



TOGETHER

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



Sunday, February 1, 2026

Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

THIS SUNDAY - February 1, 2026 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



In the Beatitudes, Jesus speaks about blessings in a way that can surprise us. He invites us to see humility, mercy, and peacemaking not as weaknesses, but as true blessings—often valued more highly than success, strength,

or winning. Jesus turns our assumptions upside down and calls us to be kind, gentle, and courageous peacemakers, even when life feels difficult.

This week, as we hear these powerful words, we are reminded that God meets us exactly where we are and invites us into a deeper relationship—one rooted in love for one another and faithful following each day.

NEXT SUNDAY - February 8, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JUST LIKE SALT

In our sacred stories we often hear Jesus teaching his disciples that we are important to God and that our lives can make a big difference. One of the ways Jesus shares that message is through the examples of Salt and Light. Just like salt makes food taste better and light helps us see, God wants us to show God's love by the way we act, speak, and care for others.

Let's worship and reflect together on some of the ways we can shine God's light every day!

THE
CHURCH
~~TRIUMPHANT~~
AS SALT



Becoming the Community Jesus Speaks About

— SALLY DOUGLAS —



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You are invited to join the almost 700 followers of the St. Andrew's
facebook page! Click [****HERE****](#) or use search words **St. Andrew's North Bay**

We are working on it...

There are still a couple of issues with the Church building that we are managing at the moment - and which may affect activities through the week.

- The Gym is still without heat and the technicians are working towards fixing the problem.
- Due to security reasons, the lock on the McIntyre door has been "re-keyed". This will restrict use by rental groups until our security arrangements have been updated.

More information will be made available in as timely a fashion as possible. Thank you to all who are working together towards resolving these issues, and helping to make the work we do here at St. Andrew's possible!

**THANK YOU
FOR BEING PATIENT**

"An Ode to Singing"
Mississauga Children's Choir
A presentation of Treble Choral Music
Sunday, February 8th, 2026 - 1:00 - 1:40pm
Free Admission or
a Goodwill offering is always appreciated
Location: Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption
Conductor: Michael Denomme
Pianist: Joel Goodfellow



LENT WILL SOON BE HERE!

There will be an Ash Wednesday service during the noon-hour on
Wednesday, February 18th
(12 noon - 1 pm)

More details about the St. Andrew's Lenten Journey will be shared in next week's newsletter



The United Church of Canada

Dear Friends,

Late last week, I wrote words of solidarity to The United Church of Canada's Full Communion partners in the United States, and to the bishops of Greenland and the National Council of Churches in Denmark, in what has been a turbulent and difficult start to 2026.

As we link arms in solidarity with our siblings in Christ, please share these words as you would like. Being community is always important, but especially now, in these unsettling and unsettled times.

The letters in full can be read [here](#).

Blessing in Christ,



The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath
45th Moderator of The United Church of Canada

Minister's Report • October – December 2025



This Advent and Christmas, our theme was, "Close to Home." When something hits close to home, it touches us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, rich with emotion, and full of vulnerability. We hold the memories and truths of this sacred season close to our hearts. Close to Home expresses our deep longing for God to draw near to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are full of imagery about home—both physical and spiritual. Home is something we seek, and something we are called to build. In many ways, these scriptures are like blueprints: sketches of a divine dream in which God makes a home among us.

This reminds me so much of the journeys each of us take throughout the year—especially in this busy season we have just been through, but throughout the year – as we search for hope, peace, joy, and love, and for a spiritual home where we can truly belong.



Christmas Pageant 2025

Photo: Judith Ingwersen

Our pastoral care team and I continue to work on the ways we can reach out and support our community, here at St. Andrew's community and beyond. With seasonal letters, cards, phone calls, prayers, visits, contributions to worship, and so much more!

November and December have been full of services that involve our whole community, as so many of our services do at St. Andrew's United Church!

In those services many people in our community of faith shared the gifts they bring to the community, and invited us to be a part of one another's' lives, and the sacred stories of our faith, in deeper ways.

I am grateful for all the folks in this community who continue to make the ministries here at St. Andrew's, and the partnerships we have in the community of North Bay, not only possible, but beautiful, meaningful, personal, and heartfelt week after week, year after year. We couldn't do this without each and every one of you!

All my best,

Rev. Caitlin Smithers

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

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 the church office (705) 472-7680 or email: 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,

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:

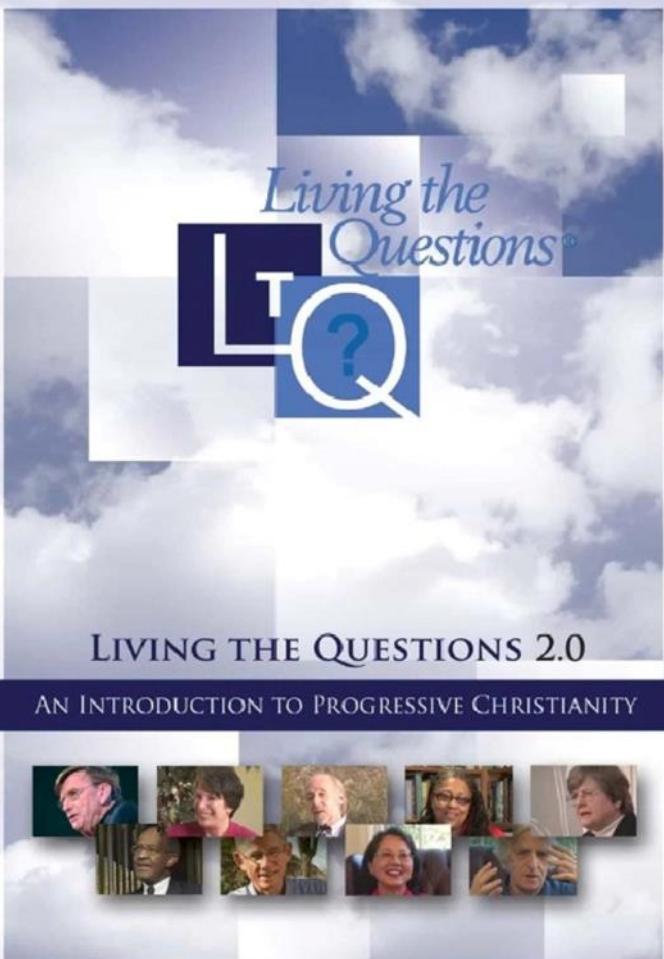
The family of Brian Nelles

The family of Cindy Brownlee

Joyce MacQueen Carole Sawyer Betty Hurley

Ken Dech Don Vaillancourt Don Yackobeck





Living the Questions 2.0
An Introduction to Progressive Christianity

Part I: An Invitation to Journey

Eleven Sessions, Monday Afternoons, 2 to 4 P.M.
February 23 to May 11, 2026

St. Andrew's United Church
399 Cassells Street, North Bay
(Use McIntyre Street Entrance)

Facilitated by Margaret Reid and Tim Robertson

To register, please call Margaret at (705) 476-3917

Living the Questions is a DVD-based workshop series designed to help people wrestle with the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century. It features thirty of today's leading religious voices including Amy-Jill Levine, Marcus Borg, Sister Helen Prejean, John Cobb, Diana Butler Bass and Matthew Fox. The focus of Part I is: "faith is not a destination, but a journey."

Instead of systematic theology, the series offers a thematic overview of the kinds of conversations and questions that arise in church communities everywhere. And instead of pat answers to questions about God and faith, we are invited into a deeper engagement with every aspect of religion and spiritual practice. Part II will be offered in the Fall of 2026. There are no requirements for participation, and everyone is welcome.

THE WONDER OF WINTER

Saturday, 7 February 2026 @ 7 PM
St. Andrew's United Church
399 Cassells Street

TICKETS

\$30 adults | \$15 students
Available at the door and from choir members

Reservations: email nearnorthvoices@gmail.com

**near
NORTH VOICES**
nearnorthvoices.com