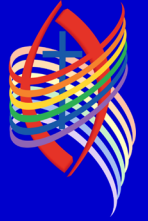




# TOGETHER

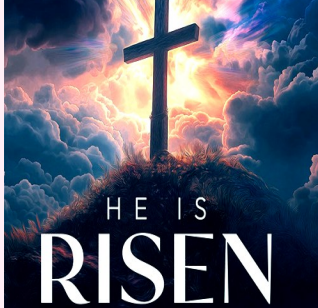
a weekly newsletter for members and friends of the St. Andrews faith community



Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

## Next Sunday - April 5, 2026 EASTER SUNDAY



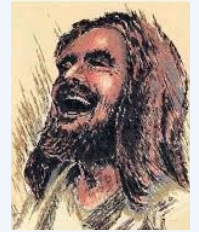
This Easter Sunday, we celebrate more than a moment in history—we celebrate a living hope that's still moving, still healing, still transforming lives today.

**The good news is...** hope is not buried.  
**The good news is...** love has the final word.  
**The good news is...** new life is possible- for you, for all of us.

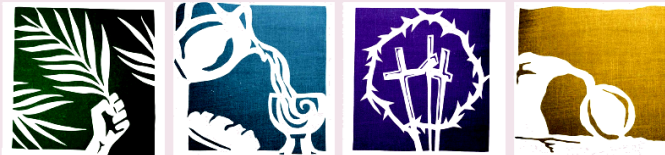
Come experience the joy, the renewal, and the power of Easter with us. Because the story didn't end—it's still unfolding... alive in the world.

## Next Sunday - April 12, 2026 HOLY HUMOUR SUNDAY

What is Holy Humour Sunday? In the early church, the Sunday after Easter was observed by the faithful as a day of joy and laughter with parties and shenanigans to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The custom of *Bright Sunday*, as it was called, came from the idea of some early church theologians that God played a joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Joy and laughter can lead us to healing. Sometimes God's grace comes to us in the form of humour that helps us make it through another day.



This service is hosted by the St. Andrew's Worship Committee.



## Holy Week & Easter Services

**Maundy Thursday** - Thursday, April 2nd - Pot Luck & Communion Service  
hosted by Trinity United at 5 pm (more info on page 7)

**Good Friday** - Friday, April 3rd

- **Good Friday Breakfast** - at Trinity United (see page 6) - 8:30 a.m.
- **Good Friday Worship Service** - St. Andrew's at 10:30 a.m.

**Easter Sunday** - Sunrise Service 7:30 am - corner McIntyre & Ferguson

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE  
at St. Andrew's 10:30 a.m.**



**PALM SUNDAY PAGEANT 2026**  
Tale of a Dog & a Donkey - Part 2  
*(photos courtesy of Judith Ingwersen)*





## Our Minister's Easter Message

Dear St. Andrew's Community,

As I sit down to write this Easter letter to you, I'm reminded that this is our third year together. I can hardly believe how many memories we have shared, and how deeply you have shaped my life and ministry. I can honestly say I wouldn't be where I am without you.

This Easter season, as we welcome another year together, I am filled with hope. Hope for the new council welcomed at our recent congregational meeting; hope for the visioning and intentional work shaping our ministry at St. Andrew's; and hope for the love, care, and sense of sanctuary experienced in Sunday worship through community, music, and even our delicious treats. Above all, I hold hope in the Good News of God's love that is alive in the world, and in this community of faith — this Easter and always.

That has been our theme this Lent and Easter: "The Good News" A reflection from Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman captures it beautifully: in returning to the heart of Jesus' most foundational teachings, we root ourselves in the goodness God desires for all creation. This goodness is living and breathing—unbound, surprising, expansive, and grounded in justice, mercy, and faithfulness. In a world that can feel heavy, the call remains: tell me something good.

After a long and cold winter—one that brought unexpected challenges with heating and plumbing, and required the dedication of our property committee and others — I am especially grateful. **Your generosity of time, money, care, and kindness continues to sustain and nurture this community.** Because of you, we are able to offer meaningful ministries of pastoral care, worship, and fellowship, and extend our outreach through initiatives like Mission and Service and the St. Andrew's *Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank*. These acts of generosity truly make a difference, and none of this work would be possible without each of you.

This Easter, I invite you to hold onto these words from the poem *Birdsong* by Rev. Sarah Speed: "Every morning the sun rises, majestic and steady. She is greeted in all her strength with the joyous cacophony of birdsong. I like to believe this holy chorus is the birds telling each other— I'm here. We made it through the night. You're not alone.

What good, good news. I think the resurrection is a bit like that. God is here. We made it through the night. We are not alone. What good, good news."

May this Good News fill you with hope—that God's love is alive and moving in and through us all, always.

May God bless you, today and always.

Happy Easter!

Rev. Caitlin





The United Church  
of Canada

Click on the link below to  
view the video on YouTube ,  
or read the transcript of the  
video below.

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=cqQEiGHRllw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqQEiGHRllw)

## Moderator's Easter Message 2026

### From Heartbreak to Hope: An Easter Message from The United Church of Canada

#### *Transcript of Video Message*

Shortly after the resurrection, Luke's gospel tells us about two disciples walking to Emmaus. A stranger joins them and asks, "What news?"

They answer, "About Jesus of Nazareth. Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death. They crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

That line breaks my heart. *But we had hoped.* We could all fill in our own version. But we had hoped the war would be over. But we had hoped things would be different by now.

But we had hoped they'd still be here. Life is full of dashed hopes and bad news. The disciples had hoped for a redeemer. Instead, they experienced trauma and heartbreaking loss. And then came confusing news. News they were pretty sure was fake news.

Propaganda isn't new. Empires have always used it. But today, with AI and deep fakes, it's

even harder to know what's true. It's good to be skeptical and to defend good journalism. That's exactly where the disciples were when the women came with the news that Jesus was risen. The scripture says it seemed to them nonsense, an idle tale, fake news. The good news begins with the least credible sources in the eyes of the world. Women and then biased followers. Not Caesar, not Pilate—no official report, just testimony.

So Easter—bad news, confusing news, maybe even fake news—that doesn't naturally add up to hope. So where does the good news come from?

Not from dark chocolate Easter bunnies, as much as I feel like that might help. The good news came because a small community encountered the risen Christ and believed that death was defeated, that injustice was not the last word. The Good News came from a group of believers whose lives were so radically changed from the inside out, they began to transform the world around them.

Today, as followers of Jesus the risen Christ, we continue to be and share that good news. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

The week after Easter, **April 6th-12th**, Caitlin will be away. Rev. Ted Harrison will cover emergency Pastoral Care.

### 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    Don Yackobeck**

## 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**

## GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST

Sponsored by Trinity A.O.T.S.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 8:30 a.m.

Trinity United Church  
(McIntyre at Ferguson)

**Breakfast includes:**

(eggs, bacon, home fries, toast & juice)

Adults: \$15 ~ Students \$10

Family (4): Parents & 2 Children): \$40

Tickets: contact the church ofc. at  
705 474-3310 and pay by  
e transfer, cheque or cash  
or contact Maurice (705 495-1090)

Catered breakfast, so tickets  
must be paid in advance by **March 28<sup>th</sup>** (limit 90)

Everyone is welcome!



### REMEMBERING AT EASTER

The Memorial Committee says, "Thank you," to all those who donated towards the purchase of Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary in memory of a loved one or a friend.

A list of those being remembered will appear in the Easter bulletin and also in the April 12th edition of this **TOGETHER** newsletter.



## Social Dancing



Wednesdays 2 – 3:30pm  
starting April 8, 2026

St. Andrew's Church  
399 Cassells St., North Bay

with

Rick and Wynne Blair  
705-495-3019

Bill and Judith Ingwersen  
705-474-1935

optional lesson given at 1:45-2pm

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



## The Joyful Bells Handbell Choir



**Spring Concert**  
**Sun. April 12, 2026**  
**1:30 pm**

**Trinity United Church**  
111 McIntyre St. E, at Ferguson St.

Free will offering  
Donation to be made to the  
Trinity Endowment Fund in Memory of Cindy Brownlee