



September– October 2021

CHALMERS' SPIRIT

A newsletter of Chalmers Presbyterian Church

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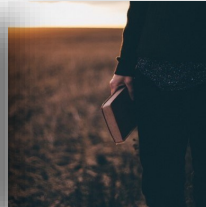
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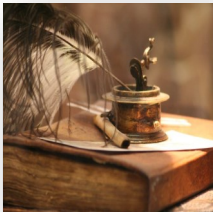


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Grateful Hearts

13th century German theologian and mystic Meister Eckhart wrote: "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'thank-you,' it will be enough."

Even during these trying times, there is much for which to be thankful.

We're thankful for the gift of life itself and for health to enjoy life.

We're grateful for family and friends who love and care for us during this pandemic.

We're grateful for technologies that allow us to stay connected while staying safe.

We give thanks for the life-saving vaccinations that we are blessed to receive.

We're grateful for all the front-line and essential workers who care for us and provide for us day by day, at great risk and sacrifice.

We give thanks for the good earth that we rely on for food and sustenance.

We give thanks for the love of God in Christ and for God's sustaining presence by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are thankful for so many gifts and blessings.

To whom do we give thanks?

Who is the source of all our blessings?

Who is the Giver of every good and perfect gift?

We're thankful **to** God, our creator, redeemer and sustainer.

And so we sing, "Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the holy One; give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ his Son." That sums it up pretty well, wouldn't you say?

Let's turn to the Grateful Samaritan from Luke 17. He's not as well known as the Good Samaritan of Jesus' parable in Luke 10 but he has a lot to teach us.

He was one of ten with leprosy, a dreaded skin disease, that made him ritually unclean, a religious and social outcast. And if that wasn't bad enough, he was a Samaritan, and

Samaritans were despised by the Jews of that time. (You can hear it in the way Luke tells the story: “And he was a Samaritan.”)

The Law of Moses commanded that any one with a leprous disease was required to live outside the camp and cry out “unclean, unclean,” when someone approached. Their cure needed to be certified by the priest before they could return to the community.

We celebrate and imitate the Grateful Samaritan who shouts his praise and thanks to God and who bows in appreciation to Jesus.

On the way to the priest he had experienced healing and he knew that the gratitude he was feeling just had to be expressed. That’s when he hears the good news of the gift of salvation and wholeness from the Giver himself:

“Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well (saved you).”

We’ve been given the gift of salvation and wholeness through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s praise God with loud and grateful voices as we bow down and thank the Lord for the greatest gift of all.

And so we pray,

“Thank You, thank You, thank You, generous God!
You have injected life with joy, thus we know laughter.
You have dabbled creation with colour, thus we enjoy beauty.
You have whistled a divine tune into the rhythm of life, thus we hear music.
You have filled our minds with questions, thus we appreciate mystery.
You have entered our hearts with the compassion of Christ,
thus we experience faith.

Thank You God. Thank You. Thank You!”

Rev. John

Ride for Refuge *in support of PWS&D*



What moves you? The **Ride for Refuge** is a family-friendly cycling and walking fundraiser that supports charities who provide refuge and hope for displaced, vulnerable, and exploited people everywhere.

Plan on joining the Presbytery of London Team on **Saturday, October 2 at 10 am** for **Ride for Refuge** in support of the work Presbyterian World Service and Development are doing in food security. The route will begin at Chalmers’ parking lot—you can choose to bike, walk, or any means that works for you to participate.

Visit www.rideforrefuge.org for more information, or <https://ride.w-ith.us/london> to sponsor or join our team! All welcome.

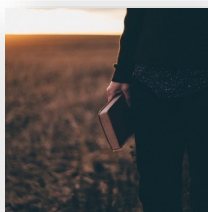
World Communion Sunday



Sunday, October 3 is World Communion Sunday. We will be celebrating communion together in the sanctuary in our 10 am worship service. Pre-packaged elements will be available at the registration table in the narthex. For those who are gluten free, we ask that you bring your own bread—you will be able to use the juice as it is packaged separately from the wafer.

For those joining us in worship from home, we encourage you to have bread and juice on hand so you can worship together with us!

Fall Bible Study



Join us for a 5-week, online Bible study, Mondays at 7:00 pm. This is a 5 week study (we will not meet Thanksgiving Monday, October 11) focusing on:

“Being the Church Today” by Emily Bisset.

This resource seeks to help people explore some essential elements of our Christian identity, and leads congregations in reflections on what we do well and what we may need to pay more attention to in our life together.

RSVP by Sunday, September 26 through the Chalmers website or by emailing jbannerman@bellnet.ca. Zoom link is available through our website. All welcome!

Mission Moment



In this series of newsletters, your mission team will explore the congregation’s mission partners.

This month: **Power of HOPE Community Organization**, which is a local work that provides “comfort packs” consisting of pyjamas, toiletries, underwear, blankets, and age appropriate toys (plus teddy bears to the very young) to children of families in distress. At Christmas time, this organization provides packs to several small organizations that help families in need. During the year, this organization works with the Crouch Resource Centre and the London Pregnancy & Support Centre on a regular basis.



Most donations are collected locally and then distributed locally. The **Power of HOPE** organization serves the Waterloo, Wellington, Perth, and Oxford regions as well as the local office here in London.

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Chalmers supports the **Power of HOPE** London Chapter through financial support (by the congregation) and by congregational donations that fill the comfort packs. Readers may remember the colourful Christmas box of 2019 and the “box by the door” COVID-19 campaign of December 2020.

This year, the mission team are planning a campaign centred around the Thanksgiving season to recognize that, while many of us have much on which to be thankful, there are many families in distress who are seeking help in our community. Watch for “the box” during the early part of October!

Your Mission Team

Chalmers News & Events

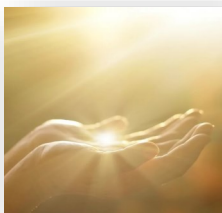
October Birthdays at Chalmers



Lorna Wilson	Oct 3	Don McPhee	Oct 21
Ross Cole	Oct 4	Dawn Bannerman	Oct 22
Michelle Daniel	Oct 6	Gillian Cote	Oct 23
Eleanor Hannah	Oct 9	Rachel Mabondo	Oct 25
Phyllis Johnston	Oct 10	Wayne Runciman	Oct 25
Keith Spooner	Oct 15	Ed Stevenson	Oct 25
Marilyn McFadden	Oct 17	Dave McFadden	Oct 26
Karen Dutton	Oct 19	Jackie Bannerman	Oct 28
Tom Vannus	Oct 19	John Elliot	Oct 28

Happy birthday, and God bless you!

Prayer Requests



- ◆ For God’s healing for **Charles McCartney**, who is recovering at home from colon surgery.
- ◆ For God’s healing and pain control for **Joyce Yull**.
- ◆ For God’s healing and pain control for **Vic Laursen** who is in hospital fighting an infection.
- ◆ For God’s healing for **Doris Tutt** and a spirit of perseverance as she recovers at home.
- ◆ 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 healing for **Barry May** who is home from hospital.
- ◆ For God’s blessing for **Betty Smedley, Linda McPherson,** and **Ross Cole**.

Prayer Requests continued on p. 5...

- ◆ For God's blessing for **Rev. Andrew Thompson**, the new Moderator of the Presbytery of London, and **Rev. Jim Patterson**, the new General Presbyter.
- ◆ 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.

*Built by Faith, Strengthened through Worship,
Bringing Hope to Life's Journey.*



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