



2026

COLLECTIVE

(EM)BRACE FOR IMPACT

* STREAMS

* WORKSHOPS

* FAQS

Collective is a spirit-filled gathering for youth, young adults, and their leaders—a space to grow in faith, build community, and reflect on shared experiences.

#Collective2026

WHERE IT BEGAN...



AUDACIOUS HOPE: A NEW JOINT GATHERING FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



In 2024, The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) and The United Church of Canada (UCC) came together for the first time to host a groundbreaking joint event for youth, young adults, and their leaders under the inspiring theme Audacious Hope. This partnership was born from the rich traditions of PCC's Canada Youth and UCC's Rendez-Vous events, uniting two vibrant communities in a shared vision for the future.

Rooted in the realities of a post-pandemic church and a deep desire for ecumenical relationships, this collaboration reflects a commitment to connection, renewal, and bold faith. The event offered an engaging mix of worship, small groups, recreation, keynote speakers, and delicious meals, creating space for meaningful conversation and authentic community. Participants experienced moments of joy, reflection, and spiritual growth, celebrating what it means to live with audacious hope in today's world.

Together, these churches opened a new chapter—one where Christian youth, young adults, and their leaders from across Canada gather not only to learn and grow but to dream boldly for the future of the church.

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STREAMS

YOUTH STREAM

High schoolers will discover a space intentionally crafted for them—a vibrant environment that celebrates their unique voice, energy, and role in both the church and the wider world. This isn't just an event; it's a community where teens can feel seen, heard, and valued. Through a dynamic mix of engaging activities, thought-provoking discussions, and creative expressions of faith, participants will explore what it means to live with hope and courage in today's world.

Why (em)brace for impact?

We live in a time of great change, challenge, and stress; it feels as if we live our lives bracing, or braced for impact. When will the next punch, kick, crash hit us and where will it come from? The Collective team wants to recognize the stress that young people are experiencing, yet we also want to help them find creative and supportive ways to deal with the world. One way to deal with challenge is to gather a supportive group – to embrace each other, hold each other in care and authenticity. And so, we (em)brace one another. We also want to feel that we can create positive change in our lives and in our world – we want to leave an impact. And so, we (em)brace for impact.

We do all this only as we recognize that our Creating God breaks into our lives and into the world. We do this as we follow in the way of Jesus, who collected and embraced friends, followers, and even foes to create change and challenge systems of evil and destruction. We do this as we trust in the Holy Spirit to bring us comfort, courage, and power to make a difference in Christ's name.



Brock University
1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way
St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1

August 12 – 15, 2026

YOUNG ADULT STREAM

A space to be fully yourself – Young Adults will step into an environment that honours their individuality and celebrates their potential. This is more than a gathering—it's a transformative experience where participants can explore the current societal context, wrestle with big ideas, and discover what bold leadership looks like in both the church and the world. These young adults will be equipped and empowered to (em)brace for impact with confidence and creativity.

LEADERSHIP STREAM

This dedicated stream equips youth leaders—whether clergy or lay, paid or volunteer, full-time or part-time—who are passionate about guiding young people in faith and life. It's a space for learning, renewal, and practical experience. Leaders will grow through a combination of discipleship group sessions featuring inspiring speakers and hands-on leadership opportunities that put theory into practice. Participants won't just listen—they'll lead!

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FAQS

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The registration fee of \$450.00 pays for four nights of housing, meals, facility and programming costs. This fee does not include your travel costs.

WHEN TO ARRIVE?

Collective begins at 1:15p.m. on Wednesday, August 12 at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. The conference will end at noon on Saturday, August 15, immediately following worship when you grab your bag lunch to enjoy as you begin your travels home.

TRAVEL TO THE EVENT (HOW TO GET THERE)

Many congregations, presbyteries, synods, and regions, coordinate the travel of Collective 2026 for participants as a delegation. Contact your minister or the event coordinator for your denomination for more information. The Collective 2026 registration fee does not include any travel costs, but review the details of our Toronto airport shuttle buses.

WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The United Church of Canada are thrilled to join together for Collective 2026! This partnership will allow the sharing of resources, programming, leadership, and increased fun.



WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Coordinator: Jess Foy
jfoy@presbyterian.ca
1-800-619-7301 ext. 255



The United Church of Canada

Coordinator: Sarah Williams
SWilliams@united-church.ca
1-800-268-3781 ext. 4191

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WHEN AND WHERE IS COLLECTIVE 2026?

Collective takes place at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON, beginning on Wednesday, August 12 to Sunday, August 16, 2025. St. Catharines is in the heart of the Niagara region and Brock University is uniquely placed atop the city on the Niagara Escarpment. Brock is a small campus with great facilities and beautiful scenery ... best of all, Brock loves hosting our events!!!

HOW CAN I GET FROM THE AIRPORT TO BROCK?

To make your travel easier, Collective 2026 is offering shuttle buses from Toronto Pearson International Airport directly to the event venue. On August 12, participants can choose from two convenient departure times —early afternoon and mid-afternoon—to ensure a smooth arrival. After the event concludes on August 15, return shuttles will also be available to take you back to the airport. The cost is only \$20 each way.

More details, including exact times and booking information, will be shared soon. For participants from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, this shuttle service replaces the previous event travel rebate program, offering a simple and coordinated way to get to Collective 2026.

WHAT ABOUT DISABILITY NEEDS FOR PARTICIPANTS?

Most of the residences at Brock University and all the classrooms and meeting spaces that Collective use are accessible to persons with disabilities. Please indicate on the registration form the participant's accommodations and we will do all that we can to meet those needs. Brock's dining hall is excellent at providing alternative meal options for folx. All we need to do is give them preparation time. Please indicate your dietary needs on the registration form. Brock Chefs are always willing to meet with participants to ensure the best menu options are available. We will have an event sensory room and take-away resources available as well.

WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE COVER?

The registration fee of \$450.00 pays for 3 nights of housing (linens provided), meals, facility and programming costs.

The registration fee does not include travel costs.

WHAT ABOUT HOUSING?

Participants will be housed in two Brock residence buildings and will be assigned rooms by home Presbytery/Region with consideration options on the registration form. All the rooms in the residence halls are singles with a shared bathroom between two.



WHAT IF I'M FEELING A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT ATTENDING THIS EVENT?

You might be the only one from your congregation attending the Youth Stream but you are going to meet other young people really quickly. Plus, you'll be introduced to Conference Leadership as soon as you arrive at Collective and they will be able to help you get acquainted and settled into the Collective community. You will be part of a Discipleship Group (your small group) with other folk from across the country and will meet with them every day. You'll worship with hundreds of new friends and have lots of opportunities for fun recreation events and interesting workshops.

CAN MY FRIEND COME IF THEY'RE NOT PRESBYTERIAN OR UNITED?

As a ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and United Church, most Collective participants will be from congregations of the PCC and UCC. We have some guests from other churches who participate in shared youth groups or who are in partner ministries. Occasionally, participants invite friends or family from other traditions and that's good with us. God welcomes all and so do we!

WILL MY YOUTH LEADER BE THE ONLY ONE WATCHING OUT FOR ME AT COLLECTIVE?

Whether your youth leader from home is at the event or you've come on your own or you're a young adult, a skilled Community Life team is recruited and will be available throughout Collective 2026. This team is responsible for the safety and well-being of all participants and includes adults in the Youth Leader Stream, Mentors, Crisis Counsellors, and Health Centre staff. Each team member will provide a Vulnerable Sector Screening, has been trained in Leading with Care/Duty of Care, and focused on meeting folk where they are at during Collective 2026.

WHAT WILL BE PROVIDED-LINENS, TOWELS, MEAL CARDS, ETC.

Collective 2026 provides all the necessities for a week away. You are provided with sheets for your bed and towels in your washroom. You'll receive an (em)bracelet for all meals, and a key to lock your residence room; Brock Residence Services staff are available 24/7 should you have a concern. Collective 2026 residence rooms are singles with one bathroom between two rooms.

WILL I BE WELCOME? I'M A TRANSGENDER OR NON-BINARY YOUTH

Yes indeed, you will be welcome at the event! Each Collective participant can identify any special considerations on the registration form, with non-gendered options and housing preferences on the registration form. IF requested, a Collective Coordinator will reach out to you for conversation and will work with the Community Life Mentors for support.

IS WORSHIP IS BORING? IS WORSHIP A ROCK CONCERT?

Worship at Collective is a dynamic response to God's love, goodness, and continued work in our lives. Worship at Collective is interactive and engages all the senses. Worship at Collective is diverse and uses all kinds of different music, words of worship, and long-held rituals. Worship at Collective is filled with moments of enthusiasm as well as moments of contemplation and reflection. All the elements of worship experienced at Collective can be used in any home congregation.

IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO LEAVE COLLECTIVE DURING THE WEEK TO...

- Visit a friend in St. Catharines
- Visit Niagara Falls
- Shop at the outlet malls
- To catch an early flight home

Well...not really....

Collective is the full-meal-deal. It has a beginning, a middle and an end that are all important. There is an hour of open space each afternoon, where folk can go offsite nearby, but need to connect with Conference Leadership beforehand, so we know who is onsite and who is not. Should you need to leave for an extended time during the event, please contact a Collective 2026 Coordinator.

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WORSHIP, WORKSHOPS & RECREATION

Collective 2026 worship invites participants into a powerful journey of hope, courage, and transformation. Rooted in the stories of Jesus and his followers after the resurrection, these gatherings explore what it means to (em)brace for impact in a world marked by division, mistrust, and individualism.



Each worship experience is shaped by storytelling, dynamic messages from the Rev. Shalini Rajack-Sankarlal and the Rev. Jeffrey Dawn, and a rich tapestry of music, art, and creative expression. Through diverse voices and vibrant forms of worship, participants will encounter the depth of resurrection hope and the call to embrace God's mission with audacity and grace.



This series is not just about listening—it's about engaging. Worshippers will be invited into moments of reflection, celebration, and community, discovering together how the post-resurrection stories speak into our lives today. With every song, prayer, and shared story, Collective 2026 becomes a space to (em)brace impact—to live as people of resurrection in a world longing for hope.

SOME DEFINITIONS

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

A special time set aside for youth, young adults, and youth leaders to make connections with others in their Stream from across the country. The groups provide a safe space for participants to express who they are, what they are experiencing in their life and faith, and to be comfortable asking questions, voicing their fears, naming their doubts, and telling the stories of how they are (em)bracing for impact.

YOUTH STREAM RESIDENCE GROUPS

These are geographically-based housing groups that check in with their residence floor Youth Leader each night to confirm everyone has returned safely. Youth are welcome to gather in their floor lounge to share reflections on their day, relax in the lounge to play games, go to bed, or simply spend time together. It's also a chance to meet new people from your area and build connections to take home. Quiet hours begin at midnight every night.

RECREATION

Recreation bookends each day of the event. It includes everything from big games and community building activities to dance parties and crafts to board games and beyond! Energizers are a much-loved daily tradition, blending popular music and simple movements that everyone can enjoy; whether they sway in the crowd watching, follow the adapted moves, or giving it one's all. - there is something for everyone.



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WORKSHOPS

With a wide variety of workshops available, there will surely be something for everyone! Here are just a few we have in the works:

LEARNING

Young Caregivers
Critical Hope
Youth Advocacy
GPS: Unlocking the Power of Personal Purpose
Climate Motivators
Political Leadership
What Makes a Good Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team?

ARTS

Choir
Tie Dye
Ukuleles
"The Maker's Impact"
Photography
Improv
Cookie/Cupcake Decorating
Knitting

FAITH

Blanket Exercise
Life Mapping
Reconciliation thru Acknowledgement
Journaling
Spirituality
Poverty Walk
Personal Finance and Spirituality

PLAY

Bird Watching/Hiking
Scripture Scavenger Hunt
Everything in a Backpack
Life Size Board Game
Flag Football with JR LaRose
Mission Internship
How/Why of Recreation and Energizers with Chelsey from the Rec Team



DISCIPLESHIP GROUP LEADER: HELPING YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS GROW IN FAITH

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS: GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Discipleship Groups are the heart of this event—a space for deep conversation, shared learning, and genuine community. Participants will be placed in groups by Stream, creating opportunities to explore the many themes of (em)brace for impact through the lens of Jesus' life, relationships, and ministry. These groups are intentionally designed to mix people geographically and denominationaly, reflecting the richness and diversity of the church across Canada.

In these gatherings, participants will dive into scripture and engage with big questions through discussion, reflection, play, and creative expression. Each group will experience a variety of approaches—storytelling, art, prayer, and more—making space for voices to be heard and ideas to be shared. It's not just about learning from leaders; it's about learning from one another, discovering how faith comes alive in conversation and community.

CALLED TO LEAD? JOIN US AS A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP LEADER!

Do you feel a nudge to guide others in faith and conversation? If so, we invite you to apply to lead a Discipleship Group at Collective 2026! This is a unique opportunity to walk alongside youth or young adults as they explore the theme (em)brace for impact, rooted in the life and ministry of Jesus. As a leader, you'll do more than facilitate discussion—you'll help create spaces where faith comes alive through scripture, reflection, creative expression, and authentic conversation. Leaders will be placed in groups by stream and will experience the richness of diverse voices from across Canada.

To prepare you for this role, we'll gather online in spring 2026 for a pre-event session to connect, share, and equip you for the journey ahead. You'll receive the curriculum in advance and participate in onsite training before the event begins. This ensures you feel confident and supported as you lead.

If you're ready to embrace this calling, fill out the application below and reach out to your denominational lead via the email listed on the form. We can't wait to see you at Collective 2026—where leaders like you help others (em)brace for impact!

WHERE TO FIND US

ONLINE

This is where you will find everything **Collective Gathering: (Em)brace for Impact**. From recreation, registration and workshops to FAQ's, streams and worship.

Take a look by visiting:

COLLECTIVE-GATHERING.CA



SOCIAL MEDIA

Make sure to give us a follow to stay up-to-date on all announcements, news and more!



INSTAGRAM
[collective_gathering_2026](https://www.instagram.com/collective_gathering_2026)



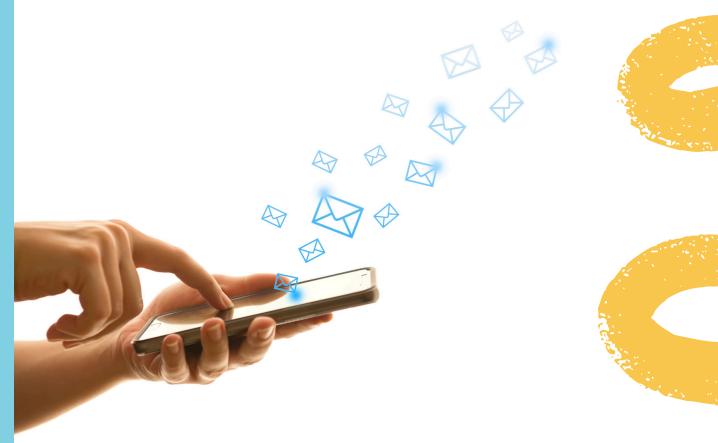
FACEBOOK
[Collective Gathering](https://www.facebook.com/CollectiveGathering)



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