



THANKSGIVING

LET OUR LIVES BE FULL OF
THANKS AND GIVING.

September 9, 2025

A Thanksgiving Letter from the Minister

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

Matthew 7:24-25

Dear Friends,

As the warmth of summer gives way to the crisp air and vibrant colours of autumn, we find ourselves adjusting once again to new rhythms of life. Back-to-school schedules, renewed routines, and the busyness of daily commitments remind us of how quickly time moves. Yet in the midst of it all, we pause to give thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow.

In just a few weeks, we will gather around tables with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving. It is my prayer that this season will be filled with joy, peace, and gratitude for you and your loved ones. Enclosed you will find a special offering envelope should you wish to make a Thanksgiving gift as part of your expression of gratitude.

This autumn is especially meaningful for us as a congregation. Together, we celebrate God's faithfulness over 170 years of ministry here at First Presbyterian Church, Collingwood. What a legacy of worship, service, and community! I warmly invite you to join us for our **Anniversary worship service on Sunday, September 28th**, as we give thanks for all that God has done and look forward with hope to what lies ahead.

On that day we will enjoy inspiring music, the induction of new members, and a special fellowship and coffee hour afterwards. The sermon will explore Matthew chapters 7 and 16 as Rev. Alton preaches about our firm foundation in a message titled "Built on Bedrock." We will also be giving out a new book containing historical insights about the congregation including the history of the organ and our stained-glass windows.

We are also excited to begin our anniversary weekend with **Friday Night Live**, a contemporary worship event, on **Friday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m.** This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to gather in praise and fellowship as we set the tone for our time of celebration.

As we mark this milestone and move into the season of Thanksgiving, may our hearts be lifted in gratitude for God's abundant goodness and unfailing love. I give thanks to God for each one of you and for the privilege of serving alongside you in this congregation.

With thanksgiving in Christ,

Rev. Alton J. Ruff
Lead Minister

