

Joy Letter - September 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford

Pastor: Don Everhard

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Sunday Service @10:30am weekly

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🎁 September is Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoeboxes special collection month!

Weekly during Church Service, we will share a short video about the works of Samaritans Purse around the World and in our own small Church Body. This will be the 6th year First Presbyterian Church of Abbotsford has packed and sent boxes, growing by leaps and bounds-this year's goal is a reach (but we do amazing at large goals 🙌)! Our first year we sent 4 boxes, year five we sent 61, with the help of many individuals and businesses we would love to send 80 this season-fun, full, personalized boxes filled with God's love! Every child who receives a shoebox gift also receives a Greatest Gift Gospel Booklet, in their own native language! Recipients are then invited to share in a 12 lesson Bible Study, The Greatest Journey. It's estimated that for every 1 child that receives a shoebox an additional 10 family members hear God's word. This project opens our eyes yearly, to the importance of just 1 small shoebox filled with necessities and treasures. If you would like information on how to assist in this mission, please contact Shannon Boschma. Church tithe designations can be left in the "shoebox" at the Church welcome table, or online giving can be designated to "Samaritan's Purse" through Tithely. More info here:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/mission-and-history/>

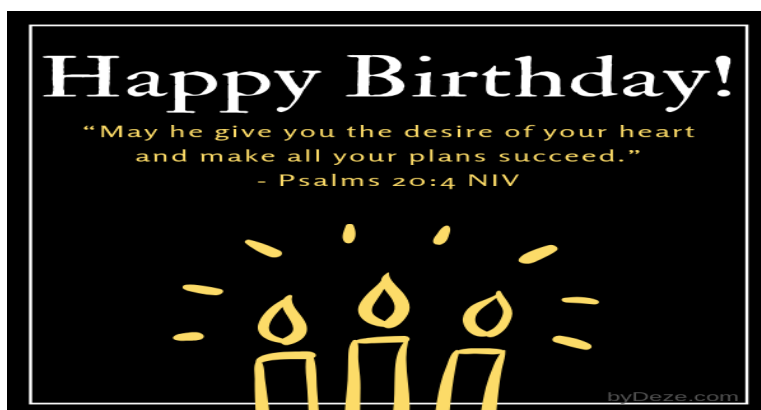
📖 The Upper Room daily devotionals booklet for September/October are available at the Narthex table. Please take one.

💊 The Abbotsford Lions Club is collecting clean, clear, empty prescription bottles, informational flyer is at the bulletin board and a bucket for collection is at the Church Narthex table. The bottles collected are redistributed so that medicines can be safely dispensed around the World.

🥚 Fresh Eggs are available at the Narthex table to support the Heifer International project. Aluminum cans are also collected by John & Tineke to help furnish the Heifer donation fund, please continue to collect and bring to Church.

🖨️ Would anyone in the Congregation have a need/want for used ink cartridges? There is quite the stash in the Church, we would love to clear up this storage. Please email the Church office if interested-thank you.

🎒 Classes resume in September! Please read the full update on the back side of the Joy Letter from Gloria, with all class dates and details!



SEPTEMBER Birthdays *Happy Birthday Blessings to:*

Marissa Pope-7th

Preston Pope-7th

Pierce Pope-7th

Tawney Ruppert-10th

Mark Leichtman-11th

Jolene Koch-19th

Growing Together in God's Word

September marks the beginning of a new season of Bible study at First Presbyterian Church, and we are excited to invite everyone—children, youth, and adults—to grow with us as we study God's Word together.

 **Sunday School Returns:** Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 13, with both classes meeting from 9:30–10:20 a.m.

Grades 1–4: Fran Oliveira ~ Grades 5–12: Gloria Everhard

Our goal is much more than simply teaching familiar Bible stories. We are walking through the major events of Scripture, helping our students see that the Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories, but one connected story of God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. Along the way, we are also introducing basic apologetics — helping our young people understand not only what they believe, but why they believe it, so they can confidently stand on the truth of God's Word.

Sunday School provides much more than biblical knowledge. It gives children and youth a place to build friendships, ask questions, grow in their faith, and develop a lifelong love for God's Word. Our prayer is that each student will come to know Christ personally and be equipped to live boldly for Him.

Ladies Fellowship Begins Again: Our Ladies Fellowship resumes this fall, meeting at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Gloria Everhard.

Fall Dates: September 11 • October 2 • October 30

Each gathering includes fellowship, a shared meal, prayer, and Bible study. This fall we will begin a new study in the Book of Acts, exploring the history of the early church and discovering what the experiences of those first believers can teach us about faithfully following Christ today. All ladies are warmly invited. Come for the Bible study, fellowship, food, and the opportunity to grow together in Christ.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Our Tuesday Evening Bible Study, open to both men and women, also resumes this fall. We meet at 6:15 p.m. in the church lounge.

Fall Dates: September 15 • October 6 • November 10

This study follows the same journey through the foundational stories of Scripture that our Sunday School students are studying. Together, we are discovering how the major events and people of the Old Testament fit into the larger story of Scripture and ultimately point us toward Jesus Christ and God's unfolding plan of salvation.

There Is a Place for Everyone: Whether you are a child, teenager, or adult, there is a place for you to grow in God's Word this fall. We encourage you to join us—not simply to learn more about the Bible, but to deepen your relationship with Christ, build relationships with one another, and continue growing together in faith. *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”* — *Colossians 3:16*. We look forward to growing together in God's Word this fall! If you have any questions about any of these opportunities, please talk to Gloria Everhard, 715-965-0323.