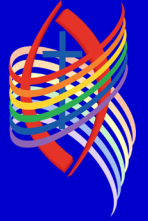




TOGETHER

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



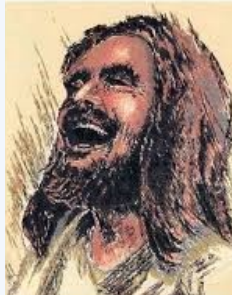
Easter Sunday, April 12, 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

Next Sunday - April 12, 2026 The Second Sunday of Easter 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.

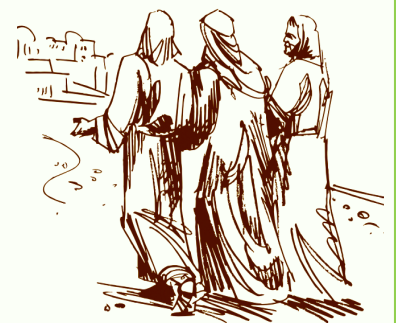


Next Sunday - April 19, 2026 The Third Sunday of Easter The Road to Emmaus

In the last chapter of the Gospel of Luke, two disciples who've been devastated by Jesus's recent death walk sadly to Emmaus. On the way they meet up with a stranger – who walks with them and shares a surprising knowledge of Jesus' life and the depth of the scriptures.

As their short journey ends with a meal together, hope unfolds – and a new awareness changes everything.

Welcome to an evening meal in a roadside inn where an unexpected ending became a new beginning.



Have you heard any good Church jokes lately?

What kind of car did the apostles drive? A Honda, because they were all in one ACCORD.

A pastor thinned out his paint with water to save money while painting the church. That night, a huge storm washed it all off. He asked God why, and a voice thundered from the sky:

"Repaint! Repaint, and thin no more!"

Adam and Eve: The first people not to read the *Apple terms and conditions*.

How do we know Peter was a successful fisherman? By his net income.

Do you have your own favourite "one liner" or other joke with a Church theme?

Bring it with you - and share it with the congregation this Sunday (April 12th) which is ...

Holy Humour Sunday!



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 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)

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



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...

Derek Stott & Family

Garth Goodhew & Sons

Patricia Kirton Bailey &
Stuart Bailey

Elizabeth & Bethany Brownlee &
Michael Rogowski

Bill & Janie Holmes

Donna Landry

Kimberly, Shannon & Janyce

Monique Peters

Wanda & John Wallace

Frankie Syme

Wynne & Rick Blair

Cindy Lalande

Ralph Johnston &
Chuck Haskins

LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0

Session 6: A Passion for Christ—Paul the Apostle.

Hi Everyone!

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, April 13th 2026**, and we'll be picking up with Session 6: A Passion for Christ—Paul the Apostle. We'll be looking at, among other things, the authentic and disputed Pauline letters as we ask the pertinently impertinent question: "Paul—Appealing or Appalling?"

Hope you had a great Easter!



RED SCARVES FOR AIDS AWARENESS - CAN YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?

calling all



KNITTERS & CROCHETERS!

Do you want to donate your time and knit or crochet scarves to show your support for people living with HIV/AIDS? Contact us! We can provide you the yarn, or you can use your own yarn.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Scarves can be knit or crocheted with red yarn, in any pattern, with a minimum size of 6"x 60".



RED SCARF PROJECT

ST. ANDREW'S CONTACTS:
LIZ BROWNLEE
WILLA GALLANT

FOR DECEMBER 2026

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

**BRASS BAND
CONCERT**

THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE BRASS
WITH THE TRINITY UNITED CHOIR

THE SALVATION ARMY Giving Hope Today

FREE WILL OFFERING
FOR THE SUPPORT OF
THE TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
BUILDING RESTORATION

FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2026 | 7:00 PM
Trinity United Church
111 McIntyre St. East, North Bay On
Complimentary Refreshments

Peggy Millar - Artistic Director
Sue Nicholson - Accompanist

**RAPPORT
SINGERS
NORTH BAY**

Here's to
SONG!

Sunday, April 19, 2026
1:30 pm

Trinity United Church
corner of McIntyre & Ferguson

Tickets - at the door
\$20 Adults - \$15 Students
12 & under- free