



TOGETHER

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



Sunday, February 15, 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

THIS SUNDAY - February 15, 2026 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



Ever wish you could catch a glimpse of the mystery of God in the middle of everyday life?

Maybe in the seeds of a bird feeder, or growing underneath the snow, or beginning to bud on the trees.

Transfiguration Sunday invites us to do just that, as we listen for the ways God's voice calls us to listen, to trust, and to be transformed in this upcoming season of Lent, and every day.

NEXT SUNDAY - February 22, 2026 LENT 1

In this first week of Lent, John's Gospel invites us to begin not with temptation, but with a wedding miracle. Though it may seem lavish to start Lent with a feast, the good news begins in joy. The kingdom of heaven is surprising and abundant—like a mustard seed growing wild or fine wine saved for last.

As we journey through Jesus' teachings this season, they may challenge us, but we can trust they are rooted in love and worthy of celebration.



TUMBLER RIDGE, British Columbia

February 10, 2026 is now a day that will be etched in the minds of Canadians forever. As the story continues to unfold out of Tumbler Ridge, BC, there seem to be fewer and fewer words that can truly convey the depth of our sadness over this tragic event. We join the United Church community and those around the world in prayer (from united-church.ca by the Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith):

Providing God,
With people across the country and around the world,
we seek your care as we bear witness to the mass shooting in the community of Tumbler Ridge.
Provide solace for all affected.
Provide comfort to those overwhelmed by grief.
Provide compassionate strength to those who are providing support to the broken-hearted.

Providing God, guide us, as we continue to build the world you have imagined:
A world where a child's right to learn, laugh, love and live is cherished and protected in every village – everywhere;
A world without violence;
A world where the most vulnerable among us feel safe, cherished and protected, always.
For the sake of Christ who entrusted us to each other,
may it be so. *Amen.*

Trinity's A.O.T.S.

(As One That Serves)
hosts their annual



SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 17th
from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults: \$15 ~ Students: \$10

Family (4): \$30 ~ 6 & Under: Free

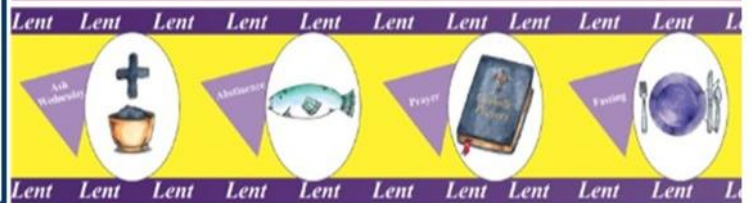
*Pancakes *Pure Maple Syrup *Sausages
*Coffee, Tea & Juice

Proceeds for A.O.T.S. work with youth

Ash
WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE

LENT WILL SOON BE HERE!

There will be an Ash Wednesday service during the noon-hour on
Wednesday, February 18th
(12 noon to 1:00 pm)



Lent 2026 - Tell Me Something Good!



This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

This Lent, we will let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

February 22nd First Sunday in Lent - The good news is. . . so good it catches us by surprise

March 1st Second Sunday in Lent – The good news is. . . great love for God and neighbor

March 8th Third Sunday in Lent – The good news is. . . together, the impossible is possible

March 15th Fourth Sunday in Lent – The good news is. . . protection and care for the vulnerable

March 22nd Fifth Sunday in Lent – The good news is. . . rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness

*tell me
something
good*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 29th Palm – Passion Sunday

April 3rd Good Friday (Service at St. Andrew's)

April 5th Easter Sunday



Minute for Right Relations

Have a Heart Day - February 14, 2026

Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are.

The Caring Society (fncaringsociety.com) hosts an event in Ottawa every year for kids to show support for First Nations kids. You are invited to "Have A Heart" too.

E-books are available for free on the Caring Society website <https://fncaringsociety.com/spirit-bear/books-learning-guides> and for purchase at numerous bookstores.

A learning guide with reflections, activities, and puzzles is available here https://fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/book_1_learning_guide_-_2020.pdf It is ready-made for your Sunday school or for those with curiosity.

Find resources such as posters, more activity sheets, videos, and sample letters to government officials here <https://fncaringsociety.com/events/have-heart-day>

By raising our voices and by our actions, all of us can make a difference. Here are some things you can do:

- ◆ **Send a letter or valentine** to the Prime Minister and your local MP demanding fair and equal service to Indigenous children in care. No stamp required!
- ◆ **Learn the importance** of culturally based education for First Nations children, and learn more about Indigenous Peoples in Canada.



- **Learn the importance** of culturally based education for First Nations children, and learn more about Indigenous Peoples in Canada.
- ◆ **Place red hearts** on stakes in your garden and share with others why you are doing that.
- ◆ **Donate** to The Mission and Service Fund which provides funding through its Healing Fund and Justice and Reconciliation Fund for Indigenous led programs and for non-Indigenous education and actions.

After learning about why we celebrate Have a Heart Day, go outside and build a snow bear! You can add signs or messages in support of equity for First Nations children.

- **Bake some Have a Heart Day cookies** with your group, or family and share with them why you baked them!
- **Spread the word:** Post your photos of your Have a Heart Day letter, cookies, snow bear or however you choose to celebrate on social media! Use the hashtag #HaveAHeartDay

In February, Have A Heart!

[Download a PDF copy of this article here.](#)

CSRC Right Relations Resource Team

- Lisa Blais (Team Lead)
- Linda Ambrose
- Whitney Bruno
- Sylvia Carscadden
- Janie Clayton
- Susan Lindquist
- Brian Mundell



The United Church of Canada

Dear Friends,

We are so excited to announce [Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator](#), a new six-part video series coming this Lent exploring food, faith, and the power of invitation, hosted by the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Drawing inspiration and recipes from the United Church's Lenten devotional, [Bless Break Share: Recipes for Faithful Living](#), we're getting in the kitchen with guests from across the church, including book contributors, United Church youth, and the Moderator's own family.

The series debuts with a Shrove Tuesday pancake feast in the Moderator's home kitchen on February 17, with new episodes following each Sunday throughout Lent, and concludes with a special Easter message from the Moderator.

These spirit-filled conversations will invite you each week to reflect on how food can nourish both body and soul, and how in joining around the table, we connect to something deeper than ourselves. They remind us that around a table, barriers fall and stories flow, that God meets us in ordinary moments of sharing bread and conversation.

Episodes will be shared each week on the [Kitchen Conversations webpage](#) and The United Church of Canada [YouTube channel](#) — subscribe today to stay up to date. We'll also be sharing printable recipe cards to use in your own kitchen, as a Lenten reminder, or to share with friends and family. Churches can include them in worship bulletins or use them at fellowship meals.

Bless Break Share, featuring inspiring devotions and prayers for each day of Lent, along with recipes from throughout the United Church, is available [online today](#), along with the matching

mug and apron you'll see featured in Kitchen Conversations.

*These Kitchen Conversations videos are separate from the online Lenten study led by Rev. Dr. Christine Jerrett, which you can join on [CHURCHx](#) beginning February 24. Signing up gets you a discount code for **15% off your purchase** of Bless Break Share. This structured learning experience invites participants to use Bless, Break, Share as a framework for conversation and reflection on food and hunger throughout the season of Lent.*

If you'd like to keep up to date with more exciting United Church news, be sure to subscribe to [E-ssentials](#)!

Join us as we embody the gospel of welcome, and continue to create [A Place at the Table](#) for all.



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:

All those affected by the Tumbler Ridge tragedy

The family of Donald A. McMurchy

The family of Brian Nelles

The family of Cindy Brownlee

Joyce MacQueen Carole Sawyer

Ken Dech Don Vaillancourt Don Yackobeck



CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH US AT 'KITCHEN PARTY 2.0!'

Join us for a festive evening filled with music and fun and food - admission
\$10.00



MARCH 14- 6:30

LOCATION : EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

MUSIC BY DANIEL CURRIE

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 close to finishing
- Due to security reasons, the lock on the McIntyre door has been "re-keyed". This will restrict use by rental groups until suitable arrangements are made

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

Thank You Lorie!

For the past several years, St. Andrew's has been blessed with the presence of Lorie Fairburn - a person of great compassion and incredible energy! Lorie is best known for her role as *Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank* Coordinator and this outreach program has grown as a result of her involvement.

Lorie has also been the Chair of the *Finance Committee*, using her past fundraising experience to organize successful stewardship campaigns and other fundraising initiatives. During her time at St. Andrew's, Lorie studied for and became a *Licensed Lay Worship Leader*. She has led a number of memorable services at our Church as well as in the surrounding *Canadian Shield* church community. After a short vacation in warmer climes, she will be relocating to Sudbury. She has promised to visit often!



We have appreciated your dedication and work within our faith community, Lorie. Your St. Andrew's family wishes you *Godspeed* as you begin the next leg of your life's journey. Thank you for all you have done and may the Lord bless you and keep you in all that you do!

POWERPOINT/ PROJECTION Help Needed !

Most will agree that the TV monitor display screens in St. Andrew's Sanctuary have enriched our worship experience. Our dedicated graphic designer/projectionist Kim Delarosbel is having knee surgery in Mid March. We need one - or two people to take over her volunteer roles for several weeks while she recovers! We need a:

Projectionist: to "click" a computer key to change the slides on the projector each Sunday

Powerpoint Person: to prepare the slides on a computer in "powerpoint" format. This would require someone who is comfortable with a computer - and willing to learn as they go along!

If you think that you might be able to help, please speak with Kim Delarosbel at the next Sunday Service and she will answer any questions you might have. Training will be provided if you volunteer to help out for a few weeks providing this important worship resource!



World Day of Prayer Journée mondiale de la prière 2026

**"I Will Give You
Rest: Come"**

Matthew 11:28-30

Title: Rest for the Weary

Artist: Gift Amarachi Ottah



**« Je vous procurerai le
repos. Venez »**

Mattieu 11, 28-30

Titre : Le repos pour vous qui peinez
sous le poids du fardeau

Artiste: Gift Amarachi Ottah

Ecumenical Worship Service Information/ Renseignements sur la célébration œcuménique

Day, Time/la date, l'heure

FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2026 - 2PM DOORS OPEN AT 1:30

Location/l'endroit

Trinity United Church
111 McIntyre Street East
North Bay, ON P1B 1C5

Additional Information/informations supplémentaires

ALL ARE WELCOME!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Service written and Prepared by WDP Nigeria, prepared and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada

Service préparé par des chrétiennes du Nigeria, préparé et adapté pour le Canada par le Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada





COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR - February 28th

We know that there are people in North Bay without a warm place to call home. That is why we are encouraging people to support the Coldest Night of the Year to be held on **Saturday, February 28, 2026.**

Walk 2 or 5 km starting at OUTLOUD - 123 Delaware Ave.

100% of the net proceeds from the event in North Bay stay local to support the **Gathering Place**. There will not be an official North Bay United Church team this year, but you can join a team - or start your own!

For more information on how you can participate or support a walker, visit <https://cnoy.org/location/northbay>

FREE QUILTS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH CANCER.

Victoria's Quilts Canada (VQC) provides handmade quilts to people living with cancer in Canada. By providing these quilts, this group of dedicated quilters hopes to bring physical comfort to those dealing with cancer as well as spiritual comfort in knowing that they are not alone.

St. Andrew's member **Donna Landry** belongs to the local *North Bay Chapter*. She writes:

Dear friends:

I belong to a group in North Bay called *Victoria's Quilts Canada*. We want to help ease some stress of cancer patients so we give them quilts. No strings attached and no place is too remote anywhere in Canada. If you know someone, or you yourself are living with cancer, please request a free quilt at our website at *Victoria's Quilts Canada*. The North Bay Branch of *Victoria's Quilts Canada* will deliver one personally.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Donna at 705.498.5351



Donna Landry (left) presented a Victoria's Quilt to Judy Campbell in May of 2024. Judy said that it was a beautiful quilt that gave her great comfort during her treatment.



Joyce MacQueen has asked us to pass on this message of appreciation:

I would really like to thank the congregation for their prayers, their beautiful handmade cards and their visits. My walking is not good so I mostly use a wheelchair.

Blessings,
Joyce

