



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 250 February 18, 2025

Parable for an Ending or a New Beginning

FOR A NEW BEGINNING

by John O'Donohue

*In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.
For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.
It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.
Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.
Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.
Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

It is no secret that Irish priest and poet, John O'Donohue has a way into my heart with his perfectly worded blessings. Today, on this last contribution to this weekly newsletter, I share his blessing, *For A New Beginning*. It is no secret that Sunday is my final Sunday at St. Andrew's. I am and have been blessed by you and what we have done together. While this certainly is the ending of my time with you, it is likewise a new beginning .. to discern and be open to what God has in store for us next. Our story...yours and mine are not complete. God is not finished with us yet. Trust. Hope. Be open to God's vision and guidance...and I will as well!

Remember, Sunday, February 23...we share communion together during our worship. Come and be blessed. Peace to each of you.

Blessings,
Mitch

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

**Communion Worship Service:
Sanctuary**

Sundays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Farewell to Pastor Mitch & Linda
Coggin: Kirk Hall**

Sunday, February 23

Following worship services

Worship Service

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 37,
Genesis 45:1-11,15, Luke 6:27-38

Prelude: "Canon in D major" by
Johann Pachelbel

Choral Anthem: "Thanksgiving
Hodie" by Joseph Martin

Musical Reflection: "Jesu, joy of
man's desiring" by Johann
Sebastian Bach

Postlude: "Postlude of Joy" by Hal
Hobson



Lenten Reader

Lent is a journey. Traditionally, these 40 days before Easter are a time of self-examination, letting go of the old, and preparing ourselves for something new.

Over the last three years Linda Coggin has encouraged us to share our faith through brief reflections that were a source of inspiration and encouragement during the season of Lent. Although she will not be here during Lent 2025, the Christian Education Committee hopes to compile reflections into a Lenten Reader for 2025.

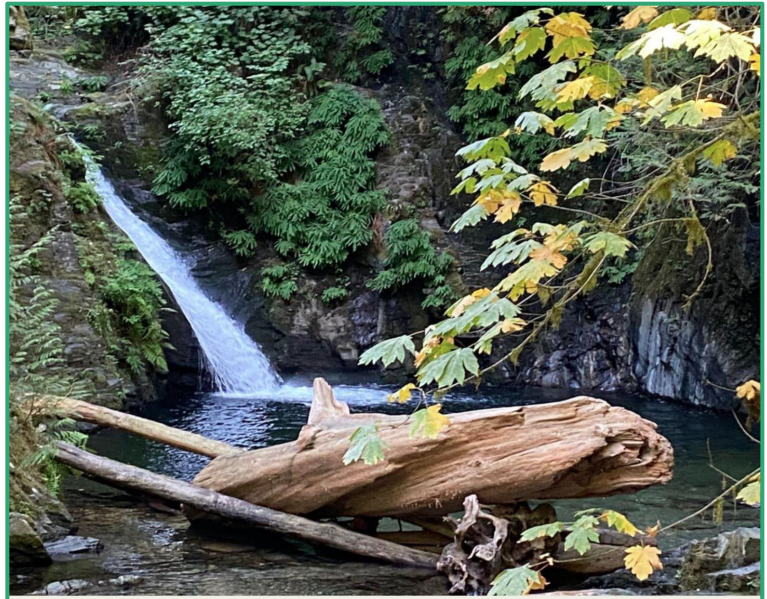
Henri Nouwen writes,

When we are rooted in prayer and solitude and part of a community of faith...the books we read, the nature we enjoy, the people we meet, and the events we experience contain within themselves signs of God's presence and guidance day by day.

In that spirit, we invite you to share a story, a scripture, an experience that has shaped your life of faith. This might be something you do regularly like taking a walk or gardening or a life changing circumstance that has taught you about God's presence or provision in our everyday lives. We aren't asking for perfection, we are asking you to share a bit of your unique faith journey.

We will create a "Lenten Reader" for all to use during Lent. Describe your experience in any way that you choose: a description, an example, a story, a song, poem, or artwork (photo or drawing). There is not a specific format, just a few guidelines:

- Suggested length for the submission is ½ to 1 typed page (handwritten is accepted!)
- PLEASE SUBMIT by Wednesday, March 5, 2025
- Send to steetzel@telus.net or office@standrewsvictoria.ca or drop your submission in the church office. If you have a question or need assistance in ANY way please contact Sabine Teetzel by email steetzel@telus.net or phone 250-896-7495.



2025 Vancouver Island Presbytery Summer Camps

(A program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada)

Location and Dates:

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park June 9th-13th

Goldstream Provincial Park July 3rd-7th

Rathrevor Provincial Park August 11th-18th

For Enquiry Contact: Camp VIP
registrar jermareng@outlook.com

Camp Website <https://vipresbytery.net>

WARM TOES



**WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING
DONATIONS OF SOCKS!**

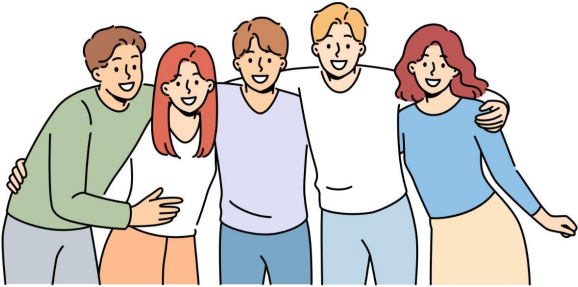
**DONATION BIN LOCATED IN
THE GATHERING ROOM.**

Donations will be delivered to The Mustard Seed at the end of each month.

Thank you for your donation!



ACTIVITY GROUP



**THURSDAYS IN THE GATHERING ROOM
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

*Join us for tea, coffee, a visit, and conversation.
Help with ongoing outreach projects.
Bring a friend or make a new one.
All are welcome!*

For more information contact Sheelagh
Garson at **250-385-5157**



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
924 DOUGLAS STREET
250-384-5734



Coldest Night

Sat, Feb. 22, 2025

Coldest Night of the Year is a national community walkathon in support of people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Each February we take to the streets of downtown Victoria and the Westshore. Leaving the comfort and warmth of our homes we walk in solidarity, raising funds and support for our neighbours in need.

Registration is now open for Coldest Night 2025!

Register for the Pandora walk [here](#)

Register for the Westshore walk [here](#)

Last year, our community raised over \$192,000 between our two walk locations. With your support we can make even more of an impact! Please consider gathering a team together and joining us in person or virtually for our 2km or 5km walks.

Limited Sponsorships Available. Please contact rachelh@ourplacesociety.com to learn more today.

Hope Blooms on Pandora

Sat, March. 22, 2025 – Save the Date!

As the cherry blossoms bloom on Pandora, join Our Place for a hope-filled spring brunch in support of **Pathways off Pandora**.

Sponsorships Available. Please contact rachelh@ourplacesociety.com to learn more today.

Activity Group Request

Help us help others!

Thanks to your many donations, already contributed, St. Andrew's Activity Group has created and delivered hundreds of items which will improve lives around the world.

Our projects are ongoing and so we continue to need new or gently used flannelette fabric.

In addition, we are asking for donations of new or gently used towels.

If you can help, let us know. Drop off your donation at the church office, or on Thursday mornings at our weekly meeting from 10:30 am - 12:30pm in the Gathering Room.

- Sheelagh Garson

Community Events Calendar

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](#).

Seedy Sunday

Sunday, February 23 from 2 - 4pm

Bell Irving Room at Pearkes Recreation Center

[Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers](#) invite you to save and sort your seed stash for sharing at this wonderful community event! Please bring \$3 to donate to Saanich Neighborhood Place. Children are welcome. There will be a plant give-away table, a refreshments table, and a children's activity table.

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

Alpha Yaya Diallo & Friends

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Friday, March 21 at 7:30 pm

JUNO Award winning guitarist and singer Alpha Yaya Diallo, from Guinea in West Africa, is one of the hottest acts on the current world music scene. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

An Evening with Judy Collins

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Saturday, March 28 & 29 at 7:30 pm

Judy Collins has inspired audiences with sublime vocals, boldly vulnerable songwriting, personal life triumphs, and a firm commitment to social activism. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

St. Andrew's Events Calendar

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

Session Meeting - Hybrid

Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm

Cello Recital

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sanctuary

Sunday, March 23, 2:00 pm

Featuring cello students from the studio of Pam Highbaugh Aloni, Associate Professor at UVic School of Music. Donations are appreciated and support both St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's music outreach program and young emerging musicians!

Chamber Recital

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sanctuary

Sunday, March 30, 2:00 pm

Featuring chamber groups from classes of Joanna Hood, Associate Professor at UVic School of Music. Donations are appreciated and support both St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's music outreach program and young emerging musicians!

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!

VIP Women's Retreat

Camp Imadene

Fri/Sat/Sun, April 25 - 27

More details to follow soon! Contact ringmybellsmith@gmail.com with questions.