

# THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 251 February 25, 2025

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## 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: Study Room This Week!**  
Thursdays at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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

## Worship Service

**Scripture:** Psalm 99, Luke 9:28-36

**Prelude:** "Christ whose glory fills the skies" by Keith Bissell

**Choral Anthem:** The light of the world by Don Besig & Nancy Price

**Musical Reflection:** "Our Father who art in heaven" by Dietrich Buxtehude

**Postlude:** "The heavens declare" by Benedetto Marcello



## Announcements

**THANK YOU:** A few words of thanks from the Congregational Life Team! Sunday was a wonderful time of celebration with Mitch and Linda. There are too many of you to thank individually, and we would hate to miss anyone out. So we say a big thank you to all of you who helped create an amazing event - for setting up, serving food and cleaning up, for planning, designing and sharing your creativity, for baking, shopping and taking care of all the details that go into a special event. Thank you to each of you who attended and contributed in your own way so that together we celebrated and expressed our gratitude to Mitch and Linda.

**REV. GRANT:** On March 2nd we welcome The Rev. Grant Wilson to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church! Grant will be a guest minister this Sunday.

**REV. WES:** On March 9th we welcome The Rev. Wes Denyer to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church! Wes will be our guest minister throughout Lent.

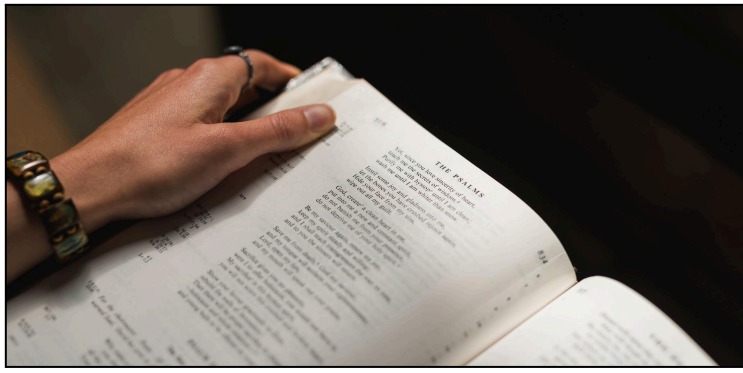
**ACTIVITY GROUP REQUEST:** Thanks to your many donations, St. Andrew's Activity Group has created and delivered hundreds of items which will improve lives around the world. Our projects are ongoing and so we continue to need new or gently used **flannelette fabric**. In addition, we are asking for donations of new or gently used **bath towels**. Drop off your donation at the church office, or on Thursday mornings at our weekly meeting from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Gathering Room.

**CUSTODIAN AWAY:** Our church custodian Grant is away on spring vacation next week - please direct all property inquiries to David Garson or David McLean in his absence.

**CARPPOOLING REQUEST:** Anne and Don Jones have moved to Amica on The Gorge and are wondering if any St. Andrew's members would like to carpool down to church on Sundays. Please contact them, or the church office if you are able to offer them a ride!

**WARM TOES:** Mission & Outreach is still accepting donations of socks for The Mustard Seed in The Gathering Room. Donations will be delivered at the end of each month. Thank you for your support!

**THE LINK:** April deadline is Sunday, March 30. Please send your submission to [theLink@shaw.ca](mailto:theLink@shaw.ca)



## Lenten Reader

Two brave souls have sent in a submission for the Lenten Reader. One person wrote about the impact of people in our lives and how they often are there in response to prayer, and another wrote about how they process scripture. Perhaps, you have considered something you might share to encourage others.

I, too, have thought about what I would write and moments of doubt and fear that what I have to share isn't good enough or wouldn't be encouraging to other people. I believe that God asks us to be "Christ to one another," to share the everydayness of our lives.

Frederick Buechner writes that "my story and your story are all part of each other too if only because we have sung together and prayed together and seen each other's faces...all our stories are in the end one story, one vast story about being human, being together, being here."

So, each of our stories do matter. When we share from our experience, we strengthen the body of Christ. We aren't asking for your perfection, we are asking you to take a risk and share a bit of your unique life as a person of faith.

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 **Thursday March 6, 2025**
- Send by email to [steetzel@telus.net](mailto:steetzel@telus.net) or [office@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:office@standrewsvictoria.ca) with "for Lenten Reader in the subject line" or bring your submission to your church.

If you have a question or just want to think out-loud about what you might share, let's chat.

- Sabine Teetzle



## Coldest Night

On Saturday, Feb. 22, 700+ Coldest Night walkers took to the streets of downtown Victoria, the Westshore and Saanich peninsula. We walked in solidarity, raising funds and support for those struggling with hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our community.

Thanks to our community's care and generosity, you have raised over \$120,000 at Coldest Night Victoria Pandora! Thank you SO much for walking, fundraising and donating!

We are in the final push to reach our fundraising goal of \$140,000. Over the past months, Our Place has expanded its shelter and recovery programs while also seeing a 28% increase in food costs and a 25% rise in demand for community meals. Funds raised through Coldest Night will be instrumental in helping meet these growing needs and ensure that individuals continue to receive essential supports.

Donations are still open! Donate today at – <https://cnoy.org/location/victoriapandora>

## 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](mailto:rachelh@ourplacesociety.com) to learn more today.



## Mobile Clinics Continue Providing Lifesaving Support in Gaza

By Stephanie Chunoo

As the conflict in Gaza continues, its cost on human lives and important infrastructure grows higher and higher. Lack of clean water, food insecurity affecting 2.2 million people, and the collapse of the health-care system have left the population in desperate need of immediate international intervention and protection.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), part of the Middle East Council of Churches, has served 20,994 people since the beginning of the war with life-saving support. With all the devastation around them, people with injuries or psychological trauma have found solace in a variety of services—from basic wound treatment and psychosocial support, to treatment of chronic and acute illnesses, dental care, support for babies, and family planning services.



*Lifesaving support is distributed through the DSPR's mobile clinic in Gaza.*

In the ongoing war, many hospitals—whose services are more essential than ever—have been turned to rubble. At one time DSPR's Rafah clinic was the only one that remained standing, but with

the invasion of Rafah in May 2024 this response necessarily shifted to a mobile clinic format. Prioritizing adaptability, through this approach the program perseveres to bring healthcare to where there is great need, including informal shelters that are not reached by other organizations.

Ensuring access to health care is essential. For this reason, DSPR supports ongoing services including:

- 96 medical days run through mobile clinics to provide lifesaving services to vulnerable displaced populations. So far, these medical days have served 6,882 patients.
- Establishing a new fixed clinic, equipped with a laboratory, pharmacy, nursing and physician rooms, as well as space for counselling and psychosocial services. The clinic sees about 7,500 visits per month.
- Psychosocial services (including group, individual and family counseling), which have been provided to 1,196 participants.

As people of faith, we continue in prayer for the situation in Gaza, asking God to meet the needs of people affected by the conflict and to bring an end to the war. "In these trying times," share Nader Abu Amsha, Executive Secretary of DSPR Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) and Dr. Audeh Quawas, the Chairperson of the Central Committee for DSPR MECC, "we humbly request your support, prayers, and solidarity. The people of Gaza are enduring unimaginable hardships, and your assistance can make a profound difference in their lives."

## Upcoming PCC Webinars

### [LGBTQI2+ Inclusion 101](#)

*Thursday, March 6, 2025 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Eastern)*

As ministries in The Presbyterian Church in Canada continue to adapt to decisions the denomination has made about marriage, ordination and LGBTQI2+ inclusion, this webinar is intended to explore ways to define inclusion and how congregations can take steps to become more inclusive of LGBTQI2+ people and their families.

The presentation will be followed by a time for questions and answers. Hosted by Carragh Erhardt, Program Coordinator, Sexuality and Inclusion at the PCC.

# Church Calendar

## Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 9 at 12:00 pm

## Hybrid Session Meeting

Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm

## 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](mailto:tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca) or call 250-380-6063

## Brass Concert

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sanctuary

Sunday, March 16, 2:00 pm

Featuring 'Junebug Brass', a UVic brass quintet with trumpets, french horn, and tenor and bass trombone! Donations are appreciated and support both St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's music outreach program and young emerging musicians!

## Knox Community Dinner

Knox Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 16

Gather to prepare a meal and eat together. Please [email](#) Rev. Laura to sign up so we can plan to have plenty of food.

## Knox Cafe

Knox Presbyterian Church

Thursday, March 20

More info is coming soon...

## Cello Concert

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 Concert

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!

## Choral Singer Celebration

Sunday, April 6 following worship services.

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

## Farewell to Christine Purvis

Sunday, April 20 after worship service

St. Andrew's Kirk Hall

Everyone is invited to a special coffee time to say thank you and goodbye to our long time Music Director Christine Purvis.

## Hybrid Session Meeting

Monday, April 21 at 7:00 pm

## VIP Women's Retreat

Camp Imadene

Fri/Sat/Sun, April 25 - 27

Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Mona. Register before March 16 for \$230! Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/29ndlyoy>. For more information please contact Camp Registrar at (250) 668 3299 or [vipladiesretreat@gmail.com](mailto:vipladiesretreat@gmail.com)

**Camp VIP:** This year's VIP camp dates are as follows: Little Qualicum Falls June 9 - 13, Goldstream July 3-7, Rath Trevor August 11 - 18. For more information contact the Camp Registrar at [jermareng@outlook.com](mailto:jermareng@outlook.com).

## Pandora Chorus Spring Concert

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 pm

The Pandora Chorus is a non-auditioned indie pop rock community choir. We will be singing songs from our Winter-Spring repertoire.

## Tea for Tutu: A Midsummer Night's Dream

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Kirk Hall

Tue/Wed/Thu, May 6, 7, 8 at 2:00 pm

To reserve your free seats email

[tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca](mailto:tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca) or call 250-380-6063

## Wings

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary

Saturday, May 10 at 7:00 pm

In Spring 2025, Ensemble Laude's signature lush sound takes flight with Wings, a curated selection of breathtaking pieces from around the world. For more info and tickets please go [HERE](#).

## Seattle Children's Choir Concert

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sanctuary

Sunday, March 25, 2:00 pm

More info is coming soon...