

ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2026



"THE RAINFOREST CANOPY ENCOUNTER"

Theme: "Exploring the Nature of God."

Scripture Anchor: "*The Earth is full of your creatures.*" —

Psalm 104:24

**A BIG Thank You to Elizabeth, Carolyn, Pauline, and All of our
Amazing Elmvale and Knox Helpers, our Crew Leaders and all
of the Campers**

Please stand, if able, for the Entry of the Bible

QUIET MOMENT OF PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the energy, joy, and curiosity of our youth and young people. As they celebrate Your creation today through this VBS Rainforest service, We ask You to open their eyes to Your wonders. Renew our own spirits today, Lord. Remind us that our prayers, our presence, and our wisdom are vital to the faith of our youth. Bless the teachers, protect the children, and let Your love rain down on us all. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Marlene Lambie, Clerk of
Session**

THE GATHERING IN OUR RAINFOREST- (The Canopy Crew)

What is this Rainforest VBS all about?

Opening Countdown: Count down with us from 5-1 as we start our Vacation Bible School here right now, right here!

Call to Worship Led by the Youth Leadership Team.

Leader: Welcome, church! Step out of the noise and the storms of life, and enter into the canopy of God's grace. Today, we go wild and raise our voices loud because:

People: **God is our Creator, our refuge, and our strength! From the highest trees to the deepest roots, all creation echoes His praise. We are not hidden from His sight, and we are never alone.**

Leader: Lift your eyes upward! God knows everything about us, examines our hearts, and holds us in the palm of His hand. Even when life feels like a wild jungle.

People: **His faithful love endures forever. Lord, you are our safe place. When we need help, we fix our eyes on You.**

Leader: Let everything that has breathe—every student, every leader, every voice—praise the Lord!

All: **Praise the Lord, everything He has created! Let us worship our God together.**

Opening Prayer: Thanking God for the beauty and diversity of His creation lead by one of the Crew Leaders.

Dear God, thank you for this wonderful day and this jungle adventure. Thank you for making everything in our world. As we sing and worship you today, open our hearts to learn more about your great love. We thank you Lord for all of the gifts and good things that you have given to us and our families. Forgive us when we have been wrong and help us to be more like Jesus. Bless our time together this morning. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Praise Song 1 "God Is"

Praise Song 2 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Youth Experiences What did the campers, crew leaders and volunteers learn about experiencing God's love during the VBS week. They will tell you!

Worship Song 3 "God Loves us So"

WE HAD A LOT OF FUN, MET NEW FRIENDS AND LEARNED NEW THINGS THIS WEEK!

SCRIPTURE MEMORY SHEET – What were the key points from scripture this week? (Carolyn and Elizabeth)

The main theme for the Rainforest Falls VBS 2026 program by Group Publishing is "Exploring the Nature of God." Each day focused on a central spiritual point, matching a book of Psalms verse, a Bible story, and an animal Bible Buddy.

The kids respond to each daily point by saying, "Wow, God!" – Carolyn will explain! Please respond after each day's teaching with. "Wow, God!"

🦒 Day 1: God Is Our Creator

The Big Idea: God made our amazing world and created us on purpose.

Bible Story: God creates the world Genesis 1

Key Scripture: "Praise the Lord, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom." — Psalm 103:22

Bible Buddy: Tango the Quetzal

🐸 Day 2: God Knows Everything

The Big Idea: God cares about every detail of our lives.

Bible Story: David celebrates all God knows. Psalm 139.

Key Scripture: "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." Psalm 139:1.

Bible Buddy: Seymour the Glass Frog.

🦋 Day 3: God Is Our Safe Place

The Big Idea: God is our shield and strength.

Bible Story: David hides from Saul 1 Samuel 23-24.

Key Scripture: "Then I pray to you O Lord. I say 'You are my place of refuge.' " Psalm 142:5.

Bible Buddy: Dottie the Ocelot.

🌸 Day 4: God Is Love

The Big Idea: God shows faithful love.

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes back to life. Luke 22-24.

Key Scripture: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good! His faithful love endures forever!" Psalm 136:1.

Bible Buddy: Tia the Giant Anteater.

Day 5: God Is Forever

The Big Idea: God's power lasts forever.

Bible Story: God gives John a vision of heaven. Revelation 7, 21-22.

Key Scripture: "But we can praise the Lord both now and forever!" Psalm 115:18.

Bible Buddy: Howie the Howler Monkey.

"Wow, God!"

THE WORD (Waterfall Devotion)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1-4

¹ O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

² You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.

⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

"Praise the Lord, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom." Psalm 103:22

"Then I pray to you, O LORD. I say "You are my place of refuge." Psalm 142:5

"But we can praise the LORD both now and forever more! Praise the LORD!" Psalm 115:18

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord, All: Thanks be to God.

Special Campers Message: **"Seeing Through the Mist "** By Rev Tom

WE RESPOND TO GOD (Deep Roots) Carolyn Hill

Interactive Reflection: Students and members of the Congregation, please write down an "anxiety or storm" on the leaf-shaped paper handed out. We will tape them to the wooden cross/tree branch at the altar.

Please note that your responses will not be read out and we will pray for them all through our prayers of the people.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: The Wonders of the Rainforest – Led by the Crew Leaders.

Leader: Creator God, you made the rainforests full of life, color, and wonder. As we journey through your creation, we bring our prayers to you.

We give to you all of our fears, our worries and the things that make us anxious, we know that you will never leave us, that we can depend on you and that there is no problem too great for you, and that you have made plans for each one of us.

Leader: We thank you for the tall trees that stretch to the heavens and the deep roots that hold the earth. Teach us to stand firm in our faith and grow closer to you every day. Let us be happy and content, let us love our families and may we be the people that you made us to be.

People: God of creation, hear our prayer.

Leader: We thank you for the winding rivers, rushing waterfalls, and the water that gives life to every creature. Refresh our hearts today and wash away our worries.

People: God of creation, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all the creatures of the jungle—the birds, the jaguars, the tree frogs, and even the tiniest insects. Help us to be good caretakers of your beautiful world and protect everything you have made.

People: God of creation, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for our families, our friends, and our VBS community. Just as the rainforest thrives when it works together, help us to love, support, and look out for one another.

People: God of creation, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we lift up those who are hurting, lonely, or afraid. Be their shelter in the storm, just like a canopy protects the forest floor. Bring them your peace and healing.

People: God of creation, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you guide our steps through the wild adventures of life. Keep us safe, fill us with joy, and help us shine

your light wherever we go.

All: Amen.

OFFERATORY AND BLESSING

"God Is" Our theme song.

This years VBS Mission was for "Hope Story" Canada.

<https://www.hopestory.ca/>



THE SENDING OUT FROM VBS (Wild Sending)

VBS Recap Video: A short highlight reel from the [Rainforest Falls Camp](#) week. (Elizabeth's video clip)

Closing Hymn: "Waymaker"

CLOSING REMARKS Thank you to all of volunteers and campers who attended last week.

BENEDICTION *"May you stay rooted in His love as you step back into the world." And may the presence of God, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit watch over you, now and forever more. Amen.*

Congregational Announcements & Events

Thank you to Carolyn Hill for all of her help

Mon & Wed Aug 17 & 19 – VON Exercising 9-10 am

Wed Aug 19 – Quilting 1pm

Thurs Aug 20 - No Choir

Sat Aug 29 – Social Room Rental & meal – See Marlene if you can help

Sat Sept 05 – BBQ & Corn Day!! Sign up to help in the Social Room. Proceeds going to support the communities devastated by the Ontario wildfires

Sun Sept 06 – Blessing of the backpacks for the new school year

****When you go shopping, please consider purchasing the following items for the local elementary schools:**

Lunch bag with containers

Crayola crayons, markers and pencil crayons

Sun Sept 13 – Welcome back Sun with BBQ & bowling 1-2:30pm

W&N – Looking for helpers for the nursery as needed.

Monetary Donations auto-deposit: donatetoepc@rogers.com

Please comment where to direct the donation; 1) General 2) Presbyterian Sharing 3) PWS&D 4) other missions such as Food Bank, We Care etc.

Food Bank canned pasta, canned vegetables (peas, beans, creamed corn, potatoes), hamburger helper, snack crackers, shampoo, deodorant, & dish soap.

Fire Safety – Please make sure all the doors to rooms are closed when you are leaving the church