

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 306

April 16, 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

 **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!

 **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 cappella 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.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S
MUSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM PRESENTS

WANDERLUST



SUNDAY
APRIL 19, 2026
AT 2:00 PM

The Sequoia Vocal Ensemble is a small, local a cappella choir directed by Eva Smith, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Choral Scholar.

Join us for 'Wanderlust', an afternoon of choral music on the theme of wandering.

ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

924 Douglas Street
250-384-5734
office@standrewsvictoria.ca
www.standrewsvictoria.ca

**DONATIONS
APPRECIATED**

Support our music program
and young musicians!

FREE PARKING

Sundays and holidays
745 Broughton Parkade
next to the Greater
Victoria Public Library.



Sequoia
Vocal Ensemble



🎵 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.

Mission Moment



In 2022, the Rev. Konnie Vissers launched Rooted: Centre for Theology and Eco Justice, creating four urban children's gardens in Guelph and Hamilton through

local congregations. By 2023, summer camp and Sunday School programs integrated eco-theology and gardening, reaching over 90 campers. Last summer, a children's garden at Kortright Presbyterian Church hosted workshops and a five-week class on sustainable gardening, food justice, and creation care. With support from Presbyterians Sharing, upcoming plans include a greenhouse garden and a fruit tree guild. By combining faith, practical skills, and positive coping strategies, this unique mission teaches children to connect with God, care for creation, and support local food security. These programs offer hope, cultivate love for nature, and empower young people to engage in meaningful climate action while taking home free, organic produce to share with their communities.

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.

FREE 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.


🌍 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!](#)

 **THE PANDORA CHORUS SPRING CONCERT:** Join The Pandora Chorus for their Spring Concert on Saturday, May 2 at 7:00 pm in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary. They will be singing songs from our Winter-Spring repertoire, including songs by HUNTR/X, Radiohead, Jacob Collier, Joni Mitchell, Fleet Foxes, Paul Simon, and more! Doors open 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm. Tickets: [\\$20 advance online](#), no ticket needed for children ages 12 and under. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$25 (cash only).

 **THE VILLAGE CHAMBER CHOIR INAUGURAL CONCERT:** Join The Village Chamber Choir on Saturday, May 9 at 2 pm in St. Andrew's Sanctuary. This concert features a more challenging and traditional choral repertoire. From French to Latin, Fauré to Whitacre, classical to pop, it is sure to be a beautiful afternoon of choral favourites. Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#). Ticket Cost: \$20 Adult, \$15 Student, \$10 Child.

 **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 2.30pm. 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.

Fraud Prevention

Fraud and scams affect thousands of Canadians each year. Older adults are often targeted because fraudsters may believe seniors are more trusting, have savings, or may live alone. Fraud can happen to anyone. If you have been targeted, you are not alone.

Scammers often try to create fear or urgency. They may pretend to be someone you trust or claim there is an emergency. The scammers often sound authentic and legitimate. Learning about common scams and knowing what to do can help protect you and your loved ones. [Read about current scam alerts on the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website.](#)

How to Protect Yourself

- Do not share your Social Insurance Number (SIN), banking details, passwords or security codes.
- Government agencies will not ask for payment using gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency.
- Be cautious if someone pressures you to act right away.
- Hang up and call back using an official phone number you find, yourself, from a trusted source.
- Speak with a trusted family member or friend before sending money.
- Use call blocking and email spam filters when possible.

If something feels wrong, pause and check before you act.

If you think you've been targeted, take these steps right away:

1. Stop all contact with the person.
2. Contact your bank or credit union if money was sent or your account was accessed.
3. Report the incident to your local police and The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre ([report online](#) or call 1-888-495-8501)

Even if you did not lose money, reporting helps protect others!



Crow Nesting Season

In the past, folks walking past our church have been dive-bombed by crows nesting nearby. The BC SPCA has some tips for us during crow nesting season to avoid any corvid conflict:

Help! Crows are attacking me!

Have you ever been swooped or dive-bombed by a crow? Although it is intimidating, crows aren't attacking you, they're just being protective parents. Rather than "attacking", this behaviour is simply a warning to stay away from their young. They will swoop down from trees, fly close and may even brush against you. The first time can be unnerving, but once you know, you can take steps to prevent it from happening again.

Why are crows dive-bombing me?

Springtime to early summer is crow nesting season, and the crabby crows you may encounter are just anxious bird parents protecting their young.

Nesting season is a vulnerable time for babies and parents, with eggs and young chicks at risk of predation. This risk is amplified as fledgling birds begin to leave the nest. For their first few days, they can't fully fly and rely heavily on their parents to keep them safe as they hop around on the ground and work their flight muscles.

Once baby crows leave the nest, they spend the first few days fluttering from branch to branch within their nest tree as they build up their muscles and flight skills. However, in cities, we often remove the lower tree branches for safety and visibility. This means these fliers-in-training

end up down on the ground, often in quite exposed areas – which increases the need for vigilant parental protection to ward off danger.

What should I do when crows dive-bomb?

- **Temporarily alter your travel routes** during nesting season to keep a little more distance around known nest sites.
- **Keep moving.** Crow parents are trying to get you to leave the area and lingering or getting closer may prolong instances of dive-bombing.
- **Keep companion animals leashed** and away from nest sites and protective parents.
- **Post friendly warning signs** in high-traffic areas.
- **Carry an umbrella** as a portable visual barrier to add extra distance between you and the concerned parents.

When does the crow nesting season end?

By July, the babies are well on their way to independence and the adults become much calmer at this point.

What do I do if I see a baby crow on the ground?

Many times, the young birds are fine to be left alone. However, if you spot a young crow in a vulnerable area, with an injury, or with no adult birds visible in the area, contact your [local wildlife rehabilitator](#) for assistance or call the BC SPCA Animal Helpline at 1-855-622-7722 for advice.



Wild Animal Rehabilitation Centre (Wild ARC)

Please call ahead to advise staff if you will be bringing an injured, sick or orphaned wild animal to Wild ARC. Thank you.

Animal Helpline (toll free): 1-855-622-7722

Address: 1020 Malloch Rd, Victoria, BC