner!

This year's Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be a sit-down dinner served in family style. There will be entertainment and a carol-sing at the end of the evening. The dinner is free, but you must sign up and receive a ticket in order to attend, as seating is limited.



- submitted by Susanne Johnson
Fellowship Team

Christmas Planter Fundraiser

Christmas Planter Fundraiser

Order early through the sign-up sheet
in the Gathering Place!



Large: \$40

Small: \$30

**Deliveries available by
November 30, 2025!**

Contact Pamela Pestaluky:
613-226-3089 or
pamelapestaluky@live.ca

*All proceeds go towards
the Parkwood operating budget.*

New Books in the Library 2025



Life Together: Disability and Belonging in the Church

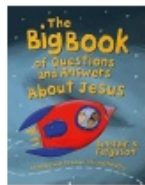
This 56-page booklet contains articles and discussion questions that can help you and the Christians around you understand the importance of including people with disabilities in church communities, what ableism is and why it matters, and how we can respond to current shortcomings and injustices.



This hard covered book by Lauren Whitman treats teasing, hurt feelings, and guilt. Children learn about grace and what God wants us to do after we sin.



This illustrated edition of the Westminster Shorter Catechism includes questions and answers concerning the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, sacraments, and more, presented in a way that will engage children in learning the essential doctrines of the Christian faith.



Sinclair Ferguson, a well-known reformed theologian, tackles the many questions children have about Jesus including:

- What was special about Jesus?
- Why did Jesus heal sick people?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- How can I give my life to Jesus?

This is an invaluable tool for introducing children to Jesus in an enjoyable and interactive way.

From the Editor: **December/January Pulse**

The next edition of the Parkwood Pulse will be for the month of December/January. Send in your submissions by Sunday, November 23th to

parkwoodpulse@yahoo.ca

Donations as of September 30, 2025

Donations for Current Operations (Budget) and Presbyterians Sharing (plus PWS@D) are up from the same period last year. Donations for most other categories are down from the same period last year. The total budget income composed of donations for Current Operations and certain other income is up over \$6,000 from last year.

Gratitude is expressed by the Finance Team for all donations received so far this year for the work of the congregation, both locally and globally. The team asks everyone to give special thought to our continuing needs when they prepare their financial donations during the final three months of the year.

As background information, donations for current operations in the final three months of the year historically have represented over 30 per cent of the donations for the year. This seasonal pattern of donations means that for the first nine months of the year, donations and other income are typically less than expenditures. A continued strong flow of donations through the end of December will help to minimize and hopefully eliminate the current difference between income and expenses for 2025.

Comparison of Donations for First Nine Months, 2024 and 2025			
	2024 (1)	2025 (2)	Difference (3) = (2) - (1)
Donations			
Current Operations (Budget)	129,230	135,195	5,964
Fundraising	1,862	15	(1,847)
Loan Repayment	7,549	5,635	(1,914)
Missions, Appeals, Programs			
--Presbyterians Sharing, PWS&D	6,365	8,577	2,212
--Special Appeals	4,905	3,755	(1,150)
--Parkwood Programs	15,365	13,515	(1,850)
Sub-total	26,635	25,847	(788)
Total Donations For Current Purposes	165,277	166,692	1,415
Other Income			
Rental income	14,125	14,474	349
Misc. Income	3,216	3,189	(27)
Total Other Income (Budget)	17,341	17,663	322
Total Budget Donations and Other Income	146,571	152,858	6,287

Note (1): Totals may be affected by rounding.

- submitted by Dennis Featherstone

Calling Parkwood Men...

Parkwood church formed a Men's Breakfast in 1982 following a Presbyterian Men's retreat held in Pembroke. Over the years, the group met mainly in restaurants, with speakers who encouraged the men in their faith, and some group singing. The group disbanded in 2019 when the organizer retired and moved out of town. Lately some of us have been missing the opportunity for fellowship and would like to get to know some of the new folks in the congregation better. With this in mind, all Parkwood men are invited to come out to the church on SAT. NOV. 8 @ 8:00AM for a time of fellowship and sharing over coffee and muffins. We'll share a bit, maybe sing a bit, and talk about what we might do in future meetings, and wind up by 10:00AM. If you can come, please let Gord Walford know (by email to gord.walford@rogers.com) so we can make sure we have enough muffins. Here's a group shot from almost 25 years ago...



- submitted by Don Pestaluky and Gord Walford



Summary of Session Meeting - Sept 22, 2025

An outdoor service of worship was held on Sept 27th, 2025, marking the end of events commemorating Parkwood's 60th anniversary. Session expressed appreciation to the anniversary committee and other ministry teams and individuals involved in organizing this service.

Special thanks to Amy Kim for her service as summer program assistant at Parkwood. Amy completed her tenure at end of the August 2025.

We are pleased to note that Sunday School is back in full swing. We also welcome the commissioning of Sunday School teachers.

The electronic signage facing Meadowlands continues to malfunction. Work is underway to determine its root cause and seek remedy.

- submitted by Paul Mkandawire,
Clerk of Session

Operation Christmas Child 2025

The Parkwood Mission Team would like to thank our church family for partnering again with the 2025 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Program. The last day for collection of the shoeboxes for this year will be Sunday, November 23, 2025. The Mission team is working to determine which Sunday in the month of November will be this year's Dedication Day at Parkwood Presbyterian Church.

Shoe boxes and literature will be available for pick-up at the display in the Gathering Place after the Sunday worship services, beginning soon. Stay tuned for an announcement and promotion on or before Sunday November 2, 2025.

- submitted by Derek Newton,
Mission Team



How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, **and don't forget to make it FUN!**

1

SHOEBOX

Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.



4

PRAY

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.



2

"WOW" ITEM

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5

DONATE \$12 PER BOX

A donation of **\$12** per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3

OTHER GIFTS

Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6

DROP OFF

Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.



SAMARITANSPURSE.CA/OCC

Parkwood Church Activities November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Clocks Change Back 10:00am Renewal Fellowship Prayer Meeting (Zoom)
2 10:00am Worship & Church School 12:00pm Profession of Faith Classes 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	3	4 1:00pm Pastoral Care Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Mission Team (Zoom)	5 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	6 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	7 7:00pm Youth Group	8 8:00am Men's Fellowship
9 Remembrance Sunday 10:00am Worship & Church School 12:00pm Profession of Faith Classes 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	10	11 Remembrance Day 7:00pm Facility Management Team (Zoom)	12 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	13 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	14	15 7:00pm Games Night
16 10:00am Worship & Mission Appeal & Church School 12:00pm Profession of Faith Classes 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	17 12:00pm Lunch & Learn	18 December Calendar Deadline 7:00pm Presbytery @ Knox Church, Ottawa	19 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	20 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	21 7:00pm Youth Group	22
23 December/January Pulse Deadline Operation Christmas Child Dedication 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)	24 7:00pm Session	25	26 7:30pm Barrhaven Bible Study (Zoom)	27 7:30pm Music Rehearsal	28	29
30 Advent I 10:00am Worship & Church School 1:00pm Sunday Bible Study (Zoom)						