

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S




ISSUE # 279 September 25, 2025

Open Church: Sanctuary
Wednesdays at 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Cancelled until October 15!

Meditation Hour: Sanctuary
Wednesdays at 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Cancelled until October 15!

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

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

 **THE LINK:** Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! The deadline for submissions is the last Sunday of every month. To contact the editor, or to submit your contributions, please email: thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca.

Announcements

Learn from our past

Truth & Reconciliation Week 2025
September 22-26

Register at trw-svr.nctr.ca


#TruthandReconciliationWeek



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA





ORANGE SHIRT DAY: On Tuesday, September 30, We honour Survivors of residential schools, children who died and members of their families. The Church has committed itself to the ongoing work of responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation. To purchase a locally made orange shirt please go [HERE](#).


 **MUSTARD SEED FUNDRAISER:** Help feed hungry families in Victoria! Give generously to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's fundraiser in support of the [Mustard Seed Street Church's](#) food bank this fall.

→ **CASH:** Please put your cash or cheques in the donation envelope available at our Sunday services and remember to label the envelope as 'Mustard Seed'.

→ **E-TRANSFER:** Please send your e-transfer donations to treasurer@standrewsvictoria.ca and remember to include 'Mustard Seed' in the description.

 **MUSIC OUTREACH GUITAR RECITAL:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on Sunday, November 23 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. An afternoon of music from guitar students from the studio of Simon Fairintosh at the UVic School of Music. Entrance is by donation and everyone is welcome.

 **MUSIC OUTREACH CELLO RECITAL:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on Sunday, November 30 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. An afternoon of music from cello students from the studio of Pam Highbaugh-Aloni at the UVic School of Music. Entrance is by donation and everyone is welcome.

 **MUSIC OUTREACH VIOLIN RECITAL:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on Saturday December 6 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. An afternoon of music from violin students from the studio of Ann Elliott-Goldschmid at the UVic School of Music. Entrance is by donation and everyone is welcome.



Social Action Spotlight

Poverty and Official Development Assistance

In January 2025, the President of the United States announced a 90 percent freeze on all US foreign aid, with few exceptions. Most of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, in countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and others, were immediately cut off from US aid. Forty percent of the funding for global health disappeared overnight.

Some countries like the UK, Sweden, Germany and Belgium had already started making cuts to aid, but none like those made by the United States. When people lose access to medications that prevent them from dying from AIDS, when children do not receive vaccinations that protect against infectious diseases, when refugee camps cannot provide food and clean water to people, their chances of survival are drastically reduced and, for many, this is a death sentence. A recent study concludes that these cuts may lead to more than 14 million additional deaths globally by

2030, including more than 4.5 million children under the age of five.

While progress to eliminate poverty and hunger in the world has been slow, it has been real. Through the Sustainable Development Goals, organizations like PWS&D have been advocating for governments to increase funding for international development assistance. While the target for this funding is 0.7% of the GDP, Canada has never reached much more than half of that goal. The Canadian government has not currently indicated cuts to international assistance, but there is a need to increase funding, not just maintain it.

Questions for reflection:

1. The narrative about fighting poverty is sometimes presented as an either/or choice. We know that Canada can and should be assisting marginalized people both in Canada and around the world. How can we help combat this either/or narrative?
2. What is your vision of the sort of society that offers a more just response to addressing global poverty issues.

What can we do?

- Participate in Canadian Foodgrains Bank's "Canadian Aid Makes a Difference" campaign. Send a postcard to let the Canadian government know that you care about funding for overseas development assistance. Learn more at foodgrainsbank.ca/oda.

Learn more:

- Learn more about what overseas development assistance is and the difference it makes. Watch and share this video: bit.ly/3Iq8BNR
- Read more about the Sustainable Development Goals and what they are attempting to achieve at sdgs.un.org/goals
- Visit the PCC's Social Action Hub to learn more about what the church has said and done in response to issues of global poverty: bit.ly/social_action_hub-foreign_aid