



TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, September 20, 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers



This Sunday - September 13, 2026

Creation Time 2:

Come Stirring Breeze

In this Season of Creation, we turn our hearts toward the element of **air**—the invisible gift that surrounds us, sustains us, and reminds us of the very **breath of God**.

Just as the wind moves through the trees, may God's Spirit move among us—stirring what has grown still, refreshing what has grown weary, and awakening us to new life.

Come, Stirring Breeze.

Come and breathe new life into us.

Come and stir our hearts for creation, for one another, and for God.



Join us for worship as we listen for the

movement of the Spirit and make room for God's holy breath.

Next Sunday - September 20, 2026

Orange Shirt Sunday



**PLEASE WEAR
AN ORANGE
SHIRT IF YOU
HAVE ONE**

This *Orange Shirt Sunday*, everyone is invited to wear an orange shirt to remember and honour all the Indigenous children and families who have been impacted by Residential Schools, and all the harm they have caused.

The Residential School policy was only one colonial policy; there are many others that exist still today that continue to cause harm. Let us continue to learn and work together to shine a light on injustice.

As people of faith, we are called to listen, learn, seek truth, and walk together toward **reconciliation, healing, and hope**.

Arriving soon! Watch your "Snail Mail" (Canada Post) for a letter announcing our Fall Stewardship Campaign!



An Invitation from the Sons of Jacob Congregation Yom Kippur Service - Sunday, September 20th

Hello everyone,

Our annual Yom Kippur service will take place at the shul (Synagogue) on the evening of Sunday September 20th. Doors will open at 6:30, with Kol Nidre beginning at 7pm. We will again be accompanied by the *Near North Voices* choir. I hope to see you there!

Shana tova to all, and best wishes for 5787

Kind regards,

Loni Grohman
President
Sons of Jacob Congregation
North Bay, ON



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 MARRS, OR PUT THEM IN THE CHURCH MAIL SLOT ON CASSELLS STREET ENTRANCE (Green Wooden Door) THANK YOU!



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 (**September 13, 2026**) :

<https://youtu.be/-xnQEm8cGgE>

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



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 HOURS

Monday: closed

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:30 am - 3:30 p.m.

Thursday: 10:30pm - 1:30pm

Friday: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Pastoral Care

For pastoral care emergencies, please call the church office (705) 472-7680 or email: standrews-church@cogeco.net and your message will be forwarded to the Minister.

Please note that these hours may be adjusted since there is a temporary Office Administrator on duty - it is recommended that you call ahead - 705-472-7680 - to confirm.

Minister's Office Hours



MINISTER: REVEREND CAITLIN SMITHERS

Caitlin's weekly office hours are **9 am to 3 pm Wednesday and Thursday** but September is a busy time - and Caitlin's schedule may vary. 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).

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

Karen Gooch

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 20th – November 15th

Time: The first meeting will be after church on September 20th 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)
or

Tim Robertson (705-497-1227)
(timothyrobertson@hotmail.com) or

Margaret Reid (705-476-3917)



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

Emmanuel United Church
Presents

**The
Living Well
Series**

Brain Health & You

Sept 24 • 1:30 PM •

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

Nutrition and Aging

October 8 - 1:30

**Guest Speaker - Michelle Her,
MScFN, RD**

All Are Welcome - 395 Lakeshore Dr - 705-472-1808

COMING THIS FALL!



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



St. Andrew's United Church ~ North Bay, Ontario
All are welcome in this place



A New Face in the Office

For the next few weeks, our Office Administrator Jan Ross will be off work while she is recovering from hip surgery.

Lucy Emmott will be filling in during that time. Lucy is a long-time friend of St. Andrew's and you may have met her already. She is always interested in sharing her extensive knowledge of - and passion for - the natural world including pollinators, fungi, and eco-sustainability! Lucy will be in the office for the hours that are posted on **Page 3**.

St. Andrew's Card Ministry - Part of "What We Do!"

Five times a year, St. Andrew's *Card Ministry Team* sends out greeting cards as part of a program that keeps our homebound and elderly congregational members in touch. Led by Donna Landry, Liz Brownlee, and Wynne Blair, the team first spends time creating the handmade cards. Then there is a "writing session" where each card recipient receives a seasonal greeting and a special note reminding them that they are still a valued member of the St. Andrew's Faith Family! Thank you, "Card Team" for your important and meaningful work!



Photo above: Liz Brownlee (left) and Wynne Blair are busy assembling the cards that will be sent out to approximately 45 people during the upcoming Thanksgiving season.

Become a Host Family!
Welcome an international high school student to your home and share in a unique cultural experience.



YES CANADA
STUDENT EXCHANGE

To Learn More & Connect With the Local Coordinator for Your Area, Contact the YES Canada Homestay Team:
 homestay@youthedservices.ca
 416-623-6220 ext. 410



Turn Your Every Day into an Adventure by Welcoming an International High School Exchange Student!

Student exchange organization, **YES Canada**, in partnership with the **Near North DSB** are welcoming international exchange students from **Australia, & New Zealand**, this November 7th & December 5th to study in high schools across the district for **short term 2-month, & 3 month programs**. You can learn more about this opportunity to open your home to a new cultural experience nce today!

Hosting is a fantastic way to experience another country and culture in your own home, and it is also a great way to establish life-long friendships and connections.

Host families are responsible for providing three meals a day in a safe and nurturing environment and are compensated with a monthly stipend. These international students are excited to learn more about the exchange country's culture, language and to experience Canadian living.

If you are interested in hosting an international high school student or would like to learn more about YES Canada's homestay program, please contact

homestay@youthedservices.ca or call 416-623-6220 ext.410. We are looking forward to connecting you with your local coordinator in your community.

You can also visit <https://youthedservices.ca/host-a-student/> to learn more about hosting.

Laura Maroukis

Recruitment & Community Outreach, **YES Canada**, 7-63 Manitoba St.,Bracebridge, ON, P1L 2B2

Last Sunday - September 13, 2026 Rally Back Sunday

Creation Time: Living Water

Last Sunday the Creation theme was "Water" and all the ways that water is part of our lives.

Four young persons were baptised during the service. Water is also at the heart of baptism. In baptism, water becomes a sign of belonging, and God's love. It reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and called to live in relationship with God and with all of creation.





The Good Samaritan Corner

Social Justice and Homelessness Go Hand in Hand

As people of faith and compassion, we cannot remain indifferent to homelessness in our community.

Nipissing District has one of the highest rates of known homelessness in Ontario. In 2024–25, Nipissing recorded 804 people experiencing homelessness per 100,000 population—the fifth-highest rate among Ontario’s 47 municipal service-manager areas. And these numbers represent only people known to local service systems; hidden homelessness is not fully captured.

This is more than a statistic. These are our neighbours, families, children, seniors and individuals who deserve dignity, compassion and a safe place to call home.

As we approach the municipal election, we have an opportunity—and a responsibility—to become informed.

- **Attend the Meet-and-Greet with the Candidates on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Grande Event Centre, 192 Main Street East.**
- **Watch the Mayoral Debate on TV Cogeco, with more details to follow.**
- **Listen carefully to what each candidate says about homelessness, affordable housing, supportive housing and community services.**
- **Ask questions.**
- **Learn where each candidate stands before you cast your vote.**

Our faith calls us to see Christ in those who are vulnerable and marginalized. Social justice means more than caring about an issue—it means being informed, speaking up and participating in our community.

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” — Matthew 25:40

For more information about the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay visit <https://www.facebook.com/compassionatecommitteeofnorthbay/> or contact Leah Pierce at **705-472-5687** or at compassionnorthbay@gmail.com

The **Good Samaritan Corner** is a community outreach initiative which issues a regular newspaper/ newsletter column in North Bay, Ontario, to update congregations and the wider community on local counts, shelter needs, and actionable ways to help the city's unhoused. This initiative is organized by the [Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay](#) in partnership with local faith communities.

Purpose: Raises awareness, provides advocacy, and shares stories regarding homelessness, poverty, and vulnerable individuals living in the Nipissing District.

Support & Outreach: Collaborates with local organizations (such as Roman Catholic Charities and Soles4Souls Canada) to coordinate donations, supply seasonal items, and distribute essentials like food,