



May 2021

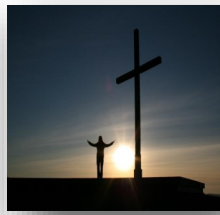
# CHALMERS' SPIRIT

A monthly newsletter of Chalmers Presbyterian Church

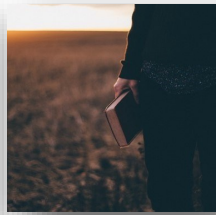
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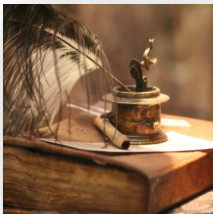


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## A Word from Rev. John



“Mortal, can these bones live?” That’s the question God asked the prophet Ezekiel. This is a serious question requiring a serious response.

From a human point of view, the reasonable answer would be “no.” What’s dead is dead. Remember, these bones were very dry. But Ezekiel was a prophet of the living God. He was God’s mouthpiece. This was the Creator asking the creature, “Can these bones live?”

Ezekiel had enough sense to reply, “O Lord God, you know.” In other words, God only knows.

In the valley of dry bones things look pretty bleak, to put it mildly. There’s no reason whatsoever for hope when Ezekiel surveys the landscape. There’s no sign of life to be seen.

Have you ever been there, in your own valley of dry bones? One writer put it this way:

*Who of us, as persons, has not at one time or another stood beside the grave of some of our highest hopes? Who of us, at one time or another, has not stood amidst the ruins and remnants of dreams, which have been dashed to the ground? Whatever the situation, it is still the same question: "Can these bones live?"*

I’ve got good news for you. As long as the living God is on the scene we still have hope and we are not cut off completely. God has the last word and that word is life. Because of the steadfast love of the Lord we remain connected to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

God commands Ezekiel to prophesy to these bones, saying: “O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. I will cause breath (spirit) to enter you, and you shall live.”

The prophet spoke the word of God as he was commanded. He did as he was told. He was faithful to the God who called him to serve. When we’re faithful, when we do as God commands, when we speak and do the word of God there’s hope, there’s life, there’s growth. Praise God.

A Word from Rev. John, continued...

We need to do our part. May we do what God calls us to do. May we proclaim the word of God with our actions and our words.

The third wave of the pandemic drags on and we're tired. We are experiencing COVID fatigue. Some days are more challenging than others. We find ourselves asking, "Can these bones live?" Is there any hope?

I think this passage from Ezekiel 37 points ahead to the good news of the resurrection of the One who is the resurrection and the life. We are reminded of the living hope we have in Christ.

We are heartened by examples of people living and serving with great courage and compassion. There are stories of resilience and hope that encourage us. Some of us have already received the first shot of the vaccine and all of us will be able to receive the vaccination over the next few months. We have hope.

Friends, God will look after the inspiring, the animating, the enlivening, the empowering. That's what Pentecost is all about. (Pentecost Sunday is May 23<sup>rd</sup> this year.) Remember how the disciples waited for God to fulfill the promise that they would receive power from on high. We too are called and inspired to be faithful participants in God's mission in the world.

An old sailor was standing on a dock with a little boy, looking out over the lake. They were watching sailboats. The little boy said, "Sir, what is the wind?" The old sailor said, "Son, I can't tell you what the wind is. I can't explain it, but I know how to hoist a sail to catch its power so it can take me where I want to go."

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

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## Midweek Prayer and Worship



**Midweek Prayer** continues weekly, on Wednesday evenings from 8-8:45pm on Zoom. Join us as we pray for our church, our city and our world. Everyone welcome!

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82106254383>

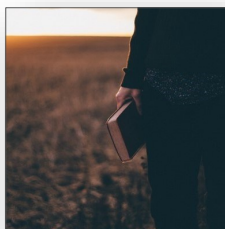
To join by telephone, dial 1-647-558-0588 and enter the meeting ID: 857 9892 6749

Join us as well on the first Wednesday of the month for **Midweek Worship**, an informal, interactive time of worship on Zoom. Our next worship time will be on June 2 at 7:00 pm.

*More details available on our website [www.chalmerslondon.com/News & Events](http://www.chalmerslondon.com/News & Events)*

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## Online Bible Study



We are beginning a new online Bible study this spring, entitled: "**Ten Key Passages from the Bible**" by Julie B. Sevig.

Join us May 17, 31 and June 14, 21 & 28 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Please contact the church if interested — study materials available.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85798926749>

*More details available on our website [www.chalmerslondon.com/News & Events/Online Bible Study](http://www.chalmerslondon.com/News & Events/Online Bible Study)*

## Online Fellowship



Feeling the need for connection and fellowship? We have just the thing! Join us Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm for a relaxed time of fellowship and lively discussion. We are meeting on ZOOM, meeting ID 350 336 4073 (same each week) and there is no password.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3503364073>

Contact Sue at 226-663-4735 with questions.

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## News & Events

The Session of Chalmers wishes to draw your attention to the pastoral letter of the Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly, the Rev. Amanda Currie, that highlights the ongoing work of the Rainbow Communion in listening to the stories and concerns of those who identify as LGBTQI within The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The pastoral letter is entitled, *Keeping our Promises – General Assembly*, and was sent out to the church in March of this year. The link for this letter may be found on the Chalmers' website homepage and is also provided below.

<https://presbyterian.ca/2019/09/03/moderator-letter-2019/>

## Prayer Requests



- ◆ For God's healing and pain control for **Joyce Yull**.
- ◆ For healing for **Tom Hunter** as he recovers at home following recent surgery.
- ◆ For God's healing for **Doris Tutt** and a spirit of perseverance as she recovers from recent surgery on her shoulders.
- ◆ For God's healing for **Ken Hall** as he convalesces at home. May the Lord give strength to Shirley, as she cares for Ken.
- ◆ For God's protection, peace and grace to surround us as we walk through these trying times due to the COVID-19 virus.
- ◆ For God to inspire us to be generous in giving our time, talents and treasure for the ongoing work of the Lord in the world.
- ◆ For God's blessing for **Betty Smedley, Linda McPherson, and Ross Cole**.

## June Birthdays at Chalmers



<b>June 2</b>	Charleen McCartney	<b>June 12</b>	Clarke Ferguson
<b>June 4</b>	Paul Matesic	<b>June 15</b>	Cyndi Cote
	Torry Thibodeau	<b>June 16</b>	Rashmi Nehamaye
<b>June 6</b>	Kathy Colledge	<b>June 21</b>	Angeline Nathaniel
	Jaxson MacKeigan	<b>June 22</b>	Allen Ball
	Anne Webster		Barb Jessop
<b>June 7</b>	Hailee Daniel-	<b>June 27</b>	Tom Hunter
	Krumpeck		
	Debbie Kemp		

## Mission Moment



In this series of newsletters, your mission team will explore the congregation's mission partners. This month – the “London Community Chaplaincy” which provides support to children and families living in two of the largest low-income housing complexes in the City of London. One complex is along Southdale not far from our church building.

The chaplaincy provides pre-school, daily after school, evening, and summer programs for young people. Programs vary from season to season. The chaplaincy also provides support and advocacy for parents with breakfast programs while enjoying a healthy meal. Perhaps a sewing or a trade class is a preferred activity. Other activities include community social events like BBQ's or yard sales. During these pandemic days, all programs have adapted to new conditions and follow proper protocols.

Chalmers supports the chaplaincy financially, and through regular updates on chaplaincy activities. Rev. John is our main contact with this organization.

## Respond to the India COVID-19 Crisis

India is currently in the midst of a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases, threatening its healthcare system and leaving already vulnerable families in crisis. PWS&D has been working with partners in India for decades. These partners are on the ground, actively assessing the situation to determine how best to respond. **Click [HERE](#) for more information or to make a donation to support PWS&D's response to the India COVID crisis, or call 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111 x291.**

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