



## Social Action Spotlight

**Peacemaking** The church has a lengthy history of understanding peacemaking broadly as working for a just and equitable end to the causes of conflict and harm. Peace is not something that happens by chance. Instead, it is an intentional way of being, working, and relating that must be cultivated and nurtured—often in the face of forces heavily invested in conflict that are actively undermining peace possibilities. Conflict takes many forms, and we are again seeing a distressing increase in armed conflict today in many places around the world. As this spotlight is being written, devastating war is widening in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan, to name only a few places. In addition to advocating that Canada support United Nations Conventions to regulate the trade of conventional weapons and to ban nuclear weapons and land mines, the PCC has engaged in peacemaking advocacy on several conflicts over the years. Most recently, we have joined our ecumenical partners' calls for a ceasefire in the Middle East and an end to supplying weapons, the resumption of humanitarian aid in Gaza and the return of all hostages. Armed conflict is not the only obstacle to peace. The roots of conflict that just as surely undermine peace include injustices such as oppression and occupation, systemic inequities such as racism, and gender-based violence. True peace and oppression cannot co-exist: without justice, there can be no peace. This is why the church affirms in Living Faith, "God is at work when people are ashamed of the inhumanity of war and work for peace with justice." (8.5.3)

**Questions for Reflection** There's a common phrase that runs, "No justice, no peace; know justice, know peace." What are some ways you see justice contributing to peace? What are some ways you see injustice contributing to conflict? In a recent statement responding to the worsening situation in the Middle East the WHO (World Health Organization) said that for this situation, "The best medicine is peace." How do you see peace acting like medicine and how might you help build more peace?

**What can you do?** Consider engaging in [peacemaking efforts](#) the church is involved with through our partners. Give to organizations engaging in peacemaking by working to address the root causes of conflict—whether through relief work supported by PWS&D, Canadian Foodgrains Bank or similar organizations. [Write your elected officials on issues related to peacemaking.](#)

**Learn more** Download Peacemaking: [A Reflective Resource—a study guide exploring the PCC's history of peacemaking.](#) Visit [here](#) to learn more about how our church is responding to conflict through PWS&D. Watch [the Canadian Foodgrains Bank webinar](#) on conflict and hunger.

## Week at a Glance

**Open Church: Sanctuary**  
Wednesdays at 12:00 - 1:30 pm

**Meditation Hour: Sanctuary**  
Wednesdays at 4:00 - 5:30 pm

**Activity Group: Gathering Room**  
Thursdays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Worship Service: Sanctuary**  
Sundays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Sequentia Ensemble: Sanctuary**  
Saturday January 18 at 7:30 pm

**Robert Burns Memorial Concert:**  
**Kirk Hall**  
Sunday, January 19 at 2:00 pm

**Session Meeting: Hybrid**  
Monday, January 20 at 7:00 pm

## Worship Service

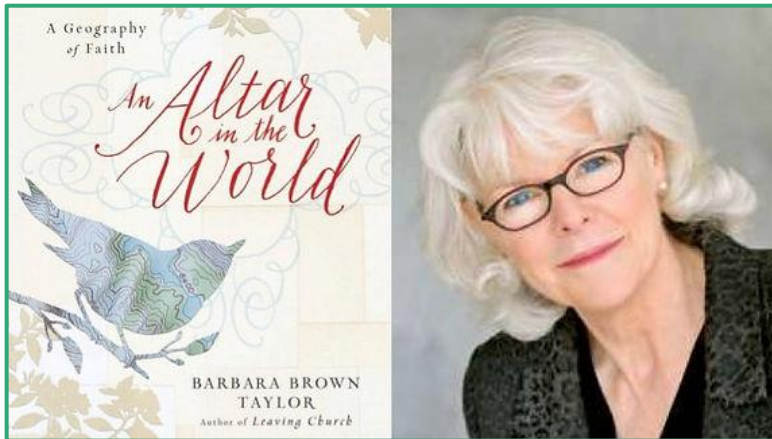
**Lectionary Readings:** Psalm 36:1-5, I Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

**Prelude:** "Récit de tierce en taille" by Nicolas De Grigny

**Choral Anthem:** "Arise and shine your light is come"

**Musical Reflection:** "Be still" by Ashley Grote

**Postlude:** "Offertoire sur les grands jeux" by Nicolas de Grigny



## Book Discussion

*At 982 Linkleas Ave (The Coggin Residence)  
Weekly on Wednesdays  
January 15 - February 4 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm*

A book study about 'An Altar in the World' by Barbara Brown Taylor. Members of St. Andrew's, Knox, and Trinity are invited! In-person and Zoom meeting options available. Hosted by Linda Coggin. Please sign up with Linda at [lindacoggin@gmail.com](mailto:lindacoggin@gmail.com) or 250-880-0932.

In '[An Altar in the World](#)', Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer.

Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we're doing and take time to notice the sights, smells, and sounds around us.

Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection.

Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries.

As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do.

Through Taylor's expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.

## Camp VIP 2025

This year's VIP camp dates are as follows: Little Qualicum Falls June 9 - 13, Goldstream July 3-7, Rath Trevor August 11 - 18. More details will be available [HERE](#) soon!

## VIP Ladies Retreat

Save the date: April 25-27, 2025 at Camp Imadene. More details to follow. Contact [ringmybellsmith@gmail.com](mailto:ringmybellsmith@gmail.com) with questions.

## Congregational Meetings

### Congregational Annual Budget Meeting

*Sunday, January 26 at 12:00 pm*

The purpose of this meeting is to approve the budget for 2025. There are copies of the Budget available for review.

### Congregational Annual General Meeting

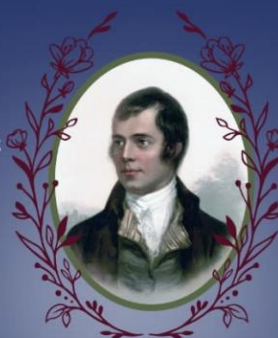
*Sunday, March 9 at 12:00 pm*

*Robert Burns*  
*Memorial Concert*  
**JANUARY 19 AT 2:30 PM**


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DOORS OPEN AT 2:00 PM  
KIRK HALL, 680 COURTNEY ST  
FOLLOWED BY TEA AND SHORTBREAD

TICKETS \$12  
PLEASE PRE-PURCHASE  
USING THE LINK  
BELOW



PRESENTED BY THE  
VICTORIA SCOTTISH  
GAELIC CHOIR  
AND ST. ANDREW'S  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



LINKTR.EE/VICGAELICCHOIR

# Young Adult Presbytery Representative Invite

Greetings,

This year on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we are inviting all presbyteries to send a Young Adult Representative (YAR) to the 2025 General Assembly.

The General Assembly will be held commencing Sunday, June 1, 2025, at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Young Adult Representatives are members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada between the ages of 16 and 25 years. Students at our theological colleges are not eligible, nor are professional church workers (ordained, designated or lay).

Presbyteries are reminded to inform their YAR of the expectation that they are to attend all the sederunts along with the orientation sessions for YARs that begin with dinner on Saturday, May 31. Please remind the YAR that when they accept their appointment, they are expected to attend the Assembly until the scheduled conclusion on Thursday, June 5, 2025. The denomination invests significant resources into this gathering. To ensure good stewardship of those resources and fair representation of the breadth of our church, the Assembly requires the discerning presence of all its YARs and commissioners at every sederunt.

## Submitting YAR Name and Contact Information

Please submit the YAR appointee name and/or alternate from your presbytery and the following contact information by **March 15, 2025**, to me (thamilton@presbyterian.ca):

- first and last names (with full initials)
- mailing address
- email address
- telephone number
- affiliated congregation

Following receipt of this information, our office will contact the appointee with General Assembly registration materials (letter, registration form, travel and accommodation information).

## Expenses regarding YARs

**Program Fee:** Each participating presbytery pays a \$175 program fee, either by cheque payable to The Presbyterian Church in Canada or by electronic funds transfer.

E-transfers are sent to ar@presbyterian.ca. When submitting the e-transfer, also send an email to ar@presbyterian.ca (copy thamilton@presbyterian.ca) with a description of why the payment is being made.

Cheques are sent to Terrie-Lee Hamilton, General Assembly Office, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Dr, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7.

**Meals:** Meal expenses, like commissioners, are covered by the presbytery. An invoice will be sent to the presbytery following the General Assembly.

**Travel/Accommodation:** Travel and accommodation for the YAR are covered by the General Assembly.

## Program

The Life and Mission Agency provides the program support for the YARs leading up to and while at the Assembly. There are adult mentors who support the YARs at the Assembly. Specific information will be sent to each YAR.

If you have any questions, contact me at 416-441-1111, 800-619-7301 ext. 225 or thamilton@presbyterian.ca.

Thank you, in advance, for your assistance with the YAR appointment process.

Terrie-Lee Hamilton  
Senior Administrator  
General Assembly Office

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**Please send your YAR appointee nominations for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to Jerry Verwey at [tjeerd@telus.net](mailto:tjeerd@telus.net) by Monday, January 20th!**

## Community Events Calendar

### Sequentia Ensemble

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary  
Saturday January 18 at 7:30 pm*

The incomparable Benjamin Bagby, well-known for his virtuosic rendering of Beowulf, returns to the EMSI stage to lead the ensemble Sequentia in an astonishing 12th Century tale of one man's victory over despair (sung in medieval German verse with video titles projected in English). For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

### Community Dinner

*Knox Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, January 19*

Gather to prepare a meal ( Pasta Bolognese/salad + Fruit Cocktail Cake) and eat together. Please [email](#) Laura to sign up so we can plan to have plenty of food.

### Community Dinner

*Knox Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, February 9*

Gather to prepare a meal (Super Soups + Heart-shaped Biscuits with jam;) and eat together. Please [email](#) Laura to sign up so we can plan to have plenty of food.

### Huehuetenango

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary  
Saturday, February 15 at 7:30 pm*

Tenor Jonatan Alverado and Ariel Abramovich on vihuela explore a 16th Century Guatemalan manuscript, reflecting early colonial musical influences in South America. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

### Beyond Neoclassical

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary  
Saturday, February 22 at 7:00 pm*

An amazing musical journey beyond space and time with internationally acclaimed cellist, composer and multilingual vocalist Ian Maksin! For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

### Coldest Night

*Saturday, February 22 from 4 - 7 pm*

The popular walkathon campaign will return to Victoria [Downtown](#) and [Westshore](#). For more info and to sign up, please follow those links!

## St. Andrew's Events Calendar

### Book Discussion

*At 982 Linkleas Ave  
Weekly on Wednesdays*

*January 15 - February 4 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm*  
A book study about 'An Altar in the World' by Barbara Brown Taylor. Members of St. Andrew's, Knox, and Trinity are invited! In-person and Zoom meeting options available. Hosted by Linda Coggin. Please sign up with Linda at [lindacoggin@gmail.com](mailto:lindacoggin@gmail.com) or 250-880-0932.

### Robert Burns Memorial Concert

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Kirk Hall  
Sunday, January 19 at 2:30 pm*

Door open at 2:00 pm! The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church present the Robert Burns Memorial Concert. Enjoy an afternoon of music and prose of Robert Burns, dancing, and other Scottish cultural entertainment. Tea and shortbread will follow the concert. For more info and tickets: <https://linktr.ee/vicgaelicchoir>

### Session Meeting - Hybrid

*Monday, January 20 at 7:00 pm*

### Congregational Annual Budget Meeting

*Sunday, January 26 at 12:00 pm*

The purpose of this meeting is to approve the budget for 2025. There are copies of the Budget available for review.

### The Link - February Deadline

*Sunday, January 26*

Please send your submission to [theLink@shaw.ca](mailto:theLink@shaw.ca).

### Guitar Recital

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary  
Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 pm*

Featuring guitar students from the class of Simon Fairintosh, Music Performance Instructor at the University of Victoria. Donations are appreciated and support both St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's music outreach program and young emerging musicians!

### Session Meeting - Hybrid

*Monday, February 17 at 7:00 pm*