

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HERITAGE CENTRE
in Carlisle United Church,
19 Falkirk St.
Carlisle, ON (Municipality of North Middlesex)
DEDICATION & OFFICIAL OPENING
Saturday, September 20, 2025
3:00 p.m.**

Order of Worship & Bulletin



**Opened during the 150th anniversary year of the organization of
The Presbyterian Church in Canada – 1875-2025**



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mailing address: 19 Falkirk St., R. R. 3, Denfield, ON N0M 1P0

Preaching: Rev. Angus Sutherland, (Galt) Cambridge, ON

Participating clergy:

Rev. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk, The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Rev. Duncan Jeffrey, Richmond Hill, ON

Rev. Henry Bartsch, Faith Presbyterian Church,

Tillsonburg, ON

Accompanist: Nancy Tapley, Chatham, ON

Soloist: Andrew Derynck, Tilbury, ON

Land Acknowledgement

“The earth is the LORD’S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein!” (Psalm 24 verse 1)

Before anyone walked on this earth, the land and the waters were the Creator’s, and so they continue to be. Before we broke off into separate tribes, ethnicities, and nationalities, we were God’s children, and so we remain.

We respectfully acknowledge that Carlisle United Church worships on land covered by Treaty 29 signed on August 13, 1833. We offer our gratitude to the First Nations Peoples for their care of, and teachings about, our earth and our relations.

The Crown granted this parcel of land to Duncan Stewart. In 1856, Stewart sold a ½ acre property to the Trustees of the United Presbyterian Church of Carlisle, East Williams Township, Canada West (now functioning as the Trustees of Carlisle United Church, Carlisle in the Municipality of North Middlesex, Ontario).

Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre

The idea of creating a collection of heritage artefacts began with the Rev. Dr. John A. Johnston, minister of MacNab Street Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, ON, his last full-time pastoral charge prior to his

retirement. Dr. Johnston envisioned a time in the future when The Presbyterian Church in Canada would be “property rich, and people poor.” He wanted to capture and feature some of the artefacts that had been associated with the denomination that for the first two decades at the beginning of the 20th century was the largest Protestant denomination in Canada.

The Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre is the only denominational heritage centre in all of Canada (contrasted with smaller museums dedicated to the history of a particular congregation, church or mission).

Dr. Johnston began collecting artefacts and storing them in Hamilton until he achieved his dream of opening the National Presbyterian Museum in St. John’s Presbyterian Church in the Riverdale neighbourhood of Toronto on Sunday, September 29, 2002, nearly 23 years to the day of the opening of the Heritage Centre. The National Presbyterian Museum closed to the public in September, 2018.

With very few exceptions, nearly every artefact in the collection has been donated by congregations (most of them closed) that highlights and reminds us of how Presbyterians dedicated their lives to serve their Lord Jesus Christ in or beyond Canada.

On April 23, 2024, after three years of temporary storage in Toronto, over 400 boxes of artefacts, individual items and display furniture (1 ¾ transport trailer loads) were moved to the Heritage Centre.

Carlisle United Church

Presbyterian ministers began leading worship services in 1845 in the area around Falkirk (what would later be renamed ‘Carlisle’).

This congregation was organized by one of the early influential Presbyterian denominations in southern Ontario. The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada (originally The United Secession

Church, Missionary Presbytery) was established by the Rev. William Proudfoot of London, Upper Canada in the year 1834.

Carlisle was organized as a congregation of the United Presbyterian Church on Jan. 11, 1858. A frame church built in 1856 was replaced with the present church in 1879.

Its first minister was the Rev. William Fletcher (1821-1888). A couple of descendants of Rev. Fletcher from Toronto and Scotland visited the Heritage Centre while renovations were underway.

Rev. W. H. Geddes, whose gravestone is visible from one of the basement windows, was keenly interested in foreign missions. Consequently, he inspired the congregation which, in turn, became known for its support of missionary work. The pastoral charge of Ailsa Craig and Carlisle Presbyterian Churches generously supported a boys’ school in Wu’an (Wuhan), China. It is reputed that the local Chinese people insisted that the name of the school be known as “Ailsa Craig and Carlisle” in recognition of the munificence of this congregation.

Miss Minnie Shipley, whose family was among the founding and influential members of this congregation, was raised here during the ministry of the Rev. Geddes. Minnie responded to the call to serve as a missionary and worked in North Hona from 1914 until her death in July, 1939. She became known as the “Pilgrim of the Honan Road.” Author Winifred Warren published Minnie’s biography in *His Herald in Honan*. Several items belonging to Miss Shipley, including her steamer trunk with her initials stencilled on top of it, were donated to the Heritage Centre by her family.

Carlisle Church voted in favour of Church Union in 1925 and subsequently became known as Carlisle United Church.

Acknowledgements

Marilyn Repchuck, Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre, on behalf of herself and the Committee gratefully conveys their gratitude to the following for their support.

Laurie Mason, the wife of the Curator. If it wasn't for Laurie's constant support and encouragement, not to mention her *extraordinary* patience for all the work that does not get accomplished at home, the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre simply would not exist. Laurie is still waiting for the Curator's agreement to serve on a three-month voluntary basis to conclude. She's been waiting since September, 2009.

Doug Carmichael, a member of the Advisory Committee and resident of Carlisle, for his zealous support throughout the long process of renovating the sanctuary and displaying the collection.

Frank Teahen of Carlisle United Church and resident of Carlisle for generously sharing his technical expertise and skills.

Nancy Tapley, President of the Chatham Centre, Royal Canadian College of Organists, long-time organist whose fingers touched a reed organ for the first time less than three weeks ago.

Andrew Derynck of Tilbury who provides us with two favourite selections from an era in which choirs, duos, trios and quartets were regularly heard in worship services.

Ken and Michelle Drouillard and family of Tilbury, ON, members of Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Chatham, who delivered food for the worship service (the hymnals) and food for the dinner (pies provided by Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Chatham).

Ian MacCready of Oshawa, ON who has kindly offered to facilitate livestream and recording of the worship service. The Advisory Committee members are very pleased that this service will be available to our supporters who are not able to attend in person.

Rev. Henry Bartsch, former minister of Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Chatham, currently minister of Faith Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Tillsonburg, ON, for his encouragement and for organizing a work team from the congregation who drove from Chatham to Toronto for a 2-day packing and moving odyssey to complete the 5-month process to pack and move the collection to temporary storage while Carlisle United Church was being renovated.

Rev. Jonathan Cowan, Ken Drouillard, Mrs. Kathryn Luimes, members, of Trinity Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Chatham, who kindly organized two separate youth work crews to assist in moving artefacts from our second temporary storage in Ailsa Craig provided by the North Middlesex Historical Society.

Marcus Ross of Chatham for his patience, cheerfulness and muscles as he and the Curator danced the same artefacts back and forth several times due to the fact that many of the large and heavy artefacts had to remain in the exhibit hall while renovations were being done.

The **youth of St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, Toronto**, Eastern Han-Ca Presbytery, who spent two full weeks at the beginning of the Big Move. As they packed a large portion of the library's books, they also prepared an inventory.

Laurie McGugan, member of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Toronto and her friends, **Deb Blyth** and **Pat O'Neill**, who spent several days carefully packing framed photographs, lithographs, certificates, shadow boxes, etc.

Linda Miller, custodian and member of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, through whom countless arrangements needed to be made in terms of packing and moving the collection. Thank you, Linda, for your tireless and vigilant concern!

Former Archivists of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, **Ms. Kim Arnold** and **Bob Anger**, as well as current Archivists, **Nicole D'Angela** and **Alex Kay**, for their invaluable assistance throughout the pre-move, move and post-move eras.

Rev. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and General Assembly Council staff, including the Finance Department for their guidance as we navigated this time of transition.

James Laurenson of Communications of the PCC, who responds to website maintenance requests faster than a lightning strike.

Joan Teahen, Chair, and the **members of the Committee of Carlisle United Church** for their encouraging support from the very first phone call as to whether they would be willing to move downstairs so that their sanctuary could be converted into an exhibit hall for the collection of the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre.

Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre Advisory Committee

Marilyn Repchuck, Chair; Doug Carmichael; Rev. Angus Sutherland, Past Chair; Rev. Duncan Jeffrey; Ian Mason, Curator (ex-officio).
Former member: Ms. Kim Arnold (ex-officio); retired Archivist, Presbyterian Church Archives

The Advisory Committee reports to the Committee on History, one of the oldest standing committees of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Contractors (in chronological order)

Don F. Scott, architect, partner of George Robb, Architect, Toronto
Design of replica 1850s Presbyterian chapel

Robert Bice and Jason Wilson, Komoka, ON
Floor joist renovation and reinforcement
Drywall

Aaron Weber, Webwood Windows & Doors, Millbank, ON
Gothic windows, with tracery; double entrance door with Gothic arch transom and tracery; and minister's door

Kevin Paff of H. R. Harris Construction, Inc., Ailsa Craig, ON
Pulpit platform

Derek Davis, Ailsa Craig, ON
Electrical work

Donations

Donations to support the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre are gratefully received. Contributions of \$25 or more receive official income tax receipts issued by the Finance Department of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.