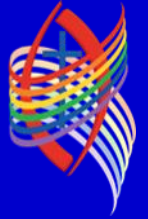




TOGETHER

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



Easter Sunday, April 26, 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

This Sunday - April 26, 2026 The Fourth Sunday of Easter Called to Care

In early Biblical days, we hear stories of people caring for one another, sharing what they had, and gathering often, around tables, on the land, and in sacred spaces, with grateful and open hearts. Often their relationships with God grew through their relationships with one another. They devoted themselves to



learning, fellowship, sharing meals, and prayer. Together, they discovered a life shaped by awe, generosity, and deep connection .

Next Sunday - May 3, 2026 The Fifth Sunday of Easter Finding Home

Easter reminds us that hope is alive.

Because of the resurrection, what once felt lost can be restored. What felt distant can be brought near. And what felt like wandering... can finally find its way home.

Jesus speaks these words into our uncertainty: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled... My Father’s house has many rooms.”* Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus doesn’t just point the way, he **becomes** the way home.

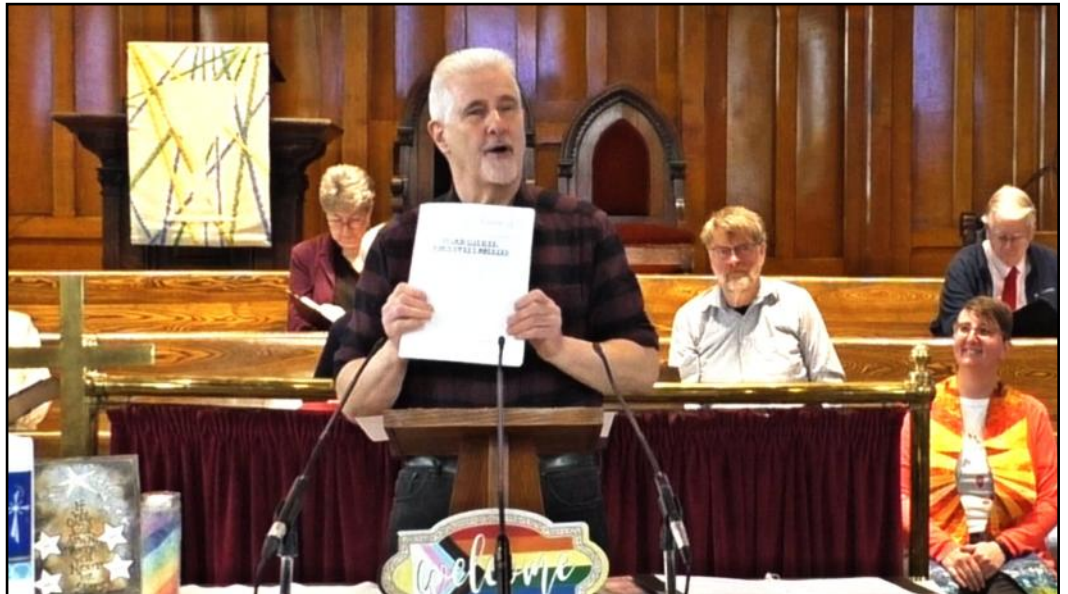
In the days following Easter, the early church in Acts shows us what that home looks like: A community gathered in faith. Hearts united in prayer.

No matter where we’ve been or what we’re carrying, there is space for us. There is hope for us. There is a home prepared for us. We belong.

Words of Peace Words of Power Words of Grace Words of Life

Last Sunday, the choir sang a beautiful adaptation of *“In Old Galilee” (VU 354).*

Ralph Johnston, the *Director of Music* at St. Andrew’s, added a verse in Japanese which captured the spirit of this lovely hymn. Thank you, Ralph, for all the ways in which your music enriches our worship each Sunday. We are truly blessed!



**In old Galilee, when sweet breezes blew o'er the lake,
Jesus spoke to crowds when they came to hear,
those words of grace that gave them promise;
oh speak to me now, and let me hear those words of grace.**



New Church Council Holds Their First Meeting

On Wednesday, April 15, the newly-elected St. Andrew's Church Council met under the guidance of Chair Wynne Blair. One of the first items on the agenda was a "Team Building Exercise" in which Council members made a list of characteristics that make for a good

council. Wynne (*photo above*) wrote the answers on a chart - and as can be seen, the exercise was a fruitful one. Members of the congregation are always welcome at our Council meetings and the approved minutes of past meetings are posted on the Church website when they become available: <https://standrews-northbay.ca/st-andrews-church-council/>

SECURITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - between now and the end of June

Between now and the end of June there are several groups using the church outside of office hours. St. Andrew's needs to provide security coverage for events such as *Northland Wrestling* concerts (*Near North Voices* and *North Bay Symphony*) and related rehearsals, and a couple of other groups that are using the church for one-time events of a few hours. Duties would include watching McIntyre entrance, and being an on-site "go to" person for rental groups. If you are interested, or wish more information please let Caitlin know. She can be contacted at:

csmithers_standrews@cogeco.net

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

St. Andrew's member, Mary Marrs, sends these stamps to the *Laurentian Wesleyan Church in North Bay* which in turn sends them to the folks at the [Christian Salvage Mission](#) who distribute Bibles, hymnals and Sunday School materials worldwide. These stamps are sold to collectors to help fund the work of the [C.S.M.](#)

- Cut stamps from mail
- Do not cut too close to the perforations
- Leave the stamps on the paper
- No more than 1 cm left around each stamp

PLEASE GIVE THESE USED STAMPS TO MARY, OR LEAVE THEM IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU!



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**, or
- 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:



Audrey Sullivan & the family of Douglas Boughner

The family of Brian Nelles

Joyce MacQueen Kim Delarosbel Carole Sawyer

Ken Dech Don Vaillancourt

ST. ANDREW'S LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY FOOD BANK POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Andrew's *Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank* requires a

FOOD BANK 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: Extended to 5 p.m., **Thurs., April 30, 2026**

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

<https://standrews-northbay.ca>

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



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

EARTH WEEK 2026

During Earth Week 2026, The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, [Together for the Love of Creation \(opens in a new tab\)](#).

Communities of faith, networks, and regions are invited to initiate and participate in climate justice events during the week of April 19–26. Together with

fellow members of the [national For the Love of Creation effort \(opens in a new](#)

[tab\)](#), this is a great opportunity to show leadership. It starts with three simple steps.

We **pray** to connect with God and God's Creation. We **learn** about the realities and solutions to climate change. And we **act**— showing leadership for climate justice in our communities, and bringing a clear call for leadership to our Members of Parliament.

[CLICK **HERE** TO VIEW THE MODERATOR'S EARTH WEEK MESSAGE ON YouTube](#)



Earth Week 2026

Together for the **Love** of Creation

LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0



Session 8: Restoring Relationships

This session explores major biblical themes

- ◆ from bondage to liberation,
- ◆ from exile to return,
- ◆ from sin to forgiveness.

We'll be travelling to Egypt, to Babylon, and to Jerusalem!

Monday, April 27, 2026 2 - 4 pm

In the St. Andrew's Parlour All are welcome!



NOTE: Each Sunday service is recorded on video and usually posted on the St. Andrew's YouTube channel by noon on Monday. Here is the link to last Sunday's service (19 April) : <https://youtu.be/GYSS0qdom8A>

ONLINE WORSHIP



St. Andrew's
United Church
North Bay, Ontario

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER
19 April 2026

NEAR NORTH VOICES
presents

AMAZING 80s

A choral journey through five centuries



Venue and time

Saturday, 9 May 2026 @ 7 PM

**St. Andrew's United Church
399 Cassells Street**

Tickets

\$25 adults | \$15 students from choristers

Reservations: nearnorthvoices@gmail.com

Door price: \$30 adults | \$20 students



Social Dancing

Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

St. Andrew's Church

399 Cassells Street, North Bay

With

Rick and Wynne Blair

705-495-3019

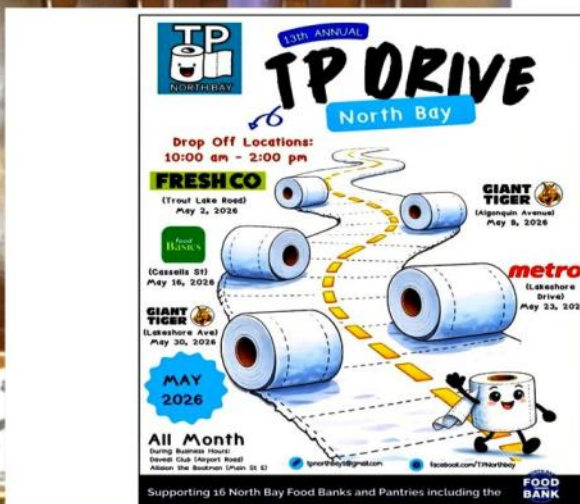
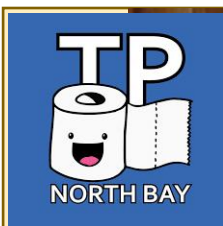
Bill and Judith Ingwersen

705-474-1935

Optional lesson given at 1:45 pm



Come and join us for exercise, fun and community!
All are welcome: couples, singles, dancers, non-dancers, inclusive



The *Loaves & Fishes Community Foodbank* is one of the 16 North Bay Food Banks and Pantries that are the recipients of the toilet paper that is collected through the *TP North Bay* campaign. However, for the next 6 weeks or so, until the rolls from the city-wide drive are distributed, the *Loaves & Fishes Food Bank* desperately needs donations of toilet paper for their clients. Donations of any amounts are welcome - at Church on Sunday, or through the week at the Church Office. (see Office Hours on Page 3).