

# THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 310

May 14, 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

This Sunday, for Ascension Day, the sermon title is "*Learning to Walk Downhill.*"

On a recent trip to the island of Madeira, the Reverend Wes Denyer learned that walking downhill can be just as hard, if not harder, than climbing up. Often, we use climbing imagery to describe our lives and ambitions, but is it possible our journey is not mainly about rising to spiritual or worldly heights, but about coming down into service, humility, and the ordinary needs of others.

As we read the story of the Ascension of Jesus, we discover that the disciples are called not to keep looking up, but to return to the world below, where the Spirit meets people in compassion, community, and love.

- Rev. Wes Denyer

## Announcements



**CELEBRATION OF LIFE:** It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of [Helen Gans](#), who was a long time member of our congregation. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm at Knox United Church in Parksville. Please RSVP to the celebration, or request a livestream link, from [jmredies@shaw.ca](mailto:jmredies@shaw.ca). In lieu of flowers, she asked that people remember her by donating to [Habitat for Humanity](#) or to the [Canadian Cancer Society](#).



**CELEBRATION OF LIFE:** It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of [Stewart Black](#), who was an active member of St. Andrew's for many years. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 13th 1:30pm at Saanich Presbyterian Church in North Saanich, with Rev Irwin Cunningham officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations are invited to [Canadian Cancer Society](#) or [Cowichan Hospice](#).

**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](#).

**THE GLOBE & FAITH:** Are you interested in how current events and our Christian faith interact? Bring your thoughts and current events to the Rev. Wes Denyer's new weekly discussion group starting May 27th! We will meet every Wednesday in The Gathering Room from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Simple refreshments provided but special treats are always appreciated! Regular attendance is not required - everyone is welcome!. For more information, please contact the Rev. Wes at [wesdenyer@gmail.com](mailto:wesdenyer@gmail.com).

**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).

**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.

## Community Events

**AROUND THE TABLE:** Join 'Inclusive Christians' at 5 pm Wednesdays at the UVic Multifaith Centre for a simple ecumenical communion service that includes scripture, prayer, song, contemplation and conversation. Worship is followed by a modest, free meal provided by local congregations. This special time together is hosted by Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Spiritual Care Providers. Everyone is welcome. Please contact the Rev. Laura Kavanagh at [laurakavanagh@uvic.ca](mailto:laurakavanagh@uvic.ca) for more information or to donate a meal in the fall or winter term.

**FREE LOCALLY ROOTED WORSHIP:** The Vancouver Island School of Theology & the Arts is presenting a series of free public lectures throughout May. On May 21, Knox Presbyterian Church will be hosting Mark Glanville at Knox on May 21st as he talks about 'Locally Rooted Worship.' Come join us at 7pm for this creative and possibly interactive lecture. Go [HERE](#) for more information.

**CELEBRATION OF STORY:** Presented by the Storytellers of Canada and Victoria Storytellers Guild. Join us for a celebration of story on June 5 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. For more information as it becomes available please go [HERE](#).



**Strawberry Tea & Bazaar**

**Saturday, June 20, 2026**  
**1:00-4:00 pm**

- Strawberry shortcake and tea/coffee - \$8 (cash only)
- Treasures
- White Elephant
- Books
- Jewellery
- Arts & crafts
- Plants
- Baking
- Silent Auction

Knox Presbyterian Church  
2964 Richmond Road  
(between Lansdowne & Taylor Street)

In support of the  
**Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society**

Contact:  
[victoriacatrescue@gmail.com](mailto:victoriacatrescue@gmail.com)  
[www.victoriacatrescue.com](http://www.victoriacatrescue.com)

Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society is a charitable organization run by volunteers.  
All donations go toward spay, neuter and medical costs for the animals we assist.

CAT RESCUE

**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).

**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!



## Mission Moment

We are called to serve God with our many gifts. We belong to a denomination that is connected by faith, governance, history and mission. Presbyterians Sharing is one of the ways that Presbyterians across Canada work together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love and hope in our communities, in Canada and around the world. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more than we can on our own.

**Victoria Highland Games 2026**  
Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir

**Saturday May 16**

1:30 PM Waulking Demonstration  
Gaelic Choir Tent

4:00 PM Ceilidh Performance  
Heritage Hub Tent

**Sunday May 17**

**12:45 PM Concert**  
Celtic Music Tent

2:30 PM Waulking Demonstration  
Gaelic Choir Tent

4:00 PM Ceilidh Performance  
Heritage Hub Tent

## Prayer Partnership

**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.

**Saturday, May 16** We pray for M.Div. graduates who follow their call to serve your gospel in the power of the Spirit with the gifts the Spirit provides.

**Sunday, May 17 (International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia)** We pray for an end to all forms of hatred and discrimination that target Two-Spirit and LGBTQI+ people. We commit to working for the collective safety and flourishing of all people.

**Monday, May 18 (Victoria Day)** We pray for Presbyterians in the Atlantic Mission Society as they prepare for annual meetings, and for the Executives as they review the year's activities and look for hope and possibilities for the future.

**Tuesday, May 19** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Mark Glanville, Director of the Centre for Missional Leadership at St. Andrew's Hall, as he leads the CML team in their mission to equip leaders in congregations across the country.

**Wednesday, May 20** We pray for the Change Leadership Team of the General Assembly as it designs and implements expert shared services for human resources, legal, finance and information technology needs, relieving congregations and presbyteries of administrative burdens.

**Thursday, May 21** We pray that God will guide our Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee as they foster understanding and cooperation across traditions. May we work together to build a world where peace and respect flourish.



NORTH AMERICA TURTLE ISLAND  
REGIONAL ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

## NATI-RETI 2026

Where Now for Visible Justice?

# NATI-RETI 2026

### Are you, or do you know, an emerging scholar?

Help us ensure excellent candidates apply for this two week immersive learning program. Please read on and consider if you are called to attend or if there is someone you know that you could invite to apply. The [application](#) deadline is May 31, 2026.

The **North America–Turtle Island Regional Ecumenical Theological Institute (NATI-RETI)** is a fully immersive, residential theological learning program. It will gather 50 emerging Christian leaders from Canada and the United States for two weeks of study, prayer, and contextual encounter.

Taking place **August 3–16, 2026**, in **Detroit and Toronto**, it is the inaugural North American expression of the World Council of Churches' proven Global Ecumenical Theological Institute model.

Under the theme "**Where Now for Visible Justice?**", participants engage six interconnected pillars:

- solidarity with Indigenous communities,
- racism and anti-racism,
- secularism and laicity,
- wealth disparity and poverty,
- climate justice, and
- interfaith dialogue.

Jointly convened by the Canadian Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, with WCC accompaniment, **NATI-RETI forms the next generation of Christian leaders.**



Participants will also have the option to earn academic credit through one of the member schools of the Toronto School of Theology upon completing the program requirements.

All emerging ecumenists and scholars across all areas of knowledge are welcome to apply. More information about participants:

- Currently studying or living in the United States or Canada
- Preference will be given to those within the ages of 21-35, but all emerging ecumenists and scholars are welcome to apply.
- Selected for ecumenical balance, inclusion, and diversity

Scholarships available.

For more information and application go [HERE](#).



**KAIROS Canada**  
faithful action for justice