

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 302

March 19, 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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 am

Good Friday: Friday, April 3 at 10:30 am

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 am





From the Pulpit


This Sunday's sermon is entitled "Do You Trust Me," as we contrast belief in God with true trust in God. In the story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead, the sister of Lazarus affirms her belief in Jesus, but doesn't seem to trust Jesus to do what he says – to resurrect Lazarus in the here and now! Is it possible, like Martha, we may believe in theory yet hesitate in crisis? What does it look like in real life to experience trust over belief? The question we may find ourselves asking is, "Do I trust Jesus' power to bring resurrection, healing, and new life, here and now, when I need it; because before our lives come to an end, we're going to need the deep sense of trust and hope we can only find in God.

- Rev. Wes Denyer


Announcements


 **LENTEN STUDY:** Join us for a Lenten Study on March 20th & 30th at 3:30 pm. Experience Visio Divina, a similar practice to Lectio Divina, by meditating on select scripture and artwork. If you would like to attend please RSVP with Colina at 250-418-0730 or email colina.titus@gmail.com for more information.


 **LENTEN 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.


 **ACTIVITY GROUP:** The shipment for [Compassionate Resource Warehouse](#) headed to Ethiopia at the end of the month is in urgent need of reusable, grocery type bags. Ethiopia has very recently instituted a ban on single use plastic bags so alternative packaging is required. If you have spare bags please drop them in the baskets in the narthex. Thank you!


 **CHAMBER & VIOLA SPRING CONCERT:** 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. 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 SPRING CONCERT:** 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. 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.

 **SESSION MEETING:** The next in-person meeting is on Monday, April 13, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.


 **WANDERLUST** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on April 19th in the Sanctuary at 2 PM. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! [The Sequoia Vocal Ensemble](#) is a small, local a capella choir directed by Eva Smith, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Choral Scholar. Join us for 'Wanderlust', an afternoon of music on the theme of wandering.


 **TEA FOR TUTU 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND':** May 5, 6, 7 at 2:00 pm in the Kirk Hall. Reserve your free seats - email tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca or phone 250-380-6063. For more information about the program go [HERE](#).

 **CHOIRBURST CONCESSION:** As part of the Choirburst event, St. Andrew's would like to offer a concession stand for audience members and participants. The stand will be stocked with prepackaged snacks and drinks. We need volunteers to help with the stand on May 15 & 16 from 11 AM to 3 PM. If you can help please contact Sheelagh at 250-385-5157 or leave a message at the office at 250-384-5734.

 **CHOIRBURST:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary from 10 am - 6 pm on May 15th & 16th. Local and visiting choirs & singing groups will share their music with the Victoria community! Each group will sing for 20 minutes, creating a vibrant showcase of voices throughout the day. A performance schedule is available at podium2026.ca.

 **PRESBYTERY MEETING:** on Tuesday, June 23 at 10 am in the Sanctuary and Gathering Room of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

 **QUARTET FEST WEST:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on July 5th in the Sanctuary at 2 PM. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! Quartet Fest West is one of the finest chamber music programs in North America! This concert features several participants from this year's festival.

 **SHANNON SAYS GOODBYE:** St. Andrew's administrator, Shannon, will regretfully be leaving us at the end of August. She and her partner will be moving to northern BC to be closer to her family. The search to find a replacement will begin soon. If you have questions please contact Jean Marcellus or Colina Titus.



Lenten Liturgies

Kolan's Journey of Resilience and Transformation: In Ghana, 40-year-old Kolan Lamisi participates in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana's Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program. "I was involved in an accident which resulted in a permanent disability. My husband, after expending so many resources to get me medical attention, got fed up and abandoned me to my fate. I was always indoors and had no source of livelihood. Life was very challenging. The CBR, in partnership with PWS&D, came into my life, and things have never been the same. My life has changed positively. I received mobility devices, including a wheelchair and a tricycle. I was trained and supported to run a shop to generate money. Currently, I earn enough through my business so that I can pay for my basic needs and live happily." This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help build sustainable livelihoods so families and individuals can meet their basic needs.

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. 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](#).

PCC WEBINAR: Wednesday, March 25th 6:00 p.m. (Eastern). Dr. Patricia Ahearne-Kroll, lecture will expose the role of biblical scholars whose misinformed interpretation of New Testament passages stoked the flames of anti-Judaism. [REGISTER HERE](#).

COLLECTIVE 2026: Join us on April 15th at 1:00 pm for an in-depth webinar designed to walk you through everything you need to know about Collective 2026, an event for youth, young adults, and their leaders. [Register here](#).

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@gmail.com.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

- Ezekiel 37:3

When I was an elementary school teacher, I would ask my students ridiculous questions to get their attention. "What colour is an apple? Purple?"

"No, sir! Apples are red!"

It worked in my first-grade class, but by sixth grade, my students would roll their eyes at my antics, saying "yes, sir, you know best."

When God asked Ezekiel if dead bones can live, one can imagine Ezekiel's perfunctory tone in response to God's ridiculous question. "O Lord God, you know." But as he followed God's command to prophesy to the bones in the valley, Ezekiel saw the impossible unfold in front of his eyes: the dry bones, baked white by the sun, soon grew flesh, muscles, and tendons that bound them together, and skin to envelop them like clothing. As Ezekiel continued to prophesy, the four winds brought God's Spirit into these bodies, raising them back to life.

God shows us no scenario is too ridiculous for him. It can be hard to feel hopeful for our world when its problems seem so daunting and our best efforts are all but futile. But God sees when our hope is lost, and God will act to bring life to the world. O Lord God, you know.

God, who works in incredible ways, we ask you to accomplish in the world far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine. Amen.

Aaron Law is a pcc Mdiv student from Hong Kong and Montreal. He is in the first year of studies and a regular participant in the St. Andrew's Hall worshipping community.



Take Action for Cuba

'In the face of the U.S. fuel blockade, Canada must work with other countries to support Cuba. The people of Cuba face a dire humanitarian crisis that has worsened in the wake of the U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to impose tariffs on any nation that exports oil to Cuba. On February 25, the government of Canada announced a further \$8-million contribution to relief efforts, but much more is needed – especially fuel – to ensure aid can reach people in need. Numerous non-governmental organizations including churches and trade unions are doing what they can to help...'

PWS&D is concerned about the humanitarian crisis in Cuba caused by the US embargo and trade restrictions on fuel and other essential supplies. These measures present a significant challenge for the Cuban people to meet their basic needs.

The World Council of Churches and the ACT Alliance have issued [a joint statement](#) urging all governments to reject unilateral coercive measures and to act collectively to uphold the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

The ACT Canada forum has also sent a letter Government of Canada. [Click here to read the letter.](#)

In addition, the Canada-Cuba Solidarity Network has created a letter campaign urging the Canadian government to increase humanitarian efforts and engage in international diplomatic efforts to address the crisis. [Add your voice.](#)