

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 304

April 2, 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

Good Friday: Friday, April 3 at 10:30 am
Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 am



From the Pulpit

For our Good Friday Service the sermon will be titled “*Why Do We Call It Good Friday?*” This is the day on which Jesus was crucified, so why do we call it “Good?” In this sermon, we consider other possible names for Good Friday, and how they might speak to the realities of that day.

On Easter Sunday, the sermon will be titled “*Playing in the Graveyard.*” Cemeteries are associated in our minds with grief and pain. Is it possible that Easter can change our relationship to death, by infusing our lives with new hope?

- Rev. Wes Denyer

Announcements

SPECIAL MUSIC: St. Andrew's Services will feature special music during Holy Week and Easter Sunday! Music Director Susanne, the Choir, the Choral Scholars, the Bell Choir, the Bell Choir Leader Dorothy Reimer, and trumpeter David Barss have been working hard in the past couple of months to share special music chosen specifically for Services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and of course, on Easter Sunday. This Holy Week, let music help tell the story of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection!

LENLEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: 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!

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.

THE LINK: Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! **May's** deadline for submissions is **Sunday, April 26th**. To contact the editor or make submissions please email: thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca.

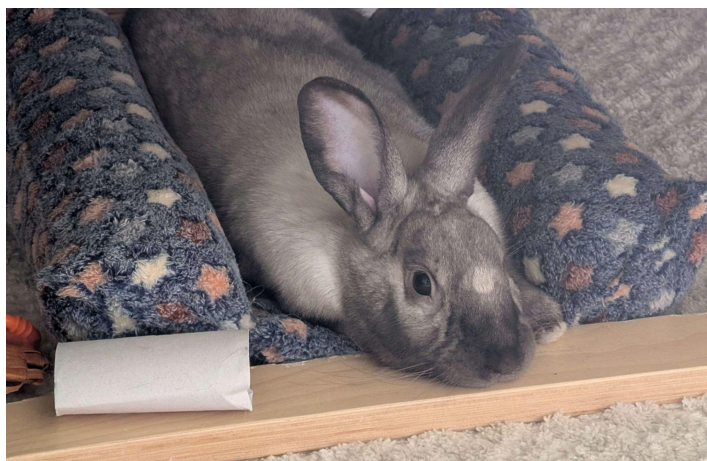
TEA FOR TUTU 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND': May 5, 6, 7 at 2:00 pm in the Kirk Hall. Reserve your free seats - email tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca or phone 250-380-6063. For more information about the program go [HERE](#).

CHOIRBURST: 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! *St. Andrew's choristers are singing at 10:30 am on Saturday, May 16!* 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 The 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.



Juan, one of Shannon's adopted bunnies, would like to wish you a 'hoppy' Easter!


Mission Moment


In Malawi, Debora was raised by her grandparents after her father died and her mother left due to mental health struggles. Unsure how to afford secondary school, she received support to fund her studies and to pay for meals and accommodations at university. "What I've learned is to be kind—to be kind not just to people so close to you, because you guys never knew about me. You never knew I existed, but you still had a heart to give," Debora shares. She hopes her experience motivates girls in her village: "And me, being a girl, when they look at me, they get inspired and some are even going back to school." PWS&D supports the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian's Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program in Malawi in this initiative.


Lenten Liturgies


The Impact of the Village Education Committee: Akim, Thomas, Frizar, Medai, Tamala, Oilier, Martha and Timothy form the Village Education Committee in their community in Malawi. The committee, supported by PWS&D through the Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program, works tirelessly to ensure that every child attends school. Committee members visit families to counsel children who have dropped out, encouraging them and working with their parents to support their return to class. They particularly support girls affected by early marriage or pregnancy, assuring them that education can continue after childbirth and coordinating with teachers and parents to make it possible. After witnessing high rates of school dropouts, the committee tracks attendance and monitors how many children start and complete each term. The committee members came together because they wanted to make a difference. While there are many challenges, the committee remains dedicated and celebrates every child who returns to school. This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help train communities about the importance of education to help break cycles of poverty.


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](#).

 **VISTA:** Free public lectures through the Vancouver Island School of Theology are happening on Thursdays in April and May at 7 PM - venues to be determined. Go [HERE](#) for more information as it becomes available.

 **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](#).

 **PEACE DANCER:** On Saturday, April 19, 2-4 pm in the Oak Bay United Church Sanctuary. An all-ages community storytelling and art event, featuring author Robert "Lucky" Budd. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more information please go [HERE](#).

 **PIPE ORGAN EVENT:** Piano students are invited to attend a morning with Dr. Mark McDonald and the Wolff organ at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, April 25 from 9 AM - 12 PM. Register by April 22 with the Royal Canadian College of Organists [HERE](#).

 **CALLED & FORMED:** Join us Friday and Saturday May 8 and 9 for a conference on theology with Mark Buchanan and Gordon T. Smith through the Vancouver Island School of Theology. [Tickets Available 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@gmail.com.



Choirburst

'Choirburst' is a special [PODIUM 2026](#) event providing local and visiting choirs/singing groups the opportunity to share their music with the Victoria community from 10 am - 6 pm on Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 2026.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary is hosting this festival, and will be open to the public to see these performances. St. Andrew's Music Outreach Program will help to coordinate these performances. More than 30 choirs will be taking part! Performances will take place every half hour - a marathon of choral music.

During each performance, featured groups will have a designated space to display a poster with their image or logo, along with a table for ticket sales, singer recruitment, information sharing, CD sales, etc.

As part of this event, St. Andrew's would like to offer snacks and drinks for sale. This sale would be from 11am - 3pm each day and would consist of prepackaged items and drinks in containers.

If you can help for an hour or two on either day, please contact Sheelagh, 250 385-5157 or leave a message at the office, 250 384-5734. Please check your calendars and see if you can help!

This is a terrific opportunity to share St. Andrew's with hundreds of folks and to hear many talented choral performances.



Social Action Spotlight

Environmental Racism and “Free Prior and Informed Consent”

Environmental racism is a term some people may not have heard a lot about. A form of targeted systemic racism, environmental racism names the reality that sites likely to be environmentally contaminated (toxic waste dumps, heavily polluting industries, etc.) are significantly more likely to be placed near Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities or nations. This form of racism also impacts what regulatory safeguards are developed, who decides them or how they are enforced, how quickly local communities are informed if there is a problem and how fast cleanup of dangers like spills happen. The impacts of environmental racism can be deadly and long lasting; one need look no further than the ongoing issues with mercury poisoning from the Dryden Pulp Mill near Grassy Narrows First Nation and Wabaseemoong Independent Nations or the serious health issues from contaminants in the Morvan Road Landfill experienced by residents of the historically Black Nova Scotian community of Shelbourne.

The church’s ongoing work to recognize and address its complicity in colonialism and systemic racism call it to action. Acknowledging the vital importance of Indigenous and treaty rights, the PCC recognizes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) as the framework for reconciliation. Article 29 of UNDRIP states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands.... and States shall take effective measures

to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of Indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.” The PCC also has a history of advocacy for environmental protections and anti-racism measures dating back decades and *Living Faith* reminds us that the justice to which God calls us involves changing customs and practices that oppress (8.4.2) as well as concern for the well-being of all of life and creation (2.4.1).

Reflection Questions

1. If there are environmentally sensitive projects in your region, are discussions and decisions involving them unfolding in a just and equitable way?
2. Are there “customs and practices that oppress” you can think of that are part of your work or life? How could they be changed?

What can you do?

In June of 2024, legislation was passed to develop a national strategy promoting efforts across Canada to advance environmental justice and to assess, prevent and address environmental racism. The legislation draws on implementing UNDRIP and a national strategy is expected to be published this summer. You can:

- Read about the national strategy being developed [here](https://canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/strategic-policy-branch/environmental-justice): canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/strategic-policy-branch/environmental-justice
- Consider writing your local officials about the strategy to address environmental racism and UNDRIP. Templates are available [at](https://presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy): presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy

