

## *Joy Letter - AUGUST 2025*

### **First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford**

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*Sunday Service @10:30am weekly*

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### *How a Small Church Can Make a Big Difference for the Kingdom of God*

In a world that often glorifies size, numbers, and spectacle, small churches can easily feel overlooked or undervalued. Yet, throughout history and even today, God delights in using what the world considers small or insignificant to accomplish great things for His Kingdom. Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed—tiny, yet capable of growing into a large tree that offers shelter (Matthew 13:31–32). Likewise, a small congregation, faithful and obedient, can have a deep and lasting impact on its community and beyond. **1. Power in Faithfulness, Not Size:** God does not measure success the way the world does. While large churches may reach thousands with their resources, the strength of a small church lies in its closeness, its authenticity, and its ability to disciple with personal care. In Revelation 3:8, Jesus commended the church in Philadelphia by saying, "You have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name." The Lord notices and honors the faithfulness of small groups that remain true to His Word. Small churches often excel in creating a sense of family. When people walk into a small congregation, they're not just another face—they are seen, known, and loved. This kind of genuine fellowship is a powerful witness to a lonely world. By loving one another deeply (John 13:35), small churches can demonstrate Christ's love in practical and transformative ways. **2. Focused Mission and Community Impact:** Small churches are uniquely positioned to know the needs of their communities intimately. Because of their size, they can move quickly to serve, adapt, and respond. Whether it's organizing a food pantry, visiting the sick and elderly, or partnering with local schools, a small church can have a visible, tangible presence in its neighborhood. These acts of service, though seemingly humble, build trust and open doors for the gospel. People may not remember a sermon they heard online, but they will remember the church that brought them meals after surgery, helped them find shelter during a crisis, or prayed for them in the middle of the night. In this way, small churches can shine as lights in their communities (Matthew 5:14–16). **3. Raising Disciples, Not Just Attendees:** Large events may draw crowds, but discipleship happens best in relationship. Small churches offer fertile ground for intentional mentoring, accountability, and spiritual growth. With fewer people, pastors and leaders can invest more deeply into individuals, helping them grow in Christ and develop their own gifts for ministry. Ephesians 4:12 says church leaders are called to "equip the saints for the work of ministry." A small church can focus on developing strong, mature believers who then go out and impact the world in their homes, workplaces, and beyond. A church doesn't have to be big to send missionaries, raise up preachers, or train faithful lay leaders. **4. God Loves to Work Through the "Little Ones":** From David defeating Goliath, to Gideon's small army, to Jesus feeding thousands with a boy's lunch, Scripture is full of examples of God doing great things through small people. Why? Because it shows His power, not ours. The Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians, "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong... so that no one may boast in His presence" (1 Corinthians 1:27–29). A small church that trusts God, remains rooted in His Word, and walks in love can become a mighty tool in His hands. The size of the building or the budget does not limit the movement of the Holy Spirit. **Final Encouragement:** Our church ministry matters. We don't strive to become a copy of a megachurch. Instead, we ask God how He wants to use our congregation. Remember, Jesus began with twelve disciples. From that small beginning came a

worldwide movement. In the Kingdom of God, faithfulness always outweighs fame. A small church can make a big difference when it walks humbly, loves deeply, and trusts God fully. Keep sowing seeds, keep lifting up Christ, and trust that God will bring the increase.

*Submitted by: Pastor Don Everhard*

### 🎂 **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

#### **Happy Birthday Blessings!!!**

- ★ Shannon Miller - 10th
- ★ Janice Gumz - 15th
- ★ Tom Ruppert - 21st
- ★ Keegan Yeager - 28th
- ★ Edythe Hanson - 29th

### 📅 **Mark Your Calendars:**

August 24th, 2025 at 10:30am,  
3rd Annual Backyard Worship  
Service and Picnic at Don &

Gloria Everhard's home in Medford WI. There is a potluck signup sheet at the Church entrance table if individuals care to contribute, but there will be plenty of food to share - meaning, please join us with hungry appetites for a special service, amazing fellowship and great food! Bring your favorite lawn chair or games, there will also be ample seating available in the backyard. The Presbyterian Women (PW) will be supplying the meat, buns & butter, milk & water, utensils & paper products. Please email the office if you would like additional info or need directions to Everhards. Hope to see you there!!!

### ✅ **Check It Out:**

We can now share (clipped) versions of the Sunday Services. If you are looking to reference just the sermon portion of services, please check out the "Sermons" tab on the Church website; also accessed through YouTube, where you can find playlists for "Services", "Sermons", and "Service Music". Our Facebook page continues to feature current events and highlights. Check us out on any of the links listed at the top of this month's Joy Letter!

### 🏛️ **Ministry Spotlight:**

This month's Church Ministry Spotlight features **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoeboxes**. Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled OCC shoeboxes to children in need around the WORLD, along with the message of Jesus Christ with The Greatest Journey, a 12 lesson discipleship course designed for OCC recipients. For most children who receive these shoeboxes, this will be the only gift they receive as a child, and their first chance to hear the Gospel. Special offering collections will be running during the month of September through our Church, to pack these love filled gifts, headed up by Shannon Boschma. This year's goal is to send 45 boxes; in 2024 we sent 43, that blessed children in Malawi. If you would like more information about this ministry, please talk to Shannon or Gloria. To learn more about OCC, please follow this link <https://video.samaritanspurse.org/what-is-operation-christmas-child/>.



For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them. - Matthew 18:20 (RSV)