



# TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, July 26, 2026  
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers



**This Sunday - July 26, 2026**

**The Last Bird in Our Summer Series**  
**Consider the Birds: Faith & Feathers**

**The Raven: More than a bird  
to observe**

Join us as we conclude our summer series, *Faith and Feathers*, with the final bird from our series, *Consider the Birds*: the raven. More than a bird to observe, the raven invites us to reflect on the deeper meanings birds have carried throughout human history - symbols of hope, transformation, resurrection, and the mystery of something beyond ourselves.



As we explore the raven's unique place in this story, we'll consider how it, too, contains multitudes and what it might teach us about seeing the "more" that God places before us every day.

**Month of  
August 2026**



**St. Andrew's is  
CLOSED**

**(Church Office Open - see pg. 5)**

**St. Andrew's folks are invited to  
worship at Trinity United 10:30 a.m.  
each Sunday (August 2, 9, 16, 23)  
at 111 McIntyre St. East  
(corner McIntyre & Ferguson)**

**Fifth Sunday shared worship service  
Sunday, August 30th**

**first service back at St. Andrew's  
after our Summer Break**

**Sunday, September 6, 2026**

**LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY FOODBANK - SUMMER CLOSURE**

**Our last food bank for July takes place on THURSDAY, JULY 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**The food bank is closed for the month of August  
and will reopen on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd**

Loaves & Fishes



**DOROTHY STEWART - INTERMENT SERVICE - JULY 29TH - SUDBURY**

Rev. Dave LeGrand of St. Andrew's United in Sudbury, wants the friends of Dorothy Stewart to know that she is going to be laid to rest there in the family plot next week.

The interment service will be on **July 29 (Wed) at 11am** at Park Lawn Cemetery in Sudbury

Dorothy's funeral was held here at *St. Andrew's - North Bay* in October of 2024. You may read her obituary [here](#).

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dave Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament! United Church Golf Challenge - 4 Person Scramble



**Where:** Osprey Links, Callander  
**When:** Thursday, August 27, 2026  
**Check In** is at 1:30 p.m.  
**Start Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Dinner Time:** 5:00 p.m.



**Proceeds exceeding the cost of the event will be shared evenly between the Canadian Shield Regional Council Youth and Young Adult Fund and Out Loud North Bay**

**For more information or to register please contact:**

John Henderson at 705-492-4212 or [johnkeithhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:johnkeithhenderson@gmail.com)

Dave McKenney at 705-840-7070 or [d127mckenney@gmail.com](mailto:d127mckenney@gmail.com)

You can register at: <https://ospreylinksgolf.com/product/dave-robinson-memorial/>

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### AN INVITATION FROM EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH



Hi Friends:

I am sure you are eagerly anticipating holiday time!!

We would like to extend an invitation to folks to join us for worship at Emmanuel United Church on **Sunday, July 26.**

This will be a very special service in the life of our congregation. We will be giving thanks for the ministry of Will, as he celebrates his retirement from Emmanuel, and we will also be marking the final Sunday with Bud McMartin, as he prepares to move out of town.

Bud has been a faithful and beloved part of the Emmanuel community for over 60 years. His presence, service, and steady commitment have been a gift to generations of this congregation, and we hope to gather as many friends as possible to surround him with gratitude, blessing, and love as he begins this new chapter.



It would mean a great deal to us to have our wider church family with us as we give thanks for both Will and Bud, and as we celebrate their contributions to the life and ministry of the church.

Worship begins at 11:00, and all are welcome. A lunch will follow the service.

If you could let folks know, it would be so appreciated.

*Tracy*



## Minister's Report Feb May to June 2026

What a beautiful summer it has been here in North Bay, if a little warm and muggy some days. I have enjoyed seeing all the flowers and veggies blossoming and bearing fruit, including my own tomatoes. And my squash are starting to take over the yard! I continue to be grateful to all who are caring for the gardens and green spaces outside of St. Andrew's. What a wonderful community we have, within and around St. Andrew's!

This summer we have been considering the birds, with our *Faith and Feathers* summer series, as we join in worship with Trinity, and other visitors. We have reflected on the Pigeon, the Pelican, the Eagle, and the Sparrow. Next Sunday will be our last Sunday for the summer, and we will look closer at the Raven, as well as have a chance to wrap up the series. It has been wonderful seeing all the beautiful and interesting birds, nests, pictures, books, and so much more that have become part of our community roost!

Last month Lisa Blais and I hired two summer students, who are with us in July and with Trinity in August. You have probably seen Amelia on Sundays, leading Sunday school with great stories and crafts, as well as leading the all ages time during the week of the eagle. And many of you have already met Abbi from her time as our temporary office admin, and she mentioned how much it meant to her that so many of you stopped by just to say hi, so thank you for all you are each doing to welcome our summer students and welcome them as part of our community this summer! It has been so wonderful to have their energy, creativity, and experience as part of our community this Summer!

Tim, Margaret and I have begun working on the study group we have planned for the fall, which offers a chance for baptism or membership at the end, or a simply a chance to learn a bit more about the UCC and our history and theology together, with the option to reaffirm your faith at



the end. We are welcoming anyone to join the group, whether you are new to the United Church or have been a part of it for a long time, there will likely be something new to learn, as well as a great chance for questions and discussion together. I would love to have a combination of new and more familiar folks, in the interest of building community. So, if you are interested, I would love to chat more!

Lastly, as M&P and many of you are already aware, I have been taking some time this summer to attend a couple of medical appointments in Sudbury, and I appreciate the flexibility and care I have been shown while doing that. It is nothing serious, but it sure is nice to have a family doctor again and get caught up on some much needed care, and I hoped summer was a good time to do so, where I wouldn't be too missed. If you have any concerns though, please reach out. I am always happy to chat and hear how I can support you all better. Thank you all for your support and flexibility, I appreciate it!

I am on vacation for most of August, but I will be back the last week of August, as I took time off in January for my brother's wedding. That will give me a chance to do some planning for September and get caught up on any pastoral care that came up in August.

All my best,

*Rev. Caitlin Smith*

## THANK YOU SOBEY'S !!

The local SOBEY'S in North Bay has donated \$3,000 in gift cards to the *Loaves & Fishes* Food Bank Café. This donation will go a long way to helping the Food Bank serve its clients in a meaningful way. The Café is such an appreciated part of St. Andrew's *Loaves & Fishes* outreach program.



Each Sunday service is recorded on video and the service is usually posted on the St. Andrew's [YouTube channel](#) by noon on the following day (Monday).

Here is the link to last Sunday's service (July 19, 2026) :

<https://youtu.be/RDKG1ah0JDM>

A video link is also posted on the homepage of the St. Andrew's website.



## Are you Interested in Joining the St. Andrew's Security Team ??



From time to time, there are various groups that rent parts of the church for meetings or functions that happen outside of office hours.

To comply with the conditions of our liability insurance, St. Andrew's is required to provide security coverage for groups that are using the church for one-time events of a few hours duration. Duties of a security person would include being a "gatekeeper" at the door, doing walk-around checks, and generally being an on-site contact at times when rental groups are present. A Security Team "On Call" list is being drawn up and interested people are invited to apply. Training and orientation will be provided, and there is a pay rate of \$20 per hour. If you are interested, or wish more information please phone **Lucien Masson** at the number below.

**Security Team Coordinator - Lucien Masson: 705-358-1309**

## 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 REGULAR SUMMER HOURS

Monday: closed

Tues. & Wed.: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thurs: 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm      Friday: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: closed

**NOTE: St. Andrew's will be closed for worship for all the Sundays in the month of August, but the Church Office will remain open during the hours posted here.**

**NOTE: THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AUGUST 25th to AUGUST 28th (incl)**



### Minister's Summer Break - St. Andrew's

Please note that Rev. Caitlin Smithers will be on her Summer Break during the month of August, 2026

- For Pastoral Care and emergencies during the Month of August, please contact Rev. Ted Harrison of Trinity United Church through the  
**St. Andrew's Office (705 472-7680)**  
or the **Trinity United office (705- 474-3310)**



### 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:

**Mary Marrs**

**Joyce MacQueen**

**Donna Landry**

**Carole Sawyer**

**Ken Dech**

**Don Vaillancourt**



**Message from Judy Campbell: "Thank you for prayers answered!"**

# Explore your Faith Be Part of a Community

## Join Our Study Group & Membership Class



Are you interested in learning more about the United Church of Canada, or maybe about God or Jesus or another part of your faith?

If so, you're in luck! This September we are going to offer an opportunity to learn about all that and more, and even explore such topics as membership in the *United Church of Canada*, adult Baptism and Confirmation - or reaffirming your faith if you are already a member!

There is no pressure to become a member though, or to be new to church — everyone is welcome to come, learn, and discuss together, to ask questions, and reflect together on what it means to be followers of God in this time and place right now.

### Together we'll explore:

- The Christian faith and the teachings of Jesus
- The history, beliefs, and mission of The United Church of Canada
- What it means to belong to a faith community

- Opportunities to grow, serve, and make a difference
- Any questions you might have, in a welcoming and respectful environment

Whether you're new to church, exploring your faith, considering becoming a member of the United Church of Canada, or interested in reaffirming your faith, you're warmly invited to our **Study Group & Membership Class**.

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**Date:** September 20<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** The first meeting will be after church on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. Future meeting schedule to be determined by the group.

**Location:** St. Andrew's *Lois Carey Parlour*

### For more information or to register, please contact :

**Rev. Caitlin Smithers** (office-705-472-7680) ([csmithers\\_standrews@cogeco.net](mailto:csmithers_standrews@cogeco.net)) or

**Tim Robertson** (705-497-1227 ) ([timothyrobertson@hotmail.com](mailto:timothyrobertson@hotmail.com)) or

**Margaret Reid** (705-476-3917)

*"Wherever you are  
on your faith journey,  
there is a place for you  
here."*



## OUR NEXT FIFTH SUNDAY SERVICE August 30, 2026 at Carmichael United Church (10:30 am)

When a month has five Sundays in it, the United Churches of the North Bay Area join together in a combined service of Sunday worship. The next "Fifth Sunday" service will be at **Carmichael United Church (521 Four Mile Lake Rd.)**. This Service will be conducted as a co-operative effort led by **Trinity United Church**.

# TUBES FOR FOOD



**Guy's  
TIRE & AUTO**  
SALES INC. SERVICE

Guy's Tire Sales & Auto Service  
224 Airport Road  
www.guystiresales.ca



Loaves & Fishes  
Community  
Food Bank

## Loaves & Fishes



### TUBES FOR FOOD

is back at GUY'S - Just in time for the hot summer weather. Bring in your **food** or **cash** donations for **Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank** and receive a free INNER TUBE - great for keeping you afloat in a cool lake!



## PRAYING FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY WILDFIRE ACTIVITY



As wildfires impact lands and peoples across the country, we ask you to join us in prayer:

- For safety and protection for people, animals, and communities in harm's way
- For strength and resilience among evacuees, fire fighters, and other 1st responders
- For those affected by the smoke of the wildfires which is impacting air quality across broad distances
- For acknowledgement and action on the ongoing impact of climate change
- For healing and renewal for the land and all of creation

*Let us pray...*

**Creator,  
Wildfires are engulfing homes,  
leaving us vulnerable, exposed, open:  
We come to you, broken,  
seeking wholeness...  
In our time of need provide for us those  
things that will bring restoration to all of  
creation,  
the gifts of the spirit  
and the gift of each other.  
Above all, remind us always of your  
steadfast and abiding love.  
Amen**

The United Church has created a new handbook for communities of faith to prepare for any major emergency or disaster which is available for [download](#).

Please also note, the United Church Mission and Service Fund, has created a fund to respond to disasters within Canada and around the world: <https://united-church.ca/donate>. You might also consider contributing to support specifically the people of the Namaygoosisagagun First Nation community, which was burned entirely. Here is the link for donations: <https://an7gc.ca/donate/>

# "What are you going to do about it?"

## Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the United Church Apology & Recommitting to Reconciliation

Join us as we re-commit to the ongoing, vital journey  
of truth, healing, and reconciliation.

Saturday, August 15th, 2026

10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Indigenous Sharing and Learning  
Centre, Laurentian University  
Sudbury, Ontario

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Featuring Keynote Speaker

### The Very Rev. Stan McKay

Former Moderator of the United Church of Canada  
Indigenous elder, wisdom keeper, and leader.

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#### Sacred Fire & Drumming:

Grounding our hearts and minds in community  
and tradition.

#### Personal Stories:

Hearing reflections on the impact of the apology  
and the path forward.

#### Community Lunch:

Sharing food and fellowship together.

#### Pilgrimage to the Apology Cairn:

Concluding our time with a meaningful walk of  
remembrance and commitment.



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Whether you have been walking this path for decades or are just beginning your reconciliation journey,  
your presence is welcome and valued. We hope to see you there.

This is a free event, however registration is required, so that we can ensure there is enough food for everyone.

**Deadline to register is Monday August 10th.**

You can register by scanning the QR code below or by visiting:

<https://canadianshieldrc.ca/justice-issues/right-relations/40th-anniversary-of-apology-event-registration/>



# The Living Well Series

Talks & workshops for mind, body & spirit

## Brain Health & You

Sept 24 • 1:30 PM • Emmanuel United Church - 395 Lakeshore Drive

Guest Speaker: Erin Celebre, North Bay Alzheimer's Society

Coming Soon - Nutrition and Aging  
Guest Speaker - Michelle Her, MScFN, RD

Details to follow

All Are Welcome

**COMING THIS FALL!**



**LIVING THE QUESTIONS - PART 2**  
**Beginning Mon., October 5th,**  
**for 10 sessions**

**LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0**

AN INTRODUCTION TO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY



**MORE INFORMATION TO COME IN  
THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTERS**

## **ST. ANDREW'S LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY FOOD BANK 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:** Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Further information in the form of 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**



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

My name is Kayla Commanda and I am the Family Support Worker here at the **North Bay Indigenous Friendship Center**.

I am reaching out on behalf of my program that supports families with young children between the ages of 0 and 6 years. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are hoping to help children entering Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten, and Grade 1 begin the school year with the supplies they need to succeed.

We are seeking donations of **new school supplies**, including:

- **Backpacks**
- **Lunch bags or lunch boxes**
- **Crayons**
- **Glue sticks**
- **Child-safe scissors**
- **Pencil crayons**
- **Markers**
- **Other basic school supplies for young learners**

Any contribution, large or small, would make a meaningful difference for the families we

serve. Your generosity will help ensure that children have the essential tools they need to start the school year feeling confident and prepared.

If you are able to support this initiative, I would be happy to arrange a convenient time for pick-up or provide information about where donations can be dropped off. Thank you for considering our request and for your commitment to supporting children and families in our community. We sincerely appreciate your time and generosity.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Miigwetch, Thank You

**Kayla Commanda**

(she/her)

Family Support Coordinator

980 Cassells St., North Bay, ON P1B 4A8



**NORTH  
BAY  
INDIGENOUS  
FRIENDSHIP  
CENTRE**

**NOTE: ANY DONATIONS FOR THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE SCHOOL SUPPLY APPEAL MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OFFICE**

In the summer, with St. Andrew's closing for a month and people heading to summer homes, our general bank account balance is often lower than we are comfortable with.

We are blessed! We have an inspiring Minister, a talented music director, a Food Bank Manager, an Office Administrator, Cleaners, a beautiful building, and so much more.

Your Summer Gift is a way to show your LOVE of this community and the work we do.

**At the Centre of Faith is LOVE.**

Please consider a Summer Gift to St. Andrew's General Fund before you leave to have your well-deserved Summer Fun.

Thank you.

**Finance Committee**

