

First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford

Pastor: Don Everhard

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Phone: 715-223-4001

Sunday Service @10:30am weekly

Email: abbypresbyterian@gmail.com

Online: www.abbypresbyterian.org

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchofabbot>

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"Is God Really in Control?", from Jerry Bridges Book

One of the many fascinating events in nature is the emergence of the cecropia moth from its cocoon-and an event that occurs only with much struggle on the part of the moth to free itself. The story is frequently told of someone who watched a moth go through this struggle. In an effort to help and not realizing the necessity of the struggle the viewer snipped the shell of the cocoon. Soon the moth came out with its wings all crimped and shriveled. But as the person watched, the wings remained weak. The moth, which in a few moments would have stretched those wings to fly, was now doomed to crawling out its brief life in frustration of ever being the beautiful creature God created it to be. What the person in the story did not realize was that the struggle to emerge from the cocoon was an essential part of developing the muscle system of the moth's body and pushing the body fluid out into the wings to expand them. By unwisely seeking to cut short the moth's struggle, the watcher had actually crippled the moth and doomed its existence.

The adversities of life are much like the cocoon of the cecropia moth. God uses them to develop the spiritual "muscle system" of our lives. As James 1:2-4 says, "The testing of your faith through trials of many kinds, develops perseverance," and perseverance leads to maturity of our character. We can be sure that the development of a beautiful Christlike character will not occur in our lives without adversity. Think of those lovely graces that Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. The first traits he mentions were Love, Joy, Peace and Patience that can only be developed in the womb of adversity.

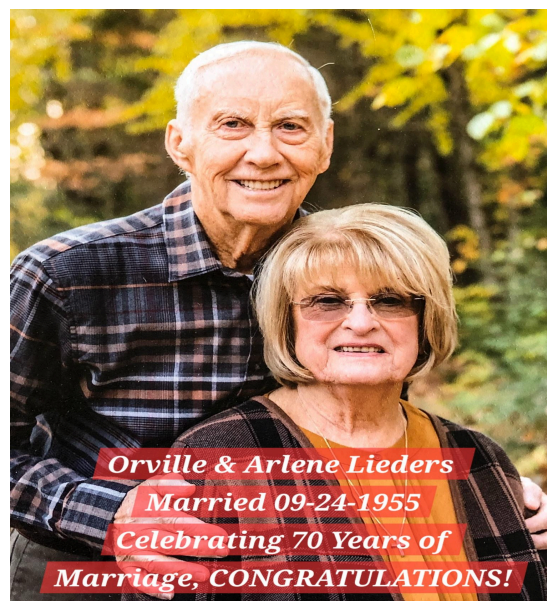
We may think we have true Christian Love until someone offends us or treats us unjustly. Then we begin to see anger and resentment well up with us. We may conclude we have learned about genuine Christian Joy until our lives are shattered by an unexpected calamity or grievous disappointment. Adversities spoil our peace and sorely try out patience. God uses those difficulties to reveal to us our need to grow, so that we will reach out to Him to change us more and more into the likeness of His Son. However, we shrink from adversity and, to use the terms from the moth illustration, we want God to snip the cocoon of adversity we often find ourselves in and release us. But just as God has more wisdom and love for the moth than its viewer did, so He has more wisdom and love for us than we do for ourselves. He will not remove the adversity until we have profited from it and developed in whatever way He intended in bringing or allowing it into our lives. We are to look beyond our adversity to what God is doing in our lives and rejoice in the certainty that He is at work in us to cause us to grow.

Submitted by: Cindy Koch

🙏 Back To School Prayer: "Wise God, we ask for your calm to fill the minds of students and teachers. Give them delight in learning, patience with one another, and compassion in all their interactions. May they share your love and grace with the world. Amen". 🏠

🎂 **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**
Happy Birthday Blessings!!!

- ★ Marissa Pope - 7th
- ★ Preston Pope - 7th
- ★ Pierce Pope - 7th
- ★ Tawney Ruppert - 10th
- ★ Mark Leichtman - 11th
- ★ Lori Everhard - 15th
- ★ Jolene Koch - 19th



📅 **Mark Your Calendars:**

First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford offers a variety of classes for youth and adults. Here is a brief overview of the available classes: Weekly - Sunday School for youth in grades 4-8 is at **9:30am**, and for children in grades K-3 it's **10:30am**. There is also a nursery available for children under 4 and a comfy cry room for infants if needed. One or Two nights a month - JR and SR High Youth Study at the Dorchester Library. (ALL youth classes are coordinated by Gloria, please contact her for additional information.) September 16th, **6:15pm**, Bible Study at Church in Abbotsford, continuing the study of the Book of Romans, ALL are welcome to attend. September 26th, **3:00pm**, Women's Bible Study at Gloria's home, study continues on the Book of Hebrews, fellowship supper to follow if interested.

✅ **Check It Out:**

If you were unable to worship and fellowship in person at the Backyard Worship Service and Potluck Picnic on August 24th, please check out the highlight video on the Church Website, <https://abbypresbyterian.org/news/backyard-worship-service-fellowship-picnic-3rd-annual>, it was a chilly and wet early Fall day, but everyone enjoyed the music, message, fellowship and abundance of food!

💖 **Special Offering for September:**

Last month's "Ministry Spotlight" featured *Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes* (OCC). During the month of September, we will be collecting a special offering at Church, to help pack and send shoeboxes around the World to bless children in need. Every Sunday we will share a video, highlighting the work OCC does, both at our Church level and globally. If you would like to give online, please follow the Tithe.ly link to give, <https://www.abbypresbyterian.org/give>, and designate to the *missions fund*.

🏛️ **Ministry Spotlight:**

This month's Church Ministry Spotlight features ***The Presbyterian Women (PW)***. Presbyterian Women, Inc., is the women's organization in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are a community of more than 200,000 women who participate in Presbyterian Women (PW) and align our ministry and hearts around a shared purpose, the PW Purpose. Our local PW is involved in so many ways in the Church Family - organizing dinners for celebrations, fundraising drives for local organizations, prayer chains, Bible study, Junk in the Trunk. All women of the Church are *Presbyterian Women*. If you would like more information on the PW's involvement in First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford, please contact Judy P or Cindy K.

For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ~Jeremiah 29:11 (RSV)