

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 288 November 27, 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
No Meetings in December
Returns on January 8 2026

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



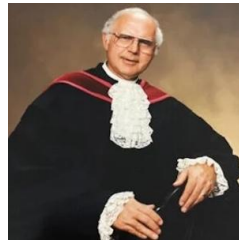
From the Pulpit

On this first Sunday in Advent, the candles and the wreath remind us we are waiting, as we've done year after year, for the Holy Child of Bethlehem to be born among us. But as Advent begins, Scripture also reminds us, we're waiting for something else, the final return of Christ at the end of time - a coming not preceded by candlelight, the sweet smell of pine, and presents accumulating under the tree, but rather, preceded by deep distress among nations.

What does all this mean for us as Christians? Do we spend our time, scanning the horizon for the flaming chariot of Jesus returning to earth; or might there be a better way to live out our expectancy. This week we consider what that might look like.

- Rev. Wes Denyer

Announcements



IN MEMORY: The Rev. Dr. John Allan went Home to be with his Lord on Thursday, November 20, 2025. Dr. Allan was Minister at our Church from 1988 to 2000. Please pray for his wife, Marjorie, and his children Susan and Andrew, and their families. Dr. Allan's Memorial Service will be held Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at McCall Garden's Funeral Home on 4665 Falaise Crescent, Victoria, BC.

IN MEMORY: Jack DeZeeuw passed away on November 25th. Prayers for his wife Terry, and his daughter, Debra, son in law Rick, and son Dan. More information will be forthcoming.

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.

TWASA HOLIDAYS: The last TWASA issue for 2025 will be published on Thursday, December 18th. Please send your submissions in no later than Wednesday December the 17th. The first issue in the new year will be published Thursday, January 9th.

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 with "Share the Joy" in the comment section.

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.

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!



WE ARE ONE!
Outstanding performers commemorate Human Solidarity Day
and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Sun. Nov. 30, 2025 | 2:00 PM
Dave Dunnet Community Theatre, Oak Bay

Hounds of Cuchulain (Celtic Band)
CBC's Gregor Craigie
Kalyna Ukrainian Choir
Caleb Hart (Caribbean)
REACH! All Abilities Performing Co & Children's Chorus

PLUS: Dancers from Canadian College of Performing Arts & Garth Homer "One Voice, Many Stories"

Tickets in advance: \$ 20-\$30
weareone2025.eventbrite.ca

Wheelchair accessible

Proudly produced by West Coast REACH Association
with support from Victoria Foundation,
Norgaard Foundation, Dobinson Family Foundation

A Time Called Advent

When children say, "I can't wait for Christmas," they convey what it means to live in Advent. With joy they are waiting for an event that is good, that has been promised and is now hidden from sight. Children do manage to wait. One way they do this is by sharing in the many preparations for Christmas. Waiting and preparing are the themes of Advent for adults as well. But when did Advent begin? And what can it mean in your life?

Historical Roots of Advent

The calendar year may begin on January 1, but for Christians the Christian year begins with Advent – four weeks before Christmas. Advent is the beginning of a cycle of time that celebrates the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

The church has observed an Advent season for over 15 centuries. It may originally have been a time of instruction for people who were preparing to be baptized on January 6, on Epiphany. History reveals Advent traditions of varying lengths, but our waiting time is now the four Sundays before Christmas.

Finding Meaning in the Tradition

Advent is the time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We recall those who waited and prepared for a promised Christ child: the prophet Isaiah, Mary, his mother, and John the Baptist. We also think about God's promises that are yet to be revealed under the reign of Christ, in "the age to come" or "the day of the Lord." Advent is oriented in both the past and the future.

As we get ready for the birth of Jesus and for the promise that Christ will come again, we use gifts of spiritual preparation: worship, prayer, Singing, Bible study, fellowship (Christmas parties!), and service to others.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. What am I waiting for?
2. Who am I waiting for?
3. How am I preparing?
4. What gives me joy in this season?
5. What might I discover from that?

- Jerry V, Session Clerk

Community Events

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) 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 for more information about the event.



Hope and Education in Pakistan

Twelve-year-old Sapna and her 10-year-old sister Raksha are part of a story that is reshaping their village's future. Not long ago, the girls' school in their village was closed, leaving many without a chance to learn. But everything changed when PWS&D's partner stepped in and reopened the girls' school. From the moment the doors opened, a new chapter began, not just for Sapna and Raksha, but for every girl in the village. Now, every morning, the girls eagerly head to school with bright smiles and hearts full of hope. One of the things they love most is the delicious meals they receive every day at school. Because of these meals, more girls in the village are coming to school. The village has changed because of this project. Enrolment has risen, and the excitement to learn is growing every day. [This Advent season, faithfully respond to help ensure girls have access to education.](#)

Free Christmas Dinners

Nov 29 – 12-3 pm – Delicious Turkey Dinner, Several Bands, Prizes & Kid's Activities at The Bay Street Armory - 715 Bay St, No Tix. Free! 250 953-1575.

Dec 8 – Dec 9 - 5:30-6:45 pm – Fernwood Community Center Holiday Dinner –<https://fernwoodnrg.ca/fernwood-holiday-dinner-join-us-december-8-9-2025/> Kids under 2 free, \$7.50 Adults, \$4.50 kids! 1240 Gladstone St, 250 381-1552. Register: <https://fernwood-neighbourhood-house.tickit.ca/>.

Dec 12 – Opens 6:30pm, Show 7pm- Our Place & CBC - A Christmas Carol - \$15 Adults/ \$7 Kids. Cocoa, Coffee & Patisserie Daniel Cookies. Broad View United 3703 St Aidans St, 250 590-3677. Tix - <https://www.broadviewunited.com/> Or, <https://www.ourplacesociety.com/event/a-christmas-carol/>

Dec 17 – 11:30 am – Our Christmas Lunch – Full Turkey Dinner w/ Dessert - Our Place, 919 Pandora Ave. 250 388-7112.

Dec 18 - 3-5 pm – Traditional Turkey Dinner Potato, Veggies & Stuffing. Cocoa Bar and Cookie Decorating – Alliance Club Youth Empowerment Society, 533 Yates St, Back-Alley Entrance. 250 383-3514. Ages 13 to 19.

Dec 19 – 4:30 pm – Gordy Dodd's Annual Christmas Dinner – Our Place, 919 Pandora 250 388-7112.

The Mustard Seed – Dec 20 - 5-7 pm – Dinner & The Dr Bones Band! Hot Lunch – Daily Mon-Sat @ Noon, Year Round. 625 Queens Ave, 250 953-1575.

Dec 19 – 11:30–1 pm – Turkey Dinner w/ All the Fixings! Also, Dec 19, A Hot Breakfast 7:30-8:30 am – Rainbow Kitchen, 500 Admirals St, 250 384-2069.

Dec 25 – 8-10 am – Christmas Soup - The Soup Kitchen. Doors open at 7:30 am for Coffee. 740 View St, 778 440-7687.



Mission Moment

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service offers an Electronics/Computer training program in the Sabra/Shatilla Palestinian refugee camp in the southern part of Beirut, Lebanon.

Established in 1962, a one-year certificate program of computer assembling and maintenance incorporates both theory and hands-on practical experience.

Teachers try to simplify the material and make it interesting for students who often have only an intermediate level of prior education.

A popular recent addition to the program is the repair of cellular phones.

Equipping young people with skills and vocations that allow them to enter the workforce quickly, thus generating income to support themselves and their families, is especially essential in refugee communities.

