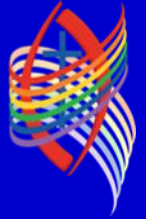




# TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, October 4, 2026  
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers



**This 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.**

**Next 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.



*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

## The Good Samaritan Corner

Did you know... World Homeless Day started in 2010, and is observed internationally on October 10th each year?

The Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay recognizes World Homeless Day with prayerful intentions, and encourages each person to be God's hands by doing simple things to provide much needed help to those experiencing homelessness in North Bay :

- Celebrate and support local frontline organizations like The Gathering Place, Open Arms Café , the North Bay Food Bank - and the *Loaves & Fishes* Community Foodbank
- Keep a Blessing Bag in your car filled with food, socks, and mitts etc
- Educate yourself on how to administer naloxone.
- Rent a spare room to a student
- Donate your clothing and household items to Rebuilt Resources who help provide start-up items for people transitioning from the shelter system to affordable homes
- - Educate yourself by attending an information session, such as the ones hosted by the Compassionate Committee (details to follow in future Good Samaritan Corners)

For more ideas on how you can observe World Homeless Day please visit <https://www.worldhomelessday.org/>. For more information about the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay visit <https://www.facebook.com/compassionate-committeefornorthbay/> or contact Leah Pierce at 705-472-5687



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 27, 2026 ) :

<https://youtu.be/L6KGe5AEUxo>

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 Creation 3  
Truth & Reconciliation Day  
27 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](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:

**Mary Marrs**

**Joyce MacQueen**

**Donna Landry**

**Carole Sawyer Ken Dech**

**Don Vaillancourt**

**Karen Gooch**



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

**Last Sunday - September 27, 2026**

## **Truth and Reconciliation Sunday**

Every year on Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we wear an Orange Shirt to remember children like Phyllis Webstad whose beautiful and special orange shirt was taken from her when she entered residential school. During last Sunday's service, we remembered the children who didn't return home, and we remembered the survivors and their families who suffer with intergenerational trauma stemming from this system.

In her reflection, "The Power of Language," Rev. Caitlin read a story from a *Stolen Words* - a children's picture book by Melanie Florence about a young girl who helps her grandfather relearn his native Cree language after it was taken from him at a residential school.



## **THE RAINBOW DRUMMERS**

For our service last Sunday, we were honoured to hear the *Rainbow Drummers* led by St. Andrew's own Kim Robinson Nelles.

The *Rainbow Drummers* are an Indigenous hand-drumming group from the Nipissing and Parry Sound region.

The group focuses on cultural sharing, traditional skills, and community drumming, frequently participating in regional gatherings and local events. They have performed at regional community celebrations and local festivals in the North Bay area,

such as opening community events or performing at nearby celebrations like Callander's *FunFest* and community wellness programs.



# HEAR FROM YOUR CANDIDATES

Your Community, Your Environment

A conversation with candidates on the  
environment and healthy communities



**Sunday, October 4th, 7 pm**

Doors open at 6:30 pm, Meeting from 7-9 pm



**St. Andrews United Church**

Lower Level, 399 Cassells Street /  
McIntyre Street entrance

Hosted by Clean Green Beautiful North Bay,  
Discovery Routes, Nipissing Environmental Watch,  
Northwatch, Seniors for Climate Action Now, and  
Trout Lake Conservation Association.

**vote  
2026**

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**Hosted By:**

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**Discovery  
ROUTES**

NEW



**SENIORS  
for  
CLIMATE  
ACTION!  
NOW**

# 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."*

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**



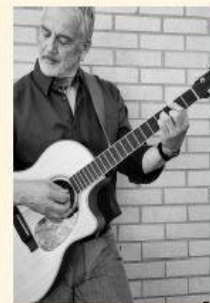
**THE WORLD NEEDS A GROUP HUG**



@share<sup>L</sup>OVE to all

**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](#)

