

Joy Letter - March 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford

Pastor: Don Everhard

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Sunday Service @ 10:30am weekly

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Inspired by Pastor Don's Sermon on Angels: "Guided by Angels"

In the winter of 1990 after attending a realtors promotion meeting, we were invited to come to Canada and check out some farms that he had for sale. Since we had some help that time, we decided to check it out and book a trip to Halifax N.S. We were supposed to meet this realtor at the airport on a Friday afternoon, to our surprise, nobody was there, so we found a hotel and settled for the night. The next morning, the local news was warning of a bad snow storm...Not used to any winter weather, we didn't think too much of it, and started our little rented Toyota Civic and were sliding right onto the road (the hotel was on a hill). A young fellow at the hotel told us to take the first road to the right, to get to the ferry going to PEI. He didn't know that this ferry only operated in the summer...so we had to turn around by this loading dock and realized why this road was not plowed. Thanks to this mistake we lost a couple hours and decided to take the shortest coastal road, instead of back to the highway...just before a place called Tatamagouche. It snowed so hard we couldn't see the road and got in the ditch, so (John) walked to the first house, asking for help. The woman said: "It is almost noon, so my husband will come home soon for lunch, I will send him to pull you out with his pick-up" and so he did!!

In Tatamagouche there was a diner, so we stopped for lunch, had a bite to eat and warmed up. There was a bakery also in the diner and a lady gave us a bag with fresh baked cookies, she said "You might get stuck!". So this time we were going real slow with the wipers going full speed, close to four o'clock we finally found the dock of the "right" ferry and were the last car going on. Going up the stairs we were greeted by an older couple. They asked where are you from and where are you going? After filling them in on our story, he said "I'm also a Realtor, so come with us, and stay with us!". Off the boat in Bordon we made it into Summerside, there the cops had closed the road and we followed Robert, our new Realtor, to his place to stay there overnight. The next morning we had to dig out the cars out of the snow. And John asked Robert: are you church people? O Yes! You wanna go to church? Then we have to hurry up! In church we were greeted as Royalty (Visitors in Feb.). Later on Wednesday night they had a luncheon quickly organized, with great fellowship. That week Robert showed us 5 farms, took us to the school, the bank, the neighbors etc. After praying together on it, we made an offer on our new farm on Thursday and it was right away accepted! It was extremely exciting and good that we were in our early thirties with lots of energy and almost blind faith that this plan was going to work out. And yes, we definitely had Angels watching over us!!

Submitted by: John Boschma

1 "Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn, that he may heal us; he has stricken, and he will bind us up. **2** After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. **3** Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his going forth is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth." ~Hosea 6:1-3 (RSV)

 **MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**
Happy Birthday Blessings!!!

- ★ Ramona Michlig-5th
- ★ Donna Lieders-9th
- ★ Arlene Lieders(90th)-15th
- ★ Caden Miller-18th
- ★ Hank Boschma-26th
- ★ Judy Palmerton-27th



 **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 4-12 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.

March 13th - Ladies Group, *Ladies Fellowship with continued study on the book of Hebrews, with supper following*, at Gloria's home, at 3pm.

March 31st - Group Bible Study at the Church, 6:15pm. *This year, we are diving into the great stories of the Old Testament and discovering how each one ultimately points us to Christ. Our upcoming study will focus on Adam and Eve and the fall into sin, exploring both the depth of humanity's need and the hope of God's redemptive plan from the very beginning. We would love for you to join us as we grow together in understanding and faith.*

 **Extra Requests:**

Do you have a hymn request, a favorite you would like to see in the rotation? Please leave a note in the office or offering plate, noting which hymnal and hymn number(s). We would love to have a list of favorites to work with. We have been blessed with Sunday music accompaniment from Matthew Fischer playing the organ, Sharwin Gosse playing piano and organ and now Bonnie Weideman also stepping in to play piano. Thank you!!! 🙏

 **Special Offering Spotlight:**

OGHS offering - Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Information is in this week's bulletin, along with the special offering envelopes. At the welcome table are "🐟", if you would like to take one home to collect your offerings. There is also a Lent prayer calendar at the table, feel free to take one as well. 🙏



What is Good Friday?

Good Friday marks the day Jesus was crucified on the cross for our sins. As we prepare for Easter, many Christians ask, "What's so good about Good Friday?" Since it marks a day of tremendous torture and suffering for our Savior, how can it be considered "good"? Despite its somber nature, this day is good because it marks the pivotal moment when Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself for humanity's sins, offering forgiveness and eternal life. This act of love and redemption is seen as a "good" day because it fulfilled God's plan to reconcile humanity with Himself, demonstrating the depth of His love and mercy. Through Jesus' death, He conquered sin and death, paving the way for His resurrection and our salvation.

Prepare your hearts and minds for Easter by attending the Good Friday Worship Service and Communion, Friday April 3rd, 3:00pm, at Abbotsford First Presbyterian Church.