

Joy Letter - June 2026

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/@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/teens 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.

*Friday, June 12th at 3pm, will be the next Ladies Study at Gloria's home. Finishing the study of the book of Hebrews. All women are welcome to attend the Bible study and fellowship.

*July 13-17, 6-7:30pm, Bible School for Children. Summer Good News Club is returning to partner with the Church, to offer a week of fun learning, memorizing Bible verses, singing and fellowship with friends. If you would like to volunteer to bring snacks or drinks, we have a signup at the Church entrance table, or message the office. Please invite families, and most importantly, pray for a wonderful week for the kids! Follow this link to see more details, and to register. <https://www.cefnorthcentral.org/parents-summer-clubs>

*Skip cooking weekend breakfasts for the month of June, grab some pancakes, sausage, real maple syrup, eggs, milk and ice cream at one of the many local Dairy Breakfasts in Central WI. Visit the farms and check out the activities!

Ministry Updates:

The Church has received some amazing updates on some of the Ministries we are a part of. Here are highlights.

*Presbyterian Women (PW) held their annual Junk in the Trunk event in May, with a bake sale and lunch options. This was very well attended by those wishing to sell, as well as community visitors and shoppers. The PW had a profit of \$955.50, proceeds will be used for Church events, kitchen supplies and various expenses for the Church.

*Center City Church, James Lecheler, provided the following update; "Please give thanks and praise to God for 278 souls gathering with Center City Church on Easter Sunday. For context, we had 200 gather with us last year, and 150 the year before that. I heard one pastor say, "God grows us at the speed of relationship." We've experienced this as people invite neighbors, friends and family to hear God's word preached, sung and expressed in the fellowship of His people. All of this has been tremendously aided by your prayers and support of our church family. Please continue to pray for the following: Please pray for us as we seek to care for and shepherd the people that Jesus has brought to us. Also - pray for the many in our community investigating Jesus, but not yet trusting in him, and that we'd get to see many more baptisms this year." Special Offering for the month of June is also being designated to Center City Church Basketball Camp 2026.

*Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoeboxes update: The numbers are in for 2025 - we were a part of an amazing total of 12,205,900 shoeboxes collected globally, 10,906,662 of those were collected in the US, 10,975 collected in the Midwest (Plover site)! Children in Malawi, Zambia, Jamaica, Eswatini, Central African Republic and A Sensitive Country were gifted the shoeboxes from Central Wisconsin. A note from Laura Johnson with Community Relations for OCC, "Remember the law of multiplication; your 61 boxes will bless hundreds. Stats show 7-10 people use items from 1 box and hear the gospel." September will be our annual Shoebox fundraising drive for the Church.

*Recently a donation of hospitality items was delivered to Ronald McDonald House by the Church. In 2026 they have already served 100 families and provided 1300 meals. Please continue to collect can tabs and hygiene items for them.

*Aluminum can collection, did you know the Church collects these as well, to help support the Heifer International mission? Funds from the cans are sent with the monies collected on fresh egg sales. Please continue to donate.

Happy Birthday



JUNE Birthdays
Happy Birthday Blessings to:
Wendy Bockin - 19th
Merna Tesch - 25th



Summer Is a Reminder of God's Goodness

As the cold of winter fades away and the warmth of summer begins to arrive, many people feel a sense of excitement and renewal. The days become longer, flowers bloom, gardens grow, and families spend more time together outdoors. For Christians, summer is more than just a season of sunshine and vacations—it is a beautiful reminder of the goodness, faithfulness, and creativity of God.

The Bible tells us in Genesis 8:22, “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Every changing season reminds us that God is still in control. No matter how chaotic the world may seem, the Lord continues to sustain His creation faithfully year after year. Summer arrives right on time, just as God promised.

Summer also reminds us of the beauty of God's handiwork. From green fields and flowing rivers to sunsets painted across the evening sky, creation points us toward the Creator. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” Sometimes in the busyness of life, people forget to slow down and appreciate the blessings surrounding them. Summer provides opportunities to step outside, breathe fresh air, and witness the majesty of God in nature. For many families, summer is a time of gathering together. Children are home from school, cookouts are shared, and memories are made around campfires, lakes, and family trips. These moments remind believers of the importance of fellowship and relationships. God never intended for people to walk through life alone. Summer gives us opportunities to strengthen family bonds, reconnect with friends, and encourage one another in faith.

Spiritually, summer can also symbolize growth. Just as crops grow under the warmth of the sun, Christians are called to grow in their walk with Christ. Galatians 6:9 encourages believers by saying, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Growth does not happen overnight. A farmer must patiently tend the field before the harvest arrives. In the same way, Christians must continue praying, reading God's Word, serving others, and trusting the Lord even when spiritual growth seems slow. God is always working beneath the surface.

Summer is also a reminder to shine the light of Christ. The bright sunshine of summer can symbolize the spiritual light believers are called to carry into the world. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14, “Ye are the light of the world.” In a world filled with darkness, anger, and confusion, Christians should bring kindness, hope, truth, and love wherever they go. Whether helping a neighbor, inviting someone to church, or simply offering encouragement, believers can reflect the light of Jesus to those around them.

At the same time, summer should remind Christians not to become spiritually lazy. It is easy during busy seasons of recreation and travel to neglect prayer, church attendance, or time with God. Yet the Lord desires a relationship with His people in every season. Just as the summer sun requires water to sustain life, our souls need the living water of Christ daily. A healthy spiritual life cannot survive on occasional faith alone.

Finally, summer reminds us to rest and rejoice in God's blessings. Jesus often withdrew from crowds to spend quiet time with the Father. Rest is not weakness—it is part of God's design. Taking time to enjoy God's creation, spend time with loved ones, and reflect on His goodness can refresh both body and soul.

As summer approaches, Christians should see it not only as a change in weather, but as an opportunity to grow closer to God. Every warm breeze, every sunrise, and every gathering with loved ones can remind us that the Lord is faithful, loving, and worthy of praise. The same God who brings the beauty of summer is the same God who guides His people through every season of life.

Submitted by: Pastor Don Everhard

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ~Romans 15:13 (RSV)