

AROUND THE BONFIRE



A Letter From The Animator

BY SUNJAY HENRY

I don't know about you, but I have been in the habit of making new resolutions this time of year, and it is usually the same couple of things: Lose weight, grow in my relationship with God, save money. While these resolutions will probably remain the same, there are some new ones that I want to be commit to in 2025.

I want to read my books. My bookshelf at home is full of books I have bought intentionally or ones I have found at used book stores. My favourite genre is a good mystery novel, but I do enjoy some others as well.

Another is to pour into relationships. I came to the realization that my social battery was low towards the end of 2024. I wasn't able to full engage in friendships that were 'newer'. It is really difficult to feel like you're always starting from square one in a new environment. Over the last few weeks I have had the opportunity to visit with friends who know me and accept me for who I am without judgment.

My social battery is full and my goal is develop newer friendships on a deeper level.

What about YOU? what are your goals, both professional, and personal?

How is 2025 going to be different in your life, in the life of the Presbyteries and the lives of the young people entrusted to our care? May God be with us all in this New Year !

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Face to Face

On Friday November 29th, the youth groups in the Ottawa and Seaway - Glengarry Presbyteries were invited to participate in an event with the theme of Face to Face. The idea being that even though we are the most connected we have ever been as a society, there is no substitute for in-person face to face interaction. This is also relevant in our relationship with God, where he meets us face to face. The event was planned by a group consisting of myself in collaboration with pastors and youth workers from across the presbytery.

I also hosted a pizza dinner for the youth leaders. The goal of the dinner was for all of the youth workers to meet together, some perhaps for the first time and share common goals and dreams for the year ahead. It was great to see everyone in the same room.

As the night progressed and youth started arriving, it was clear that God was doing something special in our midst. The night was intentionally planned with games, worship and a guided conversation about what it meant to meet God face to face. Thank you to everyone who made this event a success. We hope to have more events like this in 2025.



Around the Bonfire

As a teenager, I attended summer retreats with my youth group at the cottage of a couple in the congregation. There were countless memories made through the boat rides, games, dives off of the diving tower, pranks, and lessons from the Bible.

The highlights for me, however, were the times we spent around the fire. We often started this time in worship. Although, we came from different walks of life; many of us did not go to school with one another. Our most vulnerable moments with one another happened around the bonfire where we shared our deepest insecurities, goals and dreams. It was a place of safety. My goal is that this newsletter will be a place where we can share events and prayer requests.

Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing, Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland

ISAIAH 43:18-19

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