



The Presbyterian Church in Canada
PCCConnect Monthly E-Newsletter
JANUARY 2024

PCC RESOURCES

Presbyterians Read: Lent Study 2024

The Presbyterians Read selection this Lent invites the church to reflect on the work of the 14th Century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich. Using Lisa E. Dunhill's ***40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich***, readers will be guided through different sections such as 'Biblical Wisdom', 'Questions to Ponder', 'Psalm Fragments', 'Journal Reflections' exercises and prayers to encounter Jesus.

The Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset, who holds a ThD in homiletics (preaching), specializing in helping people of faith see their lives and the world through the lens of theological reflection, will facilitate sharing online. At least weekly, during Lent and a few times in advance of Ash Wednesday, Emily will post on Facebook some thoughts, suggestions for further reading and devotion, encouragement and additional questions to consider. These posts may be the catalyst for participants to share ideas and questions and to enter into discussion with people beyond their reading group and across the church. Join the Presbyterians Read Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2397226327195079>

40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich is available from major booksellers in print or digital format.

As part of the Presbyterians Read series, the PCC offers an accompanying journal you can order (free) or download and print for your reflections.

Download Journal (document): <https://presbyterian.ca/downloads/96884/>

Download Journal (booklet): <https://presbyterian.ca/downloads/96881/>

Order Printed Booklet: <https://form.jotform.com/Presby/pcc-order>

Lent Liturgies for 2024

When we respond to poverty, hunger and conflict in our global village, we discover God's resurrecting power. The hungry are fed, the vulnerable are cared for, the sick are healed, and the poor are raised up.

This Lenten season, let us faithfully respond to Christ's call to serve those in need. This year's liturgies were written by the Rev. John Bannerman (PWS&D Committee Co-Convener). They are available as PowerPoint slides to show during live or recorded worship

services, and can be ordered from resources@presbyterian.ca or by calling 1-800-619-7301 x331.

Learn More: <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/lent-2024-liturgies/>

Order Online: <https://form.jotform.com/Presby/pcc-order>

Updated Workplace Harassment Policy

The policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada is that harassment of any kind shall not be tolerated and will be addressed.

The updated Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment in the Church states the church's position on harassment and outlines the procedures to address allegations of harassment when they arise within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Learn More: <https://presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od/safety-policies/>

Updated Leading with Care Policy

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is committed to providing safe environments within its ministries.

The updated Leading with Care Policy gives direction to the denomination as it seeks to fulfill this commitment. The policy applies to all ministries, programs and activities that fall under the jurisdiction of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. All volunteers, paid staff, clergy and professional church workers are required to comply with this policy.

Learn More: <https://presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od/safety-policies/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conference: The Art of Transitional Leadership Help and Hope for Interim Moderators

REMINDER: Register by February 1, 2024

April 15–18, 2024

Cost: \$750 (the PCC will cover travel costs)

Apply now: Registration is limited to 30 people!

Over 80% of officially vacant pastoral charges in the PCC won't be calling a minister. Are you serving as interim moderator for one of them? Are you wondering where and

how to lead them? If so, this conference is for you. Drawing from the theory and practice of intentional interim and transitional ministry, participants will learn approaches and skills to help them lead a non-searching congregation through a time of discernment and transition.

Learn More: <https://presbyterian.ca/2024/01/09/help-and-hope-for-interim-moderators/>

Call for Photos: Planting Seeds of Hope

Curled up inside the smallest seed is the potential for future growth of life, nourishment and beauty. Jesus uses seeds when he speaks of the mysterious potential of the reign of God to grow among us in life-giving ways from even the smallest things.

Send us your high-resolution photos (taken horizontally – not portrait but rather landscape) for use in the 2025 calendar, the newspaper and other resources. The photos should depict how we, in the PCC, see the reign of God growing in the world as seeds of hope and potential.

Learn More: <https://presbyterian.ca/2023/11/27/call-for-photos/>

Submit Photos: [https://bit.ly/Photo Submission Form](https://bit.ly/Photo_Submission_Form)

Call for Presbyterian Connection Submissions

We are still accepting submissions for the Spring 2024 issue of the Presbyterian Connection newspaper.

Please send articles and photos of congregational events, activities and initiatives by January 18, 2024, to: connection@presbyterian.ca.

LiFT 2024 (Formerly Canada Youth)

Save the date! July 3-7, 2024

Brock University, St. Catharine's, Ontario

LiFT (Living in Faith Together) 2024 is a gathering of youth, young adults and church leaders under the banner of Audacious Hope.

As with Canada Youth, there will be three streams at the conference: youth (Grade 9-18 years of age), young adults (18-25 years of age) and leaders (18 years and over). Each stream will focus on that group's unique needs and faith expression, exploring "Audacious Hope" through activities, learning, worship, prayer, relationship building and fun. The whole gathering will worship, play and dine together.

Check the LiFT webpage for updates.

LiFT 2024 Webpage: <https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/lift-2024/>

OTHER NEWS

Open Letter to Palestinian Christians from Christians in Canada

In October (2023), partners of The Presbyterian Church in Canada issued "An Open Letter from Palestinian Christians to Western Church Leaders and Theologians." The letter calls on theologians and church leaders to repent of biblical interpretations and theologies that justify colonial attitudes towards and violence against Palestinians that legitimize some of the policies of the Israeli government.

A working group from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Roman Catholic groups, the Anglican Church of Canada, the United Church of Canada, the Mennonite Central Committee and other ecumenical groups created a response to the Open Letter for individuals to consider signing.

Read the October Letter: <https://www.change.org/p/an-open-letter-from-palestinian-christians-to-western-church-leaders-and-theologians>

Read and Sign the Letter for Individuals: <https://www.change.org/p/open-letter-to-palestinian-christians-from-christians-in-canada>

More Info: A Just and Lasting Peace: <https://presbyterian.ca/2023/10/19/a-just-and-lasting-peace/>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ecumenical celebration between **January 18 and 25** every year. Christians worldwide are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship.

As you finalize the details of your WPCU celebrations, don't forget to share your event via this [webform](#) so that it can be advertised on the [weekofprayer.ca listings page](https://www.weekofprayer.ca/listings-page). AND don't forget to take pictures (or screenshots) of your event and send them to wpcuspuc@councilofchurches.ca so that they can be shared to the website.

Resources are available to help you express the degree of communion already given to the churches and pray together that we may be more fully united in the one Christ. Looking for a Week of Prayer near you or online? Check the [listings page](#) (regularly updated) for events in Canada.

Learn More: <https://www.weekofprayer.ca>

Download Resources: <https://www.weekofprayer.ca/2024-wpcu-resources>