

# THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 287 November 20, 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

Thursdays at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

## Worship Service: Sanctuary

Sundays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

## From the Pulpit

This Sunday is the final day of the Christian year, before we begin again with Advent. For some time now we have been journeying through the season known as "Ordinary Time" or simply "The Season after Pentecost." Today, that season comes to an end with a special day called, Reign of Christ Sunday or Christ the King Sunday, emphasizing the kingship of Christ and his reign over all creation.

The traditional Scripture Passage for this Sunday is Matthew 25:31-46, where Jesus tells us that he is mystically present in every human being, so that when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked or visit the sick, we are actually performing these services for Christ ... "as you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me."

This week's sermon considers how to meet the challenge of those words, in a world as big and complicated as ours. For help in solving this problem, Wes Denyer will share the stories and experiences of a friend of his, who has done missionary work in Haiti; as well as listening to the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who was assassinated because he championed the cause of the poor and oppressed in that Central American country.

- Rev. Wes Denyer

## Music Outreach Concerts



### 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.

## Announcements

 **THE LINK:** Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! Next month's deadline for submissions is **Sunday, November 30th**. To contact the editor or make submissions please email: [thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca).

 **FIRST AID REVIEW:** The Activity Room discussion continues every Thursday in November from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm as we continue to look at the First Aid Kits on the church property. Come for coffee and casual discussion.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Wishing you the hope,  
peace, joy and love of  
Christ this Christmas

## Advent & Christmas

**WARM TOES:** Let's share the joy of a warm pair of socks with those in need! All sock donations will go to [The Mustard Seed Street Church](#). A donation bin is set up in The Gathering Room to collect socks.

**SHARE THE JOY:** Let's share the joy of a warm meal with those in need! We're collecting monetary donations for [Christmas hampers](#). All donations are in support of [The Mustard Seed Street Church](#). For cash or cheque donations use your regular donor envelope labeled "Share the Joy". For e-transfer donations please send the transfer to [treasurer@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:treasurer@standrewsvictoria.ca) with "Share the Joy" in the comment section.

**SOAP FOR HOPE:** Do you have a hygiene product that don't work for you hiding under your sink? [Soap for Hope](#) can repurpose them to help vulnerable people. We're looking for: **New or gently used:** Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and body lotion. **New or unused:** Deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, incontinence products, menstruation products, lip balm, razors, brushes, and combs. The most needed items are highlighted. You can drop off your donations in the bin by the church office until January. Shannon will transport them to Soap for Hope's warehouse. Thank you for your support!

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** Advent is just around the corner and our sanctuary needs to be decorated for Christmas. We're looking for volunteers to help put up the decorations on Thursday, November 27th, starting at 10:30 am. If you can help, come to the Broughton Street door and join us - tea and coffee will be available. Questions? Call Dorothy R.



**THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on Thursday December 11 at 12:00 pm in the Sanctuary. An afternoon of seasonal choral and instrumental music, as well as sing-along Christmas hymns! Holiday treats and refreshments will be served. Entrance is by donation and everyone is welcome.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Join us for a special Christmas Eve service on Wednesday December 24 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend!

## Community Events

**BOOK LAUNCH:** [VISTA](#) is hosting a Book Launch on November 21 at 7pm at The Church of our Lord. The main speaker is author Jodi Spagur who will be sharing about her new book 'Mend: An invitation from Jesus to Return to Land-Based Repair.' including Knox Presbyterian's Interim Pastor, James Prette, will also be presenting. Tickets and more information is available on [eventbrite](#).

**CHRISTMAS TEA & BAZAAR:** Stop by Knox Presbyterian Church (2964 Richmond Rd.) on November 22 from 1 to 4 pm to lap up some tea, purrr-use the bazaar, and support a great paws - I mean, cause! All proceeds go to the [Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society](#).

**JANE SIBERRY CD RELEASE CONCERT:** Presented by Beacon Ridge Productions on Saturday, 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 please go [HERE](#).



**TEA FOR TUTU:** 'The Gift of the Nutcracker' is presented by Ballet Victoria, November 25, 26, 27 at 2:00 pm in the Kirk Hall. Meet the dancers, enjoy a 45 minute performance, experience the theatre, and enjoy light refreshments after the show! Reserve your FREE seats by email ([tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca](mailto:tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca)) or phone (250-380-6063).

**YULE:** Presented by the Early Music Society of the Islands on Sunday, 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](#).



**NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL:** Join the Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir for our annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7th! Enjoy a warm and cheerful afternoon of traditional Scottish Gaelic music and holiday favourites. There will be tea and light refreshments following the performance. Doors at 1:15 PM. The concert begins at 2:00 PM. At 2964 Tillicum Road, Trinity Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$15 and are available [HERE](#). Please purchase your tickets in advance. Tickets may not be available at the door. Please bring your electronic or printed ticket to the concert.

**HOLIDAY CONCERT:** Join Mike Edel and other musicians from Hollydene Church for an evening of subdued holiday music on December 12 at 7 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church. Tickets can be purchased at [Showpass](#). 'Tears and laughter have a way of getting along,' sings Canadian singer-songwriter Mike Edel on the title track from his 5th full-length-album and documentary '[casseroles & flowers](#).'

**AETHELING:** Presented by Ensemble Laude on Sunday, December 21 at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. A concert of richly woven medieval-inspired works on the theme of children, including the fantastic piece A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, with Keri Lynn Zwicker, harp. Go [HERE](#) for more information as it becomes available.



**A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES:** Presented by Vox Humana on Wednesday, December 24 at 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Go [HERE](#) for more information as it becomes available.

**ANNUAL RECOVERY CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Presented by St. Andrew's and the Recovery Christmas Dinner Committee on Thursday December 25 at 12:00 - 2:00 pm in the Kirk Hall. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a free buffet style Turkey dinner at St. Andrew's Kirk Hall. Email [recoverychristmasdinner@gmail.com](mailto:recoverychristmasdinner@gmail.com) for more information about the event.

**ROBERT BURNS MEMORIAL CONCERT:** Presented by The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir and on January 25 at 2:30 pm in the Kirk Hall. Join us for an afternoon of Scottish entertainment in celebration of Scotland's beloved bard! Go [HERE](#) for more information and tickets as they become available.



## Education Support Changes Lives and Sparks Hope

In Malawi, the Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program (EHAP) is doing more than just treating patients; it's helping to change lives. With support from PWS&D, the program is working to improve the lives of those who need it most, particularly women and girls. Through the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program, the hospital is helping children access education, health care and support. One of those children was Debora Nguloube. This is her story.

"There are four of us in our family, and I am the youngest at 23," shared Debora. Debora was raised by her grandparents when her mom left her at the age of four and her father passed away.

"When I was in primary school, we did not pay school fees. Therefore, it was free, and I found it easy to attend. However, after primary school, I was accepted into two secondary boarding schools, and I had to make a choice. I was excited, but I was also sad because I didn't know where I would get the money for my school fees. I thought life ended here now. But then, Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program (EHAP) came in and helped me," she excitedly shared.

Debora is grateful for the support that helped her continue her education — and hopes her story inspires more girls.

"After secondary school, I enrolled in a public university, the Polytechnic University in Blantyre, to study banking and finance. The program's support didn't just end after I finished secondary school, but I was also supported in university with meals and accommodation. Your support was there for me. I really appreciate it and that's why I'm here today," she expressed with gratitude.

"I saw life becoming easier and I could envision a future for myself, not just for me, but also for my family and the community, because I would open doors, perhaps for others, I could motivate others by inspiring them to realize that, despite our current circumstances, we may be unable to do this on our own, but there are people willing to help us. I am being helped. They can also help you."



"What I've learned is to be kind— to be kind not just to people so close to you, because you guys never knew about me. You never knew I existed, but you still had a heart to give."

Debora hopes that girls in her community find her story inspiring and hopeful.

"You have done this for my family and done this for my community. People think that if you don't have money, you can't go to school, but now, when they look at me, they say, 'No, I think we're wrong about this.' And me, being a girl, you've done a lot for the community because in my village, they [the girls] don't really value school. As in, most of them haven't gone so far with their education. But now, when they look at me, they get inspired. They say, 'Ah, no, I think we should have gone back to school.' And some are even going back to school. You've done a lot for me and for my family. I'm very grateful," she reflected.

Debora's story illustrates how support and opportunity can change lives. Thanks to the assistance she received, her achievements are creating a ripple effect, inspiring girls in her village to go back to school and keep dreaming big.

Help more children like Debora access education. Click [HERE](#) to donate today.