



August 17, 2021



Phishing with the Pastor

The recent warning did not reach some in time alerting churches to scams targeting church members by impersonating clergy. This happened at St. Andrew's last week!

Last week some received an email that appeared to be from the minister, indicating that I needed help and asking you to take an unusual action – to click a link which requested that you purchase gift cards and reply with the serial numbers in order to meet an “immediate” undisclosed need.

This constituted a “phishing” attempt by a hacker of unknown origin which involves sending a fraudulent email to a large group of people in the hope that a few will respond. The message provided only a sketchy explanation of why I needed your help. The excuse contained a story about a person in dire circumstances whom I was trying to help. But instead of helping this person, a positive respond would actually provide money and possibly your identity information to a scammer.

Unfortunately, it's difficult to stop these attacks. My personal church email account was not hacked. Instead, a fraudulent email account cleverly configured to look at first glance like my legitimate one was created to trick persons into responding. Even if the fraudulent email is blocked, the hacker will just create another. The best method is to beware and protect yourself.

It is important to educate yourself and other potential recipients. Here are two simple guidelines to help potential recipients avoid being tricked:

Verify the “from” email

The malicious actors behind “phishing” attacks are counting on people springing into action as soon as they see an important name on an email. You can outsmart them by looking beyond the name and checking the “from” email address to see if it matches what you know the alleged sender's email to be. Even though it may contain some of the right words in the email address; pastor...st. andrew's, Victoria, etc., familiarize yourself with the correct email and “let the email recipient beware”. If you only see a name, you can cause the “from” email address to be displayed by hovering the cursor over the name. Pastor Mitch's church email is always pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca. No other variation of this email address is ever official.

Please note, even if the email seems to know you well, appears chatty and friendly, and asks for help financially for an emergency situation, please note:

*I WOULD NEVER EMAIL ANYONE ASKING FOR HELP IN THIS WAY.

*I WOULD NEVER INCLUDE A LINK IN AN EMAIL ASKING YOU TO OPEN IT
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

*I WOULD NEVER ASK YOU FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF GIFT
CARDS....EVER!

If by chance you are lured into thinking such an email is legitimate and click on the link included in the email, change your password immediately. Report the email to your email host by clicking on the options at the top of the email. With Google accounts, there are 3 small dots at the top of each email with a drop-down menu. That link includes the Report Phishing which is the best way to stop this kind of behaviour. Stay safe!

Frequently Asked Questions About In-person Worship

Has the in-person worship services resumed each Sunday?

Yes! Each Sunday at 10:25 AM, join us for worship!

Do I still have to register in advance?

Registration is optional but preferred. Registration assists us in knowing how many persons to expect AND will assist us as we near our socially distanced capacity of 70.

Will numbers be restricted?

The sanctuary has been carefully marked to maintain COVID friendly boundaries and will seat a maximum of 70 with this format. Families or groups from the same bubble are seated together, otherwise there is adequate spacing between.

What door shall I use to enter the Sanctuary or to leave?

Enter through the Douglas St. doors unless the ramp on Broughton Street is needed for easier access.

How will I know where to sit?

Ushers will seat each person or family group and will assist during exiting as well.

Will social distancing and masks remain mandatory?

Masks are required for all upon exit and entry but may be removed when seated during the worship service.

Will the services still be livestreamed?

Worship is livestreamed during the service on the St. Andrew's livestream channel. A link to this channel is sent to the congregation every week on Friday and is linked from our [website](#) (click "livestream" in the heading). You can also watch previous services from that channel (uploaded within a day of recording).

When can we sing again?

The Center for Public Health indicates that congregational singing continues to provide risk of COVID transmission due to the enhanced transmission of droplets. We are paying attention to when the science indicates otherwise and a return to congregational singing might be re-introduced.

We miss connecting after the service. What about coffee hour?

We are still not permitted to socialize indoors or serve food or beverages. We are welcome to greet one another at the Douglas St. steps following the worship.

How will Communion be administered?

Self-contained communion packets may be picked up upon entry and the bread and juice consumed during the worship at the minister's guidance. Next communion – August 29.

The Pastor inadvertently announced the incorrect date for the next communion during our Sunday live stream. The correct date for the sacrament of **Holy Communion will be Sunday, August 29 during our 10:25 AM worship.** Whether you are in-sanctuary or worshipping from home, please join us for this sacred celebration.



A message from our ushering team:

Thank you to those attending Sunday services, the ushers really appreciate your efforts to follow the rules for in person gatherings. Please remember, at the completion of the service everyone must, in an orderly fashion, exit the sanctuary. We cannot permit folks to remain in the sanctuary for follow up purposes. You are welcome to visit with other attendees once you have exited the building. Anyone needing assistance, or requiring the ramp, should wait in their seat and when safe to do so will be assisted to exit. Hang in there!
We hope that soon we won't have such strict rules and we'll be able to worship together, and enjoy each other's company also.



Join us Thursday afternoons, between 2 & 4pm, outside in the laneway.

Come for the iced tea, shortbread and conversation or just to sit in the shade and enjoy seeing familiar faces.
All welcome! Questions? Call Sheelagh - 250 385-5157

Presbyterians Accross Canada Pray for Those Affected by Wildfires

Creator God, all things look to you to give them life and sustenance.
We are filled with gratitude and wonder at the beauty and power of nature and the forces in it.
And we are filled with fear and shock when we witness and experience the power of destruction at work in the world.
In humility, we confess our sin and admit that too often our actions and inaction unleash and encourage the powers of destruction in your world.
Look in mercy and kindness on all people,
and hear our prayers for those lands and all those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the fires here and around the world.
Guide and bless the people who give their talent, time and strength to fight and prevent fires and those who support them.
Protect those in danger,
help the injured,
comfort the grieving,
and soothe the anxious.
And help us to serve and support with our deeds as well as our prayers.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen



We need your submissions!

Please send photos and write ups of summer celebrations for the Link. Weddings? Anniversaries? Special birthdays? Email thelink@shaw.ca
The deadline for submissions to The Link (our congregational newsletter) is Aug 29th



Reservations for Sunday

[Click here](#) to fill out the reservation form for this Sunday's service.

Those who do not have a computer are welcome to call Whitney at 778-587-1227 to reserve a spot at the service. Reservations need to be made by Friday afternoon.

Read From Your Bible This Week

- 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- John 6:56-69

