

Staff Emails

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Church office hours Monday to Thursday 9am – 1pm
Friday 9:30am – 12:00 noon
(NOTE: please call ahead as the door is locked on Fridays)

Sunday Kool: Knox Sunday Kool runs from after the children's time until the conclusion of the worship service.

Looking for...

Worship Bags for children aged 0-5, 5-12 years?

They are in on the pew in the narthex (the space just outside the sanctuary where you receive a bulletin)

A Bible to take to your pew?

They are located at every entrance to the sanctuary in the narthex. Ask an usher, if you don't see one!

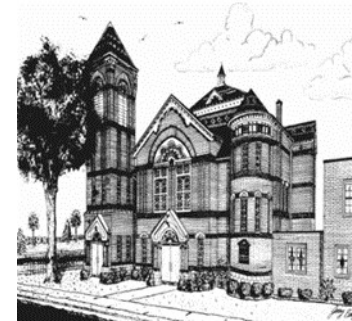
The Nursery?

The Nursery is located in the Christian Education Hall (the building adjacent to the main sanctuary). Go to the rear parking lot entrance. The nursery is located just off the large hallway that is off of this entrance.

Copies of the latest edition of PCConnect (our denomination's newspaper) are available on the tables in the front foyer! Please pick one up!



Knox Presbyterian Church
55 Hincks Street, St. Thomas, Ontario
N5R 3N9



Founded in 1837

September 29th, 2024
10:30am

To all who would know God and do God's will; to all who would live and serve to make the world better; to all who seek comfort and would find rest; to old and young, wise and unlearned, rich and poor, saint and sinner, this church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ bids you welcome to our Father's house.

Enter to Worship

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude	Choral Prelude	C. H. H. Parry
Welcome and Announcements		Elizabeth MacLeod
Land Acknowledgement and Call to Worship		Joy Wendling
Hymn*	471	We are One in the Spirit
Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer		(trespasses)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Youth Hymn*	64	Be Still and Know
Children's Time		Elizabeth MacLeod
<i>(sing the last verse of the youth hymn as the children are dismissed to Sunday Kool and nursery)</i>		
Responsive Reading: The history of Orange Shirt Day		Bonnie Brown

Orange Shirt Day began in 1973 when six-year-old Phyllis Webstad entered the St. Joseph Mission Residential School in B.C. wearing a brand-new bright orange shirt purchased by her family.

Phyllis was quickly stripped of her new shirt; it was replaced it with the school's institutional uniform.

The loss of an orange shirt was by no means the worst thing that happened to an Indigenous child in the Indian Residential School System.

Nevertheless, it has become symbolic of all that was taken from the children—their language, culture, family and community relationships, safety, security, and identity, sometimes even their lives.

When we wear orange shirts, and talk about why we are wearing them, we help to create awareness of the serious impact of residential schools.

We witness to the truth that "Every Child Matters."

We remember that Jesus welcomed and honoured children, and we seek to do the same.

We confess the tragedies of the past, and our role in them, and we seek a new way forward.

Leave to Serve

Scripture	Zechariah 8:16-17	Elizabeth MacLeod
	Micah 6:8	
Anthem	The Gift of Love	H. H. Hopson
Message	Justice and Mercy	Elizabeth MacLeod

WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND SERVICE

Offering and Offertory	Trust His Heart	Estel Brown
Doxology*	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!</i>	
Prayer of Dedication		
Prayers of the People		Alison Fordham
Hymn*	(printed)	If We Just Talk
Benediction*		
Postlude	BWV 553	J. S. Bach
		<i>Guest Organist: Dr. D. F. Cook</i>

Welcome to worship! If you are visiting, please fill in a visitor's card in your pew, and place it on the offering plate at the time of collection. Washrooms are located at the Mitchell Street entrance and the rear parking lot entrance. There is also a washroom in the CE Hall.

Thanks to the Kitchen Whiches for providing ushers for today's service, to Brock Barrett who is on security, and to the Ron and Pam Smith team for hosting coffee break.

A note from Mavis

Friends at Knox, I was overwhelmed by last Sunday's celebration. Thank you for your thoughtful cards and notes, for your remembrances and gifts and for your incredible generosity. Given the whole point of retirement was to spend more time with family - we have decided to use your gifts to treat our crew to a few days away with us in 2025 (we have to get that second grandchild into the world first!). I will make sure that you get some photos! So many wonderful memories with you all; I am glad "Grace the Whale" and "Omar the Camel" got to join in the celebration! You will continue to be in my prayers in the weeks and months ahead. I know the new minister will be blessed with your welcome, hospitality and love.

Blessings, Mavis

PHYLLIS' STORY

In Her Own Words



I went to the Mission for one school year in 1973/1974. I had just turned 6 years old. I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting – just like I felt to be going to school!

When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.

I was 13 years old and in grade 8 when my son Jeremy was born. Because my grandmother and mother both attended residential school for 10 years each, I never knew what a parent was supposed to be like. With the help of my aunt, Agness Jack, I was able to raise my son and have him know me as his mother.

I went to a treatment centre for healing when I was 27 and have been on this healing journey since then. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter. Even with all the work I've done!

I am honored to be able to tell my story so that others may benefit and understand, and maybe other survivors will feel comfortable enough to share their stories.

"Phyllis' Story." *Orange Shirt Society*, 9 Nov. 2023, orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story/#story.

THIS WEEK AT KNOX

Sunday Sept. 29th, to Oct 6th, 2024

Today	11:30 am	Coffee Break (Rodney Hall)
Monday	6:30 pm	Embers (CE Hall)
Tuesday	9:00 am	Golden K (Rodney Hall)
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Photo directory sessions (Library & Rodney Hall)
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Girl Guides (CE Hall)
Wednesday	9:00 am	Kitchen Whiches (Kit & RH)
Wednesday	9:30 am	Indoor Playground (CE Hall)
Wednesday	10:30 am	Bible Study (Library)
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Photo directory sessions (Library&Rodney Hall)
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Scouts (CE Hall)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Session (Zoom)
Thursday	9:30 am	Crafters (CE Hall)
Thursday	1:00 pm	Worship Committee (Fellowship Room)
Thursday	1:00 pm	Knox Knits (CE Hall)
Thursday	1:00 pm	Photo directory sessions (Library & RodneyHall)
Thursday	7:00 pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Thursday	7:30 pm	The Winner's Circle (Rodney Hall)
Friday	1:00 pm	Photo directory sessions (Library & Rodney Hall)
Friday	7:00 pm	Field Naturalists (Rodney Hall)
Saturday	9:00 am	Knox Breakfast Club (Rodney Hall)
Saturday	1:00 pm	Photo directory sessions (Library & Rodney Hall)
Sunday	10:30 am	Morning worship & the Sacrament of Communion
Sunday	10:45 am	Sunday Kool & Nursery

Next Sunday, October 6th

Ushers organized by	Session
Coffee Break is organized by	Macpherson Team
Security person is	Brian Bolt

Our worship service today is led by members of our church family who are engaged in the work of reconciliation with the indigenous people of Canada and or learning about the work of reconciliation. We are grateful to Joy Wendling, Bonnie Brown, and Alison Fordham for their contributions today.

REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN: ORANGE SHIRT DAY STUDY GUIDE

September 30th is National Truth and Reconciliation Day and is also known as “Orange Shirt Day.” Orange Shirt Day began in 1973 when six-year-old Phyllis Webstad entered the St. Joseph Mission Residential School in B.C. Young Phyllis was wearing a new orange shirt that her grandmother had gotten for her for her first day of school—but the Mission Oblates quickly stripped her of her new shirt and replaced it with the school’s institutional uniform.

Wearing an orange shirt on September 30th is one way to publicly and collectively remember the intense and enduring harm that was done to Indigenous children and communities through the Residential School system. It is also a way of showing support for all—Survivors and intergenerational Survivors—whose lives have been impacted by the schools. T

The orange shirts also honour the many Indigenous children who never made it home from the schools. The Centre for Truth and Reconciliation maintains a registry of the thousands of children who died at Residential Schools, though these lists are incomplete and thousands of unmarked burial sites on the grounds of formal Residential Schools have been announced.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada ran 11 school in 12 sites: Ahousaht Residential School in British Columbia, Alberni Residential School in British Columbia, Birtle Residential School in Manitoba, Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School, first located in Shoal Lake, Ontario and relocated to Kenora, Ontario, Crowstand Residential School in Saskatchewan, File Hills Residential School in Saskatchewan, Muscowpetung (later known as “Lakesend”) Residential School in Saskatchewan, Portage la Prairie Residential School in Manitoba, Regina Residential School in Saskatchewan, Round Lake Residential School in Saskatchewan, and Stoney Plain Residential School in Alberta).

Residential Schools were a significant part of colonization and attempts to erase Indigenous identity and culture. They were structured on and reflected the idea that European colonial powers had a right to appropriate lands, possessions and even people, and to treat Indigenous people as undeserving of rights. The idea that European Christians were superior to non-Christian people was set out in a series of 15th century papal bulls (decrees) which are called the Doctrine of Discovery.

The racist belief in European Christian superiority underscored the process of colonization across the lands now called Canada and is seen in the

establishment of laws, governments and societal norms that were based on European models—including within the church. While Canadian laws and government practices are changing over time, the long-term influence of racism and the beliefs that are articulated in the Doctrine of Discovery persist. This is painfully evident within the church through its complicity and participation in the Residential Schools system, the stated goal of which was the erasure of Indigenous identity and assimilation into “Canadian, Christian” society. While the church has formally repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action 46ii (A&P 2019, pp. 35, 368–377), and offered a confession for our role in running Residential Schools, it will take the efforts of every person in our church, and indeed across Canada, for the intergenerational harms of racism and genocide to be stopped and healed.

Wearing an orange shirt on September 30th each year will not itself end the harm from the ongoing legacy of Residential Schools. But when we wear orange shirts, talk to others about why we are wearing them, and participate in events and activities that support truth, healing and reconciliation, we help to create awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of Residential Schools. We also witness to the truth that “Every Child Matters.” Doing so is one way among many needed to support healing.

“Remembering the Children: Orange Shirt Day Study Guide.” *The Presbyterian Church in Canada*, 24 Apr. 2023, presbyterian.ca/2022/09/13/study-guide-orange-shirt-day/.

IF WE JUST TALK OF THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

O WALY WALY 8.8.8.8 ("Though I May Speak")

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Permission is given for free use of this hymn in churches.

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting
breath.

If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false
displays.

If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our
neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.

God, may our prayers and dreams and
songs
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —
That works for peace and justice, too.
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.