

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 294 January 22, 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


From the Pulpit

This Sunday we look to the story of Jesus calling the first disciples, as we find it in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus invites Peter, James, Andrew and John to follow him after he helps them land an amazing catch of fish in the Sea of Galilee. How does Peter respond to these events and the invitation of Jesus? We explore Peter's dilemma in this week's sermon: Should Peter invite Jesus to join them in the "fishing business," or should Peter abandon the fish and follow Jesus?

- The Rev. Wes Denyer

Announcements

 **IN MEMORY:** The Hardwicke family regrets to announce the passing of Audrey Anne Hardwicke on January 10, 2026. Audrey was just shy of 100 years young. Her Funeral Service took place on Monday, January 19, 2026 at Knox Presbyterian Church with Rev. Wes Denyer officiating. Please keep Audrey's children Elizabeth, Diane and Roger and their families in your prayers.

 **WEEK OF PRAYER:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service will be held at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, January 25 at 4 pm. The Reverend Wes Denyer will be preaching the sermon at this service.

 **ELECTION OF ELDERS:** Session has

received two nominations for elders as we were seeking three new elders. They are Sheelagh Garson, a retired Elder and Mark Alchuk a retired member who joined us from Toronto last June. Mark has been very supportive of the work at St Andrew's since his arrival. Following Presbyterian protocol in the calling of nominations over three Sundays, Session has put forward these names for the decision of the professing members of St Andrew's in their election. This is taking place over two Sundays with ballots available from the office or at church on Sunday. They are to be returned by Sunday February 1st on either the collection plate or at the office or clerk.


- Jerry Verwey Session Clerk


ELECTION 2/2


Sheelagh Garson

Mark Alchuck

Name: _____

 **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.


 **FIRST AID:** The Activity Group has been updating our First Aid kits! You can now find new kits in the Narthex, The Gathering Room, the Kirk Hall kitchen, and the Church Office.

 **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. We will be encouraging donations to Somalia and Sudan during the month of February. Donations can be made to PWS&D by cheque, e-transfer, or cash in your church envelopes, indicating PWS&D. More information can be found [HERE](#).


- Patti Jackson, Mission & Outreach


 **GOODWIN & DUNDAS FUNDRAISER:** Dawn Goodwin and Stuart Dundas, members of the


Presbyterian Community, were involved in a motor vehicle accident on January 10th. You can read more about the accident [here](#). The family is raising funds to help with their recovery - if you are able to, please [donate here](#).

 **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 AGM meeting for our congregation will be held on Sunday, March 8th after Worship Service.

 **MUSIC OUTREACH CONCERTS:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on Sunday, March 8th, 15th, and 29th at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. More information will be available soon!


 **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
- Rathtrevor Provincial Park
 - ◆ July 25 - 30
- Rathtrevor 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:** an ecumenical communion service hosted by Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United SCP's on Wednesdays at 5 pm 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.

 **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.



Robbie Burns Potluck
Sun. February 1
Prospect Lake Hall


*Join friends and neighbours for
an evening in honour of the Bard
featuring
The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir*

Doors Open 5 pm
Dinner 5:30 pm
Revelry to follow
Tartan encouraged

Haggis & sausage provided
Bring a potluck dish to share
BYOB, BYO dishes & cutlery
Parade of Trifles after dinner
Toonie Toss for prize bottle of Scotch
Entry by \$10-\$20 donation per reveller
www.pldca.com

*Piping in the Haggis
Address to the Haggis
The Selkirk Grace
The Immortal Memory
The Toast to the Lassies
The Reply*



 **SONGS OF LOVE & PEACE:** A healing, multilingual musical journey across the globe with world-renowned cellist, composer, and vocalist

Ian Maksin on Saturday, February 14 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. For more information and tickets please go [HERE](#).

 **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.

 **LOCAL SENIORS DIRECTORIES**: Click below to download the 2025/2026 versions of these local seniors directories.

- [Seniors Serving Seniors Association Capital Region Directory](#)
- [Seniors 101 Greater Victoria Directory](#)

Mission Moment

Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, MB, led by the Rev. Margaret Mullin and the dedicated clerk and Session, continues to grow in numbers despite the many losses experienced by those attending and connected to this special congregation. Meeting each Sunday afternoon in the hall at St. John's Presbyterian Church, this congregation boasts a very large number of children, and the room is filled with music, caring and joy each week. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, as are all eight of the NIMC (National Indigenous Ministry Council) ministries, the connections this ministry has made with its membership provide, as the name suggests, a place of hope and true belonging for its membership.



Coldest Night of the Year

Our Place is hosting a super-fun fundraising event on Saturday, February 28, and we'd love you to join us!

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly walk that directly funds our expanding services. We are joining 200 charities across Canada that are also addressing the same issues.

We need your help to reach our \$140,000 fundraising goal. Our work has grown so much over the past 9 years – the demand is higher than ever! All funds raised in CNOY will be put right here in Our Place Society, helping us serve over half a million nourishing meals every year and provide access to vital services like hot showers, clean clothing, medical care, wellness programs, and recovery support at our downtown community centre.

Participation is easy:

- Register today as a Team Captain, team member or individual
- Choose to walk either 2km or 5km
- Ask your network to support you by donating \$20, \$50 or more

Register Now: cnoy.org/victoriapandora

When you go the extra mile and raise \$150+ (\$75+ if you're under 18) you'll also receive a 2026 limited edition CNOY toque!

Your generosity matters, your fundraising matters, and you matter – both to us and the family members that we serve. We can't do it without you, so please sign up today for the Coldest Night of the Year!

Jesus Shows Us a Non-Violent Way

On one of the days during our visit to Israel and Palestine, we followed the way of Jesus by going to the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized by John. Then we were led by our guide, Yusef, into the wilderness to the Mount of Temptation, where Jesus fasted and was tempted for forty days. Full disclosure, we did not do as Jesus did on that day. Instead of fasting and resisting temptation, we made our way to the Temptation Gallery to pick up some Jericho dates and enjoyed dates dipped in chocolate. And we relaxed by a clean pool rather than going for a dip in the muddy, smelly waters of the Jordan River. While it was a day off for sightseeing, camel rides, and sweets...the check points, "Area A" gates, landmine field, torn up and blocked roads, and the barricaded King Hussein Bridge Border Crossing were all reminders of Israel's control of Palestinian territory that provided yet another day for further reflection of a history and situation that is as murky as the Jordan River.



At the baptismal site on the Jordan River, it is very clear that the river marks a boundary between two sides. Two countries. Jordan and Israel/Palestine. We are in the West Bank, Palestine, but the Baptismal site is under the control of the Israeli state. So, the Israeli and Jordanian flags, the boundary marked by pool buoys, and the Jordanian armed soldier make it clear there are two distinct sides here. But in between this clarity are the unclear waters of the Jordan.

In the ongoing conflict of Israel with Palestine, the trauma of the Holocaust and the October 7 attack are brought to our attention. Yet, in

between, is a long and violent history: the 1947 United Nations partition, the 1948 Nakba (meaning "catastrophe"), the Six-Day War of '67, the Yom Kippur War in 1973, the first and second Intifada, the Oslo Accords, the Passover Massacre, the building the wall, the 2008 Israel attack on Gaza, several other attempts at peace, and countless acts of violence.



What grabs our attention in the news are the acts of extremists, those of Hamas attacking Israelis, the anti-Jewish terrorist attack at Bondi Beach, Australia, the daily anti-Palestinian settler attacks, which members of Rabbis for Human Rights have described as "Jewish terrorism". Caught in between are the Muslims, Jews, and Christians navigating daily life, longing for peace, grappling with loss and grief, while in the West, we debate terms, history, or how to describe the situation on social media.

Reality does not give us two clear sides, Israel versus Palestine, as though equal participants in a war. Jewish American author, Sarah Schulman, writing about Palestine and Israel after October 7 in her book, *The Fantasy and Necessity of Solidarity*, comments on the use of "nonsensical, meaningless phrases like 'two sides' and 'both sides' as if they were functional concepts."

Reality is often complex, multi-faceted, and unclear, like the river Jordan. Yet Jesus did not get baptised by John in a clear pool of water. He was baptised among us in the murky reality of our world and then set his face towards the conflicted city of Jerusalem. Jesus enters the unclear liminal space to be among us in between the political and religious violent extremes to reveal another non-violent way.