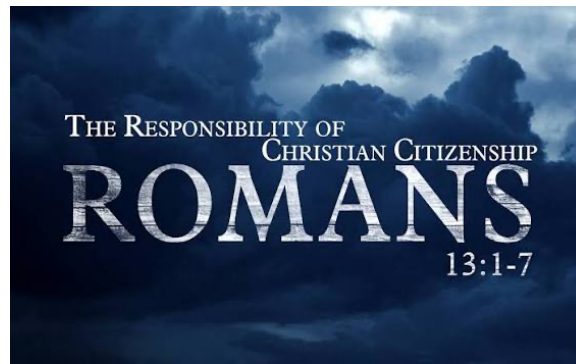




Sept. 2, 2026

Well, isn't this a timely scripture to read and ponder.

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (Romans 13:1–7).

Scripture calls on us Christians to submit to those who govern us, but this directive is often misunderstood. I suggest that [Romans 13:1–7](#) calls us to take note of at least four factors in our Christian responsibilities (whether as pastor or layperson) toward our governing officials. To give proper emphasis to the import of what the Apostle Paul wrote, I will use the present tense rather than the past tense, lest we ease our consciences that the tyranny of the Roman Empire belongs in the past.

1. Ministers Are Not to be Silent: They are to Follow Paul's Example by Speaking Clearly and Biblically to Political Issues.

Paul wrote the letter of Romans to Christians who lived in Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire. We Christians are not exempt from being influenced to read Scripture from our contemporary situation and thus impose our perspective onto the text. Of course, the Apostle Paul does not write his directives from the relative freedom we Americans have. He writes as a first-century citizen residing within the Roman Empire, not as one who lives within our Democratic Republic. The apostle writes these directives to Christians who reside in the capital of the Empire, and we see his courage when he restricts and defines the authority of the world's superpower. The fact that he writes these directives concerning how Christians are obliged to relate to those in human government indicates that ministers of the gospel are obligated to provide preaching that imitates this prophetic teaching concerning cultural-social-political-moral-ethical issues. Many ministers of the

gospel refuse to address political issues because they lack the requisite knowledge, wisdom, and courage to do so. Lamentably, many who do attempt to speak on these matters do it so poorly and superficially that it becomes manifestly transparent that they do not think deeply about the gospel and its ramifications at the level of comprehensive worldview thinking.

2. Submission Does Not Mean Silence

The fact that the apostle Paul calls on Christians to be subject to governing authorities and tells us that to rebel against governing authorities is to rebel against God hardly suggests that Christians are to adopt a posture of simpering pawns and obeisant sycophants. It does not suggest adopting the martyr's complex and never defending themselves against false accusations and never speaking on public policy issues. If that is Paul's objective, why does he even bother writing these things to the Christians in Rome? No! We must understand this blanket command in light of Paul's actions elsewhere. What might submission to the governing authorities look like? Here are three things:

(1) The Apostle Paul appealed to his Roman citizenship to avert flogging ([Acts 16:35–37; 22:25–29](#)).

(2) He called on Roman officials to protect his life when his fellow Jewish countrymen arrested him and conspired how they might put him to death ([Acts 23:12–35](#)).

(3) He also appealed to Caesar for justice rather than leave his case in the hands of wicked Jews who were determined to carry out their injustice to terminate his life ([Acts 25:10–11](#)).

Because the apostle knows and understands that human governments are ordained by God, he is neither timid to appeal to governing officials to preserve his life from jackals and wolves who would devour him, nor bureaucrats in high positions who think that they would be doing God a favor. Nor is he afraid to include in his letter to Christians in the empire's capital city directives to Caesar that he is subject to God and that as God's subject, he is, like all other governing authorities, obligated to punish evildoers and to reward doers of good.

3. The Role of Governing Officials Is Not to Do Whatever They please, But to Commend Doers of Good and to Be a Terror to Evildoers

In his commentary on [Romans 13](#), John Calvin makes an apt observation that is worth quoting in full: Magistrates may hence learn what their vocation is, for they are not to rule for their own interest, but for the public good; nor are they endowed with unbridled power, but what is restricted to the wellbeing of their subjects; in short, they are responsible to God and to men in the exercise of their power. For as they are deputed by God and do his business, they must give an account to him: and then the ministration which God has committed to them has a regard to the subjects, they are therefore debtors also to them. And private men are reminded, that it is through the divine goodness that they are defended by the sword of princes against injuries done by the wicked. . . . It is another part of the office of magistrates, that they ought forcibly to repress the waywardness of evil men, who do not willingly suffer themselves to be governed by laws, and to inflict such punishment on their offenses as God's judgment requires; for he expressly declares, that they are armed with the sword, not for an empty show, but that they may smite evil-doers.

4. All Christians Are Obligated to Remind Governing Officials of Their God-Appointed Role.

By virtue of their leadership roles in Christ's church, ministers of the gospel generally have greater opportunities and frequency to apply publicly the teachings of Scripture on state and national issues. This, however, does not alleviate lay Christians from actively participating in doing the same within their own individual spheres of influence. Hence, ministers are obligated to lead them by example and to admonish them to live fully in keeping with their Christian confession: "Jesus is Lord!" The Apostle Paul sends his letter containing a ruler's obligations not to the emperor's palace, but to Christians in Rome. By doing this, the

Apostle Paul is instructing us that we Christians have an obligation to teach our own families and our neighbors concerning our roles as citizens but also to remind those who govern us:

- (1) that God appointed them to their seats of governance;
- (2) that they are ministers of God for the well-being of those whom they govern;
- (3) that justice—punishing evildoers and rewarding doers of good—is their primary role; and
- (4) that they are in positions of authority not to serve themselves but to serve those for whom they are entrusted with governing.

The apostle's admonitions forbid us from engaging in activist rioting, insurrection, and disorder. But his words do not keep us from peaceful protestations, the kind that have gathered on the National Mall in our Capitol such as the March on Washington led by Martin Luther King Jr. We do, however, need to observe that Paul's directives also restrain us from retreating from public life with a safe Christian cloister hermetically sealed from the wicked influences around us, including evil-doing elected officials, magistrates, and bureaucrats who become tyrants. Rather, the Apostle Paul obligates us Christians to confront evil governing officials with holy rebukes to remind them of their God-appointed calling.

The gospel Paul preaches and which we Christians embrace with joy obligates us to confess, "Jesus is Lord" ([Rom. 10:9](#))! This confession is all-inclusive. It is hardly serendipitous that the Apostle writes these words, "Jesus is Lord," in his letter to Rome, where worship is reverently bestowed on the emperor with bowed heads, raised arm, and with the mouth affirming, "Ave, Caesar!" The gospel's affirmation, "Jesus is Lord" is subversive to every human governing official who demands allegiance. Our confession obligates us to denounce ultimate allegiance to governing officials and to announce to the world that Jesus Christ is Lord over every realm, over every domain, over every place, and over every person, including vaunted kings, braggart or doddering presidents, tyrannical magistrates, self-appointed messianic figures, and even Caesars who call themselves gods. Governance and public policy issues do not fall beyond the reach of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

If our confession, "Jesus is Lord," is true, he is Lord overall. All political theories and implementations are under Christ's dominion. This reminder is fitting. Ponder again Abraham Kuyper's response to the notion that Christianity is to be hermetically sealed off from public life: "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign overall, does not cry: 'Mine!'"

ARDEL CANEDAY

Ardel Caneday continues as an adjunct faculty member at [University of Northwestern](#) after recently retiring from his role as Professor of New Testament & Greek. Ardel completed the MDiv and ThM at Grace Theological Seminary and the PhD in New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a founding teaching elder of Christ Bible Church (Roseville, MN). He co-edited with Matthew Barrett *Four Views on the Historical Adam*, co-authored with Thomas R. Schreiner *The Race Set Before Us*, and has published many articles in Christian magazines, journals, books, and online.



Worship Calendar

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
Sept. 27	What's It All For?	Philippians 2:1-11	Rev. Eric Lee
Oct. 4	Communion Sunday		Rev. Eric Lee
Oct. 11			Rev. Jan Hieminga
Oct. 18			Rev. Jan Hieminga



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ethel's Contact Information

Ethel Waite still remains in the McCall Rehabilitation Centre. She now has a cell phone and has asked for me to share her phone number with Graceview. You can reach her at 289-952-3878. I am sure she would love to hear from you.

A Late Summer Devotional Update (August 24):

A **new** edition of **Our Daily Bread** (September/October/November), as well as the current edition of **These Days** (July/August/September) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.

A Taste of Italy Dinner

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 Chef Keith and the students in the culinary program at Thistletown Collegiate. 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. Please save this date on your calendar! Tickets will go on sale early in September.

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.



Sing! Etobicoke

Mark your calendars: Sing Etobicoke returns on October 20!

The full schedule is attached. **Notice that session are now on Tuesdays**

New this year: no more registering ahead of time! Sing Etobicoke is now fully drop-in. If you feel like singing, just show up to whichever weekly session works for you. Come every week, come once in a while, however it fits into your life. Please do remember to continue to sign in. 😊

Also, I'm happy to report that Kento, Carol and Toia are all returning to make this our best Sing Etobicoke year ever. As always, it's completely free and open to everyone in the community, so bring a friend or neighbour along if you'd like.

We've missed our Sing Etobicoke community, and we're so glad you'll be raising your voices with us again this year. See you on October 20!

Sing Etobicoke! 2026 Fall Schedule

Date	Start Time	Location	Workshop Theme
October 20, 2026	9:30 AM	NPCC	Voices of Fall
October 27, 2026	9:30 AM	Graceview	Spirits and Stories (Guest Day I)
November 3, 2026	9:30 AM	NPCC	Catch a Falling Star
November 10, 2026	9:30 AM	Graceview	The White Cliffs of Dover
November 17, 2026	9:30 AM	NPCC	Canadian Classics
November 24, 2026	9:30 AM	Graceview	La Mer
December 1, 2026	9:30 AM	NPCC	Movie Night
December 8, 2026	9:30 AM	Graceview	Road Trip!
December 15, 2026	9:30 AM	NPCC	Holiday Sing I
December 22, 2026	9:30 AM	Graceview	Holiday Songs (Guest Day II)

Sing! Etobicoke! 2027 Winter Schedule

Date	Start Time	Location	Workshop Theme
January 12, 2027	9:30 AM	Graceview	Voices of Winter
January 19, 2027	9:30 AM	Graceview	The Great American Songbook
January 26, 2027	9:30 AM	Graceview	A Day in the Life
February 2, 2027	9:30 AM	NPCC	Musicals and more (Guest Day III)
February 9, 2027	9:30 AM	NPCC	That's Amore!

February 16, 2027	9:30 AM	NPCC	A Morning of Ballads
February 23, 2027	9:30 AM	Graceview	Downtown
March 2, 2027	9:30 AM	NPCC	Stand By Me
March 9, 2027	9:30 AM	Graceview	Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows
March 16, 2027	9:30 AM	NPCC	Voices of Spring (Guest Day IV)



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.

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

Ethel Waite	Anna Cherniak	Margaret Munene's brothers, Luka and Simon
Ali Tavosoli's family	Viralyn Goolcharan	Olive S.
Ruth Ann Ross	Bob Woolley	Giulietta Ponzini
Ryan Jory	Harold Hussey	Teresia Njoki
Roman and Adrian P.	Ed Lattimore	Sheila Thomas' grandson, Carter
Jarvis family		

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.



Best Prayer I Have Heard In A Long Time...

Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy, and love.

Thanks to Joan and Peter Kohar for passing this on to me

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. 8 @ 7:00 PM – Outreach Meeting
- * Monday, Sept. 14 @ 6:30 PM – Mission Committee Meeting
- * Tuesday, Sept. 15 @ 12:15 AM – Fall Bible Study begins
- * Tuesday, Sept. 15 @ 6:30 PM - Session
- * Wednesday, Sept. 16 @ 2:00 PM – Music & Worship meeting
- * Friday, Oct. 16 - @ TBA – A Taste of Italy Dinner
- * Tuesday, Oct. 20 @ 9:30 – Sing! Etobicoke begins at NPCC



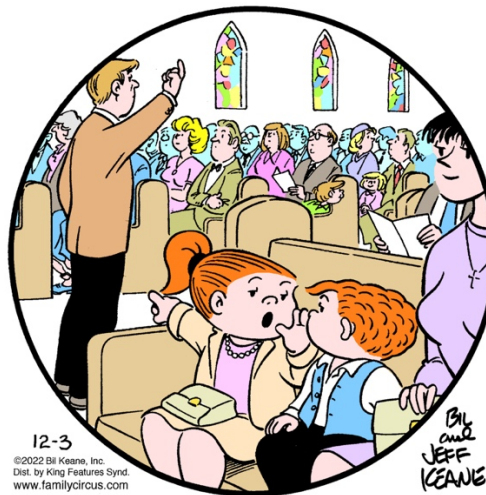
Prayer/Reader/Announcements for 2026

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
Sept. 6	Bob Twynam	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	Susan Chopp
Oct. 4	Pastor Eric	Margaret Munene	Nancy McPherson
Oct. 11	Halyna Parypa	Georgena Engineer	Bob Twynam

Oct. 18	Chris Parr	Bob Twynam	Kathy Twynam
Oct. 25	Pastor Eric	Kathy Twynam	Nancy McPherson
Nov. 1	Margaret Munene	Nancy McPherson	Iris Lee
Nov. 8	Pastor Eric	Al Bishop	Susan Chopp
Nov. 15	Nancy Green	Vi Lobodowsky	Bob Twynam
Nov. 22	Susan Chopp	Nancy Green	Iris Lee
Nov. 29	Pastor Eric	Anna Cherniak	Kathy Twynam
Dec. 6	Susan Chopp	Bob Twynam	Nancy McPherson
Dec. 13	Maureen Screen	Harry Learoyd	Susan Chopp
Dec. 20	Pastor Eric	Chris Parr	Bob Twynam
Dec. 27	Nancy McPherson	Susan Chopp	Iris Lee



WEEKLY SMILE



**"He stops you from talking.
He's a husher."**

Where to Find Us

Contact Person	Email Address	Phone Number	Role/Note
Susan Chopp	choppertini@hotmail.com	416-953-7582	Weekly News
Pastor Eric	pastor@graceview.ca	416-621-0888 (press #1)	Church related issues
Church Office	office@graceview.ca		Church Secretary

(Halyna)

Graceview Website

<https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

Facebook Page

Graceview Presbyterian Church

Instagram Page

<https://www.instagram.com/graceview.presbyterian?igsh=MnlpeXE5YTYyN2ly>

September Calendar



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Walking Group 11:00	2	3 Service at CPP 2:00	4	5
6 Authority Most High Rev. Eric Lee	7 Labor Day	8 Walking Group 11:00 Craft Club 11:00 Outreach 7:00	9	10 Service at CPP 2:00	11	12
13 Visit of Knox College Principal Rev. Ernest van Eck	14 Mission Team 6:30	15 Walking Group 11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Session 6:30	16 Music & Worship 2:00	17 Service at CPP 2:00	18	19
20 It's Not Fair?! Rev. Eric Lee	21	22 Walking Group 11:00	23	24 Service at CPP 2:00	25	26
27 What's It All For? Rev. Eric Lee	28	29 Walking Group 11:00	30			

