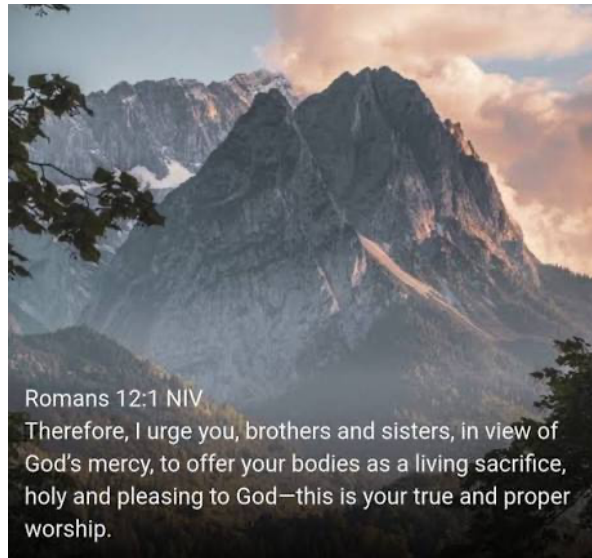




Romans 12:1 NIV
Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Aug. 19, 2026

After spending a glorious 5 days near Sandbanks Provincial Park, I have returned refreshed and ready to head into Fall. I feel that I have visited enough wineries and have done my part to support the economy of Prince Edward County. The rest was what I needed, and it was not nearly long enough. Following is a reflection on the scripture that will be read and preached on this Sunday.

Romans 12:1-8 marks a major shift in the letter to the Romans, moving from deep theological truths to daily Christian living. Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, avoid worldly conformity through a renewed mind, practice humble self-judgment, and use their unique spiritual gifts to build up the community.

The Pivot to Worship and Transformation

- **The Living Sacrifice:** Instead of animal sacrifices on an altar, believers offer their everyday physical lives as a continuous, active form of worship motivated by God's mercy.
- **Mind Renewal:** True change happens from the inside out. Resisting the pressure to copy the surrounding culture requires an intentional redesign of thought patterns.
- **Discerning God's Will:** A renewed mind naturally discovers what God desires—a life path that is good, pleasing, and complete.

Humility and Healthy Self-Image

- **Sober Judgment:** Paul warns against arrogance, telling people not to think too highly of themselves.
- **A Measure of Faith:** Humility comes from realizing that value and faith are gifts distributed by God, leaving no room for pride or social boasting.

Unity and Diversity in the Body of Christ

- **Interdependence:** Believers form one single body with many diverse parts, meaning everyone belongs to one another and relies on each other to function.
- **Differing Gifts:** Grace equips individuals with distinct capabilities—such as prophecy, teaching, serving, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy.
- **Intentional Action:** Paul challenges each person to lean fully into their specific role with practical attitudes, like giving generously, leading with zeal, or showing mercy with a cheerful heart.



Worship Calendar

Aug. 23	Not Conformed, but Transformed	Romans 12:1-8	Rev. Eric Lee
Aug. 30	Genuine Love: More Than Words	Romans 12:9-21	Rev. Eric Lee
Sept. 6	Authority Most High	Romans 13:1-7	Rev. Eric Lee
Sept. 13	Visit of Knox College Principal		Rev. Ernest van Eck
Sept. 20	It's Not Fair?!	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Rev. Eric Lee
Oct. 4	Communion Sunday		Rev. Eric Lee
Oct. 11			Rev. Jan Hieminga
Oct. 18			Rev. Jan Hieminga



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Organist/Pianist

This Sunday, we will be welcoming a guest substitute accompanist to our Sunday worship service. Hazel Ogilvie will be taking over Kento's duties for this one Sunday. Hazel comes to us with a lot of experience and is a graduate of the University of Toronto. I for one, am looking forward to meeting her and having her lead the musical portions of our service.

A Taste of Italy Dinner

Chef Keith Hoare is not able to be present on Friday, Oct 23rd and therefore Outreach has rescheduled the dinner to Friday, Oct 16th.

Outreach plans to host a dinner on Friday, October 16th in the downstairs hall. It will feature an Italian themed dinner and will be prepared for us by the new culinary teacher at Thistletown Collegiate and his students. Chef Keith Hoare will be involved too. Ticket prices are \$30 and all proceeds from the dinner will go to the Thistletown Euro Trip to Italy which will take place during the 2027 March Break. The proposed date of Oct 16th will be confirmed the first week of school in September. Please save this date on your calendar!

Common Scents

Please be advised that our church has a scent-free protocol. It seems that some of our dear parishioners feel unwell due to heavy floral smells. Please be considerate of those in our congregation who are affected by strong smells and odors and refrain from perfumes or colognes when coming to worship on Sunday mornings. Thank you one and all.

September Bible Study

Jacob Birch from the Canadian Bible Society will be leading an 8-week bible study beginning on Tuesday, September 15 at 12:15. He will be offering an overview of the bible from Genesis all the way to Revelations. Mark this in your calendars as it should prove to be a fascinating journey through the Bible.



How to Call Blessings into Your Life

By Holly Lebowitz Rossi

Many years ago, at the convocation that began my time in divinity school, I heard a sermon that I've never forgotten. The preacher shared the story of a woman who was walking along the beach on a cloudy day, lost in thought and enjoying the solitude.

Her reverie was interrupted by the sound of someone shouting just up the beach from where she stood. It was a man, just visible through the mist. His arms wide, he shouted, "Come, blessings!" He turned toward the water, then away from the woman, again shouting, "Come, blessings, come!"

The woman stopped in her tracks, taking in the scene. Her pensive mood deepening, she thought about the pure, direct spiritual appeal she was witnessing. Here was a man, she thought, who had made his way to the quiet, enduring presence of nature to call blessings into his life, to literally shout into the wind for the blessings he yearned for.

She started walking again, hoping to speak to the man and thank him for the much-needed inspiration she had gleaned from his spiritual practice. As she walked, the wind continued to carry his voice. "Come, blessings! Come, blessings, come!" She started to speak the simple, powerful words along with him, feeling buoyed and increasingly freed each time.

Then, just as suddenly as when she first heard him, the man stopped shouting. And just as suddenly as when she first noticed him, the woman stopped walking.

A big, floppy-eared dog bounded joyfully toward the man, seeming to have emerged mystically from the mist. The woman was close enough to the man to hear him, as he tousled the dog's fur, exclaim, "Blessings! There you are! I thought I had lost you!"

At first the woman felt silly, having confused a dog named Blessings for a profound moment of communion with the divine. But as she continued on her walk, she smiled contentedly. The message she had received, the

inspiration to ask clearly and plainly for the goodness, hope, peace and other blessings she yearned for, was real, even if the bearer of the message had four legs and a tail.

Perhaps, she thought, it was not a coincidence that the man had named his dog Blessings. And perhaps the dog had not been lost at all.

How do you call blessings into your life?



PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

* Pray for the people of war-torn countries (Iran, Ukraine, Sudan) who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times. Pray for our country, Canada. Pray for those who are afflicted with the Ebola virus in the African country of Congo. Especially, pray for those affected by the forest fires in northern Ontario.

* **Ethel Waite** is now at the McCall Rehabilitation Centre. (140 Sherway Drive) She does not have a phone in her room (and is not happy that the Centre will not provide one) but I am sure that she would appreciate a visitor or 2 while she convalesces.

* **Please keep these people in your prayers:**

Anna Cherniak
Ali Tavosoli's family
Ruth Ann Ross
Ryan Jory
Roman and Adrian P.
Lenore Carty
June and Amaya

Olive S.
Viraly Goolcharan
Bob Woolley
Harold Hussey
Ed Lattimore
Jarvis family

Margaret Munene's brothers, Luka and Simon
Shirley Pollock's daughters Nancy and Laura
Giulietta Ponzini
Teresia Njoki
Sheila Thomas' grandson, Carter

Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor...could you please advise me from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome to walk and enjoy Centennial Park
- * Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- * Tuesday, Sept. 15 @ 12:15 AM – Fall Bible Study begins
- * Wednesday, Sept. 16 @ 2:00 PM – Music & Worship meeting
- * Friday, Oct. 16 - @ TBA – A Taste of Italy Dinner



Prayer/Reader/Announcements for 2026

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
Aug. 23	Maureen Screen	Harry Learoyd	Nancy McPherson
Aug. 30	Pastor Eric	Chris Parr	Susan Chopp
Sept. 6	Susan Chopp	Kathy Twynam	Bob Twynam
Sept. 13	Pastor Eric	Susan Chopp	Iris Lee
Sept. 20	Nancy McPherson	Jean Fox	Kathy Twynam
Sept. 27	Kathy Twynam	Maureen Screen	Nancy McPherson
Oct. 4	Pastor Eric	Margaret Munene	Susan Chopp
Oct. 11	Halyna Parypa	Georgena Engineer	Bob Twynam
Oct. 18	Chris Parr	Bob Twynam	Iris Lee
Oct. 25	Pastor Eric	Kathy Twynam	Nancy McPherson

WEEKLY SMILE



“Churches are smart. They have pretty windows, but you hafta come inside to see them.”

Where to Find Us

Contact Person	Email Address	Phone Number	Role/Note
Susan Chopp	choppertini@hotmail.com	416-953-7582	Weekly News
Pastor Eric Church Office (Halyna)	pastor@graceview.ca office@graceview.ca	416-621-0888 (press #1)	Church related issues Church Secretary
Graceview Website	https://graceview.ca/calendar-events		
Facebook Page	Graceview Presbyterian Church		
Instagram Page	https://www.instagram.com/graceview.presbyterian?igsh=MnlpeXE5YTYyN2ly		

August Calendar



AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30 Service @ CPP 2:00	31	1
2 When the Net is Drawn Ashore Rev. Eric Lee	3	4 Walking Group 11:00	5	6 Service @ CPP 2:00	7	8
9 He Can Never be Inconvenienced Rev. Eric Lee	10	11 Walking Group 11:00	12	13 Service @ CPP 2:00	14	15
16 How Will They Hear? Rev. Eric Lee	17	18 Walking Group 11:00	19	20 Service @ CPP 2:00	21	22
23 Not Conformed, but Transformed Rev. Eric Lee	24	25 Walking Group 11:00	26	27 Service @ CPP 2:00	28	29
30 Genuine Love: More Than Words Rev. Eric Lee	31	1	2	3 Service @ CPP 2:00	4	5

