

# THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 309

May 7, 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



## From the Pulpit

For Mother's Day the sermon title will be "Beyond Male and Female."

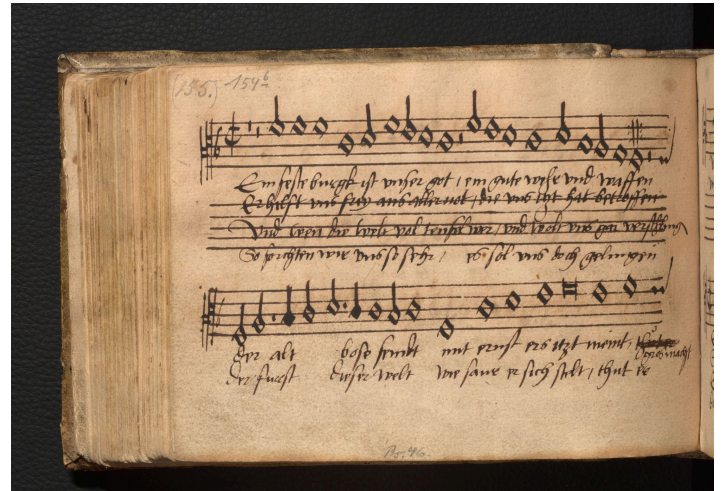
This sermon reflects on the fierce, universal instinct of mothers to protect and provide. It connects that maternal compassion to God, noting biblical imagery that speaks of God's "womb" and comfort "as a mother comforts a child." Because God is spirit, God transcends gender yet includes what we call male and female.

This sermon affirms women's equal dignity and leadership and invites everyone to receive God's motherly comfort.

- Rev. Wes Denyer

## Announcements

**IN MEMORY:** It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Stewart Black. Stewart and his wife, Ellen, were active members of St. Andrew's for many years. Ellen passed away several years ago. Stewart most recently attended Saanich Presbyterian Church. Please keep Iain, Elizabeth and Craig in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their father.



**MUSIC NOTES:** The words for the second hymn on Mother's Day, May 10<sup>th</sup> have been set to the great 16<sup>th</sup> century iconic melody, *Ein Feste Burg* (A Mighty Fortress) by the Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther. The Rev. Judy Rois wrote these words in 2026 during the onslaught of ongoing turbulence in global affairs which has the capacity to elicit deep concern and even throw us off balance. During such challenging times, many of us yearn for an anchor, a guardrail, something to safeguard our faith and well-being. Thus, the words of trust and resilience are set to Luther's strong and majestic tune, which, even without words, has the capacity to anchor our spirit and quell our fears.

**ACTIVITY GROUP:** We are still collecting reusable grocery bags for [Compassionate Resource Warehouse!](#) If you have spare bags please drop them in the baskets in the narthex.

**THE LINK:** Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! **June's** deadline for submissions is **Sunday, May 31st.** To contact the editor or make submissions please email: [thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca).



🎵 **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 full performance schedule is available [HERE](#).

📅 **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.

💍 **JEWELRY & JUMBLE SALE:** Stop by the Gathering Room on September 18 & 19 for St. Andrew's jewelry and jumble sale! All proceeds go towards supplies for the laneway garden. More information will be available soon!

## 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](#).

📄 **FREE VISTA:** Free public lectures through the Vancouver Island School of Theology are happening on Thursdays in April and May at 7 PM. Go [HERE](#) for more information.

🍀 **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](#).

♥ **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](mailto:jermareng@gmail.com).



## Mission Moment

Laxmi Bhandari is a 31-year-old mother of two from Nepal who once lived in social isolation. She didn't attend group activities because she was too shy. Then she was invited to take part in a project that aims to help women and other excluded groups live dignified lives through social and economic empowerment. Laxmi's leadership qualities were quickly recognized, and she was selected as the chair of her Village Women's Group. She now confidently facilitates monthly meetings, encouraging other women to participate. After learning about poultry and goat farming, Laxmi had the confidence to begin pursuing a livelihood in animal husbandry. Today, her rearing of goats, chickens and buffalo is creating a more sustainable income for her family. PWS&D's support of the International Nepal Fellowship helped to make this happen.

## Prayer Partnership

**Thursday, May 7** We pray for Knox College and those graduating in 2026 as they prepare for the Convocation ceremony and events on May 13. We ask for a joyful celebration of academic inquiry and an affirmation of a call to serve.

**Friday, May 8** We give thanks and pray for interim moderators, who provide vital support and assistance to congregations that do not have a minister.

**Saturday, May 9** We pray for seminary students beginning their placements through the Rural and Remote Ministry summer program and ask that they are a blessing to the communities they are called to serve.

**Sunday, May 10 (Christian Family Sunday)** We give thanks for our families and our circles of friends.

**Monday, May 11** We pray for peace, reconciliation and well-being in Sudan, and for the PWS&D partners delivering food assistance to families facing famine.

**Tuesday, May 12** We pray for the many guests visiting Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre. May God bless them with rest, renewal and transformation.

**Wednesday, May 13** We pray for all graduates of the Presbyterian Colleges across Canada. May they remain true to the calling that has brought them this far.

**Thursday, May 14 (Ascension Day)** Holy God, your ascended Son promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. Send your Spirit of wisdom and truth that we may speak your good news and grace, forgiveness, freedom, hope, joy and salvation and work for justice in the world you love.

**Friday, May 15** Gracious God, we thank you for all who offer hope in this troubled world, shining your light through acts of kindness, courage, and love.

SHELBOURNE  
*Community*  
KITCHEN

## SPRING INTO ACTION FOOD DRIVE

**MARCH 24 - MAY 7**

CONSIDER DONATING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS!

- CANNED FISH & MEAT
- CANNED PLAIN BEANS
- PASTA SAUCE
- GRANOLA BARS
- JUICE BOXES

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT:  
101-3787 Cedar Hill Rd. (pink doors)

Tuesdays 4 PM - 7 PM  
Wednesdays 10 AM - 1 PM  
Thursdays 10 AM - 1 PM



## Supporting Mothers & Families

This Mother's Day, consider supporting one of these local organizations that work to support mothers and their families in the Victoria area:

**[1Up Victoria Single Parent Resource Centre:](#)** Offers a Moms Mentorship Program, holiday hampers, a birthday program, and counseling for single mothers.

**[HerWay Home:](#)** Provides health care and social support for pregnant women and parents (children under 3).

**[Birthright Victoria:](#)** Offers free maternity and baby clothing, as well as support for unplanned pregnancies.

**[Victoria Women's Transition House:](#)** Provides emergency shelter and counseling for women with or without children fleeing abuse.

**[The Cridge Centre for the Family:](#)** Offers transitional housing for women and children, family support services, and childcare.

**[Surrounded by Cedar:](#)** Provides child and family services rooted in Indigenous cultural values.

**[Haven Pregnancy Support Clinic:](#)** Provides free, confidential support for unplanned pregnancies, including counseling and resources.

**[Victoria Women in Need Community Cooperative \(WIN\):](#)** Helps women-led families access resources and support.



## Celebrating an Inclusive Mother's Day

More children than ever are being raised by single parents, adoptive parents, same-sex parents, or in blended families. They all deserve respect and support. Some, like LGBTQ families, might feel excluded on Mother's Day. Here's how you can help them feel seen and supported if they want to be included.

Gender-specific events like Mother's Day can feel different to different families. This can be especially hard for teens and younger children, who don't always like to feel different. Some may use Mother's Day as an opportunity to speak up about what their family looks like—but others might keep quiet to blend in with the crowd.

LGBTQ couples may choose to celebrate one, both, or neither parent on Mother's Day. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. Transgender parents may not celebrate according to traditional gender norms. If you have an LGBTQ family in your life and you're unsure about wishing them a happy Mother's Day, ask if and how they celebrate instead of making assumptions.

Building a broader definition of what it means to be a family shouldn't be the responsibility of LGBTQ families alone. We can all help! Friends and family can be supportive of an LGBTQ family by honoring how they choose to spend the holiday.

- *From an Option B article ['Celebrate in a way that includes all lgbtq families'](#).*