

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 295 January 29, 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's sermon is entitled, "The Problem with the Beatitudes. In the Gospel of Matthew we find a small section of the teachings of Jesus called the Beatitudes at the very beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. I need to tell you, this is a very unusual beginning. It begins with a word of blessing - a beatitude. It's sometimes called a benediction. It's a word of God's favour. And so, the instruction of Jesus as to how we should live in the presence of God begins with a blessing. It's a strange way to begin instruction on how people are to live, and so, many people have trouble hearing this blessing. Even though it's said by Jesus - they have trouble hearing it. This Sunday we'll explore why that may be the case.

- The Rev. Wes Denyer

Announcements

SUSPICIOUS EMAILS: We've learned that fraudulent emails are circulating, with scammers impersonating church staff and asking for digital versions of our membership directory. **Please remember that our directory contains private information and should never be distributed.** Don't send electronic or physical copies to anyone under any circumstances. If you get any requests for the directory that appear questionable or out of the ordinary, ignore them

and alert us immediately. We appreciate your cooperation in protecting our members' personal information.

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.

ACTIVITY GROUP COLLECTION: Time to check your closets and cupboards! For February and March the Activity Group will be collecting any, or all, of the following for delivery to [Compassionate Resource Warehouse](#) for containers destined for overseas. Bring your donations on Sundays, Thursday mornings, or drop off at the office during office hours.

Here's what is needed:


- men's dress shirts
- belts
- men's neckties
- wallets/ change purses
- bars of soap
- towels, facecloths, dishcloths
- spools of thread
- toothpaste/ toothbrushes
- small scissors
- coloring books, activity books

Many thanks for your help!

- Sheelagh Garson

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

 **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: _____


 **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.](#)

 **THE LINK:** Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! Next month's deadline for submissions is **Sunday, February 22nd**. To contact the editor or make submissions please email: thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca.

 **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 at 3:00 pm and March 15th, 22nd, 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), Rath Trevor Provincial Park (July 25 - 30), and 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

♥ **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 2:00 pm 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.

🇨🇦 **PODIUM POP-UP CONCERTS:** Some [Podium](#) 'pop-up' choral concerts will take place in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary from 10 am - 5 pm on May 14th, 15th, and 16th. They are short and informal performances given by choirs from across the country! More information will be available soon.



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



Memory Café

Where Memories Spark Joy!

A social gathering for care partners and persons with memory loss



- ✓ A supportive community
- ✓ Make friendships with others who understand
- ✓ Participate in arts & creativity
- ✓ Laugh and learn

LOCATION:
New Horizons James Bay
234 Menzies, Victoria, BC

DATE & TIME:
Feb 3 or Feb 10, 2026 (Tuesday)
10:00 AM-12:00PM

**YOU'RE INVITED TO
OUR OPEN HOUSE
TRY US OUT FOR FREE!**

Registration required:
limited to 6 couples

Registration Request
Register: debra@memoryconnections.org



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!



Mission Moment

For over 75 years, the church and PWS&D have dedicated themselves to helping the most marginalized people around the world. Through partnerships with our global partners and ecumenical networks and coalitions, we are helping create change within our shared global community. Together, we are working to restore dignity, ease suffering, and empower communities to thrive through cooperation. Guided by our faith, we are called to stand beside those we serve—advocating for equality, sustainability, human dignity, peace and care for God's creation. Together, we are working toward a future that is sustainable, compassionate, and just.