

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/@firstpresbyterianchurchofabbotsford>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofabbotsford>



“Celebrating Pastor Appreciation Month”, written by Focus on the Family

Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is typically scheduled in October but can be held at any time that is convenient for the Church and the community. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year. The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments – the spiritual well-being of his flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned. Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down, and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out. That's why God has instructed us to recognize his servants. The good news is that we can make a difference! Pastor Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need. **The history of Pastor**

Appreciation Month: We believe that the concept of pastor appreciation started with the Apostle Paul as he was establishing the first Christian Churches. In 1 Timothy, he wrote, *“The elders who direct the affairs of the Church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching”* (1 Timothy 5:17). And, in 1 Thessalonians, he said, *“Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work”* (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). Accordingly, over the centuries, decades and years, pastors have been recognized and honored, either formally or informally, by many denominations and local Churches at various times of the year. It has been a long-standing practice. Focus on the Family named and began emphasizing Pastor Appreciation Month in 1994, reminding congregations that it was biblical and proper to honor their pastoral staff and pastoral families throughout the year, but suggesting that they set aside the month of October for a special tangible tribute. For those Churches that preferred a single weekend, we recommended the second weekend of the month. However, honoring a Church's entire pastoral staff and their families can be done at any time – and, in fact, should become a normal part of a Church's ongoing care of these special families throughout the entire year. **THANK YOU, Pastor Don, and Family, for all you do for the Church Family! We appreciate you!!!** Submitted by: Shannon Boschma

🙏 And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. ~Jeremiah 3:15 (RSV). 🏠



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday Blessings!!!

- ★ Deanna Andersen - 5th
- ★ Shaye Pope - 7th
- ★ Brian Loucks - 17th
- ★ Phil Proft - 20th
- ★ Travis Koch - 22nd
- ★ AmySue Ruppert - 22nd



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.)*

Monthly, **6:15pm**, Bible Study at Church in Abbotsford, continuing the study of the Book of Romans, ALL are welcome to attend. Monthly, **3:00pm**, Women's Bible Study at Gloria's home, study continues on the Book of Hebrews, fellowship supper to follow if interested. Additional information for evening classes is available on our Website, listed at the top of Joy Letter.

October 26th, Pastor Appreciation Potluck, downstairs of the Church, right after scheduled Church Service. There is a signup sheet at the Welcome table, if you would like to share in the meal preparations.



Check It Out:

"Friday Evening Email" - are you receiving the quick update email and Sunday bulletin at 5pm on Friday? If not, please reach out to Shannon B in the office, or email (at top of letter) to be added.

Church Library - have you seen all it has to offer? Books for all ages. Feel free to "check out" a few.



Special Offering for October:

Last month's "Ministry Spotlight" featured *The Presbyterian Women (PW)*. During the Month of October, the Church will highlight Missions and Events the PW helps to support - please feel free to ask Judy P if there are any specific needs the PW is in need of, or to hear more information (they do a lot "behind the scenes"!). PW provides the meat, buns and essentials for potlucks, funds the deep cleaning in the Church, purchases "needs" for the Church, such as Dehumidifiers and LiveStream Equipment, the PW also ensures donations are gathered and sent to the local Food Pantry and Ronald McDonald House! Half the funds PW raises they also send to The Mission of the Presbytery Women. *Presbyterian Women* appreciates your support and prayers at any time of the year, and in October we would like to especially recognize their leadership. If you would like to support the PW 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 Salvation Army Red Kettle***. The holidays officially begin when you hear the bells ringing beside Salvation Army red kettles. It's a sound that calls people to spread Christmas joy to those in need. Every year from November through Christmas Eve, the red buckets can be found outside storefronts across the country. The Loucks have done a tremendous job over the years, gathering volunteers and raising astounding numbers in the community ringing the bells. If you would like more information or to sign up to volunteer this season, please contact Gerri Loucks.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ~Proverbs 31:30 (RSV)