



**Jim Weaver** passed away on June 27, 2025. He was an active part of our church. He is survived by his wife Doreen, her family, his siblings and extended family members.



**Jake Penner** died on April 24. He was a dedicated member of our church family before a recent move to K-W. He is survived by a sister and many extended family members.



**Eileen Hooper** died on April 27. She was a long-time member of our choir. Left to mourn are husband Ken, children Elaine and Steve, many grand and great grandchildren.



**Sheila Ray** died on February 21. She was a resident of Grey Gables in Markdale and a member of our church. She is survived by children Gary, Greg and Kim. She was a grandmother and great grandmother.

## Durham Presbyterian Church News from the Pews

### Exciting News!

On September 1, 2025, Durham Presbyterian Church and Knox Holstein Presbyterian Church will officially amalgamate to form a new congregation. After a process of consultation and congregational meetings at both churches, the Presbytery of Grey Bruce Maitland approved the amalgamation at the May 2025 meeting at Camp Kintail.

A Celebratory service will be held on September 7 here at the Durham church followed by a “fingerfood” potluck and cake.

A new Session and a new Board of Managers will take on the responsibility of leading and managing the new congregation, of which a name will be chosen within the first year. Rev. Will has been accepted as minister by Knox Holstein at a congregational meeting and will be the minister of the newly amalgamated congregation.

The church building in Holstein was recently sold. Services for the newly amalgamated congregation will be held in Durham on Sundays at 10:30.



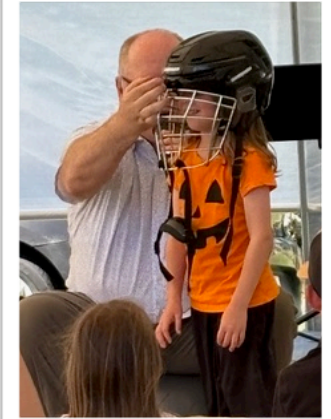
## Doreen Weaver celebrates 95th Birthday!

On Sunday, December 29, 2024, our church family was delighted to be part of Doreen Weaver's 95th birthday celebration. Members of her family attended our church service and then organized the party to follow. During her thank you speech, Doreen expressed gratitude that she was able to celebrate this special day with her family along with her church family because all were important to her.



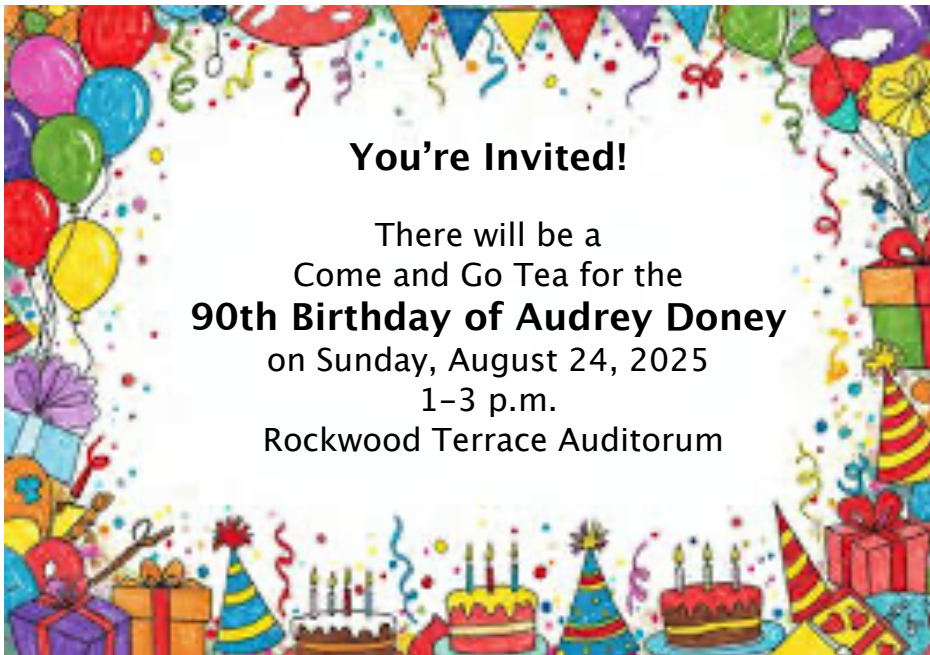
## Annual Church Picnic

We gathered once again at the Durham Conservation Park for our annual church picnic on June 29. Following the church service, those in attendance enjoyed a luncheon and games organized by members of the very busy Christian Education and Congregational Life Committee.



## You're Invited!

There will be a  
Come and Go Tea for the  
**90th Birthday of Audrey Doney**  
on Sunday, August 24, 2025  
1-3 p.m.  
Rockwood Terrace Auditorum



## The Presbyterian Ladies are always busy

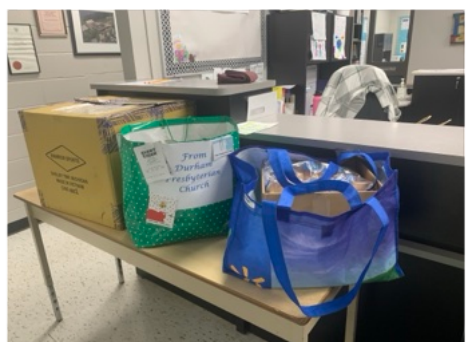


Prior to Christmas, the Ladies made up and delivered small gift packages for the staff at our hospital. The Ladies are always busy. They held their annual Christmas Bazaar at the end of November. This was followed by a Scottish Luncheon in January. They hosted the potluck luncheon for our Anniversary Service on April 27. On June 25, the annual Strawberry was held to much success.



## Giving Back to the Community

Our church, under the guidance and leadership of the Christian Education Committee, has been busy. During the Christmas season, our church family made donations to help students at our local schools who are in need. The school administration guided what students needed and we made a delivery to the school. On January 19, we had our annual Sock Sunday. We were able to donate 144 pairs of socks to the Warming Centre in Hanover and the Women's Shelter in Owen Sound.



## Music in the Park

Come out on Sundays to enjoy music from local musicians. It takes place at Riverside Park. The music begins at 7 p.m. until August 24, and then from August 31 until the end of September, the performances begin at 3 p.m. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

## Our Graduates



**Will Basson Jr.** graduated from Grade 12. He will be returning to JDSS in the fall to work in a co-op program in engineering at Bruce Power.



**Eva Lyon** graduated grade 12 from JDSS. She will be taking the nursing program at Trent University in the fall.



**Baxter Hutchinson** (left) graduated Grade 8 while his oldest brother **Tristan** graduated Grade 12. The brothers are in Saskatchewan and are the grandsons of Denise Hutchinson.



**Katelan Marshall** graduated Grade 8 at Spruce Ridge Community School and is going to JDSS in the fall.



## Pancake Supper

The young people of our church, with gladly accepted help from members of our church, hosted a Pancake Supper at the start of Lent (March 4). After expenses, a donation of \$635 was presented to the West Grey Youth Centre.



## Kirk in the Cedars

The afternoon of Sunday, June 22 saw members of our church family travel by bus (driven by our intrepid minister!) to Camp Kintail for its monthly Kirk in the Cedars. After an enjoyable message given to us by Rev. Theresa McDonald-Lee, a trip to the beach took place. Following this, the group enjoyed a meal and some visiting.



## Other Activities that have taken place at our church

- Our 170th Anniversary took place on April 27 with the Rev. Theresa McDonald-Lee as our guest speaker.
- The Christian Education and Congregational Life Committee held a fundraiser following the service on May 25. Funds raised went toward helping our children and young people go to Camp Kintail.



## A Testimony

Many of you will remember Don Corbett. For those who never met him, a bit of background. Don was raised in our church. He joined the choir as a teenager and remained a fixture in the choir until time and dementia required him to move into Rockwood Terrace with his beloved wife Betty (nee McGowan). Don was also a long-time elder in our church and served as the Clerk of Session. Even as dementia caused Don to lose many precious memories, he never forgot the hymns he sang for so many years nor his habit to pray to our Heavenly Father. His daughter, Anne, found his testimony he wrote in 1973 at the age of 50 and agreed to share it with us. It is a powerful message speaking to our own individual journeys with God. Don passed away in 2023.



*I was born and raised to go to church.*

*I attended Sunday School and later Young People's Society.*

*I joined the church at age 13 in 1945 and since then always been involved in the church, teaching Sunday School.*

*I was elected to the Board of Session in 1960 and during all this time I did not really believe in Jesus Christ.*

*It was not until 1972 when I read the book "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis that I really saw in black and white what a Christian was. I really came to believe in Jesus Christ gradually over that six months. I began to pray regularly about one year ago, morning and evening.*

*I have found that over this period, my faith has been strengthened to the point where I see as it is pointed out in the book "Evangelism Explosion" that if one really trusts in Jesus Christ alone for all things then one has the gift of eternal life.*

*This is verified at least three times in the book of John when Jesus says: "If you believe in me, you shall have eternal life"*

*- Don Corbett*

## Gratitude for the Manse

By the end of August, we will move out of the Manse into our own home. We purchased a house (244 Albert Street N) in Durham. Since immigrating to Canada, we are now in a position to acquire property, and we love to settle permanently in Durham while building equity.

This means that we will vacate the manse, our first home in Canada. We are sad to leave our wonderful home of the past four and a half years. We still remember the day (14 February 2021) when we walked through the front door into a warm and beautifully renovated home. Having this wonderful gift of a special home to live in upon our arrival in Canada changed our lives forever! We are deeply grateful for all the love and effort that went into providing us with such an excellent home.

We thank the Session and the Board of Managers for providing us with a housing allowance to replace the benefit of living in the manse. The Session and the Board of Managers are currently considering options to provide the congregation with informed options before deciding on the future of the manse at a congregational meeting. We pray that a solution will be found that will be financially beneficial to the congregation in the long run.

We love beautiful Durham and we love living here! We love our church family, and we love worshipping our God with all of you! Thank you for supporting us and loving us!

The Basson family





## Saturday Funday

On March 29, the Christian Education and Congregational Life Committee organized a Saturday Funday. Lots of great food was enjoyed by all. It was followed by an afternoon of games and fun. It was an great day for all that attended.

