

# TIMOTHY TOPICS

## October & November 2025 newsletter

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church

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Phone number: 613-733-0131

2400 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa

Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am

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Bible Trivia

Finish the verse:

"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you....."

Last issue's answer: "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Matthew 21:22

**Minister's Corner:** When we think of indifference, we may picture a cold or unfeeling heart. But in truth, indifference often wears gentler disguises. It can look like distraction, hurry, or the subtle temptation to believe someone else will step in. It thrives not so much on cruelty as on looking the other way. Science reminds us of what is called the "bystander effect"; when people are less likely to act in a crowd because responsibility is diffused. Yet even here, there is hope. Studies show that when the need is clear, people do act, and often the presence of more witnesses increases the chance that help is offered. And when people share a sense of belonging, when we see the other as part of "us", we are even more likely to step forward. The Bible tells us the same truth in sharper terms. Indifference is never neutral. In **Luke 16:19-31**, the rich man is condemned not for violence, but for failing to notice Lazarus at his gate. In **Matthew 25**, judgment falls not for active harm, but for neglect: the hungry unfed, the prisoner unvisited, the naked left without clothes. Again and again, Scripture makes clear that indifference is itself a form of sin. Yet, we also know the weight of caring. Many who give of themselves: nurses, caregivers, pastors, family members, and those who faithfully devote their time and energy to the church week after week can grow weary, not because they do not care, but because they cannot carry it all. This is what some call compassion fatigue. It may look like indifference, but it springs from exhaustion. For this, the answer is not guilt but grace: rhythms of rest, prayer, and the reminder that God carries what we cannot. The good news is that indifference can be unlearned. When we slow down, when we see one person clearly, when we recall that in Christ we belong to one another, our eyes are opened. The person at the gate is no stranger but a brother, a sister, a fellow image-bearer. **Luke 16:19-31** asks us: will we, like the rich man, retreat behind our gates? Or will we see the Lazarus before us and act with compassion? The choice is ours today.

**In the Rearview Mirror:** -On Sunday, September 7, we celebrated a special Mission Sunday worship service. The service was led by the members of our Mission and Outreach Committee, and our guest speaker, Patricia Grainger, delivered a powerful message titled "Inextinguishable Hope." She also shared about her inspiring mission trip to Guatemala, offering stories of faith and transformation. During the service, our committee joyfully announced the completion of our 2025 Mission Project supporting the orphans in Uganda. Together, we collected 2,310\$! We extend our heartfelt thanks to the congregation for their faithful dedication to supporting our mission projects each year. Following the service, everyone gathered outside to enjoy a delicious barbecue and a wonderful time of fellowship together.

- At St. Timothy's we recently held a special joint meeting of the Session and the Board. We began with a service of Holy Communion, celebrating the unity we share in Christ. Following worship, we took time to honor David Gowdy for his many years of faithful ministry and leadership as Board Chair. David has always considered St. Timothy's his home, and his dedication to the work of our church has been an inspiration to all. We then warmly welcomed our new Board Chair, John Batson, along with the other members of the Board as they begin their service. After a time of fellowship over supper, we continued with our business meeting. What a blessing it is to have such dedicated servants of the Lord keeping the light of our church burning brightly!

- What a joy-filled service we shared on September 28! Our wonderful Alpha Team once again led us in praise, filling the sanctuary with uplifting, high-energy music that lifted every heart. Their ministry of music was truly inspiring, and we were all blessed by the vibrant worship they offered. Following the service, our Sunday School teachers met with parents to plan for the year ahead, while volunteers in the kitchen worked together to prepare a homemade meal for our mission project. We look forward to serving this meal to U Ottawa students on Tuesday, September 30.

- Check Presbyterian Connections page 17...Some familiar faces!

**Looking Forward:** - On October 5, we will join Christians around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday. As we gather at the Lord's Table, we remember that we are part of Christ's global family, united in faith and love across every nation and culture.

- Save the Date! On November 22, 2024, St. Timothy's will host our annual Bazaar, and you are all invited to be part of this wonderful church and community event. Come and enjoy a wide variety of items; delicious home baking & deli, books, crafts, a silent auction, and many miscellaneous treasures. Be sure to purchase your tickets for a warm and welcoming lunch; a great opportunity to share fellowship with our church family and connect with the wider community around St. Timothy's.

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Tickets: \$15 for adults & \$10 for kids.

- Pastoral News: Rev. Reine will be away from October 20 to November 10 as she travels to her homeland in Syria to visit family and friends; a long-awaited visit since 2018. During this time, for any pastoral care emergencies, please contact your elder.

**Sunday Worship Services** 10:00 am.

**Sunday school** during the service.

**A special program for young adults**, including Bible study and fun activities. If interested, please contact Bertha.

### Coming Events

World Communion Sunday, Oct. 5 @10 am

Thanksgiving Sunday Oct.12 @10 am

Remembrance Sunday Nov. 9 @ 10 am

Café Connections Oct.10, Nov.14 @10:30

St. Timothy's Bazaar Nov.22 @ 10am-2pm.

Agape Gathering Oct. 28, Nov.25 @10:30

Session Sunday Nov.23 @10

First Sunday in Advent & communion Nov.30 @10

Bible Study, Mondays @10:00

Craft group Mondays @1-3 pm



# ST. TIM'S PICTORIAL



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**Connection**

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## Hope and Joy in Ottawa



A praise dance.

*By the Rev. Divine Stephen,  
St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church  
in Ottawa, Ont.*

When people think of church, they may envision solemn hymns, quiet prayers and reflective sermons. While reverence is indeed part of worship, so is joy, laughter and the warmth of community. At St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, Ont., we believe that being part of God's family is not only meaningful, but also joyful. Scripture is rich with examples of celebration. The people of Israel gathered for festivals filled with music, dancing and feasting. The psalmist proclaims, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1 NIV). Jesus himself joined wedding feasts, shared meals with friends, and taught using stories full of wit and creativity. In John 10:10b, he promises, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." That full life includes joy, laughter and community—which we experience vibrantly at St. Timothy's.

As a multicultural congregation, we delight in the richness of our diversity. During the Christmas season, families gather for our gingerbread house and pizza event, sharing laughter and creativity. In July, we held a beloved outdoor worship service beneath our spreading maple tree, followed by a joyful picnic filled with music, fellowship and good food. Our monthly Café Connections and Agape gatherings offer warm hospitality, where coffee and tea spark meaningful conversations and genuine friendships. Festive moments during Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter fill our church with energy and celebration. Every Sunday, our hall buzzes with families sharing not only worship but life together—celebrating baptisms, birthdays and weddings, or walking together through life's more difficult moments. In February, we mark Black History Month with a special service of music, reflection and thanksgiving, planned and led by the African Chorus at St. Timothy's. This dedicated group brings their joyful, uplifting music to this annual celebration, as well as blessing us with their vibrant songs every month. The joy of worship enriches our lives and the service work that allows us to share Christ's love for beyond our walls. One of the highlights of this year was our multicultural celebration—a vivid tapestry of who we are. As one church family,



The African Chorus at St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, Ont.

we came together to honour the children bring energy and life to our sanctuary. Throughout the year, barbecue gatherings, youth events and church celebrations continue to draw us together in Christ's name. We are especially thankful for the new members God has brought into our church family. Over the past six years (including the challenging pandemic years), 60 individuals have joined our church through baptism or profession of faith. What a blessing! Our joy extends beyond answered prayers and gifts with passion and love. We rejoice in answered prayers and in mission work that allows us to share Christ's love for beyond our walls. One of the highlights of this year was our multicultural celebration—a vivid tapestry of who we are. As one church family,

Laughter and Love: The Heart of St. Timothy's. So come to church with a smile. Bring your heart, your hopes, your burdens and your joy. Because in God's house, we are not only renewed and restored—we are delighted. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Ephesians 6:10).



Preparing a pizza meal for families.



Welcoming new members.



The Children's Choir.



Children's staffers visiting the church.



A gingerbread house event.



