



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in faith and sharing God's love
since 1786

Staying Open - Staying True

September 20, 2026

WELCOME, we come to you from the un-ceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person, as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite others to join you. Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



Announcements

Sunday Singing: Join Zoé on Sundays at 9:50 to share in the music

Prayer Groups:

Women's Prayer Group: Tuesday afternoon (ask for details)

Zoom: Wednesday at 6:30 am

Bible Study: Wednesday 7-8 online and in minister's office

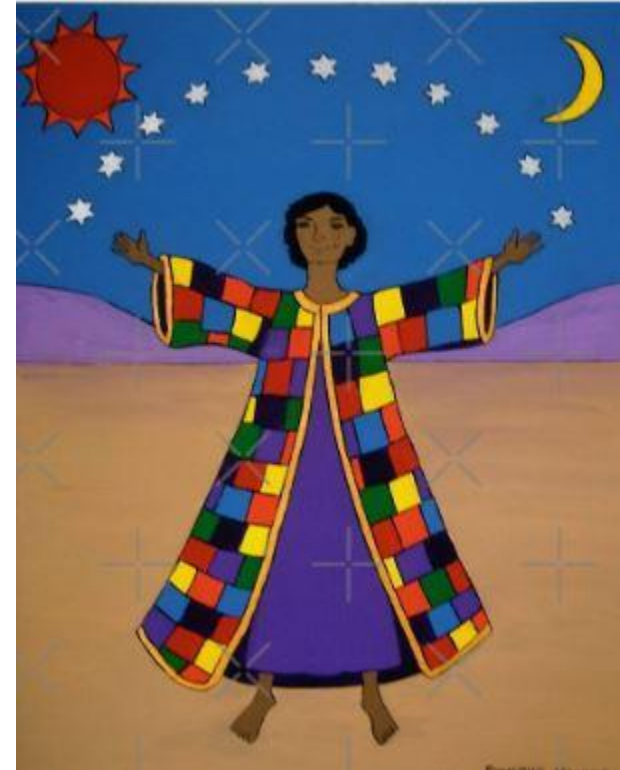
Join us in exploring the upcoming week's passage

Coming up: Friday night specials, and ... (suggestions welcome)

Meet NDG candidates in an open forum

Sept 24 7-9 pm @ 5964 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Avenue

Iona Community



Iona Community Conversation and Song: explore this community who are always looking for ways for their faith and life and neighbours intersect with their current leader Ruth Harvey.
Sept 24 6:30 Fulford Hall 144 av Union (behind Christ Church)
Sept 25 7pm at St. Columba 11 Av. Rodney, Pointe-Claire

Contacts

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¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship (based on Psalm 27; John 4:23)

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in his holy temple.

**We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

♪ Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.....pg 8 (321)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCnQNwQG5GI



Prayer of Approach²

God, mysterious,
above, below,
around, within.
You are present - always and everywhere.
We come to offer our worship.

We come to praise you and thank you
for your everlasting love for us.

We come from different places,

with different ideas,
different beliefs,
different political views,
but we are united in our love for you.

We are sorry that at times we forget
that we are united by your love.
We are sorry that at times we fail you
by our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

Help us in this new day,
as the world around us continues to change,
to remain united in our common faith and love.
Forgive us, O God, as you have promised.

Renew us, refresh us, unite us
once more in your love.

And as we sing together the prayer you teach.
may the words live in us



The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours Amen.**

² adapted from *Spill the Beans* #13

Listening to God

✧ Children's Time

Today we'll read a version of Genesis 37 in *Read, Wonder, Listen* by Laura Alary. Here are some other versions:

biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2037&version=MSG;NRSVUE;GNT

Prayer:

Dear Jesus.

*Help us to not worry about what others have,
but to focus on how we can help.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: El Varón Prosperó.....pg. 8

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBgILDmpaTE

🧘 Prayer for Illumination

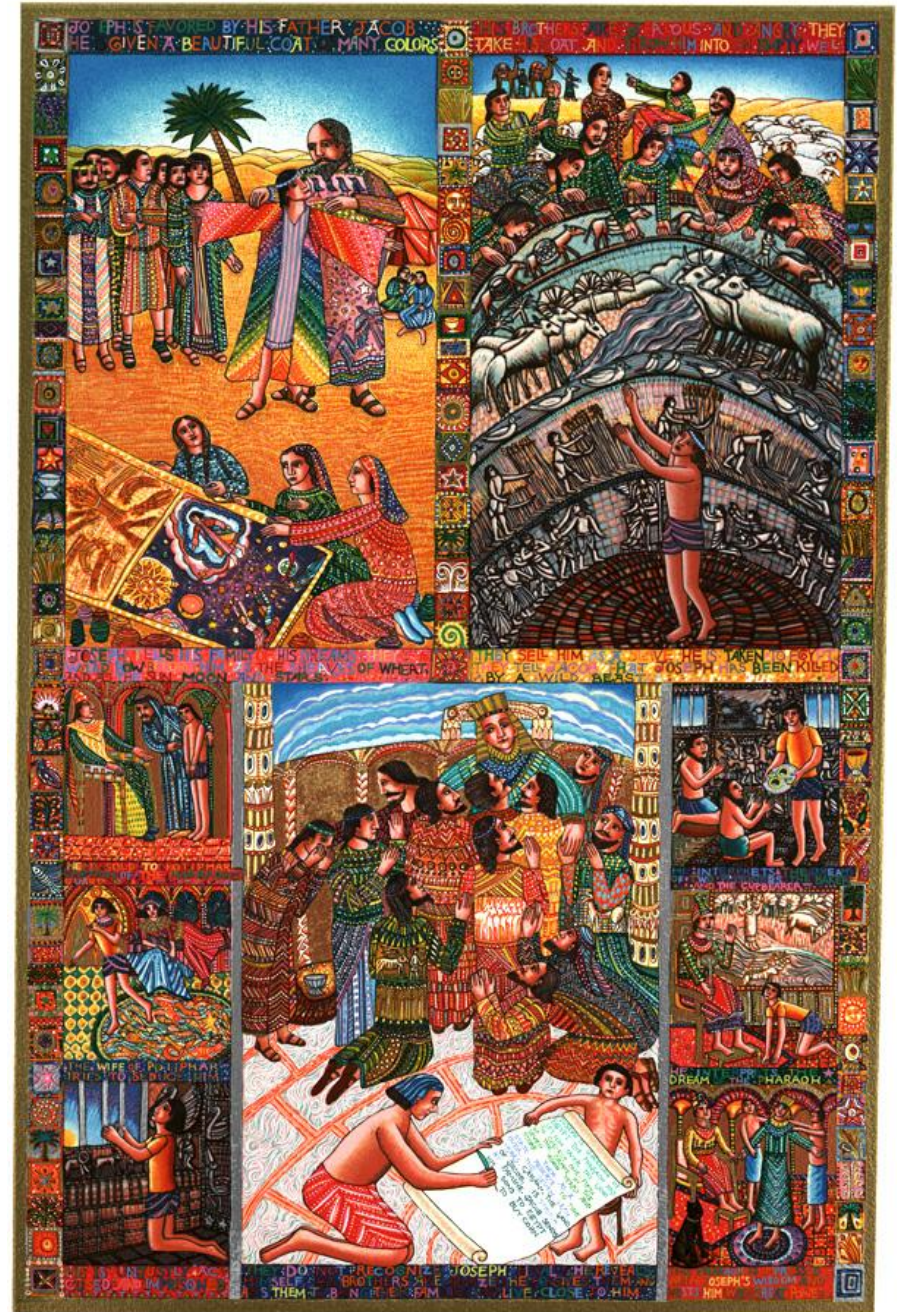
Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that feel your presence, and know our blessings.

Amen.

✧ Intro to the readings

One of the things I like about the Bible is that the people are at least as messed up as I am. This isn't a book (or rather, a collection of books) about perfect people. At its best, it's people making good choices... but they also make bad choices.

As you've figured out, today's main passage is about Joseph (famous for his many coloured coat). He's first introduced as the favourite, and youngest, son of Jacob - and he knows it. As we heard, he's so arrogant that his brothers could throttle him. However one of the brothers convinced the others to just fake his



Joseph's story - John Swanson

death, throw him in a pit, and then sell him into slavery.

It's in the Bible, but don't do this at home... or anywhere else. This is an example of poor choices for everyone involved.

What are the chances of anything happening to Joseph now? Well, the same could be said about his father, and grandfather, and great-grandfather Abraham that we heard about last week. All of them were unlikely candidates for anything. All of them fluctuated between trusting God and making poor choices.

Three details before Stewart reads the next part of Joseph's tale. We'll hear about a slave that stands up to the wife of the owner. We need to remember that both of them were considered property, and that using another man's property without permission is considered theft - this includes the people the person owns - like slaves and women.

This section of Joseph's life takes about 10 years.

Also, if you think there might be some sexual innuendo in the words... you're right. That's in the original.

Psalm one has some lovely imagery that picks up on the themes.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Genesis 39](#)

[Psalm 1](#)



Sermon: Staying Open - Staying True

*Dear Lord, please bless the words of my mouth
and the meditations of all our hearts. Amen.*

³ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963
or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

Life is full of change. Sometimes it's positive, sometimes negative, and sometimes you're left wondering. To make change harder, it can fluctuate between positive and negative and confusion. This can create all sorts of feelings. Often people respond with flight, fight, or hide. A few people embrace the change. Which is typical for you?

Joseph's life had many changes. Growing up there were routine ones. They lived a nomadic life moving their herds around to fresh pastures. Then he had a big shock. He went from being the favourite son with dreams of being greater than all his older brothers (very unlikely in their society) to being attacked by those older brothers and abandoned in the bottom of a pit. Then another change - being helped out, but not set free. Instead he was sold to foreigners as a slave. They took him to a foreign land - a very foreign land. The people there spoke a strange language, lived in stone buildings instead of tents, they grew food, had amazing technology like chariots, and so many gods. I wonder if the change was as much as if we were kidnapped by a UFO. An advantage he'd have over us is that he probably knew the Egyptians existed. He might have heard rumours of their strange ways. I don't know if his preference would have been fight, flight, or hide - but as a slave he didn't have any of those options.



Aquamen - Phil Irish

Though he could have withdrawn inside himself. Not literally hidden, but shut down.

Instead Joseph seems to have adapted. He is no longer arrogant, but learns to serve. He figures out how this society and household works, and does well in it. We don't know how long this took, but there's no reason to believe it was instant. As I said, the section we heard in Potiphar's house and in the prison was about 10 years. However long it took, Joseph was blessed to be able to learn well - and his work was blessed.

But he didn't completely adapt to this new wondrous culture in which he became a trusted slave. He still looked to his God, the one and only.

I was wondering about these changes in Joseph - going from spoiled brat to respectful slave with enough of his own identity to say have boundaries. Thinking of another who had experience at being thrown into a pit, or at least locked in a prison, I opened my collection of Letters and Papers from Prison by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. On April 26, 1944, he wrote to his parents about how his second spring in his cell was much different.

Since then, what I'd never thought possible has happened - I've gotten used to it, and the only question is whether I've become less sensitive, or more detached - each is probably true in different areas. The things toward which we become insensitive will soon be forgotten; they really don't matter. On the other hand, things that we have worked out for ourselves, consciously or unconsciously, will never be forgotten, since they have changed from being powerful experiences to taking definite shape as clear insights, purposes, and plans, and as such will keep their meaning for our future like."

and he continues to speculate that these insights require "certain inner preconditions" and would be dangerous for young people.

It seems that Joseph was blessed with this inner precondition to be able to get through the first year of slavery in a strange land, and to learn what wasn't important about his identity, and what to know the core of who he is.

When he's talking to his owner's wife he doesn't say, yes', or 'sorry, that's a bad idea'; he says that it would be a sin against God. Joseph seems to have stopped worrying about how great he will be and instead is focused on doing well where he is - and respecting God. He's found his core.

It's obvious to Potiphar, and presumably Joseph, that God is with Joseph when life's changes are positive, and when they're negative, and when they leave him wondering what's going on. Despite Joseph being an unlikely choice, God stayed with him and what he did was blessed.

Joseph's (and Bonhoeffer's) insights are important aspects of surviving change. Knowing what is important for you, and what isn't. Knowing who you are, and who you don't need to be. Knowing that God is with you - at your core - because this (as it



Grandfather and son - Gavin Fitzsimons

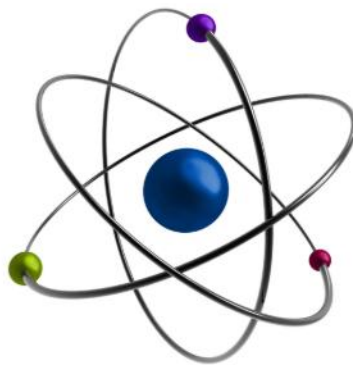
says elsewhere in the Bible) is a sure foundation. It is one that will allow you to get through the most dramatic changes that life can throw at you.

With this foundation Joseph lived into his blessings/gifts/talents for others - which became a blessing for him, Egypt, his family and many other refugees... which is a start to that promise God made to

Abram four generations before - that his descendants would be a blessing to the nations. God is faithful.

One last thought.

Madeleine L'Engle's commentary on Genesis⁴ includes some interesting thoughts on Joseph and the world. Joseph is the youngest and least likely to have any role in anything - yet through these changes he does. She thinks about the changes in her lifetime - since we split the atom and saw the birth of stars. She notes that nothing is too small or unimportant to make a difference. An example is Joseph. Another is you.



You can make a difference in the world.
Starting a little at a time,
trusting that God is with you,
and learning how your blessings can become blessings for others.

*To God be all the glory.
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn Sing: This is a time when we sing several hymn requests.
You can join in on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoen7j1iGcz_w

⁴ initially three books pulled together into one called The Genesis Trilogy. (the third volume called Sold into Egypt) Waterbook Press 1997

☞ FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.

Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: Identify some changes that you have lived through.

Reflecting: What is your instinctive response to change: fight? flight? hide? embrace?

What helps you with change?

Memories: Have you had an extended time of reflection?

Reflecting: Who are you at your core? values? identity?

Wonder: While this question has showed up before, we all change.

Share with each other what you think their blessings/gifts/talents are (and what your own are).

Actions: Consider how your blessings/gifts/talents can help others? (be specific, try, and hold each other accountable)

Wonder: Joseph was a victim of human trafficking. Learn more about the Canadian context through this Federal website:

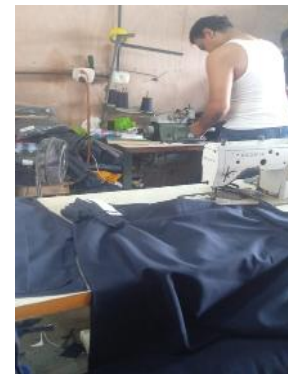
www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/campaigns/human-trafficking.html

and the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking:
cctehc.ca

Prayer: ...that we will also be a blessing to others

✦ Spirit Sightings

One of the projects the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) supports is an entrepreneurial skills initiative in Managua, Nicaragua. It teaches young adults and teenagers entrepreneurial skills and good business practices to help them create work at home instead of trying to migrate to North



America. This not only helps them, but their whole community.

Almost 2000 people participated in the program last year.⁵

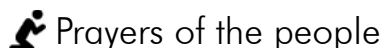


Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: kensingtonchurch.ca. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.



Prayers of the people

This week we our prayer will be based on what people write in our communal prayer diary. Please feel free to also create your own prayer, or adapt this one from *The Worship Sourcebook*.

We praise you, God our creator, for your handiwork
in shaping and sustaining your wondrous creation.

We especially thank you for
the miracle of life and the wonder of living . . .
particular blessings coming to us in this day . . .
the resources of the earth . . .
gifts of creative vision and skillful craft . . .
the treasure stored in every human life. . . .

We pray for others, God our Savior,
claiming your love in Jesus Christ for the whole world
and committing ourselves to care for those around us in his

⁵ presbyterian.ca/pwsd/tailoring-a-brighter-future-in-nicaragua/?bblinkid=288342332&bbemailid=61631597&bbejrid=-936851974

name.

We especially pray for
those who work for the benefit of others . . .
those who cannot work today . . .
those who teach and those who learn . . .
people who are poor . . .
the church in persecution. . . .

God our creator,
yours is the morning, and yours is the evening.
Let Christ, the sun of righteousness,
shine forever in our hearts
and draw us to the light of your radiant glory.
We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Young Joseph The Dreamer.....pg 9
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl6R--Ol3Q4 (tune only)



Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.*
Amen



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who in all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work, who de -
 4. Praise to the Lord, and with all that is in me a -

a - tion: my soul, praise God who a - lone is your
 reign - ing: hides you with shel - ter - ing wings, ev - er
 fends you; sure - ly God's mer - ci - ful good - ness here
 dor - ing, all who have life and breath, come with glad

health and sal - va - tion. Come, all who hear, sis - ters and
 gen - tly sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen how your heart's
 dai - ly at - tends you; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es out - pour - ing! Let the a - men sound from God's

bro - thers draw near, join - ing in glad a - dor - a - tion.
 wish - es have been grant - ed through God's kind or - dain - ing?
 migh - ty can do, when in great love God be - friends you.
 peo - ple a - gain; now and for - e - ver a - dor - ing!

Words: German, Joachim Neander (1650-1680); translation, Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); alt
 Music: Stralsund Gesangbuch 1665; Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997

Gn. 50:15-21

Gn. 39:1-6a

Stg. 1:2-12

Con vigor

El varón próspero 588

Mas el Señor estaba con José, y fue varón próspero. Gn. 39:2

1. Mas Je - ho - vá es - ta - ba con Jo - sé, mas Je - ho -
 2. Su ben - di - ción es - ta - ba con Jo - sé, su ben - di -
 3. No pe - ca - rí - a con - tra Dios, Jo - sé, no pe - ca -
 4. Mas Je - ho - vá es - ta - ba con Jo - sé, su ben - di -

vá es - ta - ba con Jo - sé, mas Je - ho - vá es -
 ción es - ta - ba con Jo - sé, su ben - di - ción es -
 rí - a con - tra Dios, Jo - sé, no pe - ca - rí - a es -
 ción es - ta - ba con Jo - sé, no pe - ca - rí - a

ta - ba con Jo - sé, y fue va - rón prós - pe - ro.
 ta - ba con Jo - sé, y fue va - rón prós - pe - ro.
 con - tra Dios, Jo - sé, y fue va - rón prós - pe - ro.
 con - tra Dios, Jo - sé, y fue va - rón prós - pe - ro.

LETRA: Basada en Génesis 39:2, 5, 9

MUSICA: Felipe Blycker J., 1980

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GUA

JOSE
 10 10 10 7
 Fa (Capo 1 - Mi)

Young Joseph the Dreamer

1. Young Jo - seph the dream - er was sent o'er the bor - der— no
 2. Young Jo - seph a - dopt - ed the land that he lived in; he
 3. O God, in this land with its bound - ries and bor - ders, we

say in the mat - ter— it was - n't his plan. He en - tered the
 helped it the pros - per, he helped it to thrive. He man - aged the
 thank you for dream - ers, our neigh - bors and friends. They came here as

coun - try and as he got ol - der, he worked with am - bi - tion to
 fields and the har - vests and store - rooms. When drought came, his skills kept his
 child - ren, as sons and as daugh - ters; their pres - ence can tru - ly ac -

make it his land. In trou - ble, in pris - on, he felt like a had
 neigh - bors a - live. What joy for those peo - ple who one sis - ters and
 com - pish your ends. We thank you for thou - sands of

strang - er; with truth his com - pan - ion, he was - n't a - lone.
 wel - comed his gifts and his vis - ion, his tal - ent, his skill!
 broth - ers who seek ed - u - ca - tion, who love this good land.

He dreamed of suc - cess and he dreamed through the dan - ger, un -
 O God, as a dream - er, he blessed his new na - tion; he
 For they are a bless - ing to us and his oth - ers, may

til he was wel - comed in - to his new home.
 we saved them— and so you ac - com - plished your will.
 reach to of - fer a wel - com - ing hand.

Biblical References: Genesis 37-50

Tune: ASH GROVE ("Let All Things Now Living") 6.6.11.6.6.11 D, traditional Welsh melody

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Email: bcgillette@comcast.net New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

Permission is given for free use of this hymn by churches and local groups.

MISSION MOMENT Sunday, September 20

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing bring hope and transformation to vulnerable people and communities in Canada and internationally.



Together, we support the PCC's efforts of confession, truth and reconciliation with Indigenous people. We equip congregations and leaders through resources and webinars and connect Presbyterians across the country through the Presbyterian Connection newspaper. We equip ministers through PCC theological colleges and help congregations discern God's call and create a plan for their future through renewal programs. We live out the biblical call to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. Together, we are making mission and ministry happen!

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 20 We pray for congregations whose faithful and generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing weave together a tapestry of mission and ministry that stretches across the church and around the world.

Monday, September 21 (International Day of Prayer for Peace)

Today we pray for those affected by war and instability in places such as Sudan and South Sudan, Gaza, Iran, the wider Middle East and many more. We pray that leaders choose dialogue over violence so that peace can prevail.

Tuesday, September 22 (Gender Equality Week – 4th week of Sept.)

During Gender Equality Week, we give thanks for women's leadership in ministry and commit to the ongoing work of addressing all gender-based oppression in the church and society.

Wednesday, September 23 We pray for Rev. Sumarme Goble, Chaplain at St. Andrew's Hall, as she works to share and show the gospel representing The Presbyterian Church in Canada through the UBC Inter-Faith Chaplaincy.

Thursday, September 24 We pray for the members and guests of the Canadian Society of Presbyterian History as they gather for their annual meeting at Knox College this week.

Friday, September 25 As summer turns to fall, we delight in a season of abundant harvest on the farm at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre.

Saturday, September 26 (International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons) We give thanks for peacemaking organizations, such as church partner Project Ploughshares, that work for justice, peace, and a world free of nuclear weapons.