TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, November 1 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

This Sunday - November 1, 2026

All Saints Sunday

"Savouring the Saints"

Please Join us for a special service on this *All Saints Sunday* as we gather to remember and give thanks for the lives of loved ones who have gone before us.

Together, we will celebrate the love they shared, the memories they leave behind, and the lasting impact they have had on our lives. There will be a special opportunity to remember those we hold dear, to light a candle in their memory, and to find comfort in God's enduring love.

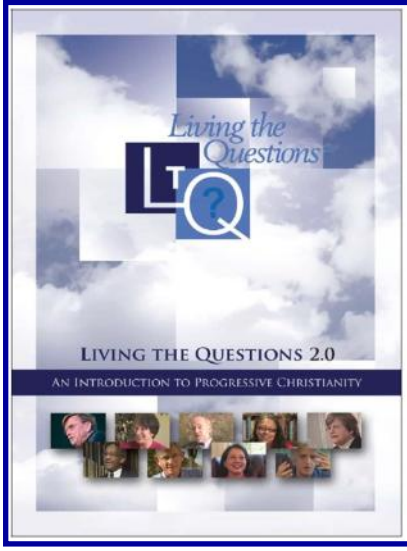
Whether your loss is recent or many years ago, all are welcome to come, reflect, remember, and find peace in the company of our church community.

Next Sunday - November 8, 2026

Remembrance Sunday

Join us this Remembrance Sunday as we pause to honour the courage, sacrifice, and service of all who have given, and continue to give their lives for the freedom, justice, and peace of our world.

As we remember those we've lost, honour our veterans, and pray for those who continue to serve, often at great personal and communal cost, may we renew our commitment to being peacemakers in our homes, communities, and across the world.



Living the Questions 2.0

An Introduction to Progressive Christianity

Part II

Ten Sessions,
Monday Afternoons.

There is still time to join!

Please see Tim Robertson or Marg Reid

Location:
St. Andrew's United Church

YOU CAN STILL JOIN THIS GROUP THAT MEETS ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

PLEASE SEE
TIM ROBERTSON
OR
MARG REID
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

Minister's Report - October 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 crops we have harvested, many of which filled our Sanctuary this past week or two for Thanksgiving! The community garden had its last crops this month and Lucy and family were here the other weekend cleaning up the gardens to get ready for winter. What a wonderful community we have, within and around St. Andrew's!

and more familiar folks, and would love to have any others who are interested!
Lastly, as I have shared with you all last month, and with M&P, I am hoping as a council that we can work on some goals together over the next few months. We have already begun the work of building the skills to vision and plan as leaders in the 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. Lillian will join us this council meeting to lead us in this work,

Photo above: At the Thanksgiving Service on October 11th, congregation members placed leaves on the "Tree of Gratitude" - each leaf inscribed with the things that one might be thankful for in their life..

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. There is an open invitation to attend or drop in any Sunday, and we have found people are doing just that, dropping in when they have the time or are interested in the topic. We already have a great combination of new and I have sent along a process she has in mind, in the hopes that folks will have a chance to take a look prior to our council meeting. I will also bring a copy of some of my own goals to share with all of you as well. Thank you all for your hard work and leadership within this community, it is appreciated!

All my best,

Rev. Caitlin Smithers

St. Andrew's Council Planning Summary

As the new program year begins your Minister and Council are prioritizing re-engaging strategic planning. In November 2025 there was a congregational meeting where St. Andrew's had conversation facilitated by Rev. Diane Matheson-Jimenez about our mission and vision.

At the October meeting, Rev. Lillian Roberts facilitated a goal identification process with Council members. One option for sparking strategic planning is to make space for those in leadership to name goals for their own discipleship within the mission of the faith community.

Goals named during the session touched on the following areas:

- **Overall goal of sustainability** – it is important to make a plan to ensure the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's will reach into the future. Goals need to align themselves with this goal.
- **Stewardship** – finding creative ways to invite supporters into new patterns of giving.
- **Growth** – to become intentional in welcoming the guest, newcomer, so they connect and want to participate. It was recognized that not only does St. Andrew's need to attract new members/leaders/active adherents to be sustainable.
- **Invigorate Leadership** – become intentional in providing formation for discipleship which includes mentoring leaders. A new members / reaffirmation class would be offered. One of the goals would be to inspire one person to offer themselves for a leadership role in the nomination round for the AGM in spring 2027.
- **Pathways of Connection** – to assess the opportunities being provided for people to connect with congregational life beyond Sunday morning worship.
- **Infrastructure for Mission and Ministry** There was an identified goal to assess the building not only for structural integrity but also with an eye to how it supports or is a barrier to mission and ministry.
- **Marketing, Communication, Mission Recognition**- thought is being given to how to attract wider participation in the ministry of the congregation by developing a plan to more widely share stories of its activities.

The Church Council will continue this work through the fall of 2026. Individual Council Members are refining a goal over the coming weeks, making it specific and naming what resources might be needed to accomplish it in the timeframe named. The outcome is for each member of Council to have a goal for which they are taking primary leadership over the coming year(s).

None of these goals are a one-person project. There will be opportunity and invitation for others to join in giving them life. In this way, the goals of Council members will grow to involve others in giving shape to the long term mission and ministry.

MORE ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT PLANNING INITIATIVE WILL BE SHARED IN AN UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICE

NOTE: The complete planning summary document can be viewed by clicking ****here****

FALL BAZAAR

St. Andrew's

Fall Bazaar, Silent Auction, Cookie Walk & Café

OCTOBER 31
10-2PM

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
399 CASSELLS ST.

Please use the McIntyre St. entrance

FALL BAZAAR

Giving Life to God's Vision

A Stewardship Invitation

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

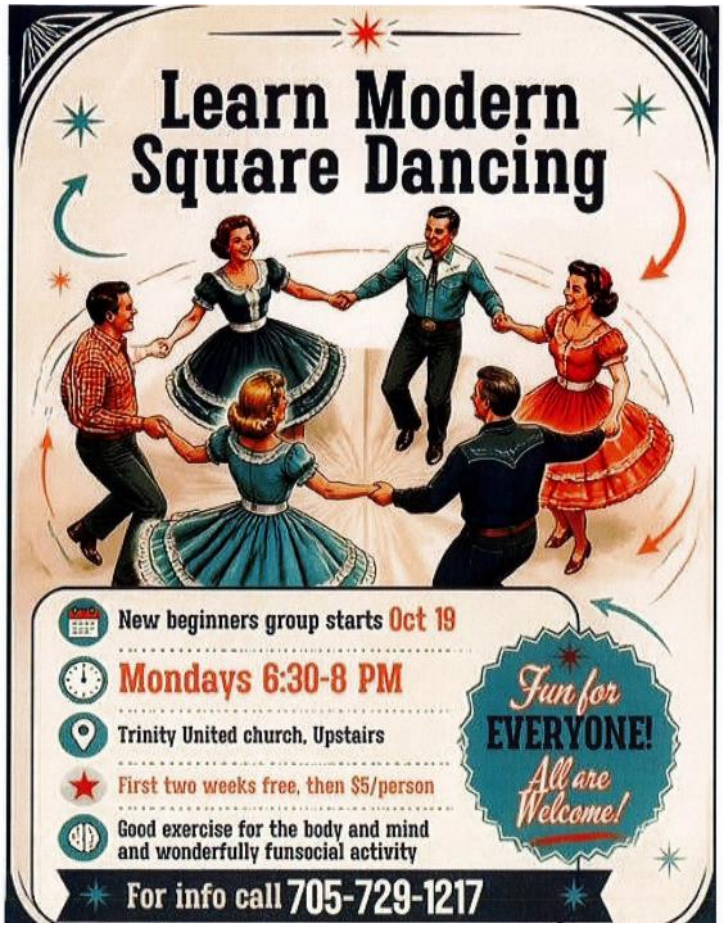
Our **Fall Stewardship Campaign** is now underway. If you did not receive a letter in the mail, you are invited to view the details in the links below.

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**

NOTE: This campaign will run until the end of November, 2026



YouTube

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 (October 25, 2026) :

https://youtu.be/cwpWXkRwoUg

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

Just a reminder that the clocks go back 1 hour

THIS SUNDAY!

November 1st (2 a.m.)

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 pm

Thursday: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm **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. **- 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 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:

Joyce and Gailand MacQueen & family Donna Landry

Carole Sawyer Ken Dech The family of Anita Winton

Don Vaillancourt Karen Gooch

Explore your Faith
Be Part of a Community

Join Our Study Group & Membership Class

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

EVERYONE IS STILL WELCOME!

Date: September 20th – November 15th

Time: After the morning Worship Service

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

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)

LOVE IS LIKE A MAGIC TOONIE! (Part 2)

At the October 18th Service, each person received a single $2 coin- with the instructions to use that coin to spread God's Love in whatever way possible. At last Sunday's service we got to hear stories of how your "Magic Toonie" was used. Here are a few of the ways God's Love was shared:

- **Ralph Johnston** (*photo left*) used his $2to buy a pair (or two!) of socks for the food bank clients
- **Kerry Parlée** (*photo right*) reported that she donated her toonie to an appreciative young unhoused lady named Kimberley. Kerry also told her about St. Andrew's and that the Loaves & Fishes foodbank could help her each week.

- A *Thank You* card was made - and mailed - to someone in the congre gation who has been a volunteer
- An overdue fine was paid for a Public Library patron who was in need
- Paying for the coffee of next person in line at the local *Tim Hortons*
- Helping to pay and elder's membership fee at the *Indian Friendship Centre*
- Buying cookies for the *Thursday Morning Café* at St. Andrew's

OMOND MEMORIAL UNITED

FIFTH SUNDAY SHARED WORSHIP
AT OMOND MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

319 McKenzie Avenue, North Bay, ON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026

at 9:30 am

(note earlier start time!)

This service is being offered by the AOTS ("As One That Serves") Men's Group of Trinity United Church.

They have extended an invitation to any men from St. Andrew's who might be willing to help by singing in the choir or reading scripture. See Derek Stott if you are interested in participating.

Note that there will not be a worship service at St. Andrew's on Sunday, November 22nd.

Kids Only Bazaar

St. Andrew's United Church

Corner of McIntyre and Cassells
Enter through the McIntyre entrance.
All Children welcome

Saturday December 5, 2026

10:00 a.m. till noon

Time for the children to do their Christmas shopping, all items under $3.00. Make a list of who to shop for. There will be helper available for those who are too little to shop by themselves. Coffee and tea will be available for the parent's while their kids are shopping.

The St. Andrew's ***Kids Only Bazaar***, is always held on the First Saturday in December. This event is an opportunity for children **ages 4 to 13** to do their Christmas shopping for family and friends. The bazaar has been a tradition at St. Andrews for almost forty years, and is open to children all over North Bay and the surrounding area.

BUT to make this event happen, we need donations of **new or gently used items** for the children to purchase and **gift bags** and **wrapping paper** to wrap these presents in.

Kids only Bazaar Coordinator: Patricia Kirton-Bailey

WINTER Wishes

Near North Palliative Care Network · Réseau de soins palliatifs

LIMITED EDITION YOUTH ART PRINTS & POSTCARDS

✨ WINTER WISHES IS COMING! ✨

A YOUTH ARTS FUNDRAISER

A LITTLE WINTER MAGIC. A LOT OF COMMUNITY HEART. THREE MEANINGFUL WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

This holiday season, the creativity of our community's young artists is bringing something truly special to life! The first annual Winter Wishes Youth Art Fundraiser is coming soon, and we can't wait to share it with you.

From beautiful winter artwork to heartfelt holiday greetings, every Winter Wish is an opportunity to spread kindness while supporting people in our community who need it most.

GET ON THE WINTER WISHES EARLY ACCESS LIST!

Want to be among the first to shop when prints and postcards become available?
Sign up for our Winter Wishes Early Access List to receive advance notice and be ready when pre-sales open!
PRE-SALE: mid November! Updates coming soon!
Join the notification list today at nnpcn.com

SCAN ME

THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY:

SHOP YOUNG ARTISTS' WINTER ART
Bring home a beautiful winter art print created from the imagination of a local young artist. A meaningful way to celebrate youth creativity while giving back.

SHARE A LITTLE WINTER MAGIC
Shop our heartwarming Winter Wishes postcard sets and share a little seasonal joy with family and friends.

SEND A SENIOR A WINTER WISH
You will also be able to send a special Winter Wishes postcard featuring original youth artwork to a senior in our community.

Sometimes, a simple message is all it takes to remind someone they are loved, remembered, and not alone

✨ LEARN MORE @ NNPCN.COM/YOUTHART ✨

Near North Palliative Care Network ~ 2025 Main West, North Bay, ON ~ 705-497-9239