

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 271 July 29, 2025

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

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

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP: August 6 (Anniversary: 1945 Bombing of Hiroshima) Today we remember the victims of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima from this day in 1945 and we pray for an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Sabine Teetzel on July 22, 2025. We send our prayers to her son, Ian and to her extended family and friends. A celebration of life will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

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.

ANTISEMITISM WORKSHOP: Presented by the Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 from 7:00-8:30 pm - **location to be determined**. This workshop offers an opportunity for multifaith communities to further understand the historical and contemporary manifestations of antisemitism. To register or for further information, please [email](#) us or visit our [website](#). When responding, kindly include the number of attendees from your community and any necessary contact information for follow-up.

The Greater Victoria Peace School presents
Honouring Peace
80th anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki
6 pm, Wednesday 6 Aug. 2025
At the Gorge Park Pavilion
♥ Free family-friendly event! ♥

Taiko drummers, Furusato dancers, Gettin' Higher Choir
Lantern floating at Sunset
Make a Peace Lantern 6 pm; program starts 7:30 pm.
[Eventbrite link here.](#)
Cash donations gratefully accepted! Please bring lawn chairs or blanket.

Young at Heart Expo Redefining Our Aging Years


YOUNG AT HEART VICTORIA SENIOR EXPO
REDEFINING OUR AGING YEARS


WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH | 11:00AM - 3:00PM
VICTORIA CURLING CLUB
1952 QUADRA STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.


VENDORS
GAMES TO PLAY
CLUBS TO JOIN
RESOURCE BOOTHS
OVER \$10,000 IN PRIZE GIVEAWAYS


FREE ADMISSION • COME SEE OVER 35+ EXHIBITORS!


JOIN US FOR **FUN ACTIVITIES** AND LOTS OF **PRIZES TO BE WON!**


 **THE LINK:** The deadline for contributing to the September issue if The Link is August 31. The **NEW** email address for submissions is: thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca.


 **IAN MAK SIN 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](#).


 **JOURNEY FOR HOPE:** Join us (Knox Victoria, Knox-Sooke, Trinity and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches) on Saturday, September 20, 2025, as we walk 5km around the Gorge Waterway to raise money for the vital work we do around the world. The world is currently experiencing a food crisis triggered by climate change and it's only getting worse. This year, we hope to raise \$20,000 for PWS&D's food security projects around the world. Join us for PWS&D's annual [Journey for Hope!](#) More information will be available soon.


 **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](#).

 **MUSIC OUTREACH CONCERT:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on November 30 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Entrance is by donation and everyone is welcome. More details will be announced soon!


 **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](#).

 **THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC:** Presented by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Music Outreach Program on December 11 at 12:00 pm in the Sanctuary. An afternoon of seasonal tunes played by local instrumentalists and a chance to sing along with your favorite Christmas carols! Entrance is by donation and everyone is welcome.

 **WINTER CONCERT:** Presented by Ensemble Laude on December 20 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Go [HERE](#) for more information as it becomes available.

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

 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** on December 24 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. More details will be available soon.

 **ROBERT BURNS MEMORIAL CONCERT:** Presented by The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on January 25 at 2:30 pm in the Kirk Hall. Join us for an afternoon of Scottish entertainment! Go [HERE](#) for tickets when they become available.



MAiD and Spirituality: A Presbyterian Perspective

Prayer Partnership for Sunday, August 3: We pray for the ongoing work of the Committee on Church Doctrine as they guide Presbyterians in responding to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and supporting those who have chosen it.

Canada has one of the most progressive and accessible assisted dying laws in the world. The Supreme Court of Canada recognized medical assistance in dying as a constitutionally-protected right in 2015. We know that 87% of Canadians support the right to medical assistance in dying for those who meet the eligibility criteria, but some Canadians still grapple with the option to end one's intolerable suffering because of their religious and spiritual beliefs.

In this series – [MAiD and spirituality](#) – we share insights from various religious leaders and people who are in support of medical assistance in dying and how they reconcile this position in their faith that might have an opposing stance.

Beverly Wilkins, affectionately known as Bev the nurse, has a passionate desire to help people not be afraid at the end of life. Her current role is the Congregational Nurse at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Owen Sound, Ontario. As a trained palliative care nurse, she has been in intimate contact with many patients going through their final stage of life. In her experience, most people fear two things as they near their end of life: pain and suffering, and the unknown

of what is beyond. Her passion is to support people with these fears through end-of-life care and spiritual support.

As a Christian, Bev has always believed that there is something beyond, substantiated by an experience she had when she was only 3-years old. Bev was in hospital to have her tonsils removed, confused and in pain she recalls her grandfather appearing in the hospital window, and he said to her, “Hi honey, you are going to be okay.” This provided her with comfort and a sense of tranquility; the next day, her mother came to the hospital room to tell her that her grandfather had passed away the day before. Ever since then, Bev has understood that the spirit is real, and that there is somebody/something there for you when you transition at the end of life.

Through her work as a palliative care nurse and leading grief groups, she has heard countless stories, similar to her own, from people nearing their end of life, and this motivated her to write a book called *Hi God. I'm home. Wow!* She also pointed out that over half the world believes in an afterlife, so supporting people with this fear at the end of life is something she does with ease and awe.

Bev explains, “Whether we call it, Allah, God, The Source or Yahweh, it's something else out there that is bigger than us.” While Bev works in and belongs to the community of the Presbyterian Church, she personally believes in reincarnation and that we do transition somewhere else. She says her belief is more of a universality and that we need to be open-minded. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but she will often ask, “Think about it, do you really think that this is all we get?”

The Presbyterian Church does not have anything set down in doctrine for or against medical assistance in dying, and Bev has supported several people and their families through a MAiD death. She is pleased that this option is available to folks who want it as they near the end, and it often helps relieve the fear of pain and suffering.

Bev did support one patient whose daughter struggled with their choice to have an assisted death because of her own religious beliefs.

Respecting that everyone has their beliefs and opinions about MAID, Bev chose to meet with all the daughters, offer them information about MAID, they prayed, and then had a conversation about honouring her mother's final wishes.

"God instructs us 'to honour thy father and mother' in the Ten Commandments, I believe strongly that we must honour our loved one's final wishes, which in a way, gives them consent to die and move on." She goes on to say, "We owe it to the person who is transitioning, it helps them relinquish the bondage of fear around death, and everyone deserves that at the end."



"Let's relinquish the bondage of fear around dying and instead plan for it with exuberance. Make it a celebration that we did not waste our time here on earth."

Journey for Hope

The Journey for Hope is coming up on September 27, 2025, and teams are signing up from across the country. As we reflect on the last three years of this initiative through which congregations have supported PWS&D's food security work, we're grateful for the dedication of participants and those who have contributed to their journeys.

Darlene Vandermey, who has led the team at Gale Presbyterian Church in Elmira, Ont., each year, reflected in past years: "The Journey for Hope project of global food security is something everyone on the team and all those who donated to Gale Riders earnestly wanted to support. I've always been a very strong believer in PWS&D in general, and Journey for Hope is a way of actively supporting, in addition to monetarily supporting, PWS&D."

Victoria Banfield, captain of Team Lightning Bolt, a group of dedicated cyclists in Markham, Ont., who were involved in biking fundraisers even before the Journey for Hope began, shares: "We really appreciate having the chance to help others in a tangible way. We love supporting PWS&D, knowing how hard they are working to bring about a just and equitable world."

If you haven't yet considered joining the Journey for Hope, now is the perfect time. Here are just a few reasons to participate!

Teams from across Canada have done many activities over the past few years—including walking, biking, and playing board games—in the annual Journey for Hope fundraiser

- By participating in Journey for Hope, you can be part of bringing about a more sustainable, compassionate and just world. The funds raised go towards meeting nutritional needs for those who do not have enough nutritious food to live full, active lives.
- Enjoy being outside this summer and get active as you train for the walk or ride.
- Get to know others in your community by advertising the Journey for Hope in your community's newspaper, at the local library or on the supermarket bulletin board.
- Bring together your congregation to run the event, enjoying fellowship as you do so. Opportunities to serve include manning a table to receive donations on Sunday mornings, preparing food for before or after your journey, and participating in the event itself.
- Explore different ways your congregation likes to participate: like games and puzzles! After the 2022 Journey for Hope, the Rev. William Ball, of the Edmonton Lakeland Amblers, recounted: "Most of us gathered at Dayspring Presbyterian Church where people put together as many puzzles as possible in 2 hours, played cribbage, ping-pong and Dungeons and Dragons. Another group set off along the picturesque White Mud Creek Ravine trail."

To learn more about the Journey for Hope and find out how to join the team participating in your area, visit WeRespond.ca/JourneyForHope.