

Joy Letter - May 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

Online: www.abbypresbyterian.org

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

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



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. Contact Gloria with questions.


*Tuesday, May 12th at 6:15pm, Group Bible Study in the Church lounge. This is for men and women. We are going through some familiar Old Testament Bible stories and how they point to Christ. On this evening we will be looking at Noah's Ark.

*May 8 & 9, Abbotsford City Wide Garage Sales. The Church will once again have spaces available in the parking lot, for "Junk in the Trunk", reserve a spot for \$15, all sale proceeds the seller keeps. PW will be hosting a bake sale/food sale with sweets, breads and chicken kabobs. Contact Judy or Cindy with questions.

*July 13-17, Bible School for Children, mark your calendars! More details to come soon.

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. 



MAY Birthdays:

!!!Happy Birthday Blessings!!!

Bonnie Weideman (80th)-4th

John Boschma (70th)-4th

Richard Gumz-4th

Taylor Miller-4th

Diane Kussrow-19th

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ~Isaiah 43:19 (RSV)

Are You Stronger than God?

By Rev. Robert L. Everhard – As published in The Marshfield News Herald in 1983

“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?” 1 Corinthians 10:21-22

The question I pose to you today is — Are you stronger than God?

It is true that most everyone admires strength, whether it be of the body, mind or soul. Young people especially like to build up their muscles, and that is why such things as sports, exercise programs and the martial arts are increasing in popularity.

How do you rate yourself physically, mentally or spiritually? Do you show any sagging in these areas? I'm going to raise a few questions and you judge for yourself if you're getting old:

1. Does everything hurt and what doesn't hurt doesn't work?
2. Does your back go out more than you do?
3. Do you need oxygen after blowing out your birthday candles?
4. Did you finally get it all together only to discover you can't remember where you put it?
5. Do you have more hair on your chest than on your head?
6. Does a fortune teller want to read your face?
7. Do you feel like the morning after and you haven't been anywhere?
8. Does your pacemaker open the garage door whenever a good looking girl goes by?
9. Is that little old lady you helped across the street your wife?
10. Do you sink your teeth into a thick, juicy steak and they stay there?
11. Do you need a smaller house with a bigger medicine cabinet?
12. Are the only whistles you're getting coming from the teakettle?

Whether you're feeling older or not, a laugh often times helps to give us a lift. Nevertheless, let's face it, we're all getting older and we need renewed strength every day in every way.

We must recognize that God is the Almighty and that He is stronger than we are. To know that our strength of body, mind and soul comes from God and to tap that resource of power requires of us total allegiance to Him. Thus the word of God rings true when we read in 1 Corinthians 10:21 “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons.”

Christ won't be anything to you, unless He is everything. This means in fact, no divided loyalties, no worshiping of false gods, no sacrificing to pagan gods, no playing loose with God. The problem today is that even supposed religious people are making compromises between God and the world, between the spirit and the flesh, between duty and inclination, between this present life and the life to come.

Dr. Fosdick wrote, “Daily within our lives, many altars smoke with sacrifices to many gods.” It is true we tend to worship and sacrifice for many things of little or no significance to us spiritually. Even nations today are tempted to make an idol of material prosperity, and some call it nationalism, or militarism. Let me tell you right now, that all the armies, bombs and missiles of the world are not stronger than the might of God. The psalmist had it right when he said, “Some boast of chariots, and some of horses, but we boast of the name of the Lord our God.” (Psalm 20:7).

Therefore as individuals and as nations we have a decision to make. The Apostle Paul has made it clear for he said, “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?” (1 Corinthians 10:21-22). Are we stronger than God? Certainly not, not physically, mentally or spiritually, so get with it. Your only hope for this life, and the life to come is belief in God and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

