



# TOGETHER

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



Sunday, December 21, 2025

Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

**THIS SUNDAY - December 21, 2025**

## Advent 4: LOVE

### ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

#### 'A Tale of a Dog and a Donkey'

**Sunday, December 21, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.**

At our service, we will share the retelling  
of the age-old story of Jesus' birth.



**NEXT SUNDAY - December 28, 2025**

### First Sunday after Christmas

The service on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> will be brought to you Online wherever you are this holiday season. We invite you to create a bit of space wherever you are to gather around this special service, whether that be in pj's, or with a warm drink, maybe with others, or maybe with a candle or lights lit nearby. In this service Rev. Caitlin, Ralph, and the choir will share with you a special Christmas story. One of faith, big and small, told around the Christmas tree, as we sing Christmas Carols together. A YouTube link will be sent to all newsletter subscribers - and also posted on the homepage of St. Andrew's website.

### Stewardship Campaign Update & Thank You

Thank you to **John and Wanda Wallace** for sharing their story of giving and commitment to St. Andrew's and the wider United Church in our Stewardship letter. Their openness and faith-filled generosity helped guide and strengthen this campaign.

We are also truly grateful to our **lead donor**, who generously pledged \$10,000 with the invitation for others to match that gift. Thanks to this leadership and to the many who responded, we were able to raise **\$20,000**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported this effort. Your generosity helps us continue to offer a welcoming worship space and sustain the many ministries that make a meaningful difference in the life of our church. Thank you for being part of this shared commitment to St. Andrew's.

**If you haven't yet had the opportunity to submit your donation, there is still time.**

Our sincere thanks also go to the **Finance Committee** for their faithful and thoughtful work throughout the year, and especially for their leadership during the Stewardship Campaign: **Lorie Fairburn (Chair)**, **Karen Gooch (Treasurer)**, **Kim Brownlee (Bookkeeper)**, **Joan Wurster (Memorial Fund)**, **Bill Downey**, and **Rev. Caitlin Smithers**.



**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 14  
2026  
(Morning Service)**





## SUNDAY WORSHIP – INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

\*When church is open and you feel it is unsafe, please stay home and watch the service on YouTube the next day\*

Using safety of our congregation and staff as the criteria, worship may need to be cancelled at times due to extreme weather conditions, power outages, or other unforeseen issues with the church building.

### WHO will make the decision?

The decision will be made by collaboration of the Minister and any two of the following people: the Director of Music, the Chair of Church Council, or the Chair of the Worship Committee.

### WHEN will the decision be made?

A decision to cancel will be made no later than 8:30 am for the Sunday morning service (which begins at 10:30am).

### HOW will the decision be communicated?

Should a scenario occur necessitating the cancellation of worship, every attempt will be made to notify those who regularly attend worship through the following protocol:

- The closure will be announced on our answering machine (705) 472-7680.
- A notice will be sent to all members on our "Reaching Out" newsletter email list.
- It will be displayed on the Church website home page ([standrews-northbay.ca](http://standrews-northbay.ca)).
- A notice will be placed on the St. Andrew's facebook page



## Christmas Pageant 2025

**Sunday, December 21, 2025  
at 10:30 a.m.**

**'A Tale of a Dog and a Donkey'**

**At our service, we will share the retelling  
of the age-old story of Jesus' birth.**

**Monday, December 22, 2025**

*Longest Night  
Service*

**At Trinity United Church at 7pm**

# St. Andrew's United Church WELCOMES YOU !



We are an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada and are committed to building a welcoming and inclusive community. The congregation has also done the training to be a "Blue Umbrella" organization so it is a dementia-friendly place.



There is an elevator, a wheelchair ramp at the Algonquin entrance, and a handicapped-friendly washroom in the Narthex. Assistance is also available for the hearing-impaired. If you would like information, please give us a call during office hours and someone will be pleased to chat with you. 705 472-7680.



## OUR CHURCH OFFICE

### **REVISED OFFICE HOURS (Effective November 26th)**

**Tuesday & Wednesday:** 10:30 am - 3:30 p.m.

**Thursday:** 12:30pm - 4:30pm    **Friday:** 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

### Pastoral Care

For pastoral care emergencies, please call **705-498-5943** to reach the Minister or email: [standrewschurch@cogeco.net](mailto:standrewschurch@cogeco.net) and your message will be forwarded to the Minister.



### **Minister's Office Hours**

**Minister:** Reverend Caitlin Smithers

Caitlin's weekly office hours are **9 am to 3 pm**

**Wednesday and Thursday.**

If you wish to call or email to set up a meeting with Caitlin, please call her work phone **705-498-5943**,

email : [csmithers\\_standrews@cogeco.net](mailto:csmithers_standrews@cogeco.net),

or leave a message at the Church Office (705 472-7680).

Regular drop-in hours are on **Wednesdays**, from **10 am to 12 pm**.

(Please ring the bell at the McIntyre Street door)

## **St. Andrew's Prayer Corner**

*The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)*

For this week we ask that you keep the following people in your prayers:

**The family of Brian Nelles**

**The family of Cindy Brownlee**

**Joyce MacQueen      Carole Sawyer      Betty Hurley**

**Ken Dech      Don Vaillancourt      Don Yackobeck**



# News



Loaves & Fishes  
Community  
Food Bank

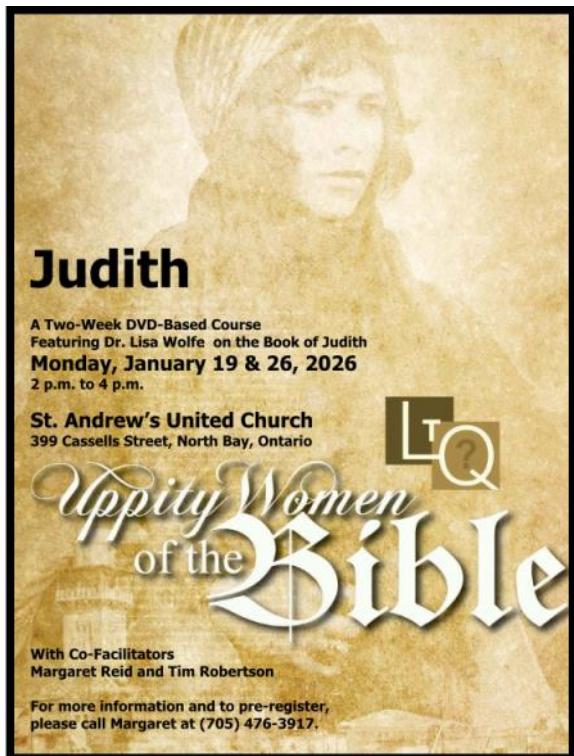
## Christmas Food Bank



**Thank you to our  
donors. Because  
of your kindness  
and support,  
many people  
have been able to  
access  
nourishing food.**



For more information about the Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank  
E: [loavesandfishes@standrews-northbay.ca](mailto:loavesandfishes@standrews-northbay.ca) or T: 705.472.7680 to leave a message Lorie Fairburn, Food Bank Manager



## JUDITH

**A Two-Week DVD-Based Course  
Featuring Dr. Lisa Wolfe on the *Book of Judith***

**Monday, January 19 & 26, 2026  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**St. Andrew's United Church  
399 Cassells Street, North Bay, Ontario**

**With Co-Facilitators  
Margaret Reid and Tim Robertson**

**For more information and to pre-register,  
please call Margaret at (705) 476-3917.**

Join us this winter starting Monday, January 19, 2026 at 2 p.m. in the Parlour for a new small group study called *Judith*. This mini two-week DVD-based study features Dr. Lisa Wolfe who combines careful scholarship with fresh insights into the *Book of Judith*.

This fascinating study examines the story of an uppity woman who took things into her own hands – including the head of a brutal warrior chief. Dr. Wolfe takes us on a tour of the Book of Judith, posing provocative questions along the way.

Judith, from the Koine Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament, reads like a historical novel rife with warfare, lust, espionage and intrigue. This two-session study takes us from a mythological battlefield and a besieged city into the studio and psyche of the Baroque painter Artemesia Gentileschi.

For more information or to pre-register,  
call Margaret at (705) 476-3917.

All are welcome!

**Rhapsody in Bluegrass  
A Christmas Jubilee**

*By*  
*Joseph Martin*

*A Cantata: Presented by the choirs of  
many United Churches*

*Accompanied by a Bluegrass Combo  
Directed by Betty Farris and Gloria Kidd*

**Sunday, December 14**  
• 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 21**  
• 1:30 p.m. Carol Singalong  
• 2:00 p.m. – Cantata Presentation  
• Complimentary refreshments

**Powassan Wesleyan Church**  
204 Big Bend Ave  
Powassan

**Trinity United Church**  
Corner of Ferguson &  
McIntyre  
North Bay

Free Will Offering