

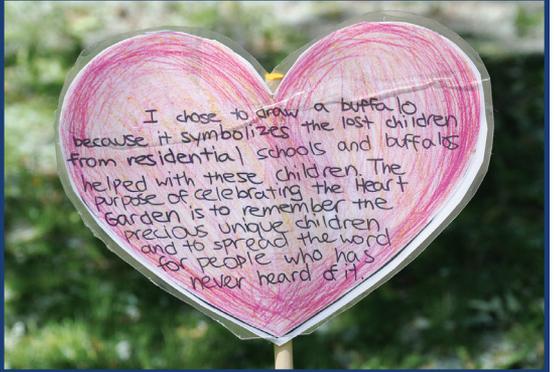
The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Daily Prayer & Mission Moment Calendar



May – June 2021



As a tribute to students of the Indian Residential Schools and their families, 500 children from the Ottawa-Gatineau region joined residential school survivors to create a Heart Garden at Rideau Hall in Ottawa in June of 2015. The cover image of this edition of the Daily Prayer & Mission Moment Calendar is one of 1,000 hearts showing messages of reconciliation that were planted on the grounds of the Governor General's residence. This was a joint initiative by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Project of Heart, KAIROS and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society.

Life in Christ involves prayer,
the seeking of God's will and blessing
on all of life.

Prayer is openness to the presence of God.

In words, or the absence of words,
prayer is the focusing of our lives towards God.

As we commune with God through Jesus Christ,
the Holy Spirit enables us to express our deepest longings,
and we experience the sustaining power of God's presence.

—*Living Faith* 8.1.4

Migrant Workers in Canada

In Canada, migrant workers provide essential services by caring for elders and children, working in farming and food processing, and other, typically service-oriented positions. Many work very long hours for low wages. Some migrant workers find good employers and return every year, for many years. However, access to benefits, such as Employment Insurance, is patchy and the rights of migrant workers are not standardized from province to province. Enforcement of existing workplace regulations, such as safety protocols, is equally patchy. Pathways to citizenship have been extremely limited. The pandemic has made many migrant workers' situations even more precarious.

Scripture repeatedly calls for workers, including foreign workers, to be treated fairly. Jesus illustrates the Great Commandment to love God and your neighbour using the example of the compassionate actions of a foreigner (the Good Samaritan) toward a stranger in need that they meet on the street. Likewise, passages such as Deuteronomy 24:14 state, "You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns."

What can you do? Canada has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Encouraging our federal government to do so would be an important step towards protecting migrant workers. Additionally, you can support migrant justice advocacy groups like the Migrant Rights Network and join the "Status for All" movement by signing their petition for permanent residency, greater safety and stability for migrant workers and their families.¹

1 To sign the petition, go to migrantrights.ca/status-for-all. You can learn more about advocacy for migrant workers at kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/migrant-justice/take-action.

Arising

ARISE Ministry offers compassionate outreach and spiritual care to survivors of sexual exploitation living in the Greater Toronto Area. Inspired by Jesus' healing of the woman who was afflicted for 18 years with a condition that kept her bent over (Luke 13:10–17), ARISE aims to help those who have been living "bent over" by exploitation, trauma, abuse and addiction. Staff and volunteers work with vulnerable women, youth and children by providing one-on-one, goal-oriented support. As relationships strengthen, hope and empowerment are fostered, making it possible for futures to be reclaimed. Like the woman in the gospel of Luke, several women that ARISE has helped are now standing straight and tall, and God continues to do amazing things in their lives. This is a reason to rejoice!



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 25 (Mission Awareness Sunday) We remember in prayer and give thanks for all former and current mission staff who, in faith, accepted God's call to participate in God's mission in Canada and globally.

Monday, April 26 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Montreal in Que.

Tuesday, April 27 We pray for congregations that are concerned about finances, and that God will provide the resources they need to continue the ministry they are called to do.

Wednesday, April 28 We pray that congregations that are searching for a new minister will be filled with hope, wisdom and patience.

Thursday, April 29 We pray for the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning as it works to build a society and churches that fully honour diversity and God's unequivocal welcome.

Friday, April 30 We pray for university students completing the academic year, that God brings them peace as they complete this part of their journey and move on to the next.

Saturday, May 1 We pray for those who are grieving the deaths of loved ones who they were not able to comfort and say goodbye to because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Empowering Youth in Malawi

The people in Malawi's Mzimba District face many challenges. School dropout rates are high and teen pregnancy is on the rise.

More women are experiencing gender-based violence, and there is a lack of knowledge about HIV transmission and prevention. To help address and educate the community about these issues, Presbyterian World Service & Development's local partner, Livingstonia Synod AIDS Programme, has trained 20 community facilitators to teach parents how to nurture adolescents. The facilitators help parents engage youth on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, teen pregnancy, early marriage and the transmission of HIV. The project has been successful in encouraging adolescents to return to school after dropping out.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 2 We pray for Eastern Orthodox Christians as they celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord.

Monday, May 3 We pray for the candidates for ministry and the guidance counsellors who will gather to engage in dialogue and reflection about vocation and discernment during the Guidance Conference this week.

Tuesday, May 4 (Asian Heritage Month) We give thanks for Asian cultures and people in Canada, and pray that their rich contributions to our history and our nation be honoured and remembered.

Wednesday, May 5 We pray for graduating theological students who are beginning the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

Thursday, May 6 We give thanks and pray for clerks of Session as they, with ministers and fellow elders, provide leadership and pastoral care in congregations.

Friday, May 7 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca.

Saturday, May 8 We pray for the safety of LGBTQI2+ refugees seeking sanctuary in Canada, and give thanks for the congregations and sponsors supporting them.

Ministry of Hope and Care

Fernando's dream of becoming a police officer seemed out of reach when he and his brother were children living on the streets of Mische, a rural village in Romania. Twelve years later, he attends university and is closer to fulfilling his dream thanks to Samuel House, where Fernando and his brother found a welcoming home. Samuel House is a Christian social ministry of the Reformed Church in Romania, Királyhágómellék District, providing nutritious food, education and after-school care to children from disadvantaged families. Presbyterians Sharing has been supporting this important ministry of hope and care since 2014.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 9 (Christian Family Sunday) We pray for the health and well-being of families, and that the relationships within them are marked by peace, love, trust and care.

Monday, May 10 We pray for the members of the Ministry Committee of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence.

Tuesday, May 11 We pray for rural and remote congregations, and for those who serve them.

Wednesday, May 12 We pray for the students graduating from Knox College today, who are looking forward to ministries in congregational leadership, spiritual care and psychotherapy, and theological teaching.

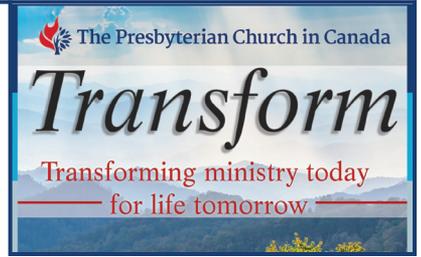
Thursday, May 13 (Ascension Day) We give thanks to God for Christ who was "manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16 CSB).

Friday, May 14 We pray for the Rev. Maurice Davantin, Director of Formation Biblique et Théologique à Maurice, an ecumenical Theological Education by Extension program in Mauritius.

Saturday, May 15 We pray for people around the world who are striving to rise above poverty with educational opportunities and livelihood support through Presbyterian World Service & Development programs.

Transform Online Course

Last fall, ministry leaders from across Canada came together for The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Transform online course. Over four weeks, Rick Morse—co-creator of the New Beginnings church renewal program and author of *Making a Congregational Plan that Makes Sense*—challenged leaders to imagine what it means to faithfully respond to God's mission and engage others to be missional. The course, which was made possible through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, equipped leaders with the transformative tools, principles and insights necessary to discern God's call for their ministries' futures and create plans for moving forward.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 16 (Ascension Sunday) We give thanks for creative faith formation programs that congregations have developed to nurture people's faith.

Monday, May 17 We pray for the Cariboo House Churches in B.C. and their pastor, the Rev. Mark Carter, as they reach out to those who live in remote areas of the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

Tuesday, May 18 We thank God for opening eyes to racism against Indigenous people in Canada, and for moving hearts to turn knowledge into action.

Wednesday, May 19 We pray for the Canadian Council of Churches and the unity of the whole church as its governing board meets over the next few days, and we give thanks for presbyteries who serve the Council in a variety of ways.

Thursday, May 20 We pray for Winnipeg Inner City Missions (WICM) in Manitoba, and pray that healing hands provide health and well-being for the residents of WICM who struggle to make ends meet.

Friday, May 21 We pray for people who have been hurt in the church. May they all find a spiritual home within the broad unity of the body of Christ.

Saturday, May 22 We unite in prayer with KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, seeking change in Canada and around the world through advocacy, education and research programs in Indigenous rights, ecological justice, women of courage, and migrant justice.

Worship Resources to Do God's Work

This year, **Pentecost** and **Healing and Reconciliation Sunday** fall on the same day, making it a day not only for celebration, but also for solemn reflection and prayer for the Indigenous children who attended residential schools and the people who are living with its legacy. Resources to help worship leaders develop services to mark the church's birthday and honour its commitment to reconciliation are available on the PCC website at presbyterian.ca/worship. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing have helped build this comprehensive library of worship resources, providing congregations with free materials (seasonal, intergenerational, ecumenical, etc.) to do God's work throughout the year.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 23 (Healing & Reconciliation Sunday) We pray that hearts and minds will continue to be opened to the truth about the harm of colonisation and the Indian Residential School system. We pray that all Canadians will work for the healing and well-being of Indigenous people and their communities.

Monday, May 24 During National AccessAbility Week, we pray for accessible church communities that are free of barriers.

Tuesday, May 25 We pray for God, who called prophets and apostles, to raise up a new generation of pastors and teachers for the church of our day.

Wednesday, May 26 We pray for the Rev. Joan Masterton of St. James Presbyterian Church in Stouffville, Ont., who serves as the convener of the Cutting Edge of Mission (Dr. E.H. Johnson) Committee.

Thursday, May 27 We pray that students at the MIBE Graduate School for Nurses in Indore, India, feel supported and guided by a strong sense of God's direction as they pursue their studies to become compassionate healthcare leaders.

Friday, May 28 We pray for seniors and their caregivers who are persevering in nursing homes and retirement residences as the pandemic continues.

Saturday, May 29 We pray for Presbyterian camps and conference centres as they prepare programs for the summer. May God provide them with creativity, energy and resources to share faith and fun with children and youth this season.

World Refugee Day

There are currently 79.5 million refugees and internally displaced people in the world.¹ Eighty percent are displaced in countries affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition. In 2019, 107,800 people were resettled in 26 countries—a drop in the bucket compared to the need.

For years, refugee rights advocates in Canada have been pushing the government to increase the number of people welcomed to Canada each year. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, refugee claimants overseas faced long waiting times in difficult conditions, while waiting to hear whether their application to Canada would be approved.

COVID-19 has only exacerbated the situation. In 2020, refugee arrivals to Canada were put on hold for the majority of the year. Even once arrivals began again, resettlement to Canada in 2020 was down significantly over previous years and experts worry that it will take years to work through the backlog created by the pandemic.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada signed its first sponsorship agreement with the Government of Canada in 1979. Since then, as a response to Christ's call to serve and defend the vulnerable and persecuted, Presbyterian congregations, presbyteries and groups have sponsored refugees from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

What can you do? The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) continues to advocate for increases to the number of refugees welcomed to Canada every year. Part of increasing the number involves increased capacity at visa offices overseas, where refugee claims are processed. Each year on June 20, countries across the globe recognize **World Refugee Day**. This year, in honour of the day, visit the CCR website to learn how you can let the government know that refugees are welcome in Canada.²

1 As reported by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees

2 ccrweb.ca/action



— 2021 —
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada June 6–9, 2021

The General Assembly consists of one-sixth of the total number of ministers and members of the Order of Diaconal Ministries and an equal number of elders. Each presbytery elects commissioners from its number to attend the meetings and vote on the matters that come before the Assembly.

Guests to the Assembly bring greetings from other denominations or faiths and speak to the Assembly about the work done by partner churches in other parts of the world.

Commissioners discern the policies and direction of the church by carefully considering the reports and recommendations that come from the committees of the church. After prayer, discussion and listening to ideas and questions, commissioners vote on each matter as the Holy Spirit inspires them.

Through the Assembly, the denomination's budget is set, and decisions are made about the directions that the committees and agencies of the church should follow to support the continuing ministry of Christ through The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The General Assembly is supported through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing.

Supporting Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

Four years ago, the Myanmar military began a campaign of violent attacks against the Rohingya. Widespread killing, torture, robbery and assault forced over 700,000 Rohingya from their homes into neighbouring Bangladesh. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) responded and continues to do so. We are providing lifesaving food assistance and temporary shelter, and ensuring that psychosocial support is available to those who need it. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the crowded refugee camps, PWS&D is helping ensure families have access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Families are also receiving food vouchers to help meet nutritional needs and boost the local economy.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 30 (Trinity Sunday) We give thanks and pray for the ministry that the church does through Presbyterian World Service & Development's refugee sponsorship program to provide an opportunity for refugees to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Monday, May 31 We give thanks and pray for presbytery and synod clerks as they fulfill their responsibilities with wisdom, compassion and precision.

Tuesday, June 1 We give thanks for the beauty of creation, and pray that the people and nations of the world are inspired to protect and care for the earth, as God intended.

Wednesday, June 2 We pray for children and young people who have been separated from friends and prevented from doing the things they love during the past year.

Thursday, June 3 We pray for the Presbyterian World Service & Development projects in Haiti that assist and strengthen children who suffer from malnutrition.

Friday, June 4 We pray for an end to child labour, as well as support for those who promote fair labour practices.

Saturday, June 5 We give thanks for the creative and supportive leadership of the Rev. Amanda Currie in her role as Moderator over the past two years.

Rockland Community Church

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Rockland Community Church in Ontario—established initially with a focus on youth ministry—is transforming through family-style worship and mission that truly brings out the gifts of people of all ages. As their name suggests, “community” is at the heart of this Christian family of faith where everyone belongs. The congregation celebrates the contributions made by each member, and everyone is committed to sharing their gifts with others, whether it’s by inviting a neighbour to a home group gathering or weekly coffee house, or by organizing a Living Nativity for the wider community during Advent. Presbyterians Sharing welcomes people into the family of God.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 6 (General Assembly Sunday) We pray for the Moderator, commissioners and young adult and student representatives who gather online this week to discern the continuing ministry Christ does through the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Monday, June 7 We pray that all those participating in the General Assembly feel a strong sense of God’s presence, and that the Holy Spirit blesses the Assembly with the gifts of wisdom and love in their discernment.

Tuesday, June 8 We give thanks for the members of committees of the General Assembly, and for their involvement in the ministry and mission of the church.

Wednesday, June 9 We pray that the commissioners of the General Assembly and its Moderator are blessed with the gifts of faith, justice, hope and love of God in their discernment.

Thursday, June 10 We give thanks for the volunteers and staff who assisted with the online General Assembly, and for their commitment to support all commissioners and participants.

Friday, June 11 We give thanks for the faithfulness of congregations as they participate in the mission of the church with prayers and financial gifts to Presbyterian Sharing.

Saturday, June 12 We pray for congregations in rural locations that will welcome summer ministry students. May this summer be a time of blessing, growth and learning for the ministries and the students.

Meeting the Needs of Families in Beirut

The massive explosion that struck the city of Beirut in August 2020 left many people injured and many homes damaged. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) responded to the devastating effects by meeting the needs of vulnerable people in Lebanon. Families received essential supplies, such as food and hygiene items, to sustain them as they started to rebuild. Additionally, PWS&D assisted in restoring homes and schools and provided water and sanitation kits to families, as well as school kits to children.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 13 We pray for people elected to serve in government and that those with power will have wisdom and that those who are wise will have power.

Monday, June 14 We pray for those who work to provide food that strengthens our bodies so that we can love and serve God and one another.

Tuesday, June 15 We pray for vulnerable families affected by COVID-19 in Afghanistan who are receiving food assistance from Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Wednesday, June 16 We pray for the Moderator of the 2021 General Assembly as a new term of pastoral ministry and leadership begins.

Thursday, June 17 We pray for wisdom and discernment as the Rev. Patrick Thegu Mutahi begins his three-year term as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) in Kenya.

Friday, June 18 We pray for musicians, singers and artists who add beauty and texture to our worship of God.

Saturday, June 19 We give thanks and pray for teachers who have had to adapt to teaching under new and difficult circumstances.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Presbyterian Church in Canada acknowledges the responsibility that our church, governments and all Canadians have to continue working for healing and justice with Indigenous people. Presbyterians Sharing supports nine ministries that operate in and with Indigenous communities in Canada. These ministries meet physical and spiritual needs by providing meals, counselling, temporary housing and employment assistance. They also strive to heal hearts through art and music therapy, worship services that incorporate Indigenous beliefs, and more.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 20 On **National Indigenous Peoples Sunday**, we give thanks for Indigenous people of all ages and nations who build up Indigenous communities through art and literature, language preservation and instruction, law and governance, healthcare and education.

Monday, June 21 (National Indigenous Peoples Day) We give thanks for Indigenous leaders who nurture and strengthen their communities and the whole nation, and pray for their well-being.

Tuesday, June 22 We pray for a spirit of global cooperation and generosity among the nations of the world as they face new challenges and respond to the enduring needs of people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wednesday, June 23 We give thanks for scientific research and discovery to confront disease and improve people's health through the development of vaccines.

Thursday, June 24 We give thanks for the work of Paul Clarke who is retiring from his role as Executive Director of Action Réfugiés Montréal this month. We pray that God will continue to bless him and the work of Action Réfugiés during this transition.

Friday, June 25 We pray for the generosity to respond to God's call to share what we have with those in need.

Saturday, June 26 We give thanks that women at the Gambaga Camp in Ghana are receiving skills training to improve their livelihoods with support from Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Equipping New Leaders

Growing up in a village in northern Malawi where the nearest health facility is 30 km away, Dorica Nkhata knows about the importance of accessible healthcare. Working at Embangweni Mission Hospital as a nurse and noticing a critical shortage of doctors, she decided to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor at the Malawi College of Medicine. She approached the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod, for assistance. At our partner's request, the PCC accepted Dorica into the Leadership Development Program. With financial support from Knox Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines, Ont., and Presbyterians Sharing, Dorica is on her way to fulfilling her dream and serving those in need in rural Malawi. Presbyterians Sharing supports leadership development through medical and theological education and training programs in Kenya, Malawi, Lebanon and Eastern Europe.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 27 We pray for those experiencing difficult health issues, and give thanks for people who work to bring healing and comfort as well as agencies that offer support and care in our communities.

Monday, June 28 We give thanks and pray for the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking—the 2021 recipient of the Cutting Edge of Mission (Dr. E.H. Johnson) award—and their ministry of care for the vulnerable.

Tuesday, June 29 We pray for those whose employment has been adversely affected by COVID-19.

Wednesday, June 30 We give thanks for moments of delight and occasions of celebration; for happy gatherings, gentle solitude, pleasure given and received; for laughter, friendship and love.

Daily prayers are submitted by the colleges,
committees, agencies and mission societies
of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

One Mission, Two Funds

Proclaiming Christ in Word and Deed

Presbyterians Sharing supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations are encouraged to raise an accepted allocation each year.



Presbyterian World Service & Development

is the PCC's development and relief agency. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations and individuals and through government grants—over and above gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. International Ministries mission personnel, funded through Presbyterians Sharing, often work with PWS&D partners.



Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development are making a difference!



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