

At the Well

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"... but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

VOLUME 1: NUMBER 3

JOHN 4:14



Excitement Builds

FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

What we have all been waiting for during the past year and a half – the opportunity to gather and worship at our church site on Sundays – is about to happen! There was a strong response to our mid-summer survey which showed that seventy percent of our congregation are quite ready for in-person worship while thirty percent still have reservations. Thank you to all who participated, giving our leadership the support needed in arriving at the following decision:

Beginning on Sunday, September 12, The Peoples Church will host in-person Sunday worship gatherings. There will be two services – 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM.

The 11:30 service will also be livestreamed so that our global church family can continue to gather online together and share in the service in real time. As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will be observing the practices and protocols as recommended by Ontario Health. Here are some directives to keep in mind:

- Registration will be required. We are limiting the number of people in the church building for each service to allow for increased physical distancing.
- Go to the church website and follow the registration prompts. If you are unable to access the internet, please have a family member or friend register for you. If that is not possible, you may call the church number, leave a message, and wait for a return call from our staff. You can only be registered if you talk with a Welcome Centre staff member, leaving him/her your name and phone number. If you do not receive a call back from our staff, this means spaces are full. Please try again the following week.
- Registration may be made for the 9:00 AM or 11:30 AM service during work hours on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you wish to attend.
- For those who have registered by phone, go to kiosk #4 when you arrive at the church for the Sunday service.
- Masks must be worn at all times inside the building.
- Contact such as handshaking and hugging should be avoided.
- Follow the entrance and exiting directions as laid out in the building and as instructed by our staff and volunteers.

Please pray for our leadership team as they develop plans for your enjoyment and safety as you return to in-person fellowship.



A few years ago I was given the honour of officiating at the funeral service of our dear brother, Norval Harris, a gentleman who left a big footprint in the life and the ministries of The Peoples Church. In reflecting on his life I made mention that during Norval's time, as the church leadership would gather for prayer, Norval would often open his prayer with these words:

"Saviour, like a shepherd, lead us."

Norval's prayer was reflective of his reliance on the Lord—of his understanding that in Christian leadership we lead best when we acknowledge that our total trust is in the One who protects, feeds and cares for us.

The words are from the hymn by that title, written by Dorothy A. Thrupp in the mid-nineteenth century. Little is known about the author except that she was a prolific writer of children's hymns and devotional materials. However, there are lines throughout the hymn which tell us of the depth of the author's understanding of how the Good Shepherd watches over our lives. Here are some of them:

"Be the Guardian of our way," "Seek us when we go astray," "Thou hast promised to receive us," "Thou hast loved us, love us still."

Those wonderful lines will most likely find release in your heart and voice as you reflect on them today. Don't hold back! Go ahead and sing them!

In this issue of At the Well we are highlighting the Good Shepherd as a theme. I'm grateful for the contributions of Marilyn Daniels, Donna Nicol and our Minister at Large, Charles Price. Take time, not just to read, but to meditate on the truths they bring out.

During the past months my testimony, and I'm sure, yours as well, is – what would we have done had we not known that the Lord is our Shepherd and He is "the Guardian of our way?" Again, through separation, sometimes isolation, uncertainty, anxiety He has proven to be the One who befriends us, calms us, leads us beside still waters and eradicates our anxiety and fear.

**"Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us,
love us still."**



Reg Andrews
Visitation Pastor

**“SURELY YOUR GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL
IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.”**

PSALM 23:6



A Glorious Prospect

When God is our Good Shepherd, not only is there adequate provision and protection but there are also adequate prospects. David looks to the future in two ways. Firstly, in the temporal part of our life: “Surely, goodness and love”—or “mercy” in the King James Version—“will follow me all the days of my life” (Psalm 23:6).

Goodness, love and mercy are the results of our trusting and knowing that whatever God is doing in our lives, it is for our good. Even when we experience God’s discipline, it may not seem like it is for our good at the beginning, but the outcome of our discipline always yields its fruit. In retrospect, we realize that we needed to go through it. We also need God’s mercy because we are fallen people who require forgiveness for our sin. It is by His love that we are reaffirmed and know that God is operating within us.

Secondly, David alludes in Psalm 23:6 that we have adequate prospects in the eternal: “I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.” We will pass through the shadow of death, but on the other side, there will be life forever “in the house of the LORD.” This is not an escape from the present, for Scripture equips us to live in the present, but to know that there is going to come something even greater, which our minds cannot comprehend, because it is beyond anything we know in this life.

No wonder David writes, “We Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will praise You for ever; from generation to generation we will proclaim Your praise” (Psalm 79:13). David notes, being the sheep of God’s pasture, from generation to generation, we recount His praise and we pass it on to the next generation. As that old spiritual used to say, “We will praise You forever because we know this world is not our home, we are just a passing through.”

As morbid as it sounds, we only truly know how to live when we know how to die. If someone does not know how to die, then that person is not going to be free to live because that person is dealing with fear all the time. These two elements—how to live and how to die—are addressed in Psalm 23. But it is not a psychological process or a technique for living; it is a response to a relationship when “the LORD is my shepherd.”

When we trust our Good Shepherd, we receive provision, security, comfort and prospect and can hold on to the promise that we will dwell in His house forever.

PRAYER: Lord God, thank You for being my Shepherd who gives me goodness, love and mercy all the days of my life. I am grateful for the assurance that I will dwell with You for all eternity. Praise You!



Charles Price
Minister at Large

The Lord Is My Shepherd

One summer, during one of the very few heavy rainfalls of the season, I sat on our terrace to enjoy a respite from the record-breaking heat wave. I was kept dry by the cover of the over-hanging balcony above me, so I nodded off for a few zees.

The idyll didn't last long – I woke to find quite a little lake forming all over the terrace and, since the paving was old and uneven, it was slowly but surely making its way to our patio door. I checked our neighbours on both sides and the flooding was taking place there as well. I alerted the property management and they in turn addressed some serious drainage problems and all turned out well.

Then, a few days later, I watched some real flooding in North and South Carolina took a beating beyond any imagination. Yes, I know that it was hurricane season and every year those in the path of tornadoes and hurricanes go through these losses of life and property, but events of this kind seem to be escalating. For months now, unstoppable fires are burning in parts of North America, and what about the volcano eruptions? These are just the main events. The crime waves in both our own country, and far more so in our neighbour to the south, is beyond our understanding. And one could go on!

Now, how did I get from my little flood to this tidal wave of gloom and doom? Just let me say this; we who lived through major wars thought that we had plumbed the depths of depravity. But Satan has taken human nature to an unbelievable depth of evil. Deception and corruption are the norm, even in some pulpits where once the gospel was preached.

Should we be terrified? If you do not know for a surety that you have been saved from the curse of sin, saved by the washing of your sinful hearts by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, then the answer is, “yes.” You should be very afraid. But, praise be to God, salvation is full and free. Read John 3:16. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. If you have confessed Him as Lord, you are now safely under the blood of Jesus.

To you who know Jesus, I encourage you to re-read Psalm 23.

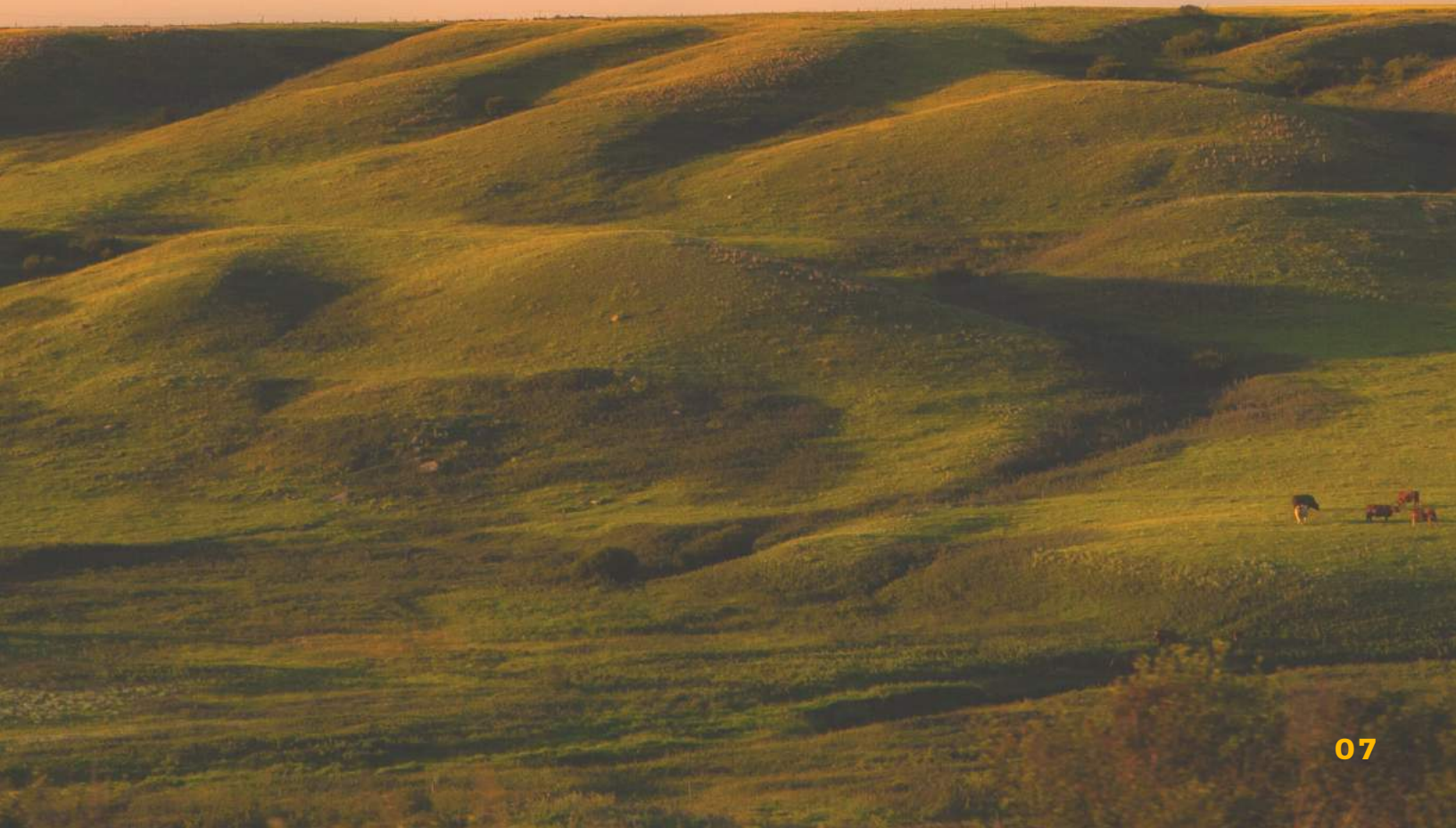


Donna Nicol

Donna serves on the leadership team of Lifespring 55

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD;
I SHALL NOT WANT.
HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES;
HE LEADS ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS.
HE RESTORES MY SOUL;
HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.
YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY
OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL; FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;
YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.
YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME
IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES;
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP RUNS OVER.
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE; AND I WILL DWELL
IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.**

PSALM 23



A Follower of the Lamb

The lyrics of an old hymn ask a vital question: Am I a follower of the Lamb?

In the Word of God this metaphor fascinates me – a lamb? Sheep need a shepherd – they need to be guided; they are not leaders but followers. We know how humble our Lord was by Paul's description of the glory that He gave up to come to earth (Philippians 2). Perhaps God wants to teach us the humility of following a lamb.

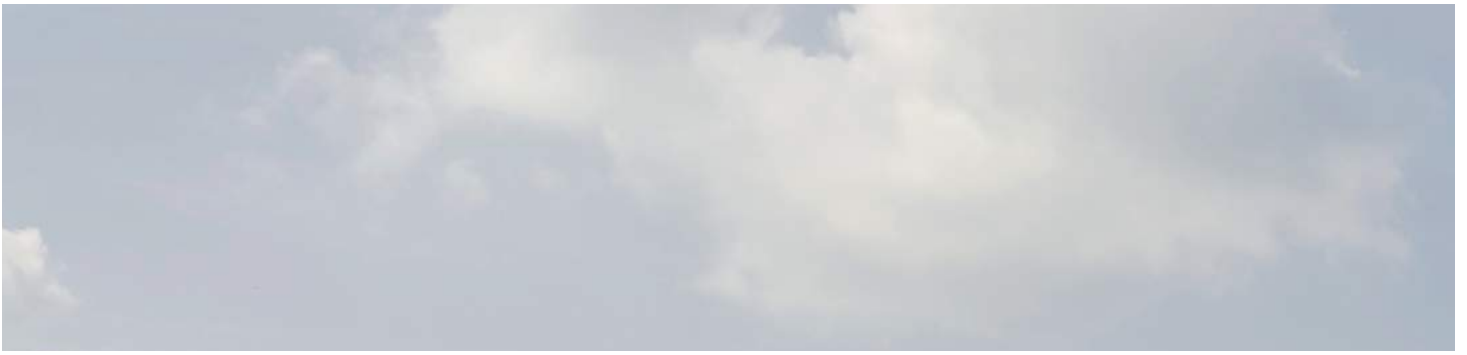
The theology of the song is sound – Christians are followers and at Easter we were reminded that the One whom we follow is the Lamb – the Passover Lamb. (1 Corinthians 5:7). “For Christ, our ‘Passover Lamb’ has been sacrificed.” Passover required something of God's people...they needed to trust Him. When their lives were threatened they needed to obey in order to be saved from a “destroyer.” They couldn't see the destroyer, but later his destruction was clearly visible (Exodus 12: 29, 30).

As soldiers of the cross, we march under orders from the Lamb. Jesus spelled it out clearly, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater has no one than this – that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15: 12, 13). Typifying the best possible leadership, Jesus went on to do just that – to demonstrate His love for the unlovely by laying down His own life. He doesn't ask us to do anything He Himself would not, did not do.

The human tendency when faced with conflict is to fight, to flee, or to freeze. Peter chopped the ear of the high priest in an irrational attempt to defend Jesus. The disciples then fled the scene even before the cross. The centurion, frozen at the foot of the cross, recognized, ‘surely this was a righteous man.’ (Matthew 27:54).

Sadly, we often think of the enemy as the difficult person we work with, live with, visit, but difficult people are only those who are vulnerable to the control of Satan and he is using them to challenge our love and our obedience to follow. We have a very powerful enemy, called by many names in Scripture. The “destroyer” gives us a pretty good idea of how powerful he is. Though God is the only One who is all powerful, we are up against a formidable foe, a supernatural enemy! Jesus' struggle took Him to the brink of hell, but He rose victorious over death.

We live in a chaotic world. We need God's strength for each day because the evil one threatens our own good works. Sometimes the battle rages within our very selves. We are discomfited by the call of God to share the good news of this Lamb we are fighting to defend.



It may seem unnecessary to mention we need His love, but at those moments when we find the lifestyle of someone else so distasteful we need to remember that Jesus died for all. On what grounds then do we fight this destroyer? The Holy Spirit gives us, through His presence in our very bodies, the love that reaches beyond the deepest hell to souls in need.

The lamb we follow knows all about our struggles. He experienced Gethsemane where He surrendered to the Father's will. Perhaps you are not as weak as I am, but these thoughts have challenged me when there is just one more phone call to make, when I know I will be drained by the pain of someone else.

Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the Lamb?



Marilyn Daniels

Marilyn is a member of our Lifespring 55 family, and has authored two books - [Marilyn's Meditations](#) and [Heart to Heart](#).



News and Views

A MERRY HEART

Lincoln wanted to get his wife, Lucy something nice for their fiftieth wedding anniversary. So, he decides to buy her a cell phone. She is all excited, she loves her phone and he explains all the features on the phone.

The next day, Lucy goes shopping. Her phone rings and its Lincoln:
"Hi honey", he says, "how do you like your new phone?"

And she replies: "I just love it, it's so small and your voice is clear as a bell but there's one thing I don't understand though".

"What's that, baby?" asks Lincoln.

"How did you know I was at Wal Mart?" asked Lucy.



Sourced at <https://www.elderoptionsoftexas.com>



SOME OF THESE ARE WORTH NOTING...

- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- I've finally told my suitcases there will be no holiday this year.
Now I'm dealing with the emotional baggage.
- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- We never really grow up – we only learn how to act in public.
- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

AND... MORE BULLETIN BLOOPERS:

- Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Franklin's sermons.
- Please welcome Pastor Don, a caring individual who loves hurting people.
- A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife



ANOTHER WINNER RECIPE! **PECAN COBBLER**

6 tbsp real butter (no substitutions)
1 cup pecans chopped
1 and 1/2 cups self rising flour
1 and 1/2 cups sugar
2/3 cup of milk
1 tsp vanilla
1 and 1/2 cups brown sugar packed
1 and 1/2 cups hot water

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Preheat oven to 350**
- 2. Pour melted butter into a 9x13 baking dish**
- 3. Sprinkle pecans over butter**
- 4. In a bowl mix flour, sugar, milk, and vanilla stir to combine but do not over mix.**
- 5. Pour batter over the pecans and butter but do not mix!**
- 6. Sprinkle brown sugar evenly over the batter. Again, DO NOT MIX**
- 7. Carefully pour the water over the mixture but do not stir!**
- 8. Bake for 30- 35 minutes or until golden brown.**



NOTE: Cobbler will have a slight jiggle.
 If concerned, cook 8 minutes longer. Allow to cool completely just as you would with pecan pie before serving. Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Enjoy!



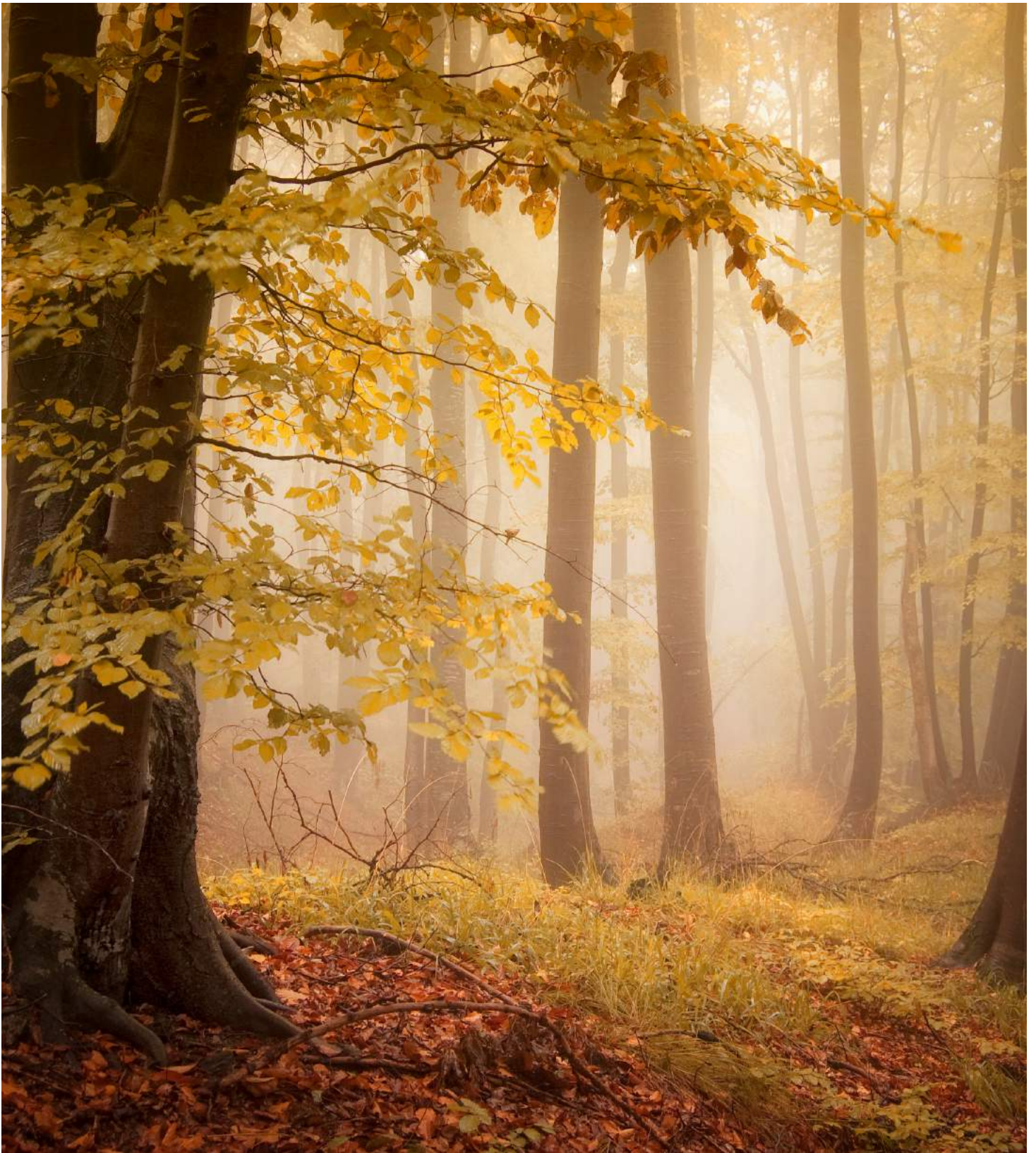
TAKING CARE OF YOUR RESOURCES

Did you know that financial abuse is one of the most common forms of elder abuse in Canada? Everyone has a responsibility to identify and prevent financial elder abuse. Here are some simple but important safeguards recommended by the Insurance Bureau of Canada:

- Be careful and thoughtful in choosing your power of attorney. This person can be entitled to make financial or health-related decisions on your behalf.
- Do not lend money under pressure. You have the right to refuse a loan request and not feel guilty about it.
- Read all financial documents before signing. Ask questions and take your time. You may need to get a second opinion from a professional.

Contact the Ontario Securities Commission for more information on managing your finances and avoiding investment fraud. The website is GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca.





**“I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD; I KNOW MY SHEEP AND MY SHEEP KNOW ME
– JUST AS THE FATHER KNOWS ME AND I KNOW THE FATHER—
AND I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.**

JOHN 10:14-15



GOT VACCINATION QUESTIONS?

Do you have questions about COVID-19 and/or vaccines? Is the vaccine safe to take? The Peoples Church along with other faith & community organizations in North York, are partnering to provide a Vaccine Education initiative to help educate people about COVID-19/vaccines.

Elham Golkhandan is one of the Vaccine Education Ambassadors and she is available to The Peoples Church family to provide information regarding COVID-19 and vaccines so people can make an informed decision regarding their health and the health of the community.

If you would like to connect with Elham one-on-one or have any question pertaining to this matter, please feel free to contact her:

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204-688-4013

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**LITTLE FLOCK, DO NOT BE AFRAID.
YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN PLEASED TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM.**

LUKE 12:32