

20 Aug 2026



Collaboration Service at Cookes-Portsmouth
23 August 2026

This Week's Schedule for ERMUC Events

All events and room bookings are not on this page; please check ERMUC's online calendar at www.ermuc.ca/event/event-calendar for more info.

Sun 23 Aug 10:00 a.m.	Collaboration Service at Cokes-Portsmouth ERMUC IS CLOSED THIS DAY	Cokes-Portsmouth
Mon 24 Aug 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Limestone Ringers	Sanctuary
Tues 25 Aug 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Tuesdays at Two Limestone Ringers	Back Gardens Sanctuary
Wed 26 Aug 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Pastoral Care Gathering	Zoom

Stephanie will be away from the office on 28 August 2026 moving her girl into McMaster University. Alanna will be 'on call' if anyone needs to reach the church. Please email: pastoralcare@ermuc.ca



- Aug 23** Collaboration Service at Cookes-Portsmouth **ERMUC IS CLOSED THIS DAY**
- Aug 30** Collaboration Service at Cookes-Portsmouth **ERMUC IS CLOSED THIS DAY; Michelle off**
- Sept 6** This service will be a rerun of a former service. This viewing will be found on You Tube. **The video will become available on 10 a.m. on September 6th. <https://youtu.be/z2VubcZ-rj8>, ERMUC CLOSED; Michelle off.**
- Sept 13** Welcome Back Sunday – **ALL RETURN TO WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY!**

Caring Connections

Pastoral Care Reflections & Updates from Alanna

Have you ever felt helpless when someone you love is going through something really hard? I certainly have, in fact I do right now. I have a friend with an adult child who is struggling with addiction and serious mental health issues. Another friend whose marriage has ended. And still other close friends with parents facing difficult health challenges. All of these are circumstances I cannot fix.

It is very difficult to stand by and watch close friends carry very difficult things involving people they love deeply (and sometimes, who I love, too). I find myself wishing I could do something, anything, to make things easier for them. But most of the time, I can't.

I can't change the situation or take away their worry. I can't solve the problem or make the person they love be suddenly okay.

And so I say the same things we have all learned to say:

"I'm here." · "I love you." · "I'm thinking about you." · "I'm here when you need me." ·
"You don't have to go through this alone."

But after saying those things repeatedly, I sometimes wonder if I am really doing enough. It often doesn't feel like enough.

We live in a culture that values solutions. We want to fix things. We feel the need to offer advice, make suggestions, send links to resources, and ask what we can do. But there is often absolutely nothing we can fix.

I think in these circumstances, no matter how hard it feels, all we can really do is offer our presence rather than a solution.

There is something truly profound about standing beside someone in their heartache. We don't have to have the right words. We don't have to understand exactly what they are experiencing or what they need to do next.



HOW TO CONTACT ALANNA:

PASTORALCARE@ERMUC.CA · 613-389-2530 X 102



We can simply say: "I know this is hard and I am here with you."

Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

We are not directed to fix or carry the burdens of others, but rather to help carry them. We can do this in a variety of ways. We can drop off snacks or a meal. We can weed their garden. We can make a phone call or have a video chat. Or we can simply send yet another text that says: "Just thinking about you. I'm here for you. I love you."

It may feel repetitive to us, but to the person receiving our messages, those words might be just what they need to hear in that moment.

When life feels uncertain and scary, there is great comfort in knowing that someone is still there. Still caring. Still holding us in their heart.

So, we really shouldn't underestimate the power of saying the same loving words over and over.

"I'm here." · "I love you." · "I care about you." · "I'm not going anywhere."

Love offered faithfully is the ultimate act of pastoral care. Often the greatest blessings we can offer are presence and gentle reminders of love.



Some Upcoming Pastoral Care Activities:

Tuesdays at Two: Join me for cookies and lemonade in the shade for conversation and connection on the beautiful banks of Collins Bay. In case of inclement or extremely hot temperatures, we will meet in the Welcome Centre. Tuesday, September 1, 2026 will be the last Tuesdays at Two. Thanks to everyone who has participated and to those who have donated treats!

Breakfast Bunch: The August breakfast will be back to the first Wednesday of the month. We will meet on Wednesday, September 5 at 9:00 AM at Rhodes Restaurant for breakfast and conversation.

Wellness Walking: There will be no Wellness Walking through July and August, the sanctuary is simply too warm. We will resume as soon temperatures permit in September!

August Short Stories Series

Rain on the Water

The sky turned the color of a bruised plum by mid-afternoon. Most people would head inside, but to us, an overcast day meant the lake belonged entirely to the kids.

When the first heavy drops began to fall, we stayed in the water. Swimming in a warm summer rain felt like entering a magical, lawless zone where the normal rules of childhood didn't apply. The surface of the lake hissed as millions of raindrops struck it simultaneously, creating thousands of expanding, interlocking circles.

When the downpour became too thick to see through, we dragged our canoe upside down onto the muddy bank and crawled underneath it. Crushed together in the dark, smelling the damp aluminum and wet earth, we giggled and watched the storm through the small gap between the hull and the sand. The lake was loud, wild, and entirely ours.



The Firefly Twilight

The best part of lake fun always happened when the sun began to sink below the treeline, turning the water from gold to rose.

We would finally rinse the lake sand from our legs, pull on oversized, long-legged sweatshirts, and gather around the fire pit near the shore. The smell of woodsmoke filled the heavy evening air. Our faces glowed orange as we roasted marshmallows on wire hangers, trying—and usually failing—not to let them catch fire.

With sticky, melted chocolate on our fingers, we would run out into the darkening grass to catch fireflies, trapping them gently in mason jars with holes punched in the lids. In those quiet, late-night moments, listening to the adults share stories on the porch and watching the stars blink awake, the lake felt like the center of the universe.





Happy Birthday to our Classics !

Frank Marshall	01 Aug
Lois Butler	02 Aug
Rupert Howse	08 Aug
Brenda Gray	09 Aug
Diane Hickling	09 Aug
Carole Bleecker	11 Aug
Mary Catherine Robb	14 Aug
Mel Hazell	19 Aug
Anne Byron	23 Aug
Jean Martin	24 Aug
Joan Martin	25 Aug
Don Mallory	28 Aug
Edie Raymond	31 Aug

Volunteer Request

The Parkinson Group are looking for a volunteer to come in on the second Thursday of each month from September to June, at 2:00 p.m., to set up tables and chairs for their meetings.

If you can take on this responsibility, they would be grateful. Please contact Ruth Morrison: [ruthmorrison 'at' sympatico.ca](mailto:ruthmorrison@sympatico.ca).

Notice

City of Kingston

Notice of Intention to Pass A By-Law to Rename the Municipal Road known as Station Street to Bethany's Way, City of Kingston

Pursuant to the City's Public Notice Policy, take notice that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Kingston intends to consider renaming the municipal road known as 'Station Street' to 'Bethany's Way'. The municipal road is located west of the intersection of Bath Road and Collins Bay Road. The municipal road will continue to be used to provide vehicular access to one non-residential lot.

City Council will consider this matter at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday August 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 216 Ontario St., Kingston.

Anyone wishing to be heard regarding these matters should contact the City Clerk or provide written comments before 4 p.m. on Monday August 10, 2026.

Dated at the City of Kingston
July 28, 2026
Janet Jaynes
City Clerk



Attention Vendors

United MarketPlace Tour 2026



*Saturday, November 21st
10am to 2pm*

Announcing our 4th annual United MarketPlace Tour - a holiday bazaar with a difference. A citywide collaboration between local United Churches. Open to the community.

Saturday, November 21st, 10am to 2pm

As one of the host churches, Edith Rankin Memorial United Church will be celebrating the work of local artisans. We encourage you to come and join in the fun as one of our vendors!

Rental Fees

6' x 6' space with one 6' table – \$50 / additional 6' table – \$20

*For further information or to reserve a space, please contact:
Florence Niven fniven7@gmail.com*

Deadline for application, September 4, 2026

HOLD THE DATE!

JTRAG hosts John Olthuis from September 24-29 to help us prepare for the 2026 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

You may be aware of John Olthuis' extraordinary work on treaty rights and land claims over many years and of his new book *On Dismantling Settler Colonialism*.

It advocates for a true reconciliation: one that fosters the creation of political, economic, social, and cultural spaces where Indigenous nations can self-govern, restore their traditional lands, and live in harmony with the earth according to their own values and beliefs.

Through deeply personal reflections on over five decades of activism in the communities of the Dene Nation, Grassy Narrows First Nation, Temagami First Nation and the Innu Nation of Labrador, John shares his powerful journey of working to dismantle settler colonialism.

He brings to light the many neglected blueprints for true reconciliation, including discussions of over 700 recommendations for systemic change put forth by the Penner Report, The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

John's book offers a powerful exploration of how the challenging work of dismantling settler colonialism can be a transformative and deeply healing process for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples alike.

HOLD THE DATE!

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JTRAG hosts John Olthuis from September 24-29 to help us prepare for the 2026 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

JTRAG has invited John to spend the week leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with us in the Kingston area and to help us reflect on the theme “Beyond Land Acknowledgements: How Can I Act?” Here’s an early glimpse of John’s program:

- **Thurs Sept 24:** noon hour lecture at the School of Policy Studies at Queen’s
- **Fri Sept 25:** a full day with students and staff at the Limestone District School Board
- **Fri Sept 25 at 4:30:** a talking circle at Kanhiote Library on the Tyendinaga Reserve
- **Sat Sept 26:** a gathering at All Our Relations Land Trust
- **Sun Sept 27 AM: a joint service with JTRAG congregations at Sydenham Street United Church**
- **Sun Sept 27 PM: a public lecture/discussion at The Spire.**

EDITH RANKIN WILL BE PART OF THE COLLABORATION SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 27 AND WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND THE AFTERNOON WORKSHOP.