

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 299 February 26, 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

Minister's Message

This Sunday's sermon is called, "*This Sermon Could Ruin Your Life*," as we consider the transformative power of Christian faith. We read the story of the late-night visit of Nicodemus to Jesus from the Gospel of John, and the Apostle Paul's exhortation in Romans to be "transformed by the renewing of your minds." It emphasizes that true Christian faith is not about conforming to societal expectations but about daring to live out Christ's teachings, even when it may disrupt our life. Is it possible for us to embrace radical Christian transformation, learning to use our gifts and abilities for the service of God and neighbour, and to recognize that even small acts of love can change the world?

- Rev. Wes Denyer

Letter to the Congregation

St. Andrew's 2025 Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday, March 8, 2026, in the Sanctuary following Worship.

Dear Friends,

This is an important meeting for St. Andrew's; we value your input regarding Church decisions and hope that you will be able to attend the meeting in person.

If you have questions but are unable to attend in person, please phone the Church Office and we

will make sure that someone calls you to answer your question.

Following Worship, please take a few minutes to get a coffee in The Gathering Room and return to the Sanctuary for the important Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Annual Report: You have received a copy of the Annual Report 2025 starting February 19th via our Thursday e-Communications; the Annual Report can also be accessed on the St. Andrew's website from February 19, 2026 on. Hard copies will be available on February 22nd and March 1st as well as the day of the AGM. We encourage you to ask questions prior to the meeting by either:

- phoning the Church Office (250 384 5734) and speaking with our Church Administrator, Shannon.
- emailing the Session Clerk at session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca so they can find someone to answer your question and make sure you get a reply.

AGENDA

Constitution

1. Memorial Minute
2. Nomination of Secretary (**Motion**)
3. Approval of the Agenda as presented (**Motion**)
4. Review and approval of the Minutes of '2025 Budget Meeting' – January 26, 2025. (**Motion**)
5. Review and approval of the Minutes of '2024 Annual Meeting' – March 9, 2025 (**Motion**)
6. Review and approval of Committee Reports as presented (**Motion**)
7. Approval Trustees (**Motion**) see Appendix for Names of Trustees.
8. New Business
 - a. Motion for Approval for Mark Alchuk to Become Assistant Treasurer and to be Given Signing Authority.
 - b. The Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria affirm The Future of The Link (see Appendix below)
9. Closing Prayer

APPENDIX

Trustees

The Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria affirm the appointment of the following persons as Trustees for the Congregation:

- Arthur Marcellus
- David McLean
- Dirk Ryneveld
- Jack Reimer

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- The Property Committee** would like to draw to your attention that the Motion made at the October 27, 2024 Congregational Meeting, still stands:

Application for Heritage Fund for Tower Work:

MOTION from October 27, 2024: The Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Victoria, made an application to the Civic Trust for an amount of up to \$107,500.00, for the purpose of support for engaging consultants to assist in the scope of the work proposed and of support of the work undertaken within the guidelines of the heritage incentive program and the parapet improvement program.

- The Future of The Link**


Please be advised that the software used to create the Link will no longer be supported by Microsoft come October 2026.

The Editors of The Link have advised Session at their February 2026 meeting that they are resigning as of June 2026.

Unless there are new volunteers with new software, there will be no Link in the future.


Session is seeking suggestions on how to move forward with The Link in a new way, with new software and a new group of volunteers.


Announcements

 **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.

 **LENTE DEVOTIONAL GUIDE:** "The season of Lent is not about striving harder or proving ourselves worthy, but rather allowing God to create something new within us—a softened heart, a clearer vision, a renewed spirit. As you read these daily reflections, may you find space to breathe, listen, and encounter the God revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who meets us with compassion and calls us toward new life." This is from the introduction to The St Andrew's Hall Lenten Devotional Guide, available for you to download and view [HERE](#). Please contact the church office for a printed copy.


 **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. Laura Kavanagh](#).

 **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 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. **Saturday** 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

 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS:** Daylight savings begins on Sunday, March 8th! Make sure you 'spring ahead' by one hour in the evening on March 7th so you aren't early for church!

 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The AGM for our congregation will be held on Sunday, March 8th after Worship Service. **Reports are due on March 4th.** If you have questions please phone the church office to be put in touch with someone, or email the Session Clerk at session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca.


 **SESSION MEETING:** In person on March 9th at 7:00 pm in The Gathering Room.


 **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.

 **THE LINK:** Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! **April's** deadline for submissions is **Sunday, March 29th.** To contact the editor or make submissions please email: thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca.

 **HOLY WEEK:** Join us in commemorating the final, sacred week of Jesus' life with these special services.

- **Palm Sunday**
 - Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 am
 - With Rev. Wes Denyer
- **Good Friday**
 - Friday, April 3 at 10:30 am
 - With Rev. Wes Denyer
- **Easter Sunday**
 - Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 am
 - Communion Service
 - With Rev. Wes Denyer

 **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.

✳️ **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). *Some details have changed!* For more information go to our [website](#) or contact the registrar at jermareng@gmail.com.

📅 **PRESBYTERY MEETING:** on Tuesday, June 16th in the Sanctuary & the Gathering Room, from 10 am - 12 noon.



Lenten Liturgies

From Despair to Hope in Malawi

Peter Simon is a 56-year-old father of four from Kumbewe Village in Malawi's Balaka district. Like many families in its southern region, Peter's life became more difficult when El Niño-induced droughts and floods affected the country.

"I watched almost all my fields get washed away. The little that was left did not survive," Peter shared. "Farming, which used to sustain my family, was no longer reliable."

As food became scarce and maize prices soared beyond his family's reach, Peter's once stable life began to spiral.

However, a ray of hope emerged through the El Niño Emergency Response Program. With support from PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Peter's family and 1,700 other households received monthly cash transfers to help meet their needs.

"The cash transfer changed everything," Peter said with a smile. "I was able to buy food for my family, pay my children's school fees and slowly rebuild my life. Just look at me now—so healthy!"

This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to bring hope to disaster-stricken families by providing emergency food.