



TOGETHER

a weekly newsletter for members
and friends of the St. Andrews faith community

Sunday, September 12, 2021



Welcome to St. Andrew's!



We are blessed by those who join us both for in-person worship and those who join through our *Youtube* service later in the day or during the week. We hope that you will find a home with our congregation and that you will find blessing in our community. Our Transitional Minister, Lillian, is happy to chat with folks about our community of faith, so feel free to give her a call during church office hours.

Limited In-Person Worship

Please Call to Reserve your place!

As you are all aware, the province of Ontario is still in "Step 3" of the COVID-19 re-opening plan. Limited in-person worship is allowed, but there are some restrictions and practices to follow.

Seating in the Church is limited and you must reserve your seat in advance. To do so, please contact the Church Office by **4 PM the THURSDAY** prior to a Sunday Service with your name, return contact phone number or e-mail, and the number of people in your "bubble" that will be with you.

Contact can be by phone (705-472-7680 and leave a

message if no answer) or by e-mail:

standrewschurch@cogeco.net.

Please Note: it is preferred that you phone during Office Hours (10 am – 2 pm) on Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday. (E-mail and phone reservations will be confirmed by the Church Office by return phone or e-mail)

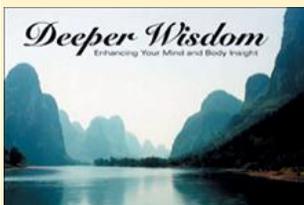
Masking and social distancing are still in effect, and seating will be assigned. Copies of the current protocol are available in the Narthex.

Our Sunday services will continue to be recorded and posted for viewing here, and on St. Andrew's [YouTube Channel](#) later on the Sunday evening.



This Week in Worship

Sunday, Sept. 12th



Lillian is back and ready to engage with the St. Andrew's congregation in the ongoing work of transition. The Season of Creation is a more recent liturgical focus for the weeks in September through to

Thanksgiving. Even the orange liturgical colour for the season gives a visual reminder of fire and flame, the red of passion tempered by the yellow of wisdom, the colour of harvest, fruitfulness, joy and symbolic of endurance and strength.

It is a time as we reap the bounty of creation and observe the turning of the seasons to reflect on the home we all share and receive as a gift from God. This coming Sunday, worship will invite us to contemplate on how God has woven wisdom into the fabric of creation. There is much unfolding that seems beyond our understanding and certainly beyond our control. As people of faith, we yearn for a **"Deeper Wisdom"** to heal our disconnection, our lives, our planet and one another. We need faith filled wisdom if we are to live into the fullness of God's dream. It is perhaps even that kind of deeper wisdom that will lead us to a future vision for ministry.

Next Week in Worship

Sunday, Sept. 19th - Rally Sunday

On September 19th, we will adapt the tradition of Rally Sunday to be virtual and hope you will read the invitation details on how you can participate in rally together through images and messages of being community.

The theme of the third Sunday of Creation asks us to contemplate the ways in which we build a home where peace dwells for all – all people and all creation. The task can seem daunting and downright overwhelming! But each of us can find opportunities for building relationships of understanding; moments when we can extend hospitality to others, particularly those who are vulnerable; and time to learn more about others and our world. The reflection entitled **'Pitching a tent of Peace'**, is inspired by the logo for the Season of Creation 2021 which utilizes the image of Abraham's tent as a place of hospitality, home and peace.



Finance Committee

Our Treasurer **Samantha Gravel** is doing a good job of tracking and attending to our finances but there is only one member on the Finance Committee to advise and support her. Further without a chair for the Finance Committee, there is no one on Church Council to regularly share, along with Samantha, the concerns of this area of our ministry. If you have an interest, or experience in that area of financial management and planning, we need you!



Church Rally Sunday, September 19th

... and send us a digital picture to share!

We may not be out of the pandemic yet, but September is still a time to rally around being community and to think about the blessings of congregational life. So whether you join worship in-person or by YouTube, we hope you will rally around the ways we can be community.

So we are inviting you to send St. Andrew's a **digital picture** and a **one sentence greeting** to share as part of our September 19 service.

This could be a quick **video clip** – or it could be a **still photo** followed by a written greeting.

If you don't have a photo handy, give us **permission** to find a picture of you in our archives to use instead. Send your image/greeting/permission to standrewschurch@cogeco.net and greet your friends at St. Andrew's on the 19th!

We will send an email next week with more details on sharing your presence with us on the 19th.

Images can be jpg, pdf or tiff formats, and videos in Mp4 or M4V formats.

"SEE YOU" THEN!

PS: Pictures in "Landscape" orientation look better projected than pictures in "Portrait" orientation -- but we can work with either!



September Events, Meetings & Activities

- Saturday, Sept 11 - Dedication & Pride Flag raising on lawn of St. Andrew's (2 pm)
- Sunday, Sept. 12 - In-person worship – 10:30 am ~ *Youtube* posted Sunday evening
- Tuesday, Sept 14 - Zoom Council Executive Meeting
- Sunday, Sept 19 - In-person worship – 10:30 am ~ Rally Back Sunday ~ *Youtube* posted Sunday evening
- Tuesday, Sept 21 - Zoom Church Council Meeting
- Sunday, Sept 26 - In-person worship – 10:30 am - Orange Shirt Day - *YouTube* posted Sunday evening
- Thursday, Sept 30 - **Transition Ministry Gathering** for the congregation - please watch for upcoming details



Transition Team Gathering with the St. Andrew's Congregation

Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021 at 7 pm



Details will be shared later this month as we assess whether it will be possible to meet in person or whether we will gather through Zoom. It will be an opportunity to help shape the work of the

VOLUNTEER CORNER

As St. Andrew's begins a new program year the need for additional volunteers is evident. During the pandemic activities have been fewer and it may seem that there is less need for your participation, BUT that assumption is not reflective of the need for folks to engage in the ministry and witness of the congregation. As we move through this time of transition, it is important that we recruit, equip and support the lay leadership of the congregation. Over the coming weeks, this space will feature one or two opportunities for people to offer their gift of service. You are invited to prayerfully consider whether you are being called to the task. Speak to Lillian if you are interested in an opportunity or need more information.



all that's missing is U!

Invitation from Manitou Intentional Learning Community

The Manitou Intentional Learning Community (MILC) invites you to **Pandemic Resiliency: Coping emotionally, spiritually and mentally through the challenges of the Pandemic** on Wednesday, September 22nd from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom.

This workshop, presented by Susan Browning, will explore ways in which the Pandemic has impacted our mental and spiritual health, share practical coping strategies, and look to the future exploring hope and faith in the resilient spirit God has given us.

Susan, a Registered Psychotherapist, a Registered Marriage and Family Therapist and a clinical supervisor for interns, is also an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada currently serving two congregations in the London area.

For more information and to register and receive the Zoom link, email

manitouintentionallearning@gmail.com or contact Gillian Schell 705 671 0185.

If you are not familiar with MILC, you might like to visit our website at [Manitou Intentional Learning Community \(manitoulearningcommunity.com\)](http://Manitou Intentional Learning Community (manitoulearningcommunity.com))

Transition Word of the Week

Transition Team Update *(submitted by Beth Ward)*

During the last congregational gathering online, the Transition Team presented the following questions to those who were present. These questions were an invitation to explore a way forward as well as to determine how the congregation would like us to proceed with the five goals identified during this initial period of transition planning.

The **first question** was: **In what order would you place these goals?** The results in order (first to last) were:

- **nurturing community**
- **identity**
- **communications strategy**
- **administrative processes including finances**
- **governance including leadership development.**

In the **next question** we looked at values .. **“In one or two words, what value most about your membership at St. Andrew’s United Church.”** The values identified by those present included (in no particular order)

social justice

worship

community

caring

fellowship

music

acceptance

affirming

welcoming

committed

volunteering,

desiring change,

openness,

warmth

...and others

*Note: *The responses were open and words were not pre-selected.*

A **follow-up question** was then presented: **“ When you think about your values, what is one way you put them into action? ”** **Volunteering** was the most common response, but others included **service, participation, understanding, giving, acceptance, helping others, worship, and compassion,** amongst others.

The last question, **What has been the most difficult aspect this year?** was an acknowledgement that we are doing very hard work embarking on this journey of change as a community in the midst of a global pandemic. This means that not only are we struggling as a community, but we are also struggling in our own personal lives.

When taken together, the responses in this final question highlight the layered effect of both our individual and community challenges. These include the sense of loss and worry about **lack of community, financial stability** as well as **lack of communication and isolation.** We are not alone in feeling disconnected. Lack of community and isolation taken together represented the hardest part of the last year.

