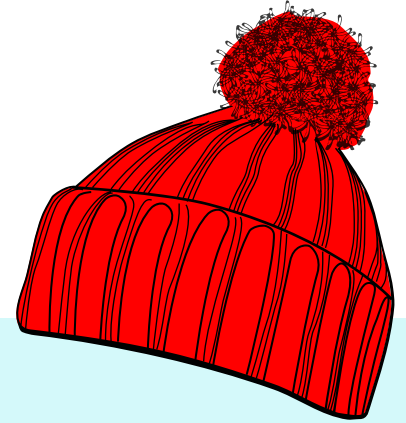


November 23, 2021



Message from the Worship Committee and Session

Session has been discussing the challenges in opening up our worship services to singing (which increases aerosol production) and balancing the safety of worshipers with this and open access to all. There are no easy answers, and certainly none that will suit all our members: some find our protocols restrictive, and others are not yet with us because they still do not feel safe coming.

Session agreed to some changes last week. Notably, singing will begin this coming week, with the choir in their usual place, and the congregation singing at least two hymns in a service. While we are all no doubt bursting to sing again with all our might, this unfortunately increases the production of aerosols.

To increase protection of worshipers so that we can sing, we will be asking at the door for proof of double-vaccination (provincial or federal vaccine card, or your vaccination record) or an official medical exemption certificate, plus photo ID - as would be required for attending a public concert. Having these readily at hand when approaching any of our entrances will make entering quicker.

We also ask that people please sing in a normal voice, rather than loudly; and we strongly recommend that people wear masks suitable for singing: either a three-layered cloth mask (i.e., one with a middle filter layer) or a standard medical mask (like choir members will be wearing).

All other current protocols will remain in place for the time being, and any future changes in these will be announced in advance so that members can make informed decisions on attending. Should you have any questions about any of these changes, please speak to an elder.

Please bear with us as we strive to make worship fulfilling, safe, and as normal as possible. Dr. Bonnie Henry's encouragement to "be kind, be calm, be safe" reflects the list of the fruit of the Spirit, and one could imagine St. Paul encouraging us to exercise "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23) during these trying times – and against these there is no law (or regulation or protocol).



You will notice some changes to our reservation form in the coming weeks as we work out how best to support our ushers and the necessary safety protocols



Please note that some folks have been using an outdated email to reach Colina (our clerk of session).
The correct session clerk email address is session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca
Please double check that you have this updated version in your address book!



Advent- our season of waiting in hopeful expectation- starts this Sunday!



The deadline for

The Link (our congregational newsletter) is Sunday Nov. 28th. Send your submissions of articles, pictures, announcements or other special interest piece to thelink@shaw.ca



2022 Offering Envelopes

Leona will be handing out offering envelopes by the Douglas street door on Sunday, December 5th.



We Need You!

Are you willing and able to assist us in welcoming people as an usher at our Sunday services or for special services like Christmas Eve? If so, please contact Bruce Wasylick (bwasylik@shaw.ca) or speak to Sheelagh or Roger on Sunday.

Those who welcome us each Sunday and help to keep our services as safe as possible by following Covid protocols are an important and appreciated part of our team. Please consider joining this important ministry!

Reservations for Sunday

We are still asking for congregants to register for attendance at the Sunday service. We know that many have stopped pre-registering. However, as more people attend (and we get closer to reaching our capacity of 70 attendees) we need your help to let us know if you'll be there in-person on Sunday. Please help us to prepare for worship by [clicking here](#) for the form to register for Sunday.

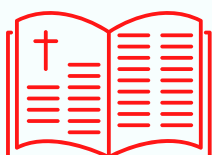
There is an interactive advent calendar provided by the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda, the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Learn more about taking part in Advent devotionals in the letter from Pastor Mitch sent to you today.



Read From Your Bible This Week

- Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36



Share the Joy of Christmas

Donations for this year's Share the Joy of Christmas Campaign have amounted to \$1050 as of November 21st. This is enough to provide seven Christmas hampers, put together by the Mustard Seed Church.

St. Andrew's congregation and adherents contribute to our Share the Joy of Christmas program each year to provide a brighter Christmas to those who are struggling financially in Greater Victoria. Our goal in 2021 is to give hampers to fifteen needy families (approximately 60 persons). It costs \$147 to fill a hamper, \$5 more than last year. We have almost reached half of our goal...way to go, St. Andrew's!

Next Sunday, there will be 7 baskets on our small white tree in the sanctuary which is our visual reminder about this year's Share the Joy campaign.

There are many ways that you can donate money to Share the Joy:

Go to St. Andrew's-Victoria website: standrewsvictoria.ca, and click the Donate tab at the top of the page. There are instructions there to help you donate by e-transfer or by using the Canada Helps app to make a donation by credit card. Indicate that your donation is for Share the Joy.

You can also donate via your church envelopes. Write "Share the Joy" on the line where you enter the amount of your donation. As you come into the narthex of the church off Douglas Street, there are white steel boxes marked Collection where you can deposit your envelope. (The ushers are not collecting the offering during the Sunday service because of Covid-19 restrictions.)

To mail in your donation, send it to

c/o Treasurer, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 680 Courtney St, Victoria, BC, V8W 1C1

If you have any questions about our Share the Joy of Christmas campaign, please call Debra Verwey at 250-383-1009

