

**First Presbyterian Church of
Abbotsford**

Pastor: Don Everhard

305 W Elm St. Abbotsford, WI 54405

Phone: 715-223-4001

Sunday Service @ 10:30am weekly

Email: abbypresbyterian@gmail.com

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

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



“A True Story” *by John Boschma*

In the summer of 1990, when we were getting ready to move to Canada from the Netherlands, we were saying a lot of ‘goodbyes’, and one of them stood out. It was from a potato farmer, who was renting land from us and was in the middle of a painful divorce. He said, “I wish I could come with you, with my family and start over, but it's too late now...because I was always working and did not have enough time for my wife and kids, so they cut me loose.” Then I mentioned to him, how sad and troubling the renewed conflict was between Israel and Palestine. His response was, “this conflict you are talking about is never going to end, you need to read your Bible better, it is all in Joshua 9”.

He said, “now that I am alone, that's what I do, reading the Bible. It says in Joshua 9; The Gibeonites deceived Joshua, by telling him that they came from a far country, to make a treaty of peace with Joshua, to let them live. (Vs 14) The men of Israel did not pray to the Lord. (Vs 16) Three days later, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors living near them. (Vs 22) Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said ‘why did you deceive us?’ (Vs 24) They answered Joshua, ‘your servants were clearly told how the Lord your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you’. (Vs 26) So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. (Vs 27) That day he made the Gibeonites wood-cutters and water-carriers for the community and for the altar of the Lord at the place the Lord would choose. And that is what they are to this day.”

So, going into a New Year, let's remember the lesson from this Bible story, to read our Bibles and to pray first to God for his blessing. I wish you all a very Blessed New Year!!!

Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17 (RSV)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday Blessings!!!

- ★ *Marge Blair-5th*
- ★ *Martha Anderson-16th*
- ★ *Robert Barkley-23rd*
- ★ *Tineke Boschma-24th*
- ★ *Kaylie Miller-26th*
- ★ *Rich Wojtalewicz-27th*
- ★ *Juliana Miller-30th*



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**-(please check with *Gloria* in advance, to see if there will be class, until March 15th, then regular schedule will continue with a new curriculum), 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. (ALL classes are coordinated by *Gloria*, please contact her for additional information.) Watch the Friday email and Church website, for upcoming adult and teen class dates as well.

Membership drive - if you would be interested in proclaiming membership to First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford, please reach out to Pastor Don. In January new members of the Church will be introduced, a couple weeks in advance Pastor Don would meet with you, review the beliefs of the Church and help answer any questions you may have. 

Are you interested in becoming more involved in Church committees or planning? January 11th there will be an annual meeting of the **Presbyterian Women, Shephards, Prayer chain members, and Deacons**, right after Church service in the Church lounge. Please feel free to reach out to Judy in advance, with questions pertaining to any of the above mentioned. 

Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford will be Sunday, February 8th, after regular Church service. Booklets will be available 1 week prior to review. Greg Braatz will be our guest Pastor for the Sunday service and a potluck meal will follow, hosted by the Presbyterian Women (PW). A signup sheet will be at the greeting table of the Church, if you'd like to share your cooking abilities with the congregation. 

PerCapita has been set by the Presbytery, for 2026, at \$40.42 per member. 

2025 Tithe tax statements will be emailed out in the next 2 weeks. Please reach out to the Church office with any questions, or if a printed copy is needed. *Thank you for your generous and loving support to the Church!* 

Lori Everhard Memorial Service will be held at the Church on January 17th. Visitation from 10-12, followed by the Church service and luncheon. We miss her greetings at the door, with stories of great-grandchildren or a share of one of her delicious bread loaves. From Lori's obituary: *Lori was a wonderful Presbyterian minister's wife, accompanying her husband to hospital calls; visiting the elderly; helping out at church; and entertaining parishioners. She was an active member of all the churches that she and Bob served, with the last one being First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford. Lori was also a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She showed her love through cooking and baking. She was best known for her 'Grandma Lori' breads which she baked lovingly for her family and friends.* 

2026 is full of hope. Give Jesus your all and it will be your best year yet!

Joke of the day... "The \$100 and \$1" Two well-worn bills arrived at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired - a \$100 and a \$1. As they traveled down the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The hundred reminisced about the interesting life he had, traveling all over the country. "I've been to the finest restaurants, Broadway shows, Las Vegas, and amusement parks," he said. "I even went on a Caribbean cruise once. Where have you been?" "Oh," said the one dollar bill, "I've been to a Methodist church, an Episcopal church, a Baptist church, and a Lutheran church." "What's a church?" asked the hundred.