



TOGETHER

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



Sunday, March 8, 2026

Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

This Sunday - March 8, 2026 Lent 3: The Good News is ... Great Love for God and Neighbour

As Jesus and his disciples head to a deserted place, perhaps seeking peace and quiet, many from the surrounding towns follow them. Instead of turning them away, Jesus expresses compassion and presents the disciples with what seems like an impossible task: To give them something to eat. In the beginning, the disciples can only see the limitations and financial constraints of Jesus' suggestion. Yet when they "go and see," they find together their meager provisions can feed thousands.



Jesus models a way to be in community by coming together and sharing what we have, even if it seems impossible. This good news empowers us to believe in miracles that can become possible through the power of community.

Next Sunday - March 15, 2026 Lent 4: The Good News is... Protection and Care for the Vulnerable

This week's Good News emphasizes Jesus' preferential care for the vulnerable. While children, immigrants, widows, and orphans are explicitly named in this week's focal scriptures, the overall theme is meant to be good news for all, since each of us has been vulnerable at some point in our lives.

As an affirming United Church of Canada we also celebrate *PIE Day* this Sunday, with an invitation to eat pie, and to see that preferential care offered to the 2SLGBTQ+ community in *Public, Intentional, and Explicit* ways.



DON'T FORGET - TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT (2am)!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOTICE

St. Andrew's Annual Congregational Meeting is planned for
Sunday, March 22, 2026
immediately after the worship service

- **WHEN:** Sunday, March 22nd - after the morning worship service
- **WHERE:** in the Sanctuary - light refreshments provided
- **WHY:** to receive and approve the *2025 Annual Report*, consider the report of the Nomination Committee and conduct any other business that may be brought forward. A copy of the *2025 Annual Report* will be available on the Church Website, and printed copies (hopefully) by Sunday, March 15th.



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
Audrey Sullivan & the family of Douglas Boughner**

The family of Brian Nelles

The family of Cindy Brownlee

Joyce MacQueen Carole Sawyer

Ken Dech Don Vaillancourt Don Yackobeck



LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0

Session Two "Recap"

What are your earliest memories of what you were taught about the Bible and how you understood it?

Our second session of *Living the Questions* was entitled *Taking the Bible Seriously* but - as our various presenters emphasized - not literally. This gave us an opportunity to explore our earliest memories along with alternative approaches - like seeing the Bible as a sometimes smudged or blurry lens through which to view things, or like the Buddhist idea of a finger pointing at the moon (we would never mistake the finger for the thing to which it points).



The topic for the next session is **Thinking Theologically** - which might sound off-putting—but, as a starting place, "*When you think of God, what image comes to mind?*"

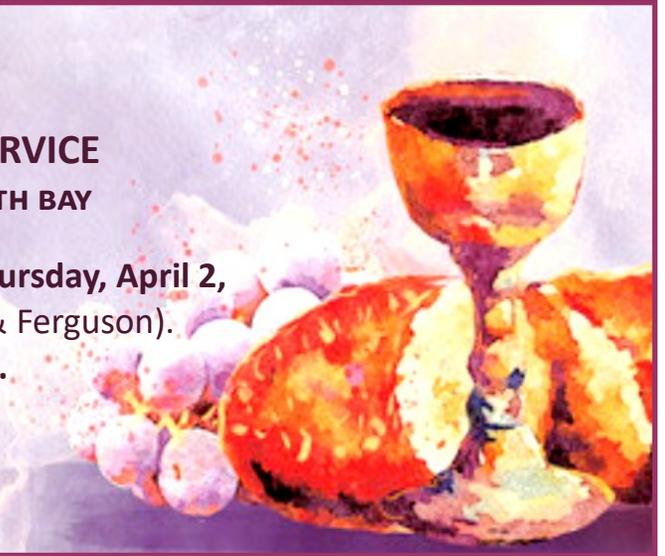
Come and join us. share your images and see where else we go! And just so you know, all are welcome at any time.

NEXT SESSION - MONDAY, March 9th St. Andrew's 2 to 4 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO A MAUNDY THURSDAY POTLUCK & TABLE COMMUNION SERVICE HOSTED BY TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, NORTH BAY

Please join us for a **Maundy Thursday Potluck** on **Thursday, April 2, 2026**, at Trinity United Church (corner of McIntyre & Ferguson). Arrive starting **5:00 p.m.**, and plan to eat at **5:30p.m.** **Table Communion Worship** will follow the meal.

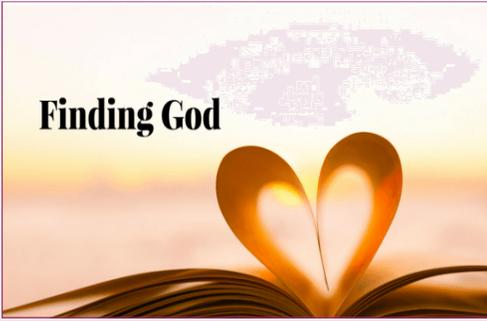
Please bring your own plate and cutlery and a potluck dish to share!



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR WALK

Several St. Andrew's members joined with others on the "OutLoud Trailblazers" team for the *Coldest night of the Year* Walk (Feb. 28th) to raise funds for *The Gathering Place*. The 8 team members raised over \$1,790. The grand total of all the North Bay teams was over \$40,000. and donations can still be made at the [CNOY website](#) until the end of March.

Photo (l-r) Rev. Caitlin Smithers, Willa Gallant, Judy Campbell, Jennifer Taylor, Jane Campbell



Divine Poetry - Finding God in the Word

facilitated by Rev. Caitlin Smithers
and Tim Robertson

Join us every Wednesday noon during the Season of Lent for an exploration of finding God in the words of poetic expression. (*Lectio Divina*)

- We will meet in the **Lois E. Carey Parlour**
- Plan to **arrive at Noon** at which time there will be a **short worship service**
- Following worship, **poems will be shared** (they don't have to be original!)
- **Bring a bag lunch**—Tea & Coffee will be provided

**BRING AND SHARE YOUR POEM THAT
REFLECTS THE SEASON OF LENT**

Wednesdays: February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25

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



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 29th Palm – Passion Sunday

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

April 5th Easter Sunday

ST. ANDREW'S LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY FOODBANK
POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Andrew's *Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank* requires a **Food Manager** to work with a dedicated group of volunteers to oversee operation of the food bank. This position includes ensuring adequate food inventory, managing volunteers and coordinating with donors and community partners to meet the needs of our clients.

Hours per week: 15 hours

Hourly wage: Ontario Minimum wage plus benefits.

Application Deadline: 5 p.m., Mon., March 23rd

Further information including a **job description** can be viewed by visiting the St. Andrew's homepage:

<https://standrews-northbay.ca>

NOTE: THIS INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE AS OF 9 AM SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH

"HARD COPIES" OF THE INFORMATION PACKAGE CAN ALSO BE PICKED UP FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS



MARCH 14- 6:30 LOCATION : EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

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

MUSIC BY DANIEL CURRIE



Cold to Comfort: Urgent Church Repair Fundraiser

We are reaching out to our community for support in raising **\$10,000 to cover the emergency repairs recently made to our church building.** We faced significant issues, including frozen pipes, a broken water line, and heating failures that impacted the comfort and safety of our space.

As stewards of this sacred space, it's our responsibility to restore it so that it remains a welcoming environment for all.

Thanks to a generous \$5,000 matching donation, we only need to raise \$5,000 to reach our goal.

This means that your donation will have double the impact! Every dollar you give will be matched, bringing us one step closer to covering the costs of plumbing, heating, and repairs, helping get our church back to full function.

Our building also serves as a hub for the Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank, Special Olympics, the Baytones Choir, and community groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, all of whom rely on our space.

As Galatians 6:10 reminds us, *"Let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."*

Thank you for your generous support!

Here is how to donate:

1. Click this link [Cold to Comfort: Repairing Our Church](#) and follow the instructions.
2. Drop off a cheque in the offering plate or in the office clearly marked as a Cold to Comfort donation.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Karen Gooch or Elizabeth Brownlee.



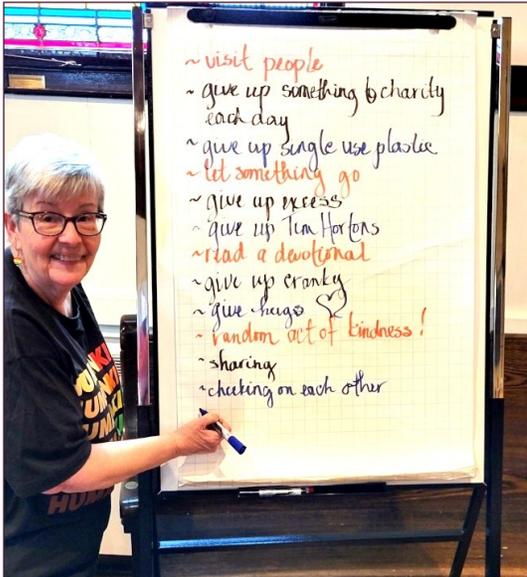
OBSERVING THE SEASON OF LENT



During the service the Sunday before last, , our puppet friends **Sam and Lizzy** chatted about the significance of Lent. Here are some ways that you can personally observe the season of Lent:

- Visiting people
- Giving up excess
- Giving something to charity each day
- Giving up Tim Horton's
- Giving up single use plastics
- Reading a devotional passage
- Letting something go
- Giving up being cranky
- Giving hugs

HOW DO YOU OBSERVE THE SEASON OF LENT?



- ~ visit people
- ~ give up something to charity each day
- ~ give up single use plastic
- ~ let something go
- ~ give up excess
- ~ give up Tim Hortons
- ~ read a devotional
- ~ give up cranky
- ~ give hugs
- ~ random act of kindness!
- ~ sharing
- ~ checking on each other



World Day of Prayer 2026 Journée mondiale de la prière

"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



United Church Expresses Grave Concerns over Military Attacks Against Iran

The United Church of Canada joins the World Council of Churches (WCC) and regional partners expressing [grave concerns about the attack by the United States and Israel against Iran](#) on February 28th.

“As we awake to news of escalating war, we call for prayer for those in Iran, Israel and the region who have been affected by the attack by Israel and the US on Iran and the Iranian missiles fired on Israel,” says Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Acting General Secretary. *“We pray for those in Canada and globally who are awaiting news about their families and loved ones. We call on the violence to cease”*.

Holy One, we seek your mercy.

For those in fear, bring safety.

For those in pain, bring consolation.

For those awaiting news, nurture hope.

For those providing care, bring resilience.

Loving God, we seek your peace that passes all understanding.

May the violence cease and your deep peace come. Amen.

[READ THE WHOLE NEWS STORY](#)

There is a tradition at St. Andrew’s to place spring flowers in the sanctuary in memory of special people, or in celebration of significant life events. A list of those remembered and celebrated will be included as an insert in the Easter bulletin. Following Easter Sunday service, people are invited to take a plant home, or to take it to a shut-in or someone who needs to know they are being thought of.



If you wish to contribute, a **donation of \$20** is suggested to help cover the cost of the potted flowers. Any donations received over and above the cost of the plants will be put towards the *St. Andrew’s Memorial Fund* and the projects it supports.

DEADLINE for MEMORIAL DONATIONS: Palm Sunday (March 29th)

Order forms will be with the **MARCH 8, 15, 22 AND 29TH** Sunday service bulletins. Or you can email the church office at standrewschurch@cogeco.net, the following information:

NAME OF DONOR:

IN MEMORY OF (OR - IN CELEBRATION OF) NAME(S):

AMOUNT OF DONATION YOU PLAN TO MAKE

For payment:

- Put information and a cheque (to *St. Andrew’s Memorial Fund*) in an envelope and place it on the offering plate OR
- mail a cheque to St. Andrew’s (399 Cassells St., North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4), OR
- do an **e-transfer** noting it is for *Memorial Flowers* to donatetostandrews@cogeco.net OR
- drop your cheque and information off at the church during regular office hours.

Thank you for remembering friends and family members in this special way at Easter.

The St. Andrew’s Memorial Committee