



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 248 February 4, 2025

International Women's Day 2025

Join us on March 8 – International Women's Day, as we celebrate the incredible achievements of women and girls around the world!

This year's International Women's Day theme is **"For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."** This theme serves as a reminder that progress for women and girls must always be inclusive and embrace diversity; whether we are advocating for education or strengthening marginalized communities' voices, our shared efforts must ensure no one is left behind, regardless of background.

At PWS&D, we believe that regardless of race, ability and class, every woman and girl deserves to have rights, access to health care, education and opportunities. PWS&D is committed to a world where every woman and girl has rights and is empowered. Through our projects:

In [Guatemala](#), PWS&D works with partners to support Indigenous women as they fight prejudices about their abilities. Through workshops and solidarity formed through community groups, women learn greater self-esteem and strengthen their voices at the institutional level.

With our partner in [India](#), PWS&D supports outreach to women and girls to provide them with the tools they need to access appropriate health care, address issues of gender, empowerment and sexual and reproductive rights, and address child marriage.

In [Malawi](#), PWS&D provides scholarships for girls to attend Neno Girls' Secondary School. These scholarships enable girls to stay in school and access a quality education. According to the United Nations, every additional year of school a girl attains increases her eventual wages by 10-20%. Education encourages girls to marry later and make informed choices about how many children to have, increasing opportunities for gender equity to be realized.

In [Pakistan](#), PWS&D is supporting a project aimed at improving girls' access to education; this initiative incentivizes school enrollment and retention by providing nutritious meals in regions heavily impacted by food insecurity. The project also engages communities and local leaders to highlight the critical importance of girls' education and its impact on families and societies.

Discover how PWS&D is bringing this year's theme to life and turning it into action.

[Meet Esmay in Malawi](#). [Read about Sapna in Pakistan](#). [Learn about Lilawati in India](#).

As we continue to work towards an equitable world, we must remember progress for one must also mean progress for all.

-by *Stephanie Chunoo*

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 - 12:30 pm

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

Farewell to Rev. Wayne Stretch:
Gathering Room
Sunday, February 9 after worship

Guitar Recital: Sanctuary
Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 pm

Worship Service

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:1-11, Psalm 138

Prelude: "Preludium in G major"
by J G Albrechtsberger

Choral Anthem: "African Psalm"
by Patrick M Liebergen

Musical Reflection: "O Holy Spirit, root of life" by Anna Laura Page

Postlude: "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Anna Laura Page

Community Events Calendar

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!

Community Dinner

Knox Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 16

Gather to prepare a meal (Baked Potatoes with toppings + Rainbow Rice Krispie Treats.) and eat together. Please [email](#) Laura to sign up so we can plan to have plenty of food.

Tea for Tutu: Carmina Burana

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Kirk Hall

Tue/Wed/Thu, March 11, 12, 13 at 2:00 pm

To reserve your free seats email

tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca or call 250-380-6063

St. Andrew's Events Calendar

Book Discussion

At 982 Linkleas Ave every Wednesday

January 15 - February 4 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

A book study about 'An Altar in the World' by Barbara Brown Taylor. In-person and Zoom meeting options available. Hosted by Linda Coggin. Please sign up at lindacoggin@gmail.com or 250-880-0932.

Farewell to Rev. Wayne Stretch

The Gathering Room

Sunday, February 9 following worship services

Please join us to say thank you and goodbye to Rev Wayne Stretch who has been our Interim Moderator for more than 3 years!

Guitar Recital

The Sanctuary

Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 pm

Featuring guitar students from the class of Simon Farintosh, 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

Farewell to Pastor Mitch & Linda Coggin

The Kirk Hall

Sunday, February 23 following worship services

Everyone is invited to a light lunch to say thank you and goodbye to Mitch and Linda Coggin.

The Link - March Deadline

Sunday, February 23

Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca.

Congregational Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 9 at 12:00 pm

The Link - April Deadline

Sunday, March 30

Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca

Choral Singers Celebration

Sunday, April 6 following worship services

Everyone is invited to celebrate St. Andrew's choral singers who are graduating from UVic!