

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 297 February 12, 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

 **IN MEMORY:** We regret to inform our congregation that Lucy Stewart passed away on January 26th, 2026. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. More information will be available soon.


 **ACTIVITY GROUP:** Thank you to those who have already brought in their contributions to the Activity Group's Spring collection for [Compassionate Resource Warehouse](#) overseas shipments. That's a great start. The collection will continue for February and March. In case you've lost the list of needed items here it is again:


- Men's neckties
- Men's dress shirts
- Belts
- Wallets, change purses
- Bars of soap, small containers lotion
- Towels - big or small
- Washcloths, dishcloths
- Spools of thread
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Small scissors, nailclippers
- Coloring books, activity books

Bring your donations on Sundays, there's a basket inside at the front door, drop off at the office, or join us on Thursday mornings and share a coffee and a chat.


 **EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF:** PWS&D, in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Development and Peace and local partners in Sudan and Somalia are supporting an emergency nutrition project. Both Sudan and Somalia are facing a severe humanitarian crisis with children especially in need of urgent aid. We continue to pray for peace in both of these countries and for our global brothers and sisters who struggle with daily basic needs such as shelter, food, basic medical care and food. [Each and every donation is greatly appreciated.](#)

-Patti Jackson, Mission & Outreach

 **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.

 **THE ELIXIR OF SONG:** A mini-spa afternoon for the aging voice presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program and the [RCCO](#). All are welcome for a time of vocal pampering to help improve tuning, breath control, and vocal production. Sunday March 7 from 1 - 4 pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The event is free, however, registration is required by March 4th! For more information please contact rcco.victoria.news@gmail.com

 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The AGM meeting for our congregation will be held on Sunday, March 8th after Worship Service.

 **SPRING CONCERTS:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program in partnership with UVic School of Music. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! Everyone is welcome to attend.

● **CELLO CONCERT:** On Sunday, March 8th at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. Cello students from the studio of Pamela Highbaugh Aloni, Associate Professor, UVIC School of Music.

● **GUITAR CONCERT:** On Sunday, March 15th at 2 pm in the Sanctuary. Guitar students from the classes of Simon Farintosh, Instructor, UVIC School of Music

- **CHAMBER & VIOLA CONCERT:** On Sunday, March 22th at 2 pm in the Sanctuary. Chamber and Viola music from the studio of Joanna Hood, Associate Professor, UVIC School of Music.
- **VIOLIN CONCERT:** On Sunday, March 29th at 2 pm in the Sanctuary: Various violin selections from the classes of Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, Associate Professor, UVIC School of Music.

✳️ **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.](#)

🌲 **SEQUOIA ENSEMBLE CONCERT:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on April 19th in the Sanctuary. More information will be available soon!

🇨🇦 **CHOIRBURST PERFORMANCES:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program in partnership with [Podium 2026](#). In the St. Andrew's Sanctuary from 10 am - 5 pm on May 15th & 16th. These are short and informal performances given by choirs from across the country! More information will be available soon.

👩👧 **VIP WOMEN'S RETREAT 2026:** At Camp Imadene, Mesachie Lake, Cowichan on April 24 - 26, 2026. Join us for a variety of workshops and worship throughout the weekend! Register before March 16 for \$230 by filling out [THIS FORM](#). For other information please contact vipladiesretreat@gmail.com or 250-668-3299.

🏕️ **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

🌈 **AROUND THE TABLE:** Join 'Inclusive Christians' on Wednesdays, from 5 - 6 pm, at the UVic Multifaith Center, for a simple Christian service of prayer, song, scripture, and contemplation. Our worship is centered around a gospel reading for which we take time to discuss and listen to student interpretations of the text. All are welcome. A free simple dinner is provided following the service. Hosted by the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Spiritual Care Providers. For more information contact the [Rev. Ruth Dantzer](#).

♥️ **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](#).

👤 **COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR:** [Our Place Society](#) is hosting The Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser on February 28th. It is a family-friendly walk that funds our expanding services. [Register your team now!](#)

🌸 **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.



Living with Transfiguration

Most interpretations I have heard or read about the transfiguration of Jesus in the parallel passages in Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, and Luke 9:28-36 revolve around the language of “glory,” “divine radiance,” “splendour,” and “resurrection foreshadowing.”

What I have read little about is the necessity of descent from the mountain and the abrupt plunge into the chaos of humanity’s everyday life. It is generally thought that Jesus was initially part of a sect of Jewish separatists who sought God through dissociation with the rest of the world, only to reject that pathway to life as God’s Son. Many believe that John the Baptist was also part of such a group—he lived in the wilderness, dressed in animal skins and scavenged for food (Mt 3:1-5). The evidence for a Jewish sect of this type in the era of Jesus is apparent in the incredible find of the Dead Sea Scrolls. In addition to the scrolls of the sacred texts of the Hebrew Bible, details of the community’s strict asceticism were uncovered. These were people who believed it was impossible to live as God’s people within the “hopelessly corrupt” Roman Empire.

That same perception, of the corrupt world from which the people of God must withdraw, has driven religious communities for centuries to live segregated existences in search of communion with God. I visited one such place, Skellig Michael, the largest of two Skellig islands, eight miles off the west coast of Ireland. As early as the 6th century CE, monks came to form a monastery, building beehive huts out of stone near the very top of the 718 feet above the sea from which the island emerges. As a visitor, I arrived with six others on a small speedboat that brought us to dock at the base of the island mountain. There were rough stone pathways, each leading upwards. The walk was steep, and several people stopped about halfway up, where a couple of stone benches were fashioned. The view was spectacular from there, but we could just begin to see the huts that still stood near the

peak of the island. It was an arduous and mostly desolate climb, save for the beautiful blue of the ocean all around. Once we reached the huts, abandoned since the 13th century, we could duck inside and marvel at their fortitude over the centuries and through countless storms.

I was reminded that the disciple Peter reacted to the transfiguration of Jesus with a suggestion to build huts on the mountain for Jesus, Moses and Elijah, a notion quickly dispelled by a voice from the cloud (Mk 9:2-8). But, unlike Peter, these monks on Skellig Michael were successful. They built the huts on the mountaintop, and they dwelt there, 700 feet above and 8 miles away from the rest of the world. But after exploring the monks’ huts, we began to ask questions—how did they exist within that stony environment? The scarcity of soil disallowed most traditional crops and livestock. The monks, we learned, had to descend, most every day, to fish, to gather fresh water from the few streams that occasionally flowed down the steep slopes, and to trade their meagre goods with passing ships for grain. So, despite their dogged efforts to avoid the world, descent to engage with it was required even by the monks on Skellig Michael.

If we are watchful, most of us have a few moments of epiphany in our lives. These moments jar us out of the usual repetitive and uninspired motions that are required for our sustenance. An incredible amount of our lives is spent on feeding, cleaning and caring for our bodies. The ancient philosophers recognized this reality, and some groups encouraged their followers to eschew as many of the trappings of physical existence as possible, so that they might focus more on the true reality beyond what is readily seen, touched, and smelled. Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave,” in Book VII of *The Republic*, which Christian theologians often invoke, epitomizes the point of the grayness of life that does not recognize the richness of existence beyond what is experienced by the senses. Occasionally, something happens that allows us to glimpse beyond ordinary sight. The Greek word for this is *apokalyptō*, often translated as “revelation” but literally meaning “uncovering.” The image that comes to mind is that of a curtain being drawn back, only briefly, to expose an entirely unknown view. That quick look behind the curtain changes a person and calls

them to reconceive what they had formerly imagined or left unimagined.

The transfiguration is one of those epiphanic moments, and as we read from the gospels, it was meant to be brief and to shake the participants' perceptions of reality. The point of "seeing beyond" was to descend and to live within the chaotic world, but with the new eyes of one who knows that there is more to life than what is readily seen and heard and touched. The Greek word that gets translated as "transfiguration" is *metamorphoimai*, from which the English noun metamorphosis comes. We generally focus upon the dramatic change of appearance that happens to Jesus in front of the disciples' eyes—gleaming white clothing, shining face as bright as the sun, all within a dazzling light—but the metamorphosis should also occur within the fortunate few who are a party to this look behind the curtain. They should be forever changed from this point on, even as they descend the mountain into the mire and messiness of life.

Dr. Lee Johnson
January 2026



Emergency Relief

Sudan is currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis, with 24.8 million people in need of urgent aid, including 14 million children. The country has experienced significant population displacement, with millions of people—mainly children and women—forced to leave their homes and scatter across various regions; many of them have been displaced multiple times.

People in South Kordofan, including both internally displaced persons and host communities, are facing hunger due to conflict.

PWS&D, in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Development and Peace, and local partner Trócaire Sudan, is supporting an emergency nutrition project in South Kordofan. This response began in October and will continue until March 2026.

The initiative aims to treat children who are moderately acutely malnourished through targeted supplementary feeding programs. Additionally, the project will provide training for members of the mother support group in maternal, infant, and young child nutrition practices. Community health volunteers will be trained on integrated community case management. They will follow up with women and children in the nutrition program at their homes to ensure adherence to the nutrition feeding program.

In Somalia, conflict and insecurity are exacerbating an already dire humanitarian crisis. Armed conflict and tensions in Dollow, Luuq, and Balad-hawa have displaced thousands of people and disrupted the delivery of essential services. In Luuq, inter-clan strife has led to the displacement of 45,000 people as well as the destruction of the Warata market, impacting livelihoods and worsening food insecurity. Almost two million children are suffering from acute malnutrition, including almost half a million who are likely to be severely malnourished.

PWS&D, in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Development and Peace and local partner Trócaire Somalia, is implementing a project to prevent acute malnutrition in the Gedo region of Somalia. The project is providing treatment for individuals with acute malnutrition and implementing community-based activities, including door-to-door screening and referrals, counselling sessions, one-on-one sessions, and sessions covering key topics such as exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and hygiene.

[Read how Bishar was able to access critical food assistance.](#)

These projects cover only a small portion of a wide range of needs. [To help us respond, please click here to donate.](#)