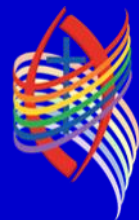




TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, September 27, 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers



This Sunday - September 27, 2026

Season of Creation 3

Orange Shirt Sunday

Truth & Reconciliation Day



**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.

Next Sunday - October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

That We May Be One

Before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed a prayer that still echoes through the Church today: **"That they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You."** — John 17:21
This is more than a moment at a table. This is a declaration of **who we are**.

Different nations.
Different cultures.
Different languages.
Different stories.

**But One Body, One God,
One source of Life, One Family.**

At the table, every division fades away.
At the cross, we remember what brought us together.
In Christ, we are no longer strangers—we are **one**.

And Jesus said that our unity would become a witness to the world



Giving Life to God's Vision

A Stewardship Invitation

Growing the Church We Imagine / Caring for Our Church's Future

Our Fall Stewardship

Campaign is now underway. If you did not receive a letter in the mail, you are invited to view the details in the links below.

Rick and Wynne Blair have

announced an exciting **Matching Donation** - so every dollar you donate has a double impact on insuring that St. Andrew's can continue to offer a meaningful ministry of Christ to all.

Click ****[HERE](#)**** to view/download the Rick & Wynne Blair's letter

Click ****[HERE](#)**** to view/download a form for your Campaign donation

HELP OUT BY DONATING THE COST OF YOUR BROADVIEW MAGAZINE

Broadview

SPIRITUALITY, JUSTICE AND ETHICAL LIVING

Currently there are about **50 St. Andrew's households** that receive the

BROADVIEW magazine (originally *The Observer*) published by the United Church of Canada. These subscriptions are paid for by St. Andrew's at a cost of approximately **\$30 (thirty)** per year per magazine.

If you receive **BROADVIEW**, and would like to help out with a \$30 tax-receiptable donation towards the cost of providing BROADVIEW, please put your cheque (payable to *St. Andrew's United Church*) or cash in a marked envelope and put it on the collection plate on Sundays -or hand it in during the week at the Church Office (please check office hours).



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 20, 2026**) :

https://youtu.be/m_y8JBXRh2I

A video link is also posted on the homepage of the [St. Andrew's website](#).

ONLINE WORSHIP



**St. Andrew's
United Church
North Bay, Ontario**

**Season of Pentecost, Creation 2
20 September 2026**

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 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**

Nutrition and Aging

October 8 - 1:30 pm

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

All are welcome

395 Lakeshore Drive 472-1806

COMING THIS FALL!



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



**Evensong —
The Sacred Art
of Listening**

Wednesday, September 30 at 7:00 pm

Our September Evensong will explore The Sacred Art of Listening. Through music, silence and short reflections, we will consider what it means to listen more deeply — to the world around us, to ourselves, to one another, and to voices and stories we may not always hear. As September 30 is also the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, our evening will make space for remembering and for listening to what has too often been silenced, while remaining part of the wider theme of listening.

When we truly listen,
are we willing to be changed
by what we hear?

Emmanuel United Church, North Bay

Join us for this quiet, contemplative evening.
All are welcome.

Folk Lovin' Folks Feeding Folks

Featuring Daniel Currie



October 3, 2026 at 7:00pm

Please consider bringing - canned meat, granola bars, soup or other non perishable item

Emmanuel United Church
395 Lakeshore Drive

AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FOLK MUSIC

Minister's Report for September 2026



What a beautiful fall it has been here in North Bay, and it sure is nice to have a fall, with cool sweater weather, and plenty of sun and rain. I have enjoyed seeing the changing colours of the leaves and the final crops of corn and tomatoes. 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 fall we have been reflecting on various elements and parts of the creation all around us, and all that lives, in the earth, water, air, and so much more. It flows and follows so well from our series on the birds of the bible this summer, as we got to fill the community roost with stories and bird sounds, and see our faith alive outside in the world.

We had 4 baptisms on Rally back Sunday, as well as many other children, and lots of energy and excitement in worship, and at the delicious lunch we enjoyed together afterwards. We also had a few folks from the congregation present at the welcome to North Bay event at Memorial Gardens, to be present with the wider community, and let them know the ways we are here for them. Thank you to Derek Stott for the brochures and banners for the event, and future events, as well as to Wynne and Rick Blair for being our representatives at the event, and being willing to leave worship a little early to be there!

Tim, Margaret and I have begun a study group and membership class, 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. We already have a great combination of new and more familiar folks, and would love to have any others who are interested, in the interest of building community. So, if you are interested, I would love to chat more!

Lastly, as I have shared with the M&P Committee, I am hoping as a council that we can work on some goals together over the next few months. We have already begun lots of work around building the skills to vision and plan as a community, and many of us are hard at work in various roles within the community doing some of that work already. So, I want to invite us to build on that, and focus in on some priorities together. As I have been noticing a pull in many directions lately, and some inability to do it all, and I wondered if maybe I am not alone in this feeling?

I have also begun taking a class online on Monday evenings on Ministry leadership, governance, finances, volunteers, management, change management, and more, in an effort to better support us in the work we are doing and going to be doing as a community./

All my best,

Rev. Caitlin Smith

A CUT ABOVE LANDSCAPING

PROFESSIONAL LAWN CARE & MAINTENANCE
Commercial - residential - snow removal

A special "Thank You!" ANDREW NEIL, the owner of *A Cut Above Landscaping*, who again

has mowed the church lawn this summer free of charge! We truly appreciate his donation of time and expertise to help to keep things trimmed and tidy. Thanks again, Andrew!

[facebook link](#)



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 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 20, 2026

Creation Time: Air



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

During our "Time for all ages," Elizabeth and Bethany Brownlee acquainted us with a poem by [Christina Rossetti \(1830-1894\)](#) called, *Who has Seen the Wind?*. This poem reminds us that the Spirit of God is very much like the wind ... you can not see it, but we can feel its presence in many ways. Here are a couple of lines from that poem...

Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads, The wind is passing by.





Funeral Notice - Shirley MacKinnon

Shirley MacKinnon died at Eastholme in Powassan, on Sunday, August 9, 2026. For many years, Shirley was a member of the St. Andrew's family and was a member of the Choir as well. There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 2:30pm at Martyn Funeral Home . Full Obituary found [**HERE**](#).



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/>

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.