

## Joy Letter - April 2026

### 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](mailto:abbypresbyterian@gmail.com)

Online: [www.abbypresbyterian.org](http://www.abbypresbyterian.org)

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

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



Greetings: I am honored to share a message in the Joy letter! Just like my birthday twin, John Boschma, stated in a message in January, this is also a True Story!

My writing style tends to be in long, run-on sentences, sorry! Many of you know I drive a school bus, out of the Dorchester garage for Burnett Transit, serving the Abby School district, with students from the Village of Curtiss. One tends to gather a "clothes basket" of scarfs, hats, mittens, boots, swimming trunks, and pencils over the 300+ routes making up the school year. I usually place these items on the engine cover, next to my driver seat. Most get reclaimed, sooner or later, or in the case of a soft blanket from the movie "Frozen" that ended up in my kittens' play house; I did say most!

At the end of the school year, things get discarded as the bus gets a "house cleaning". 4 years ago, a pair of purple knit gloves, with numbers 1-10 printed on the fingertips, landed on my "dog house" (engine cover) for most of the winter. That pair of purple gloves remained there right through the last day of school! As I cleaned the bus, you could say my eyes were opened!


You see, it was right after covid. My son Craig and daughter-in-law Rose were hoping to become first time parents, after more than five years of marriage. However, time was marching on and no bundle of joy was showing up. They decided to try the in vitro route to help the process along. However three procedures were fruitless. A very expensive process, and the doctors at the reproductive clinic could not explain why they were still childless. All numbers were positive but nothing to show for it. The couple wisely choose counseling to hold their lives together.

I mentioned my eyes were opened but I also needed to open my heart and soul. I took those tiny purple gloves home with me and placed them in my truck. Every time that summer, I got into or just walked by my blue 2003 Chevy Avalanche, I touched those gloves and said a short prayer. Please Father, if it is your will, fill these gloves with some warm little patties! I also took the purple knit gloves to family events. I passed them around the table, told this story and asked for prayers and good thoughts from everyone who held them. It took several months of steadfastness of prayer by countless people to bring on an early spring baby shower! Little Lainey Therese arrived in late April. She will be three this month. PRAISE the Lord! As I reflected on this ultimate gift, I now realize, those pretty purple numbered gloves were not from any of my bus kids, but were indeed delivered by an Angel, to test me, to trust the Lord, show all those who touch them, the Power of Prayer. With the help of a friend, we had a wall hanging made! That pair of gloves are surrounded by the words: *MANY Hands have Touched These Gloves and the Lord gave us Lainey to Love*. On the back, I have written her this story, so when I'm not around she can read it herself.

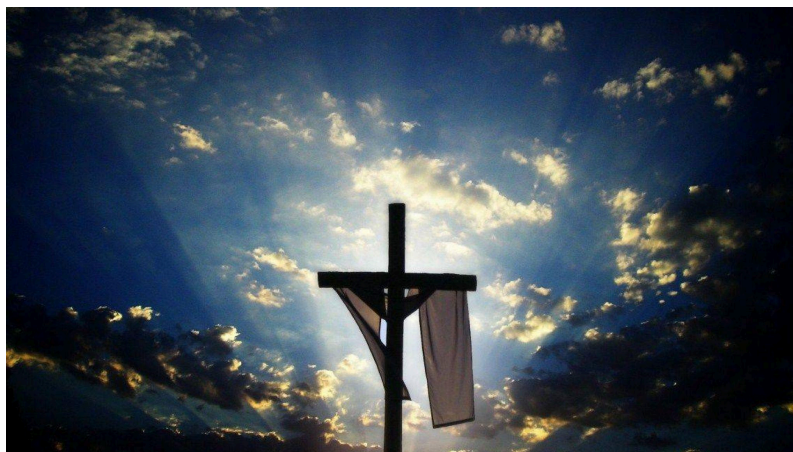
Let me remind you of this, GRACE with Faith can provide Miracles! Our Love to Lainey.

*Grampa Gumz*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ~John 3:16-18 (RSV)

 **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**  
**Happy Birthday Blessings!!!**

- ★ Kenneth Haines-5th
- ★ Brian Lieders-11th
- ★ Emmy Ruppert-17th
- ★ Bob Tesch-17th
- ★ Maurine Schraufnagel-18th
- ★ Gloria Everhard-25th
- ★ Gabriel (Gabe) Boschma-28th
- ★ Shannon Boschma-29th
- ★ Sandy Pope-30th




 **Mark Your Calendars:**

\*First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford offers Sunday School Classes for youth 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.

\*Friday, April 10th - Ladies Group, *Ladies Fellowship with continued study on the book of Hebrews, with supper following*, at Gloria's home, at 3pm.

\*Friday, April 3rd @3pm - Prepare your hearts and minds for Easter by attending *Good Friday Worship Service and Communion* at First Presbyterian Church in Abbotsford. <https://www.facebook.com/share/1GVJoWnbWs/>

\*May 8 & 9, Abbotsford City Wide Garage Sales. More information is coming soon, watch your emails and upcoming bulletins. The Church will once again have space available in the parking lot, for "Junk in the Trunk".

 **Extra Requests:**

\*Do you have a hymn request, a favorite you would like to see in the rotation? Please leave a note in the Church office or place in the offering plate, noting which hymnal and hymn number(s). We would love to have a list of favorites to work with. Thank you!!! 🙏

\*Note from accounting: It may be beneficial to be sure your donations are linked to your name (receipt, check, etc.). For 2026, even individuals who do not itemize on their tax returns are allowed to take a deduction of income on their federal tax return of up to \$1,000 per person, or \$2,000 for a married couple. This is something new for 2026. Please discuss with a tax professional for additional information. 💎



**Easter Traditions that Teach LOVE:**

Many of our beloved Easter traditions have special meanings that connect to Jesus' story. Easter eggs represent new life and rebirth just like how a chick breaks out of its shell, Jesus broke free from death. The tradition of decorating eggs and having Easter egg hunts reminds us to look for the joy and hope that Jesus brings to our lives. Some families enjoy stories about Peter Cottontail or Benny the Bunny, characters who teach children's stories about kindness and generosity. These holiday tales can help children understand that Easter is about sharing love, being generous, and caring for others just like Jesus taught us. Prayer for Family Traditions: "Thank You for Easter traditions that bring our family together. Help us remember Jesus while we celebrate. Amen."

*April Showers Bring May Flowers...*

*For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. ~ Isaiah 61:11 (RSV)*