Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Legacy Giving Sunday
November 15, 2026
Worship at Home

Email: **northpelham.rockwaypc@**gmail.com Website: https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus said, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)
P: We gather with thankful hearts for the gifts God has given us.
L: God has entrusted each of us with gifts to share, whatever our age or stage of life.
P: We give thanks for those who came before us, whose faith and love continue to bless us today.
L: And now God invites us to share those gifts with others, through kindness, compassion, and faithful service.
All: May the love we have received become the love we share. Let us worship God together!

Hymn 814 **Morning has broken**

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Loving God,
we gather in your presence today to worship you with grateful hearts, and to give thanks for your goodness and faithful love. You are our rock and our refuge, our strength and our hope through every generation.

You have given us life, surrounded us with love, and blessed us with gifts to share. We thank you for those who came before us, who planted seeds of faith that still bless us today.

Everything we are, everything we have, and all those we hold dear are precious gifts from you. And so we worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with gratitude and praise.

Gracious God, we confess that sometimes we forget your generosity. We focus on what we lack and overlook the blessings already in our hands. Sometimes fear keeps us from sharing, and we miss opportunities to show your love to others. Yet you never turn away from us. Your mercy is greater than our failures, and your love welcomes us just as we are.

Hear us now, loving God, as we open our hearts to you in silence. (Pause)

Forgive us and renew our hearts. Open our eyes to see those who need our care. Open our hands to share what we can. And open our lives to become blessings to others.

Help us use the gifts you have entrusted to us with faith, kindness, and compassionate love, so that your love may continue to touch lives today and for generations to come. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER
"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever." Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you all.
P: And also with you. *(congregational response)*

Hymn 687 **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

A Legacy of Faith: The Rice Family Story
Shared by Margaret Rice

Our North Pelham Presbyterian Church has many wonderful stories of faith and love passed down through generations. One of these stories comes from Margaret Rice, who has been part of our church family since she was born.

In 1959, Margaret's parents, Bill and Catherine Rice, donated a desk that still stands against the west wall of the front entrance area of our church. The plaque on the desk reads: *"In loving memory of Rev. Wm. Rice and Rev. J.M. Dickson. 1959"* Both men were Presbyterian ministers with connections to North Pelham. Rev. William Rice, Margaret's grandfather, occasionally led worship here as a pulpit supply minister.

Rev. J.M. Dickson, who was Rev. Rice's brother-in-law, served as minister of North Pelham Presbyterian Church from 1914 to 1918. It was Rev. Dickson who encouraged Rev. Rice to move to this area, to the brick house on Tice Road where Margaret's father lived from the age of three. Today, the desk remains a meaningful reminder of the Rice family's legacy of faith, ministry, and love for our congregation. On this Legacy Sunday, we give thanks for the Rice family and for all those whose faithfulness and generosity continue to bless our church family through generations.

Prayer of Understanding
Loving God,
As we listen to your Word, open our hearts to your love and our eyes to the gifts you have given us. Help us live with faith and gratitude, sharing your love and leaving a legacy of hope for generations to come. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Passages **Responsive Psalm 145: 1-13; Matthew 25: 14-30**

Sermon **Leaving a Legacy of Love**

Anyone can leave a legacy. You do not need to be rich, and you do not need to be famous.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada sets aside one Sunday each year to remember this, and today is that day. It is Legacy Sunday.

A legacy is what we leave behind. It is made of our values, our faith, our kindness, and the love we share with others. Legacy Sunday invites us to remember the people who came before us, to give thanks for their faithfulness, and to think about how our lives might continue to bless others. And the good news is that everyone has something to share, whatever our age or circumstances.

Today's reading from Matthew 25 is about what we do with what we have been given. Jesus tells of a wealthy master going on a long journey. Before he leaves, he entrusts three servants with his money. One receives five talents, another two, and the third one. A talent was not a small amount. Even one could be worth many years of a worker's wages. So all three servants received something valuable.

When the master returns, the first two servants have doubled what they received, and he welcomes them to share in his joy. But the third servant dug a hole and buried his talent. He explains that he was afraid, and he wanted to protect what he had been given. The master is disappointed and judges him harshly.

This is a challenging parable. At first it may sound like a lesson about making money. But I believe Jesus is inviting us to think about something deeper. The first two servants saw possibilities and acted with trust. The third servant was afraid of his master and afraid of losing what he had received. So he buried his gift instead of putting it to use. The difference was not how much they received, but how they responded to what they had been given.

And here is something important. Being afraid does not mean we have no faith. We all feel fear when life is uncertain. We worry about our health, our families, our finances, and sometimes the future of our church. God understands these worries. But Jesus invites us not to let fear make all our decisions. He invites us to trust God enough to use whatever gifts we have, sharing them in love and service.

Jesus showed us what that looks like. He walked toward Jerusalem, knowing that suffering and danger waited for him. Yet he did not turn away from his calling to love, forgive, and serve. Through his life, death, and resurrection, he showed us a love stronger than fear, and even stronger than death.

When I think about this parable, I cannot help thinking about our own church. Not long ago, we celebrated the 198th anniversary of North Pelham Presbyterian Church. On that Sunday, Dr. Michelle Vosburgh shared wonderful stories about the people who helped establish our congregation. Let me recall two of them, because they speak beautifully about what it means to leave a legacy.

The first takes us back to February 1823. Twenty-one people signed an agreement to support the preaching of the Gospel in this community. And do you know what they promised to give? Not dollars. Not cheques. Forty bushels of wheat! That was the payment for Rev. Eastman, who would preach once a month for a year. Twenty men and one woman signed that agreement.

Now, think about their lives. They were pioneer farmers, clearing land and trying to feed their families, facing hard weather, illness, and accidents. Wheat was not simply something they had left over. It was their livelihood, something they needed to support their families. Yet they chose to share it because they believed the Gospel mattered. As Dr. Michelle reminded us, "yet they persevered." In 1828, a small group gathered at the home of Moses Metler and formed a Presbyterian congregation of about twenty people. Six years later, there were 120.

The second story is about land. In 1832, a farmer named John B. Comfort offered a corner of his farm for the first church building. The church did not officially own it until 1862, when it was transferred to the trustees for five dollars. Then, in 1894, his son, Dr. William Comfort, sold another piece of land to the church, again for five dollars. And do you know where that land is? It is the very place where our manse stands today! Isn't that remarkable? Those families could not have imagined cars, computers, or smartphones. And certainly they could not have imagined a Korean-Canadian minister living in a manse on land their family helped provide!

Yet their generosity still blesses us. Their legacy is not only a building or a piece of land. It is a community of faith that continues to worship, pray, care for one another, and share God's love. And you and I are part of that living legacy.

Our congregation is not alone in this story. Across Canada, Presbyterian churches have stories like it. About a century ago, Isabella Walton lived on a farm in Scarborough, Ontario. She cared deeply about the children in her neighbourhood and wanted them to know Jesus. She did not begin with a big building or a big budget. She simply opened her farmhouse kitchen and invited children to Sunday school. Later, she gave her farm to the church. Today that land holds Westminster Presbyterian Church, a childcare centre named in her honour, and an apartment building with 104 homes. What began with one woman's kindness and a kitchen table still serves people generations later.

A field of wheat, a corner of a farm, a kitchen table. These were ordinary things. But when people used them with faith and love, they became blessings for others. And that brings us back to Jesus' parable. The gifts entrusted to us are meant to be shared. That does not mean we must do something great. Sometimes the most meaningful gifts are simple: a visit to someone who is lonely, a phone call to someone who is struggling, a meal for someone who is hungry, a prayer for someone who is sick, a kind word that gives hope.

On this Legacy Sunday, as we remember these wonderful stories of faith and generosity, I want to say something important to all of you here today. Many of you have given so much to this church over the years: your time, your talents, your prayers, your generosity, and your love. Some of you have served for decades. You have cared for this building, welcomed visitors, prepared meals, and prayed for one another. Your gifts matter. They have helped make North

Pelham the community of faith it is today. Even when we grow older and cannot do all we once did, our love does not become less valuable. A gentle smile, a prayer, or a story of faith shared with a grandchild can be a blessing. Some may also wish to remember the church through a gift in their will, helping its ministry continue for future generations. That, too, can be a beautiful expression of love.

Whether our gifts are large or small, each of us has something to offer. And we do not have to wait until the end of our lives to leave a legacy. We are creating it every day, through the way we live and love. So perhaps the deeper question is not only, "What will we leave behind?" but, "How can the love we have received continue to bless others?"

The pioneers of North Pelham planted seeds of faith nearly two hundred years ago, and today we enjoy the blessings of those seeds. The seeds of love we plant today may grow in ways we cannot yet imagine. We may never see all the fruit of the seeds we plant. But we can trust that God's love will continue to work through the kindness, faith, and generosity we share. And that is the beautiful hope of our Christian faith.

May God help us remember the past with gratitude, live each day with faith, and look to the future with hope. May the love we have received become the love we share. And may our lives continue to reflect the compassionate heart of Jesus Christ, today and for generations to come. Amen.

Hymn 637 **Take my life, and let it be consecrated**

Invitation to the Offering
Doxology
Prayer of Dedication
Loving and generous God,
With grateful hearts, we offer these gifts to you. Bless them and use them to share your love, bring hope to others, and continue your work for generations to come. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving and generous God,
your goodness has no end. On this Legacy Sunday, we thank you for the gift of life, for the beauty of your creation, and for the people who have blessed us. We remember those who came before us, who planted seeds of faith and shared what they had. May their example inspire us to do the same.

Gracious God, we bring you the sorrows of our world. We pray for those suffering from war, hatred, greed, injustice, and division, and from leaders who seek power and control at the expense of others. We remember families who have lost loved ones or been forced from their homes, and those struggling to find food, shelter, safety, and peace. Give wisdom and compassion to leaders, courage to peacemakers, and strength to all who offer help.

God of compassion, we bring you those who carry heavy burdens. Be near the lonely, the ill, and the anxious, and those waiting for difficult news. Surround the grieving with your gentle presence. Be with friends preparing to leave long-time homes for places of care, and let them know that your love goes with them.

Finally, we thank you for our church families at North Pelham and Rockway, and for the generations who have faithfully served them. Help us notice one another's needs, listen with compassion, and offer kindness wherever we can. In the silence of our hearts, we name those dear to us and the concerns we carry today. (pause)

God of hope, we cannot control what tomorrow brings, but we trust your faithful love. Make us the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus, sharing your compassion with our neighbours and the world. And may the seeds of love we plant today continue to bear fruit for generations to come. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Hymn 642 **O Master, let me walk with thee**

BENEDICTION

May God bless you with gifts of love. May Jesus Christ guide you to share those gifts with others. And may the Holy Spirit inspire you to leave a legacy of faith, hope, and love for generations to come. And all God's people said, "Amen".

Sung Response- Go Now In Peace

Postlude

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Next Sunday Service, November 22, 10:00 am at Rockway**

***Anniversary Mission Offering—Thank You!**
Through North Pelham's 198th Anniversary mission project, **$650 was collected for Brock Chaplaincy** to support students in need. Thank you for your generous gifts, and to everyone who helped collect and prepare the offering. What a meaningful way to celebrate God's faithfulness by sharing God's love!

***A Heartfelt Thank You from Don and the Hallett Family**
Don and the Hallett family extend their heartfelt thanks to the North Pelham and Rockway church families for their kindness, prayers, visits, cards, and encouraging words over the past three months. Your love and support have brought great comfort and strength to Don and his

family throughout his recovery. They are deeply grateful for your compassion and care. Please continue to keep Don, Marilyn, and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

***Christmas Benefit Concert – Pop-Up Choir Is Back!**
Come and share the joy of Christmas through music! Our Pop-Up Choir is looking for singers to join the Christmas Benefit Concert at North Pelham on Saturday, December 12, at 2:00 p.m. Rehearsals will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays, November 19 and 26, and December 3 and 10. Everyone is welcome! To join, please contact Jessica at 905-641-5377 or Jessica.stwrt@gmail.com. A freewill offering will be received to support people in need. Let's share the joy, hope, and love of Christmas together!

***Willing Workers – Meat Pie Orders & Annual Bazaar**
1. Meat Pie Orders: Our Willing Workers are once again offering their delicious, "world-famous" meat pies! Choose from 9-inch Ground Beef or Chicken pies for $20 each, sold frozen for your convenience. Quantities are limited, so order early! Order online or call/text Janice Aulph at 905-246-9175.

2. Annual Bazaar – **Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m**.: Everyone is warmly invited to enjoy our Annual Bazaar and pick up their meat pie orders! We gratefully welcome donations of baked goods, gently used items (especially children's toys), knitted or sewn items, and handmade crafts. No clothing, please.
All proceeds support the Willing Workers and their sponsorship of foster children. Thank you for your kindness and generous support!

***Mitten Tree Ministry – Sharing Warmth and Love**
Our Mitten Tree is now up at Rockway! Everyone is warmly invited to donate **mittens, hats, scarves, and socks** by **December 6** for Community Care of West Niagara. Your generous gifts will bring warmth, comfort, and hope to neighbours in need this winter. Thank you for sharing God's love through simple acts of kindness!

***Tai Chi – Every Monday:** Tai Chi classes are every Monday as part of our church's community outreach ministry. Classes begin at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

***Wednesday Bible Study:** Join us every Wednesday at 10:00 AM at North Pelham, led by our spiritual leader, Diane McMillan.

***Outreach - Thursday Walking:** Join us for the Wellness Walk and Coffee Chat! We gather at 9:30 a.m. at Canada Games Park to start our walk together. After the walk, we meet at Rockway for a joyful chat over hot and fresh coffee at 10:45 am.

***Annual Advent Tea, November 28 – Kirk on the Hill**
Everyone is warmly invited to the **Annual Advent Tea** at Kirk on the Hill Presbyterian Church (1344 Haist Street, Fonthill) on **Saturday, November 28, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Enjoy a joyful afternoon of Christmas carols, Scripture readings, and warm fellowship over tea. Come and share the hope and joy of the Advent season with our neighbouring church families!

***Study Leave & Guest Worship Leader**
Rev. Jacob will be on study leave from November 23 to 30. We are delighted and grateful to welcome Kent Reynolds, who will lead our Sunday worship on November 29 and share his gifts of faith, wisdom, and spiritual leadership.

***Prayer Requests and Pastoral Care:** If you or someone you know needs prayer or pastoral care, please contact your elder or Rev. Jacob at 289-213-2797 or jacoblee0501@gmail.com.