



# TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, October 11, 2026  
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers



**This Sunday - October 11, 2026**

## **Thanksgiving Sunday**

### **Words Before All Else**

What if gratitude came before everything else?

This Thanksgiving, join us for a special worship service inspired by the Haudenosaunee tradition of beginning gatherings with words of thanksgiving - for one another, for the earth, for water, for the plants and animals, for creation, and for the Creator.

Together, we'll pause to remember that gratitude is more than something we feel once a year. It can shape the way we see the world, the way we care for creation, and the way we live with one another.



**Next Sunday - October 18, 2026**

## **21st Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Whatever the Gift May Be**

Jesus reminds us in Matthew that the greatest commandments are to **love God with all our heart, soul, and mind - and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**



This Sunday, let's remember that giving is more than exchanging gifts—it's an opportunity to reflect God's generous heart.

Whether it's a thoughtful gift, an act of kindness, or simply showing up for someone who needs encouragement, every act of generosity can make a difference.

Join us as we celebrate the joy of giving and discover how God can use what we have to bless others.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE RE E-TRANSFERS TO ST. ANDREW'S**

Recently we have been experiencing some problems with the use of e-transfers to St. Andrew's specifically using the address "**donatetostandrews@cogeco.net**".

Until these problems have been resolved and further direction has been given, we ask that you contact the Church Office directly to make alternate arrangements for transfer of funds. Please note that all other donation methods (cash, cheque, church envelope giving, and donations via the "Canada Helps" page on the website) **are all still secure and safe to use!**



**Compassionate Committee**  
for the Homeless in North Bay

The Compassionate Committee for the Homeless  
in North Bay has partnered with Trinity United Church  
to offer a **free information session** entitled:

## What you need to know about helping people *who are unhoused*

Join us for an informative and engaging session to learn more  
about the realities of homelessness in our community and practical  
ways we can all respond with compassion, respect and hope.



**Monday, November 2, 2026**



**Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Information session starts at 7 p.m.



**Trinity United Church** (in the sanctuary)  
111 McIntyre St. East, North Bay



**Guest speakers from frontline  
organizations and lived experience  
will include:**

- **Delia Greenlees and Amanda Wells**  
from No More Tears West Nipissing Society
- **Nicholas Meilleur-MacDonald**, who will share  
his story as an expert through his lived experience
- **Nancy Kilgour**, Compassionate Committee  
for the Homeless in North Bay, who will give  
an update on the work being done by the committee  
in its fifth year.



**Those attending the information session  
are encouraged to donate:**



- **NEW** hats, mitts, warm socks, scarves

— OR —

- **monetary donations** for the purchase  
of boots and shoes

*in support of the Winter Boot Campaign*



*Winter Boot Campaign*



**Saturday, November 7, 2026**



**10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**



**Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption garages**  
across from the cathedral  
480 McIntyre Street West



*Building a Bridge of Kindness in North Bay*

## 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 updated and interested people are invited to apply. Training and orientation will be provided, and this is a paid position. If you are interested, or wish more information please phone **Lucien Masson** at the number below.

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



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 4, 2026**) :

<https://youtu.be/Gwvk-4TYJTk>

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



### LUCY EMMOTT - Temporary Office Administrator

Until next Friday (October 16th), our Office Administrator Jan Ross will be off work while she is recovering from hip surgery. **Lucy Emmott** will be filling in. 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 4.

**Please note that there will be no office coverage on Thursday, October 15th.**



## 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

**(Note Thursday, Oct. 15 - office closed)**

Monday: closed

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

Thursday (October 15) - Office Closed

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 MacQueen

Donna Landry

Carole Sawyer Ken Dech

Don Vaillancourt Karen Gooch

# 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."*



*Living the Questions®*

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

**LIVING THE QUESTIONS 2.0**  
 AN INTRODUCTION TO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY



**There is still time to join!**

## 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).





## A PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

God, giver of all good,  
You continually pour your benefits upon us.  
Age after age the living wait upon you and find  
that your faithfulness has no end,  
that your care is unfailing.  
We praise you that the mystery of life  
is a mystery of infinite goodness.  
We praise you  
for the order and constancy of nature;  
for the beauty and bounty of the earth;  
for day and night, summer and winter,  
seedtime and harvest;  
for the varied gifts of loveliness which every season brings.  
We give you thanks  
for all the comfort and joy of life,  
for our homes, for our friends,  
and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people.  
*Amen.*

—from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for  
The United Church of Canada* (UCPH, 2000)



*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

# Happy 2SLGBTQI+ History Month!



In Canada and the United States, October is 2S and LGBTQI+ history month. I love history! I am a history junkie! Since the apology at General Council in 2024, I have been working on resources around our history that lead to the apology. The Re-Affirm Project mentor Rev. Karen Low created an excellent Lenten resource that frames the 1988 decision and our response since that time in a beautiful way. It is called "From Ash to Fire" and can be found by clicking this link: <https://www.affirmunited.com/post/lenten-resource-2026>

Rev. Karen Low has also created an AIDS worship service that will be released closer to World AIDS Day on December 1. I am also working on a workshop on 2S and LGBTQIA+ history in the church and in society, that will be tested and presented next year.

History is important, without history the world does not move forward, progress is always made in the light of history.

In 2S and LGBTQI+ history, the stories of the past from the criminal laws of the 19th and early 20th century to decriminalizing of homosexuality in 1969 and the ending of gross indecency laws in the 1980's, help us to know how to combat the anti-trans laws of today. We can learn from the stories of those who have gone before us, people like Marsha P. Johnson, Public Universal Friend, Lord Cornbury, Ian Charleson and Derek Jarman to name a few that influenced history and inspire queer leaders of today. I encourage you to explore our Queer History.

In this newsletter, you will find information

about the AGM and Conference, a book review of "Rainbow History Class" and information on how to nominate a volunteer and a church for the Linda Hutchinson Volunteer Award and Church of the Year Award.

In honour of 2S and LGBTQI+ history month, I offer you this poem:

**The historical mansions hold many secrets  
family secrets buried in each intricate carving  
furniture worn in places, wood changed colour  
by rubbing hands**

**Examining the past, our minds can wonder:  
where are the queers?**

**The sapphics and mollies, where can they be  
found in the paintings and furnishings?**

**The answer comes to me as if brought on the  
wing of the spirit.**

**"Why, my dear, they are hidden in plain sight!  
The portrait of the man in uniform only  
faintly shows in his eyes his lover in arms.**

**The family portrait, shows the anticipation of  
the meeting of women in the ladies' parlour  
after the children has gone to bed.**

**These acts of love continue day after day, year  
after year, century after century.**

**Beautiful acts of deviance of loving who you  
love, despite what society says.**

Blessings my friends as you explore history and celebrate queerness throughout the ages!

*Rev. Ruth Noble*

