



# Lent & Easter Newsletter

St. Andrew's United Church  
399 Cassells, North Bay, ON  
705 472-7680  
www.standrews-northbay.ca

2019

Worship Theme ~ 'Through the Labyrinth of Lent'

## Reflection Opportunities During Lent

Don't forget St. Andrew's own **Lenten reflection** offering! Each year members and friends of St. Andrew's share their own personal reflections on familiar Bible passages and loved hymns as we journey together through these Lenten days.

The booklets will be available on the literature tables at both entrances, by Ash Wednesday, March 6th. A donation of \$2 would be appreciated to cover the cost of printing.

## Holy Week Prayer Stations!

Last year, we created and prepared some interactive Prayers Stations for Holy Week. The stations were located throughout our Church sanctuary, in the Chapel and even at the entrance of the Church.

We invited people to journey through the stations, either on their own or with friends. We were pleased to hear very positive feedback and so we decided, "let's do this again!"

Mark your calendars for Holy Week, beginning April 15th. Our space will be open from noon until 1:30 Monday through Thursday as we journey with Jesus.

## Schedule of Events

### Ash Wednesday Service ~ March 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:05

This annual gathering marks the beginning of Lent. Come join us in the Chapel as we remember, 'we are a part of God's holy earth. One with God in blessing and brokenness'.



### March 10th, The First Sunday in Lent

### Lenten Worship ~ Sundays (10:30 a.m.) March 17th to April 7th

Come join us for worship during Lent. Our theme for this year's Lenten Journey is '*Through the Labyrinth of Lent*'.

### Palm/Passion Sunday ~ April 14th



This special service leads us from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and into the story of his arrest and crucifixion.

### Holy Week Gatherings ~ Monday, April 15th to Thursday, Apr. 18th

The will be open from noon until 1 p.m. for personal meditation and self-guided prayer as you make your way through this year's Prayer Stations.

### Maundy Thursday ~ Communion & Potluck ~ Thursday, April 18th



This year you are invited to gather at St. Andrew's with friends from Omond & Trinity United Churches for the annual potluck and communion service. The potluck begins at **6 p.m.**, followed by the service of Communion in the Church gym.

### Citywide Good Friday Service ~ Friday, April 19th



This year's service will take place at **Omond** at **11 a.m.** Participants in the service will include friends from the United Churches in North Bay and surrounding area.

### Easter Sunrise Service ~ Sunday, April 21st at 7:30 a.m.



Usher in this day of Celebration with worship at the corner of McIntyre and Ferguson, in front of the Thomson Building. This annual service includes folks from Trinity, St. Andrew's & Carmichael. *After the service, please join us in Trinity's lower hall for coffee and hot cross buns.*

Sunday, April 21st

Easter Celebration with Communion



*From Jane's desk . . .*

## *"The Labyrinth of Lent"*

This year our Worship committee chose the theme, "The Labyrinth of Lent" as a focus for our journey together in the season of Lent. It seems a very apt focus as we think about the way ahead of us.

Labyrinths have a very long history. One site in Northern India purports to be 4500 years old. Greek mythology includes the story of a part human/part beast Minotaur, who wrecks havoc on the population until the great architect, Daedalus designs and builds a labyrinth, whose sole purpose is to contain the Minotaur at the centre. In later medieval times, stone labyrinths began to show up as a Christian symbol of pilgrimage. Labyrinths were embedded into the pavement of grand cathedrals as places of holy encounter. Labyrinths have made resurgence in many places even here in the north. Perhaps you have walked the one by the lakeside at The St. Joseph's Motherhouse?

Unlike mazes, labyrinths have only one path with no dead ends or false trails. Unlike a maze, the task in walking the labyrinth is not to avoid getting lost, but simply to keep going. If you keep walking, you *will* make it into the centre! That's a wise piece of advice for us as we enter the challenge of these Lenten days and as we think about the turns and twist of our faith journey.

During this season we are invited to *keep walking together* to the centre of our faith, releasing the things that no longer serve us or our world. We empty ourselves in order to receive from the abundance of God's spirit and we return to our beginning point with gratitude for the journey and for companions on the way.

Welcome to the Lent/Easter season here at St. Andrew's. May this time together in Worship lead us on paths of encounter and grace. May we be lead by the Spirit go where we need to go!

