

**St. Andrew's Council Meeting**  
Meeting was held in the Lois E. Carey Parlour  
Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.

---

<b>Welcome and Opening (6:45 p.m.)</b>	Doug McCausland welcomed everyone to the meeting.
<b>Attendance</b>	Elizabeth Brownlee, Kim Delarosbel, William Downey, Lorie Fairburn, Marg Fleming, Karen Gooch (Secretary), Bill Holmes, Bill Ingwersen, Doug McCausland (Chair), Ed Mounce, Stephen Park, Caitlin Smithers (Minister), Derek Stott (13)
<b>Land Acknowledgement</b>	Doug McCausland acknowledged that we meet on Indigenous land and offered thanks for the gifts of the people from the Nipissing First Nation as we work together towards reconciliation.
<b>Touchstones</b>	Doug McCausland read our Council Touchstones aloud.
<b>Apology</b>	Bill Downey requested a chance to speak to Council before the start of the meeting. He offered an apology for his behaviour at the last Council meeting when he let his frustration get in the way of the proceedings.
<b>Opening</b>	Kim Delarosbel provided a few words to open the meeting. She offered a prayer to remind everyone that November 20 <sup>th</sup> is Transgender Day of Remembrance. The Aids Committee is holding an event to mark the day. Kim asked people to consider ways they might support those opposed the Alberta government's bill that will remove trans rights for some with the possible use of the Notwithstanding Clause. Kim prayed for guidance and wisdom for tonight's meeting.
<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Motion 079/25</b> William Downey/ Kim Delarosbel moved that the agenda be accepted as presented. <span style="float: right;"><b>Carried</b></span>
<b>Minutes of Previous Meetings</b>	<b>Motion 080/25</b> Karen Gooch/ William Downey moved that the minutes from October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 be accepted as presented. <span style="float: right;"><b>Carried</b></span>
<b>Correspondence</b>	None
<b>Business Arising</b>	None
<b>New Business</b>	
Financial Report	<b>Appendix I</b> The following financial information was offered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>October 2025 Statement</u> - The month-end statement for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 was presented. (Appendix I) showing General Fund revenue of \$133,395 and expenses of \$171,729 with a deficit of \$38,334. It was noted that expenses are in line with last year but General Fund revenue is down is down more than \$30,000 from the same time last year,</li> </ul>

- Financial Update – The stewardship letter from John and Wanda Wallace has been distributed and donations have started to come in. A generous donor will match one-time gifts (up to \$10,000).

**Motion 081/25**

Karen Gooch/ Lorie Fairburn moved that the financial report be accepted as presented.

**Carried**

Liaisons

**Appendices II, III**

Written Committee reports were emailed to Council members ahead of this meeting for review.

- Administration – The following Administration related items were noted.
  - It was reported that the review of our Building Use Policy is continuing.
  - Janet Ross returned to work November 4<sup>th</sup> and Derek Stott has been helping with her transition with his work on the newsheet and weekly bulletin.
- Facility – Jean Jamieson and John Van Niekerk have been working to catch up with some outstanding repair work. Jean is hosting a tutorial with someone from KRB Mechanical tomorrow regarding the operation of our boiler system. Jean will be consulted to ensure that someone is in place to shovel the snow over this winter.
- Spiritual Life – Elizabeth Brownlee provided a written report (Appendix II) with details about the activities of the Worship, Congregational Life/Fundraising and Pastoral Care Teams. The Worship Team is considering removing a pew to expand the children's spot at the back of the sanctuary. Council members agreed with this idea but suggested our Property Chair should be consulted. The Team is also considering having a volunteer sit in the area during the service.
- Living Our Mission – Derek Stott offered the following:
  - Inclusivity – No report.
  - Outreach – No report
  - Loaves & Fishes - Lorie Fairburn provided a written Loaves & Fishes report for October 2025 (Appendix III) for Council members to review. Lorie highlighted the following:
    - The Café has been very busy since the Gathering Place stopped serving breakfast. The volunteers will start counting the number of people attending using a clicker.
    - Volunteers are well coordinated. Thanks to all who help.
    - Lorie has informally looked into how to make the building more accessible. The lift helps however some cannot walk across the building to get to the gym. It is not possible to add a lift on the McIntyre side of the building since there is not enough room.
    - Overall food bank numbers are up but student numbers are down this is likely due to the lower number of post-secondary international students in North Bay.
    - Lorie is looking into cleaning the carpet in Room 6 where the Café is held with thoughts of doing further renovations if funding can be found.
    - There will be 3 or 4 people taking a food safety course in the new year.
    - The food bank will be closed for two weeks over the holidays since Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Thursday. There are no concerns

with this plan since there are many special programs in place over the holiday period to provide extra food support.

As Lorie will be retiring as Food Bank Manager in June, she has been exploring the possibility of holding discussions with Trinity to consider how both churches could work together regarding the operations of their respective food banks.

- Looking to the future, how can we streamline operations together? Both churches are doing thing well but differently. The food banks are an important outreach program for both churches that we don't want to lose.
- What would this look like? Could we consider sharing the cost of a paid coordinator or a name change? Can we share resources in some other ways to make both programs more sustainable?
- There are features that we don't want to lose. We are the only foodbank in town that dose not require ID. The social component of Loaves & Fishes is very important along with our philosophy of equity as opposed to just absolute equality.
- Nothing would be done without approval of both Church Councils.

**Motion 082/25**

Lorie Fairburn/ William Downey moved that an ad hoc committee be established to meet with representatives from Trinity United to discuss possibilities around food bank cooperation. This committee would be required report to Council before any action is taken. **Carried**

M&P Committee The following items were brought forward from M&P Committee.

- While Janet Ross, our Office Administrator was on medical leave during October the M&P Committee would like to thank Barb Van Herk for her work in the office and Kim Brownlee for her bookkeeping work. Both did a great job.
- Lorie Fairburn, Karen Gooch and Caitlin Smithers recently met with the M&P Committee to discuss Janet's return to work. As there have been some issues with Janet's financial work in the past the Committee is recommending that we ask Kim Brownlee to continue to work as our bookkeeper for 3 hours a week. The Committee is also recommending that we will continue to pay Janet for the 18 hours a week she was working before she was on medical leave, but that she will no longer be responsible for the bookkeeping duties. It is felt that there is more than enough administrative work to justify this plan based on input from Barb about her time in the office.

**Motion 083/25**

Bill Holmes/ Kim Delarosbel moved that St. Andrew's Council approve continuing to pay Office Administrator Janet Ross for 18 hours per week at her current hourly rate when she returns from medical leave and that she will no longer be responsible for bookkeeping duties. **Carried**

**Motion 084/25**

Bill Holmes/ Bill Ingwersen moved that St. Andrew's approve paying Kim Brownlee to perform bookkeeping duties on contract at the rate of \$17.60 plus HST per hour for 3 hours per week. She will be on probation for 3 months.

**Carried**

Elizabeth Brownlee abstained.

- Lorie Fairburn left the meeting for the following presentation from the M&P Committee, as the proposal could affect her pay as Loaves & Fishes Manager.
- As requested, at the March 2025 AGM, the M&P Committee investigated the difference in the rate of pay for the Office Administrator and the Food Bank Manager. It was determined that there are not a lot of resources available to help compare rates of pay for different jobs. The M&P Committee decided to rank all the duties listed in the current job descriptions out of five and then average the scores for each position. The jobs scored as follows:

Bookkeeper 4.3  
Office Administrator 3.8  
L&F Manager 3.4.

After multiplying ranking by the current highest rate of pay (so no one would get a pay cut) the spread was .17 per hour between the highest ranked job vs the lower ranked jobs. The M&P Committee makes no recommendation but there are 3 options to consider:

- Do nothing
- Pay each the highest of the current rates (\$18.65 per hour)
- Adopt the M&P Committee proposal as outlined above.
- After a brief discussion. Bill offered to forward the proposal in written form so that members can review it before making a decision. Pay rates will remain the same for now.
- Thanks was offered for the work that the M&P Committee has done. It was agreed that they found a good objective approach to examine this request.

#### Minister's Report **Appendix VI**

Caitlin Smithers provided a written report outlining her activities for August 2025 (Appendix VI) for members to review. Caitlin added the following comments

- The Call to Worship included with her report contained input from some of our congregational member who are not able to attend church in person.
- The *Trunk or Treat* event held at *OutLoud* on Halloween was held indoors due to the weather.

#### **Other Business**

Trustee Report The appraisable report that is required by our insurance company should be available soon.

December Meeting Our meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> will be a working meeting to consider the budget for 2026 and will include a social time with treats. We will invite our Bookkeeper, Kim Brownlee to join us.

Round Table Members of Council were invited to speak about anything they would like.

- Lorie Fairburn is excited to put her Licensed Lay Worship education to use and will be preaching at Loring next weekend.
- Bill Downey and Stephen Park are preparing to head to Mexico for the winter.
- Thanks was offered to Kim Brownlee for her work as our new bookkeeper.

#### **Adjournment**

The Council gathered in a circle and sang the Ralph Johnston choral ending followed by a prayer from Caitlin Smithers. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

---

Budget Working Meeting	Wednesday December 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 at 6:45 p.m.	Lois E. Carey Parlour
Next Council Meeting	Wednesday January 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025 at 6:45 p.m.	Lois E. Carey Parlour

---

Chairperson, Doug McCausland

---

Secretary, Karen Gooch

**Appendix I**

**St. Andrew's United Church  
 Financial Comparative Statement October 2025**

	Actual 2024/01/01 to 2024/10/31	Actual 2025/01/01 to 2025/10/31	Budget 2025 to date	% of Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>				
<b>General Fund Revenue</b>				
Offerings - General Fund	\$137,119.23	\$109,524.05		
Offerings - Envelopes	\$59.05	\$44.00		
Offerings - Broadview	\$485.00	\$270.00		
Offerings - Church School	\$200.00	\$162.10		
Offerings - Renovations	\$815.00	\$0.00		
Other Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$138,678.28</b>	<b>\$110,000.15</b>	<b>\$148,244.17</b>	<b>61.8%</b>
Manse Interest	\$2,391.83	\$3,495.91		
Fund Raising Committee	\$610.00	\$1,299.50		
Rent for Use of Church	\$16,985.50	\$14,185.00		
Church Fees - Weddings/Funerals	\$1,600.00	\$450.00		
Administration Income	\$25.00	\$175.00		
Congregational Life Income	\$2,960.00	\$3,350.00		
Inclusivity Committee	\$710.00	\$40.00		
Worship Income	\$247.00	\$150.00		
Misc. Income	\$2,826.73	\$250.00		
Other Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$28,356.06</b>	<b>\$23,395.41</b>	<b>\$58,833.33</b>	<b>33.1%</b>
<b>Total General Fund Revenue</b>	<b>\$167,034.34</b>	<b>\$133,395.56</b>	<b>\$207,077.50</b>	<b>48.3%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>PERSONNEL</b>				
Salaries	\$87,208.43	\$74,336.64	\$101,081.67	61.3%
Vehicle Allowance	\$2,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$3,000.00	44.4%
Telephone Allowance	\$750.00	\$600.00	\$750.00	66.7%
Book/Educ Allowance	\$2,119.20	\$1,553.02	\$2,083.33	62.1%
Benefits/Pensions	\$15,621.31	\$14,559.14	\$6,338.12	191.4%
Other Personnel Expenses	\$1,325.00	\$0.00	\$7,732.50	0.0%
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>\$109,023.94</b>	<b>\$92,648.80</b>	<b>\$120,985.62</b>	<b>63.8%</b>
<b>PROPERTY</b>				
Heating Fuel	\$13,669.11	\$5,933.59	\$18,333.33	27.0%
Utilities	\$5,673.91	\$6,229.64	\$5,416.67	95.8%
Maintenance/ Security Contracts	\$4,153.06	\$1,848.33	\$3,750.00	41.1%
Repairs/ Maintenance	\$9,141.38	\$8,047.62	\$10,000.00	67.1%
Property Supplies	\$1,954.37	\$4,061.84	\$2,500.00	135.4%
Insurance	\$14,625.60	\$15,919.80	\$15,833.33	83.8%
Special property purchases	\$613.25	\$13,220.78	\$0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Property Expenses</b>	<b>\$49,830.68</b>	<b>\$55,261.60</b>	<b>\$55,833.33</b>	<b>82.5%</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Office Supplies/ Postage	\$4,370.89	\$3,407.97	\$5,166.67	55.0%
Telephone/Internet	\$2,377.78	\$2,734.69	\$2,500.00	91.2%
Office Equipment	\$2,397.12	\$2,178.96	\$2,500.00	72.6%
Computer Upgrades	\$72.76	\$0.00	\$416.67	0.0%
Regional Dues	\$6,773.00	\$8,749.00	\$7,291.67	100.0%
CSRC Supervisor Fee	\$360.00	\$180.00	\$300.00	50.0%
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,351.55</b>	<b>\$17,250.62</b>	<b>\$18,175.00</b>	<b>79.1%</b>

**WORSHIP**

Pulpit Supply	\$741.00	\$285.42	\$1,000.00	23.8%
Worship Supplies	\$0.00	\$233.88	\$1,250.00	15.6%
Church Fees - Weddings/Funerals	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	
Other Worship Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Worship Expenses</b>	<b>\$741.00</b>	<b>\$969.30</b>	<b>\$2,250.00</b>	<b>35.9%</b>

**CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT**

Church School Expenses	\$126.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.0%
Nursery Care	\$80.00	\$0.00		
Church School Assistant	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Adult C.D. Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<b>Total Christian Dev. Expenses</b>	<b>\$206.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**FINANCE**

Professional Fees (Audit)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,833.33	0.0%
Bank Service Charges	\$1,151.22	\$1,216.82		
Interest/ Finance Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<b>Total Finance Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,151.22</b>	<b>\$1,216.82</b>	<b>\$1,833.33</b>	<b>55.3%</b>

**OTHER GENERAL FUND**

Outreach Committee	\$67.17	\$49.06	\$333.33	12.3%
Pastoral Care	\$228.67	\$103.11	\$833.33	10.3%
Benevolent Fund	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$416.67	50.0%
Congregational Life	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inclusivity Committee	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$833.33	10.0%
Building Use	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Broadview	\$1,410.00	\$1,380.00	\$1,250.00	92.0%
Allocation for Capital	\$3,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$3,000.00	66.7%
Contingency Expenses	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other General Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,805.84</b>	<b>\$4,382.17</b>	<b>\$6,666.67</b>	<b>54.8%</b>

**TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES** **\$182,110.23** **\$171,729.31** **\$206,743.95**

**NET GENERAL FUND INCOME** **-\$15,075.89** **-\$38,333.75**

**Other Revenue**

Mission & Service Fund Revenue	\$13,717.96	\$14,080.40		
Loaves & Fishes Revenue	\$11,112.00	\$16,198.65		
Memorial Committee Revenue	\$30.00	\$940.00		
Choir Fund	\$670.00	\$1,405.00		
Capital Fund Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00		
PGF Fund Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous	\$24,261.61	\$3,544.35		
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$49,791.57</b>	<b>\$36,168.40</b>		

**Other Expenses**

Mission & Service Remittance	\$8,764.96	\$8,518.40		
Loaves & Fishes Expense	\$35,549.55	\$35,307.31		
Choir Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$1,206.16		
CRA Expense	\$3,665.70	\$3,064.20		
Capital Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Building Use Expense	\$0.00	\$200.00		
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$47,980.21</b>	<b>\$48,296.07</b>		

Total Revenue \$216,825.91 \$169,563.96

Total Expenses \$230,090.44 \$220,025.38

-\$13,264.53 -\$50,461.42

Current Bank Account Balances (as of October 31, 2025)

General	\$29,590.59
Building	\$1,815.90
Loaves & Fishes	\$34,180.46
Memorial Fund	\$23,172.96

Manse Fund	\$129,511.00
Assante Investments	\$105,890.68

\$329,154.09

Outstanding

-\$14,080.40	to M&S from General
<u>-940.00</u>	to Memorial from General
-\$15,020.40	Total from General Account

**Appendix II**

**Spiritual Life Liaison Report – November 19, 2025**

Worship & Christian Education: Ralph Johnston/Kim Delarosbel (co-chairs)

The Worship Team met a few weeks ago to review operations and plan ahead. With the absence of a formal Sunday School program, we discussed improving the Children's area at the back of the sanctuary.

The fall season continued with World Food Sunday. Lori Fairburn and Seth Compton from OutLoud reflected on food insecurity. Worship was followed a Linger Lunch of soup, buns and dessert, kindly funded by Joyce Boston. Folks responded very generously to the special offering for OutLoud. Along with the proceeds from Linger Lunch, OutLoud received about \$600.

The All Saints service was held on November 2 and contained a lovely candlelighting piece. Our November 9th celebration of Remembrance Day was attended by two Legionnaires, one of whom, Jim Morrison, spoke of his military service and the function of the Legion in today's world. The Legion visitors were gifted with pottery bowls and tickets to our Empty Bowls event in February. Last Sunday we celebrated our own Reign of Christ with a joyful intergenerational service. "What If Heaven Were an Endless Potluck!" featured Ralph's wonderful "I'd Like to Throw a Party" which he based on St. Brigit's prayer. The sanctuary featured craft pieces created by the children, Kim Robinson Nelles's banners, Ralph and Jennifer Barnett's woven cloth, and folks contributed pieces of artwork depicting their potluck offerings. The celebration concluded with cupcakes for refreshments! Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday in November, but is being treated as the fifth as we gather at Emmanuel for a Fifth Sunday service with other United Churches.

November 30 kicks off our Advent celebrations based on the theme "Close to Home. Diane Matheson-Jimenez will join us for this service and will hold a Second Hour Forum in the parlour after worship to update folks on the visioning work she has been doing with council. Ray Gauthier and his mother Ruth will decorate the sanctuary for Advent on Saturday, November 29. We are grateful for their willingness to honour Lois Carey's memory with this special time in the sanctuary. Lois loved Christmas and they say they can feel her directing the operation in her wonderful inimitable way! The memorial star tree will grace the narthex again this year. Cardstock candles for Advent prayers will be available to the congregation and guests to Loaves and Fishes. These will be hung from the side garlands throughout the season

Advent II on December 7 will feature our traditional gifts wrapped in white paper, a practice begun in the late 1800s to disguise the value of charitable gifts given on this day....thus the use of the term "White Gift" This year's gifts will be directed to TrueSelf, a downtown organization focussed on assisting vulnerable and unhoused folks in our community. On December 14 the choir will present its traditional Lessons and Carols service, shortened version at Sunday morning worship and full version in the evening. The pageant, written and directed by Pat-Kirton Bailey, will be performed during morning worship on Sunday, December 21. Trinity's annual Longest Night service will take place on Monday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. Our Christmas Eve service of candlelight and Communion will be held on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. The church will be closed December 28, and our traditional "Low Sunday" service will take the form of a prerecorded service available on YouTube.

The Monday study program, Reading the Bible in One Year continues to meet weekly on Monday afternoons. They are nearing the end of their journey through the Bible in one year. Thanks to Tim Robertson and Marg Reid for their leadership!

Congregational Life/Fundraising: LizB/LizW (co-chairs)

Our faithful Liz Westbrook is recovering well from her hip surgery, and Willa Gallant has had some time away with her grandchildren. We are very grateful to Bill Downey, Stephen Park, Frankie Syme, Betty Hurley and Rosie Schwant who have provided refreshments in their absence!

A successful Fall Bazaar, Silent Auction, Cookie Walk and Café took place on Saturday, October 25 from 10:00 until 2:00. The Cookie Walk organized by Willa Gallant, took in \$1200! The Silent Auction, run by Lorie Fairburn, Donna Landry and Bill Downey, brought in \$879. Proceeds from the Café, table rentals, and donations from vendors brought the total for the day to over \$3100. Next year's bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, October 31.

Our annual Baking Spirits Bright cookie sale is underway! Cookie pick-up is scheduled for Sunday, December 7. Prepackaged tins of 5 dozen Christmas fancies for \$45 are available for pre-order until December 1.

Pastoral Care: Donna Landry (chair)

Rev. Caitlin and Donna Landry continue Pastoral Care visits as time allows. Other members of the team have been in touch with a number of home-bound folks. Thanks to Donna Landry and Wynne Blair, the Christmas cards are ready to be written. The card ministry folks will gather at Donna's home in the next few weeks to write the Christmas greetings. It's a lovely time for us to remember folks who are struggling or we don't see often and hold them in our thoughts and prayers. The Thanksgiving cards were hand-delivered because of the mail strike, but we are considering continuing that practice to dispense with the cost of postage. The Wursters, the Blairs, Derek Stott, Karen Gooch, Stuart Bailey, Liz Brownlee and Lucy Emmott provided delivery service, and a number of them commented on how nice it was to make a personal connection!

Submitted by Liz Brownlee

Appendix III



**Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank  
 Report to Council November 19, 2025 Meeting**

2025	# of Client s	2024	# of Client s	% Difference	2025 # of Students	2024 # of Students	% Difference
Oct. 2	71	Oct. 3	59	20.3%	9	18	-50.0%
Oct. 9	121	Oct. 10	50	142.0%	0	6	-100.0%
Oct. 16	90	Oct. 17	63	42.9%	2	31	-93.5%
Oct. 23	93	Oct. 24	68	36.8%	3	24	-87.5%
Oct. 30	67	Oct. 31	48	39.6%	1	14	-92.9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>442</b>		<b>288</b>	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>-83.9%</b>

**Total Visits**

<b>2025</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>457</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>381</b>
	<b>53.5%</b>	<b>-83.9%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>

2025 New Clients	30
2024 New Clients	n/a
	--
2025 New Students	0
2024 New Students	n/a
	--
2025 Volunteer Hours	493
2024 Volunteer Hours	383
	28.7%

**In-Kind Donations**

2024 Food Rescue	\$1,650	2025 Food Rescue	\$5,000.00	203.0%
2024 In-Kind Donations	\$2,535	2025 In-Kind Donations	\$2,285.00	-9.9%

**Overview of Activities**

- Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Lunch is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2025.
- The Giving Tuesday Campaign will focus on The Café, following the success of serving breakfast sandwiches.
- The Safe Food Handling Course will be offered in North Bay in the New Year. result, volunteers are cancelling the planned trip to Parry Sound in December and will instead plan to attend the course in January in North Bay.
- Holiday Hours - Food Bank to be closed Thursday, December 25, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by Lorie Fairburn,  
 Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank Manager

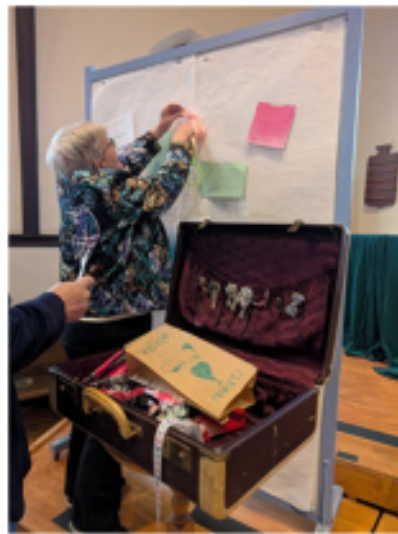
**Appendix VI**

Minister's Report October - November 2025

This Fall we have been reflecting on a theme of, 'A Place at the Table', based on a UCC project. On the United Church website, they write, "As we mark our centennial, we reimagine Da Vinci's Last Supper as a representation of our faith community: one committed to welcoming people of all backgrounds, identities and experiences".



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!



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

Most recently, our Remembrance Sunday, where we were joined by two veterans from The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23, who shared about the work, they are doing in the community. Followed by a more imaginative service the next week, where we wondered what we might bring to share if Heaven were an endless potluck.

**Call to Worship**

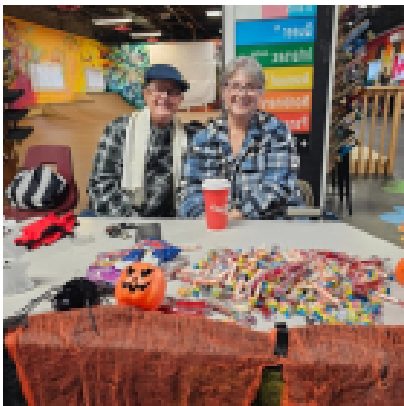
*Rick Blair, Emily, Hadley, and Noah Morris*

Today we wonder, "What might the kingdom of Heaven be like?" So we asked around. "If Heaven were a wonderful potluck supper, where everyone brought something of themselves to share – what would YOU bring that's special to you – or what is close to your heart that you would want to be there? Here's some of the answers we heard:

- A: Chocolate pudding! And grandchildren! And friends!
  - B: A liter of 2% milk, filled with human kindness.
  - A: Well, we HAVE to have GRAVY! And here's a gravy boat to make sure we do!
  - C: Sushi and Bubble Tea!
  - A: I want to meet a dog named Ginger, and a cat named Ginger! They were both strays who came in out of fierce winter storms to become beloved family companions! I'd love to see them!
  - B: Reuniting with all who have been lost too soon -- and all who made it more possible to live as our authentic selves.
  - C: Variety and diversity in dishes, and people!
  - A: Homemade toques and warm clothes for everyone!
  - B: My mother's boiled dinner.
  - C: Kindness!
  - B: Jellied Salad!
  - A: Scalloped Potatoes with warmth and goodness for all.
- So come! Let's celebrate the Creator of All,



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 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