

# THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 305

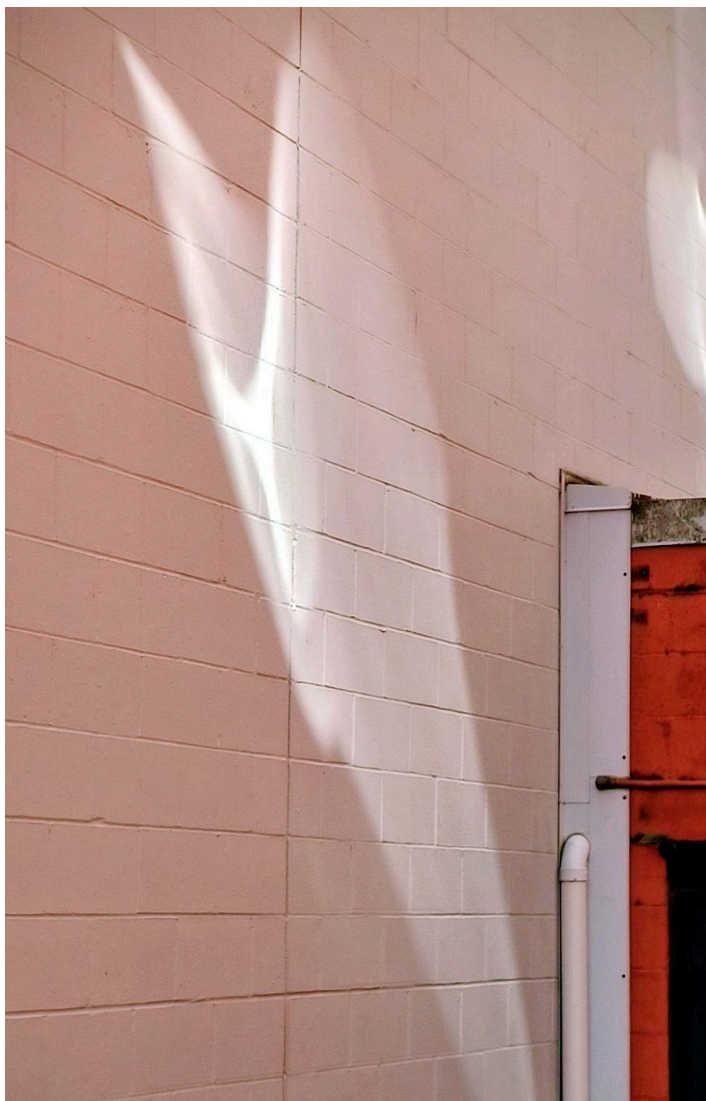
April 9, 2026

**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



The 'angel' that appears every spring in the alley has returned! Photo by Grant Shepard.

## From the Pulpit


This Sunday's sermon is entitled, "*When Worship is Difficult*," as we explore why worship can feel impossible in modern life.


Through a distracted man in church and the story of Doubting Thomas, we consider common barriers to worship: competing desires, busyness, spiritual numbness, and intellectual resistance. We often try to "fix" worship to make it easier but is it possible the real need is for God to come to us.


Perhaps true worship happens when we recognize God's gifts already present—beauty, love, community—and respond, like Thomas, "*My Lord and my God.*"


- Rev. Wes Denyer

## Announcements

 **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!

 **CHOIRBURST VOLUNTEERS UPDATE:** Thank you, to those of you who were planning to help with a snack table on May 15 & 16. Choirburst has decided to NOT have a snack table, so help is NOT required. Choirburst will however still take place, May 15 and 16. Hopefully many folks from St. Andrew's will have an opportunity to enjoy some of the choirs' performances. St. Andrew's choir will be one of the choirs performing.

 **PROPERTY MEETING:** The next in-person meeting is on Monday, April 13, at 9:30 am in The Gathering Room.

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

🌲 **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

# SAANICH EARTH DAY FESTIVAL 2026

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 18  
11am-3pm**

Saanich Municipal  
Hall parking lot,  
just off the  
Lochside Trail.

**CELEBRATE EARTH DAY IN HIGHROCK CAIRN PARK, ESQUIMALT!**

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, April 16th 10am - 2pm  
LOCATION: Highrock Cairn Park, Esquimalt  
SIGN UP: On Meetup: [bit.ly/gvgt-apr16-2025](https://bit.ly/gvgt-apr16-2025)

Make friends & remove invasive plants!  
All ages & abilities welcome! No experience necessary!  
Training, tools, gloves, and snacks provided!



Activity made possible through funding from Esquimalt Local Grants & with direction from Esquimalt Parks staff

# 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](#).

**SPRING WORKSHOPS:** The Inter-Cultural Association's [Spring 2026 Workshop guide](#) is out! The ICA offers a variety of free workshops, skills training and social opportunities that help newcomers to Canada build a strong sense of community, learn new skills and improve their English. If you are not already an ICA client and would like to register for our workshops, or if you have questions about any workshops, please email [workshops@icavictoria.org](mailto:workshops@icavictoria.org).

**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!](#)

**🎤 SING THE NORTH FESTIVAL:** The festival brings together more than 100 singers from across North America for a week of rehearsals, workshops, choral skills sessions, and social events. The Festival culminates in a concert with orchestra in towering Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, August 8 at 2:30 pm. For more information please go [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](mailto:jermareng@gmail.com).

## Mission Moment



World Health Day aims to raise awareness about global health issues and promote actions to improve health and well-being worldwide. However, due to substantial cuts to global health funding in 2025, many communities and individuals have lost access to essential health programs. PWS&D collaborates with partners to support health initiatives in difficult environments. In Haiti, for example, PWS&D, in partnership with the Center for Nutrition and Education for Women & Children, is supporting maternal and infant malnutrition treatment and women's mental health. For Choute Philomène, 34, the program is a welcome initiative. She was glad to receive maternal health support at her home, as she had planned to skip prenatal follow-up during her pregnancy.



## Reflections on Easter, Earth Day & the Season of Creation

Some years, it happens that Easter and Earth Day nearly coincide. You may wonder how time can be found in the busy and joyful celebration of Easter to mark Earth Day, or even whether Earth Day is important enough to warrant attention during the Easter season. Likewise, the Season of Creation which falls months later (from September first to October fourth) can feel too busy to pause and reflect on our place in God's creation. Yet in both (and all!) times of the liturgical year, remembering the importance of caring for this world that God loves is something all Christians are called to do!

The church has long held that the tomb standing empty on that first Easter morning did not simply signal God making all things new for humans alone, but for all creation. Christ, after all, saw fit to walk this earth before his death and resurrection; to be embodied, to feel sand and mud between his toes and taste the fruits creation brought forth. Scripture, additionally, is full of references to the love God has for the earth and its bounty. Indeed, God's longest speech in the Bible comes in three chapters at the end of the book of Job, where God describes the earth and all of creation in minute, loving detail to Job, who has questioned God's wisdom and goodness. The answer God gives shows that from the blade of grass never touched by humans, to the raven's hungry young, to the goat giving birth, (Job 38: 25-27 and 41; 39:1-4) God knows and cares about all creation. God cares about the earth.

God's words to Job are especially important to remember today because the earth is struggling. Pollution mars its air and waters and the soil by which it brings forth fruit. Unchecked economic development and lack of care or protections have wrought environmental devastation and a changing climate at an increasingly alarming rate. Earth Day has become an international, global event not primarily to celebrate in gratitude for creation that is, but to focus efforts to protect creation under threat.

Likewise, the Season of Creation focuses extended attention on protecting God's creation, and recognizing its goodness, as God stated in Genesis. The Season of Creation falls during harvest season when we focus on the fruits we have grown and on preparing for the more difficult winter months of scarcity. Yet these hard winter months lead each year to Easter, the most joyful celebration in the Christian calendar—which comes directly on the heels of the two most difficult days in the Church year: Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On these two days, it seemed all hope was lost. We know that it wasn't, for we stand after the first Easter Sunday, but imagine how Jesus' disciples must have felt that Saturday evening following the crucifixion. Just when they had lost hope, Christ beat the bonds of death and returned again to walk the earth he loved, among the people he loved and died for.

We are not Christ, who could break death and thereby redeem the world. But we are called to be like Christ, to continue his work to the best of our ability. Is not part of that the work of loving, caring for, and protecting the earth that God made a point of showing God's knowledge of and love for? In that spirit—in the joy of Easter, and responding to the call to love and work to renew the earth as God did too, we pray:

*Creator God,  
Your own son's death brought brightest light  
as Christ was raised to make all right  
and with his love the earth renew;  
please grant us grace to do so too.  
Amen*

<https://presbyterian.ca/worship/seasonal-resources/>