

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 268 June 24, 2025

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

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


Activity Group: The Gathering Room
THIS THURSDAY
Thursdays at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Activity Group: The Study Room
From July 3 - August 28
Thursdays at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm


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




Announcements


 **PRESBYTERY REPORTS:** On Tuesday June 17th, the Presbytery met and received the reports on Ministry vitalities (37pg.) as compiled by Rev Dale Woods after sessions with both the Session and the Congregation. The Presbytery also received our Church's Profile (27 pg) for consideration. Both were received with enthusiasm and recommended our ability to go forward with obtaining a new Minister. Both reports are available to the congregation in soft copy by request from the clerk by emailing the clerk at session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca. Hard copies are available, but costly, so soft copies by email would be preferred.


 **CEMETERY PLOT FOR SALE:** a peaceful, permanent resting place in the Field of Honor at [Hatley Memorial Gardens](#) is available for \$5000. Please contact St. Andrew's Treasurer at 250 384 5734 or treasurer@standrewsvictoria.ca for more details. Serious inquiries only.


 **ACTIVITY GROUP SUMMER HOURS:** The Activity Group will continue to meet over the summer as a drop in coffee and conversation time but, starting on July 3rd, we will move to the Study, in the Kirk Hall. The meeting day will remain the same - every Thursday, between 10 am - 12 noon. The focus for the summer will be caring for the Laneway Vegetable Garden, picking the crops and delivering the produce to New Horizons in James Bay. We're thrilled to see what is growing and are looking forward to what will yet be produced. We've made 2 deliveries already to James Bay, New Horizons. Stop in on Thursday for a coffee and a chat, or visit the garden whenever you're at St. Andrew's.


 **WILDFIRE DONATIONS:** The Government of Canada and Government of Manitoba will match donations to the 2025 [Manitoba Wildfires Appeal from May 28 - June 27, 2025](#). Every dollar donated will become \$3. The Government of Canada will also match donations to the Canadian Red Cross 2025 [Saskatchewan Wildfires Appeal from May 30 - June 29, 2025](#). Every dollar donated will become \$2. Donations support those most affected by the wildfires.





 **MEMORIAL SERVICE:** A memorial service for [Robert Roy Wicks](#) will be held at **Trinity Presbyterian Church** on Saturday June 28th at 11:00 am.


 **OH CANADA! CONCERT:** Presented by Cascadia Concerts at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sanctuary on Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 pm. Celebrating the best in Canadian music: a tribute to Gordon Lightfoot, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, and The Great Divide. Go [HERE](#) for more info and tickets.


 **QUARTET FEST WEST CONCERT:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach Program at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sanctuary on Saturday, June 28 at 1:00 pm. [Quartet Fest West](#) is one of the finest chamber music programs in North America.


 **STRAWBERRY TEA & BAZAAR:** In support of the [Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society](#) on Saturday June 28 from 1 - 4 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church! Strawberry shortcake and tea/coffee is \$7.50. The Bazaar includes treasures, white elephant, books, jewellery, art & crafts, plants, baking, and a silent auction. All donations go towards medical costs of the animals!

 **GOLDSTREAM CAMP VIP:** VIP camp for Goldstream is July 3-7. For more information go [HERE](#) or contact the Camp Registrar at jermareng@outlook.com.


 **GAIA QUARTET CONCERT:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach Program at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sanctuary on Saturday, July 5 at 1:00 pm. [GAIA Quartet](#) is an all-women's string quartet performing works by living composers.


 **INCLUSIVE CHRISTIANS PRIDE PARADE:** Starts at 11am on Sunday, July 6, along Fisgard & Douglas. Consider joining Rev. Laura Kavanagh and students from UVic Multifaith in the [Pride Parade](#). Contact [Laura Kavanagh](#) for details. We hope you join us for this joy filled celebration of the LGBTQ+ community!


 **PRIDE PARADE WATER STATION:** Victoria's Pride Parade is on Sunday, July 6 and it will go right past St. Andrew's! We will be providing a water station for participants.


 **SINGERS IN THE PARK:** Voices from St. Andrew's, Knox (Victoria and Sooke), Trinity, and Chinese Presbyterian Churches are invited to take part in a combined choral performance at "Worship in the Park" on July 20th! We will be performing 'How Great Thou Art'. Rehearsals will take place on Sunday, July 6 and 13th at 11:30 am at Trinity Presbyterian Church. If you would like to join please contact Elise Kenedy at ekpk@live.ca. Come and enjoy praising the Lord!


 **WORSHIP IN THE PARK:** Everyone is welcome to join members of St. Andrew's, Knox (Victoria and Sooke), Trinity, and Chinese Presbyterian Churches for an afternoon of worship, fun, food, and friends! This year it will be held on Sunday, July 20th. Worship will begin at 10:30 am at [Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavillion](#). The building is located in Esquimalt Gorge Park ([1070 Tillicum Road](#)) and can be accessed on foot via park pathways, vehicle or bike. Bike racks are available. Please bring your own picnic lunch, items to share, place settings, and chairs!


 **RATHREVOR CAMP VIP:** VIP camp for Rathrevor is August 11 - 18. For more information go [HERE](#) or contact the Camp Registrar at jermareng@outlook.com.


 **IAN MAKSIN CONCERT:** Presented by Ian Maksin on September 6 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Composer and multilingual vocalist Ian Maksin has created his own unique style by blending elements of different genres and traditional music from around the globe in a new way using his cello as the main unifying force. For more information and tickets go [HERE](#).


 **HAZEL'S LIGHT UP FOR MITO WALK:** on September 20th St. Andrew's outdoor lights will be green in support of this event! Learn more about mitochondrial disease, and how to support Hazel's fundraising walk through downtown Victoria, [HERE](#).

 **CONNIE KALDOR IN CONCERT:** Presented by Beacon Ridge Productions on September 20 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Canadian Folk Music Icon Connie Kaldor—singer-songwriter, entertainer, TV personality, and women's music pioneer—is celebrating 45 years in show business this year with her new album, her 18th recording, titled *Keep Going!* For more information and tickets go [HERE](#).

 **TREASURE TROVE CONCERT:** Presented by the Early Music Society of the Islands on October 25 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Victoria's local medieval ensemble 'Bourdons' will bring interpretations of songs from the Cantigas de Santa Maria to the stage, employing voice and the exotic sounds of medieval period instruments. For more information and tickets go [HERE](#).

 **JANE SIBERRY CD RELEASE CONCERT:** Presented by Beacon Ridge Productions on November 22 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Iconic and enigmatic, Jane Siberry is one of music's most unique and gifted singer-songwriters. For more information and tickets go [HERE](#).

 **YULE CONCERT:** Presented by the Early Music Society of the Islands on December 7 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. 'Catalina Vicens, on organetto, will join the voices of 'Trio Mediæval' for a program of Scandinavian traditional Christmas folk songs and hymns, English medieval Carols, and two contemporary works! For more information and tickets go [HERE](#).

 **A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES:** Presented by Vox Humana on December 24 at 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Join Vox Humana for the reading of Dylan Thomas' famous and whimsical story, interlaced with Christmas music evocative of both the joy and the mystery of the season. Go [HERE](#) for more information as it becomes available.

Social Action Spotlight

Addressing Mis- and Disinformation Through Faith-Based Action

You are not alone in believing that misinformation and disinformation have infiltrated our social worlds exponentially. Perhaps it's because much, if not all, of the online information we consume today is highly targeted, driven by opaque algorithms beyond our control, or because we have all the information we need at our fingertips, just a simple internet search away. But what should or can we, as Christians, do when confronted with information that may not be accurate or even true, especially if we think of tackling misinformation and disinformation as both a real-life practical concern and a theological imperative?

As Christians and Presbyterians, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to promote ethical communication. By emphasizing the importance of truth, stewardship, and compassionate discernment—all of which rest on the theological foundations contained in **Living Faith**—we can ground our approach to consuming information in Scripture to equip us to counter falsehoods and false information intended to cause harm. As people of faith, we are compelled to uphold truth as sacred, love our neighbours, and exercise compassion and sensitivity in our discernment. This is how we bear witness to the Gospel, going beyond simply recognizing wrongs. **Living Faith** reminds us that the Spirit guides us into all truth. May we follow that guidance faithfully, making our church a beacon of truth in a culture of rampant misinformation.

Questions and suggestions for reflection

1. What news sources do I follow, and how do I think of news?
2. How does my engagement with information—whether news or other information align with my faith commitment to truth, compassion and stewardship?
3. Have I unknowingly or unintentionally shared misleading information? How can I become more discerning in my news and other information approaches?
4. How can our church foster honest dialogue while resisting polarization?
5. How can **Living Faith** inform our approach to truth, especially on social media platforms?

Consider the following framework for thinking through how we approach truth:

- God as truth: Scripture affirms that God is the source of all truth (John 14:6). **Living**

Faith states that we believe in one God...who has spoken and continues to speak through Scripture.

- Love of neighbour: Jesus commands us to love our neighbours (Mark 12:31), which includes ensuring they are not misled by false information. **Living Faith** reminds us that love does not rejoice in wrong but rejoices in the right.
- Discernment and wisdom: The Reformed tradition emphasizes the importance of discernment (Philippians 1:9-10). **Living Faith**, invoking the language of 1 Thessalonians 5, encourages believers to test everything and hold fast to what is good. Critical thinking and fact-checking can become vital spiritual disciplines in an age of digital misinformation.

Definitions to know and make your own

1. Misinformation is false or fake news. However, it is not created or shared to cause harm.
2. Disinformation is deliberately created to mislead, harm or manipulate people—propaganda, in other words.
3. A third category is harmful information, namely malinformation, which is based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm or manipulate.

What can we do?

1. ourselves. Consider hosting a workshop or workshops on media literacy, using **Living Faith** to frame discussions on truth and ethics.
2. Promote trusted sources. Share reliable information that has been fact-checked from sources that don't, as a rule, rely on polarizing debates or polemics that tend to generate emotional responses such as outrage.
3. Model humility. Acknowledge when we don't know something, avoiding the spread of unverified claims.
4. Encourage prayerful discernment. Integrate prayer into the contentious discussion, seeking wisdom over reactionary and overtly emotional responses.

If you want to know more

- Recognizing Misinformation and Disinformation: This webinar explores the concepts of disinformation and misinformation. How are they being used in our society and media? Who is impacted? Why is it essential for us to pay attention?

What can we do if we encounter it in our faith life and community? The presentation was hosted by The Presbyterian Church in Canada and facilitated by Sara Speicher, Deputy General Secretary of the World Association for Christian Communication and can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/PCC-WAAC-webinar>

- Combatting Disinformation is Complex but Must Be Done: A webinar hosted by the World Council of Churches and the World Association for Christian Communication explored how churches can seek truth amid misinformation, how they have been involved in disinformation or misinformation, and what they can do to prevent these cases. <https://bit.ly/truth-amid-misinformation>
- Watch the webinar, “Religion and Disinformation: How to be a Trusted Source,” organized by the World Association for Christian Communication and the World Council of Churches. <https://bit.ly/tools-strategies-disinformation>
- Helpful tips on how to spot misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation. <https://bit.ly/identify-mis-dis-and-malinformation>

**Living Faith is The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s confession of faith, the denomination’s Statement of Christian Belief that reflects the “ancient faith of the church...yet spoken into the mood and questions of its own time.” While arising from the Canadian Presbyterian experience, the hope is that the statement speaks to a broader audience than one denomination and to people outside the church. Living Faith acknowledges “doubt” and “the difficulties of belief and the ambiguities of the life of faith.” Yet, it is always grounded in the central affirmation that “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.”



Support PWS&D’s Gaza Response Today

As violence continues in Gaza and the Occupied

Palestinian Territories, humanitarian needs on the ground only increase, while the ability to deliver aid is blocked by Israeli government forces. With thousands of families displaced, schools and hospitals bombed, thousands of children killed, and an emerging famine, our impetus to act is greater than ever—**your support will make a difference.**

Despite the challenges, PWS&D is responding through our ecumenical networks and partnerships at ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food and other humanitarian assistance where and whenever possible.

The scale of need is immense, and we need your help to respond. With your gifts, PWS&D and our partners will be able to provide cash and food assistance, access to water and sanitation services, shelter, primary health care and mental health support.

Ibrahim was a participant in a recent Canadian Foodgrains Bank food distribution. The food package he received made a big difference—not only easing his financial burden but also improving his son’s health. “This parcel alleviated his suffering and provided my child with the necessary food,” he shared. Food aid distributions like this are essential.

The [Presbyterian Church in Canada](#) asks that people pray for an end to violence and a just peace in the land of Christ’s birth.

*God of truth, mercy and peace,
God of life and reconciliation,
we mourn the suffering and murder of your people
and we pray for a just peace
and reconciliation for the people of Palestine and
Israel
who have endured the burden of violence and
conflict for so long.
Console those who grieve,
heal the injured,
comfort those who are alone and afraid,
protect those who are held hostage, and
restrain those who would cause more violence
or act cynically for political gain and power.*

We join with [communities around the world](#) calling for an end to the violence.

[Support PWS&D’s response today!](#)

