



The Gathering

Zion Church Newsletter

November 2025

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the powers of this dark world and against
the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Ephesians 6:12

The stained-glass window is in memory of those of this Church who gave their lives during World War II. It depicts David holding a sling, Jonathan holding a spear, and in the centre, Jesus ascending after the resurrection and holding the Banner of Victory. The photo is by Cathy MacDonald and is taken from Scott MacDonald's beautiful book on Memorial Stained Glass Windows in Zion Church.



John's Thoughts

Seasons

"And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." Genesis 1:14 (NIV)

"The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down." Psalm 104:19 (NIV)

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22 (NIV)

How blessed we are to have seasons. We can be reminded of God's glory and amazing love as we move from one season to the next. Sometimes, the arrival of a new season creates within us a feeling of refreshment and renewal. It's a time to start a new clean page with updated plans and projects.

Springtime brings its promise of new life with its budding trees, then, the warmth of summer nourishes the earth with soft rains, providing for the bounty of harvest to follow. Soon the cooling breezes of autumn turn into chilling winds of winter, and the ploughed harvest fields turn to a blanket of white fresh fallen snow, telling the fields and forests that it's time for a season of rest. Yes, God wishes them to take a rest too.

The seasons of our lives are somewhat like that. Each season brings different challenges, attitudes and understandings, and gifts that God provides as He guides us through life. It's a kind of a parallel to life.... how short are life's seasons! How full of wonder and color are the gifts that we glean during the different seasons of life!

Some seasons may bring hardship, and God will help us to deal with that too... *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28-29 (KJV).*

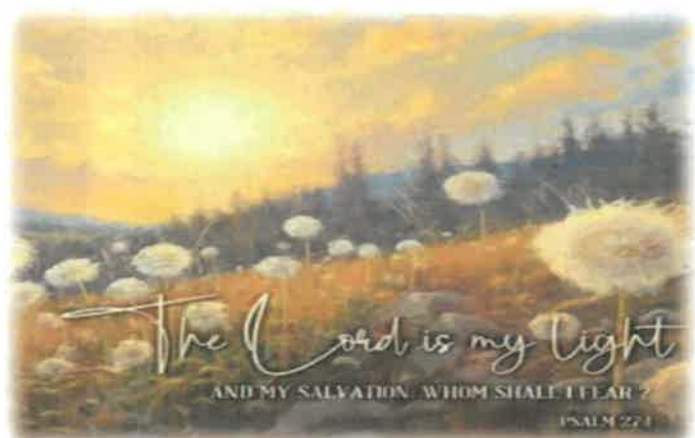
Although the winter season of our lives may sometime seem cold and long, and often with sadness, regrets, and hardship, there is the assurance of a yet another season, the season of eternal life to all who will accept the promises of the Lord Jesus.

Thank you, Lord, for the seasons, and for your guidance and love through them all!

Happy seasons everyone!

Jmf

In addition to being one of the writing team, John is a member of the choir and is shown on the front page of this edition, singing a solo, "The Wonder of it All". Also in the photograph are our other writers, Evan (back row) and Elizabeth (centre front row). ed.



Eiz's Corner

November 2025

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Seems like I've been doing a great deal of remembering lately; mostly good remembering. Some memories have been of the distant past, the days of my childhood. I remember sun filled November days helping Dad rake the leaves on Spring Park Road into a pile on the edge of the then, clay street. Continuously adding leaves to the burning pile was such an adventure to me. The aroma rising from those burning leaves connects me to a joyful time shared with my Dad and has never left my memory. There are strong memories of gathering with my fellow students in school auditoriums to hear presentations from veterans about the reason for Remembrance Day; of standing at the Cenotaph moved to tears of compassion for the brave deeds of the living and the supreme sacrifices of the war dead; standing in the bitter weather praying for peace with our own Rev. Dr. Donald A. Campbell and later, the Rev. Dr. Gordon Matheson. Thank you to all the men and women who work for peace today in the Canadian Armed Forces. Work your will through them, Lord, and keep them safe.

The world would have us all powerless with fear. Worry can be very stressful. The Way Bible, Colossians 3: 2-4 says, *"Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here. You should have as little desire for this world as a dead person does. Your real life is in Heaven with Christ and God. And when Christ, who is our real life comes back again, you will shine with Him and share in all His Glories!"* Romans 8:38, 39 tells us – *"For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow or where we are - high above the sky or in the deepest ocean - nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus when He died for us."* Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Ooh, can you feel the change towards Winter as November begins to chill the air? I am not a fan of the shortening hours of daylight, but we are children of The Light Of The World and in this knowledge, I receive strength! Advent celebrations draw near to cheer us up and God's blessings are showered upon us daily. The following is good advice from an anonymous author:

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.



Lest We Forget

Life is fragile. But the Holy Spirit dwells in us. As Christians, we know that we are never alone and we have hope for tomorrow from a Peace that passes all understanding. Every day, in thought and prayer, let's renew our hearts with gratitude to resist negative feelings and to build up our strength in times of trouble. Amen to that!!

Godspeed!
Elizabeth Ferguson

151ST Meeting of The Synod of The Atlantic Provinces



For Thanksgiving, the sanctuary was beautifully decorated by the Balderstons and here, Guy Smagghe, director of Presbyterian World Service & Development speaks during the October 19 service, a day before the start of Synod. Over 65 individuals from Zion volunteered to help at the Synod.

Thanks to Gary MacDougall for the pictures. You can view the sermon at zionpres.org (ed.)



Zion Church played host to the meeting of Synod, October 20-22. Reverends Allyson and Kirk MacLeod conducted the opening worship service with the message delivered by Rev. Brad Blaikie (outgoing Synod Moderator) pictured here with them, along with Rev. Will Henbest and Incoming Moderator, Rev. Torrey Griffiths.

Spread the Word

Till I was 8 years old, we lived in a working-class neighbourhood of Victorian row houses with no electricity. All the homes had softly hissing gas lamps with gauze mantles that glowed warmly above coal fireplaces. Our bathtub was a tin one that my mother filled with water from the kettle and placed in front of the fire. We led a simple life. Exposure to media was at a minimum. We had a radio which ran on batteries that had to be recharged at a local store and we tuned into ONE channel- the BBC Scottish Home Service.

When the late Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1952, we had moved to a new council house with a real bathtub and wonderful electricity, so when the coronation was televised, my parents invested in a cabinet-enclosed TV and we were able to watch the event in black and white on a screen the size of a dinnerplate. Headline news in those days was the death of the king, the end of the war and rationing. Nowadays world changing news affecting our lives spreads constantly on waves saturated with multiple channels.

In biblical times, news spread differently. There were no headlines in newspapers. If there had been, you can imagine what they might have said: "Family Builds Ark to Save Animals", "Man Claims to have spent 3 Days in the Belly of a Whale". There were no camera crews filming the shot of the century: "Walls of Jericho Come Tumbling Down". How often do you think news outlets would replay the footage of David finishing off Goliath? "Shepherd Boy Saves the Day", (including an exclusive interview with the young hero armed with his sling.) Would it not be wonderful to actually watch Jesus riding into Jerusalem surrounded by crowds yelling "Hosannah!" and to see him turn over tables and yell at the merchants selling goods in the Temple courts.

It wasn't God's plan to wait for technological advances of the 21st century so His News could be recorded and beamed to every corner of the earth. At a particular point in time, all He needed was **word** written in story to preserve eyewitness narrative, share personal spiritual experience and record interventions in people's lives. He changed their circumstances to provide us with examples of how to trust and obey Him - like Ruth, Joseph and Paul who turned from being a persecutor of Christians into a gifted preacher and missionary. In that era, He inspired "reporters" like the gospel writers to describe the arrival of His son among them who taught them in parables, performed miracles and established a new covenant with His people, and changed people-ordinary people on whom He relied to spread the word. WE are all He has to work through today. We are the channels for the news. His News preserved in the Word is more relevant to our lives, our growth, our joy and our future than any story we hurry home to hear about on TV.

Only by studying it and saturating our thinking with it can we begin to understand its mystery, its majesty and its message. Only by devouring it can it become an active participant in our lives as it tells us the truth about eternity, angels, love, forgiveness and fruit of the Spirit.

Then he said to me, "Son of Man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So, I ate it and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. Ezekiel 3 v 3

His News is worthy of investigation to deepen our faith through its teaching. Let us agree not to let our bibles become dust collectors. Let us immerse ourselves in its words and develop confidence to spread the word.

A Word from Evan

The ideas of ownership and private property are ancient ones. We find the existence of these ideas most clearly in ancient laws. The Ten Commandments are clear that “Thou shalt not steal,” and there are even older legal codes which promise gruesome justice for theft and robbery. We also know the Romans who occupied Israel in the first century AD had cruel punishments for said crimes, as the two men crucified on either side of Jesus were thieves.

When our law-makers and lawyers try to decide who is able to claim ownership of something, whether a parcel of land, physical item, or even an idea, the right of ownership is given to those who paid for or created the thing. Consider the endless titles, deeds, and documents collected for cars and houses to prove ownership; think about all the copyrights, trademarks, and patents filed so someone can certify that they were first in line with an idea.

If paying for or creating something is the standard by which we measure ownership of a thing, then how completely are you and I owned by God?

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” (Psalm 100:3, NIV)

Given that the first five words in the Bible are “In the beginning God created,” is it any surprise how often God is referred to as Creator? Genesis 1 gives an extensive list of what God has created, the essence of which can be distilled to a single word: everything. Everything, big and small; everything that has been, is, or will be. Humanity, though far down the list, is given special distinction: *“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”* (Genesis 1:27, NIV). If we base ownership on creation, then surely we belong to God.

As the Father created us, it is the Son who paid for us. Whichever poetic way you prefer to phrase it, “purchased our salvation” or “ransomed us from our sins,” Jesus was captured, tortured, then nailed to a cross and left to die. Throughout the Gospels, we read over and over that Jesus knows this is God’s plan, knows the terrible cost that is coming, yet He willingly pays the price to redeem us. If it is the buyer who owns a thing, then again, we must belong to God.

What does it mean to belong to God? It is a promise of powerful love and sure protection! It’s a promise often repeated and repeatedly proved. Whether you read about God’s protection of Jacob (Isaiah 43), the three men in the blazing furnace (Daniel 3), Daniel while in the lions’ den (Daniel 6), Peter when imprisoned (Acts 12), or Paul and Silas when imprisoned (Acts 16), you will find the proof of His love for those who trust in Him; the ones He calls His own. How blessed we are.

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:28, NIV)

AROUND THE CHURCH



ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ONLINE AUCTION

NOVEMBER 3-8, 2025

www.32auctions.com/zion2025

- Tools & Home Services
- Car Care & Automotive
- Theatre & Cinema Tickets
- Restaurant Gift Cards
- Golf & Recreation
- Quilts & Handmade Goods
- Preserves & Christmas Baking
- Pet Supplies & More!

All proceeds support installing a lift to make our church fully accessible.

Bible Study continues on Tuesdays at 6.30 and Thursdays at 9.30 in Small Groups - "Conversations with Jesus."

Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 10am.

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6.30 for Legato and Marcato, and 7.30 for Sanctuary Choir.

For Youth Group, Young Adults, Friends of Faith and Knot all Knitter activities, check the calendar.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fall Sale (Clothing, Books, Baking, Café) Friday October 31 and Saturday, November 1. 9am-1pm

Life and Mission Agency Service to recognize John Barrett's appointment as the Associate Secretary of Congregational and Community Ministries, November 2, 3pm

Remembrance Day, November 11 - Church Service, Sunday November 9.

*Advent Service and Luncheon, November 26, 12.10pm
Salvation Army.*

The Last Word

Rev. Kirk MacLeod

I remember counting words in high school. My English teacher would say, "You need to write a thousand-word essay," and I would write and count, write and count, write and count. And then finally it would all come together. The essay would be finished and I would make sure to add a few extra words, hoping it would mean a few extra marks.

I know you've heard it said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." No one is quite sure where that phrase originated. Some say it is a Chinese proverb, others point to the expression first noted in a 1911 newspaper article quoting, newspaper editor Arthur Brisbane, discussing journalism and publicity. Whatever its origin, we know its value and understand how images often strengthen the words being spoken.

We've had numerous people come through the doors at Zion this past week to get their picture taken. Some came reluctantly because who likes getting their picture taken? Others came with great anticipation but not just to see their own pictures but to view pictures of others with whom they gather for worship with every Sunday but who sit a section or two away and whose name is unknown. They come to get their picture taken to get a free directory so they can spend time going through it to learn the names of those they would not know otherwise. The last directory was done in 2019. I use it often but so much has changed in the past six years. Some are no longer with us and there are new faces since 2019.

As I look through the old directory and await the new directory, I'm getting to learn not just the names of those who call Zion home but their stories as well. The picture is just the first step in getting to know one another. Thanks to those who have helped organize this wonderful project but also to those who have gotten their picture taken. It's my hope that everyone will participate, whether you come to the remaining two days of shooting (Nov 17 and 18), allow me to come and take your picture or provide a picture, please know your story matters and is worth far more than a thousand words.

November 2025 at Zion Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Remember on Sunday, November 2 ND the clocks go Back an hour	Ushers Nov 2—Scott, Ron Nov 9—Allan B., Malena Nov 16—Roylean, Pam	Ushers (continued) Nov 23—Gary, Erroll Nov 30—Ken H, Elaine	Advent Luncheon Services—12:10 pm Salvation Army Nov 26 th St Paul's Dec 3 rd Zion Dec 10 th Trinity Dec 17 th	ADVENT SERVICE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AT 7 PM AT CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MERMAID	MEMORIAL ANGEL SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 7:00 P.M	9 am-1pm Zion's Annual Clothing, Book & Bake Sale and Café
2 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3 pm Life & Mission Agency Service	3 ONLINE AUCTION OPENS at 8 am Life & Mission Agency Meetings	4 ONLINE AUCTION OPEN Life & Agency Meetings 10 am Prayer Group 6:30 pm Social Time 7 pm Bible Study	5 ONLINE AUCTION OPEN 6:30-Legato Choir 7-8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	6 ONLINE AUCTION OPEN 9:30 am Social Time 10 am Bible Study Choir Ministry 2 pm Beach Grove NH	7 ONLINE AUCTION OPEN	8 ONLINE AUCTION CLOSES at 7 pm
9 10:30 am Worship REMEMBRANCE DAY, Children's Ministries 11:30 Fellowship	10	11 REMEMBRANCE DAY 6:30 pm Social Time 7 pm Bible Study	12 6:30-Marcato Choir 7-8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	13 9:30 am Social Time 10 am Bible Study AUCTION ITEMS PICKUP 3PM-6 PM	14 AUCTION ITEMS PICKUP 3PM-6 PM	15 AUCTION ITEMS PICKUP 3PM-6 PM 5 PM Young Adults Board Games & Pizzas
16 10:30 am Worship, Children's Ministries 11:30 Fellowship	17 PHOTOS FOR DIRECTORY	18 PHOTOS FOR DIRECTORY 10 am Prayer Group 6:30 pm Social Time 7 pm Bible Study	19 6:30-Legato Choir 7-8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	20 9:30 am Social Time 10 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	21	22
23 10:30 am Worship, Children's Ministries 11:30 Fellowship	24	25 10 am Prayer Group 6:30 pm Social Time 7 pm Bible Study	26 Advent Service - 12:10 -Salvation Army 6:30-Marcato Choir 7-8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	27 9:30 am Social Time 10 am Bible Study 11:30 Friends of Faith- TBA 6:30 pm Session	28	29 2:00 pm SENIORS GATHERING
30 10:30 am Worship First Sunday of Advent Children's Ministries 7 pm Advent Service at Mermaid Church						