

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 293 January 15, 2026

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


Announcements


 **THANK YOU:** Thanks to all the "undecorating crew" who came out to help last week. Many hands make light work! Join us this week, at 10:30 am in the Gathering Room as we continue our review of 1st aid kits. Look for further Activity Group updates as we plan our spring and summer activities.


- Sheelagh


CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING:


The meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18th after worship service.


 **THE LINK:** Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! Next month's deadline for submissions is **Sunday, January 25th**. To contact the editor or make submissions please email: thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca.

 **PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION:** There are a couple of great articles featuring Knox Presbyterian Church in Sooke in the latest Presbyterian Connection newsletter! [Read](#) 'From Backpacks to Blessings' and 'A Call and an Answer' to find out more.

 **PCC WEBINAR:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 1:00 PM (Eastern). Join Amberlea Presbyterian Church for a practical, encouraging webinar on making Sunday mornings more welcoming for children with autism and other neurodiverse needs. We'll explore ways to support kids in worship and Sunday school, share real-life stories from families, and offer practical tips to help church staff, volunteers, and members implement inclusive practices. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8th after worship service.

 **PCC WEBINAR:** Wednesday, March 25th 6:00 p.m. (Eastern). Anti-Jewish sentiment is an ongoing global issue and a force that generations of Christian churches have grappled with. And, much to our dismay, the church at times has been complicit in perpetuating this sentiment, with devastating results. In light of the PCC's commitment to address and dismantle anti-Judaism we explore one vein of the complicated history of Judaism and Christianity with invited speaker Dr. Patricia Ahearne-Kroll, noted Judaism scholar. Her lecture will expose the role of biblical scholars whose misinformed interpretation of New Testament passages stoked the flames of anti-Judaism. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

 **VIP SUMMER CAMP 2026:** A program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This year's locations and dates are as follows:

- Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park
 - ◆ June 8-12
- Rath Trevor Provincial Park
 - ◆ July 25 - 30
- Rath Trevor Provincial Park
 - ◆ July 30 - August 3

For more information go to our [website](#) or contact the registrar at jermareng@outlook.com.

Community Events

🍷 AROUND THE TABLE: Laura Kavanagh is continuing as a Spiritual Care Provider at UVic in 2026. One program she is involved with is Inclusive Christians: Around the Table. This is an ecumenical communion service hosted by Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United SCP's on Wednesdays at 5:00pm during the university term. The simple service focuses on reading and reflecting on the gospel, prayer, song, silence and sharing bread and wine. While this service is centered on students, all are welcome. After worship everyone is invited to enjoy a meal. **Thanks to members of St. Andrew's and Knox for assisting with meals in January, February, and April!** Thank you for supporting students and Inclusive Christians on campus in this way!

🙏 TAIZÉ PRAYER: Prayer in the style of Taizé resumes WINTER 2026 at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 4049 Gordon Head Road, 6pm on the 3rd Friday of the month: January 16, February 20 and March 20th. Come, you have a place among us. 'Feeling we are not alone can strengthen our life.' www.taize.fr

🇬🇧 ROBERT BURNS MEMORIAL CONCERT: Presented by The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir and on Sunday, 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.

♥ SONGS OF LOVE & PEACE: A healing, multilingual musical journey across the globe with world-renowned cellist, composer, and vocalist Ian Maksin on Sunday, February 14 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. For more information and tickets please go [HERE](#).

🏠 THE VILLAGE CHOIR SPRING CONCERT: Join The Village Choir for their spring concert on Saturday, February 28th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Go [HERE](#) for more information as it becomes available.

🌸 TEA FOR TUTU 'RITE OF SPRING': March 10, 11, 12 at 2pm in the Kirk Hall. Reserve your free seats! Email: tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca

Phone: 250-380-6063. The performance includes an introduction to the dancers, the story of the work to be performed, a 45 minute dance performance, the opportunity for seniors, parents, and young children to enjoy the friendly, intimate atmosphere of the theatre, tea, coffee, and cookies offered while mingling with the dancers after the show.

🎵 MUSIC OUTREACH CONCERTS: Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on Sunday, March 8th & 15th at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. More information will be available soon!



Mission Moment

In July of 2025, with support from Presbyterians Sharing, two active young adults in The Presbyterian Church in Canada attended the Starpoint Youth Festival, a biennial five-day event hosted by the Reformed Church in Hungary. Today, Christian youth spaces can feel scattered and isolated, and Starpoint provides an environment for youth to congregate and spiritually grow in community. Over 3000 participants from over nine countries gathered for worship, discussions about mental health, and recreational activities and concerts. The two young adults returned from Hungary renewed as Christians who aim to share what they have learned in their local communities.



PWS&D Sunday

On PWS&D Sunday, February 1st 2026, we recognize the work that Presbyterian World Service & Development is doing to support marginalized communities around the world.

PWS&D aims to build a more sustainable, compassionate and just world. We pray for our global brothers and sisters who are struggling with basic access to adequate food and shelter.

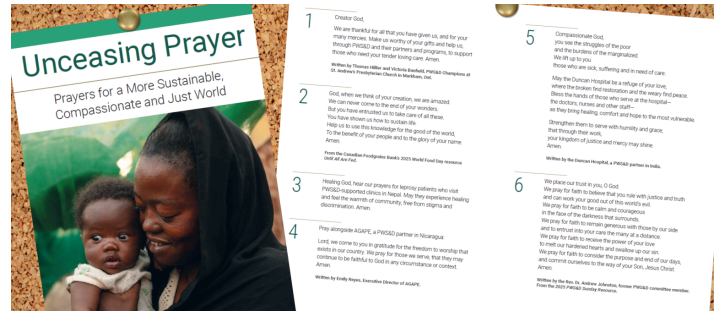
Donations can be made to PWS&D by cheque, e-transfer, or cash in your church envelopes, indicating PWS&D.



We will be encouraging donations to Somalia and Sudan during the month of February.

More information can be found @ <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd>

- Patti Jackson, Mission & Outreach



Unceasing Prayer

A follow-up to the well-loved *Overflowing* prayer guide, released for PWS&D's 75th anniversary, PWS&D has launched a new resource *Unceasing Prayer: Prayers for a More Sustainable, Compassionate and Just World*. In this guide, you'll find prayers for specific PWS&D programs and emergency responses, prayers from PWS&D's global partners and ecumenical coalitions, prayers written by PWS&D Champions and committee members, and prayers taken from the Bible or the Book of Praise. *Unceasing Prayer* is well-suited for times of worship with your congregation or at home.

Unceasing Prayer is available [to order here](#) or [for download here](#).

Bookmarks to go along with the prayer guide may also be ordered [here](#).

Save the Date! We will be hosting a launch event for *Unceasing Prayer* on February 4, 2026.

[RSVP here](#) for the 3 p.m. launch.

[RSVP here](#) for the 7 p.m. launch.

Questions? Email Emma Goldstein at egoldstein@presbyterian.ca



How a Sewing Machine Changed a Life

This story was written by Duncan Hospital, PWS&D's partner in India, with minor additions and edits by PWS&D Communications.

In the village of Karkhola, in the state of Bihar, India, 18-year-old Raunak Khatun's life has been filled with challenges.

Raunak's mother died of pneumonia while giving birth to her. After her mother's death, her grandmother cared for her, becoming her primary source of love and support. A few years later, her father remarried, and soon after, Raunak faced another difficult change. Her stepmother forced both Raunak and her grandmother out of their home and her father stopped providing financial support.

Raunak and her grandmother, left homeless, built a modest shelter on government land and supported themselves through begging and daily farm labour. Despite these hardships, her grandmother stayed firm in her belief that Raunak deserved a better future.



One day, during a community awareness session organized by PWS&D-supported Karuna Project, the project team announced opportunities for girls who were out of school to receive vocational training in tailoring and beautician courses. Raunak and her

grandmother were present that day. Motivated by the team's encouragement and her grandmother's unwavering support, Raunak enrolled in the tailoring course.

Raunak now earns a living through tailoring orders.



After four months of training, Raunak successfully finished her course and started sewing clothes for others in her village. However, she faced a major challenge — she didn't have her own sewing machine. Recognizing her dedication and potential, the Karuna Project supported her through an income generating initiative to buy her own sewing machine.

That small gesture turned out to be a huge turning point in her life.

Raunak soon started receiving tailoring orders from people in her community. She now makes an income, which helps her support herself and her grandmother. She also trains two other girls from her community, passing on the skills she learned.

"Karuna taught me an art and gave me a sewing machine that changed my life. Now I can earn and take care of my grandmother. I want to help other girls like me learn this skill and stand on their own feet," she shares.

Her grandmother also happily shares that the Karuna Project not only gave Raunak a valuable skill but also brought dignity and pride into both of their lives.

Today, Raunak is an independent young woman, respected in her community for her hard work and talent.