TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, November 15 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

This Sunday - November 15, 2026

Faithful in Everyday Ways

In a world full of uncertainty, distractions, and constant change, one thing remains true: **God is always with us, and God's love never wavers.**

Through every season of life, in our challenges and celebrations, in moments of joy and times of struggle, God continues to walk beside us with unfailing love.
This Sunday, we'll explore how we can be faithful in return, not just in grand gestures, but in the everyday choices we make.

Through prayer, kindness, helping others, standing up for what is right, and caring for those around us, we can reflect God's love in the world.



Let's find out together how faithfulness comes to life in the little things we do every day.

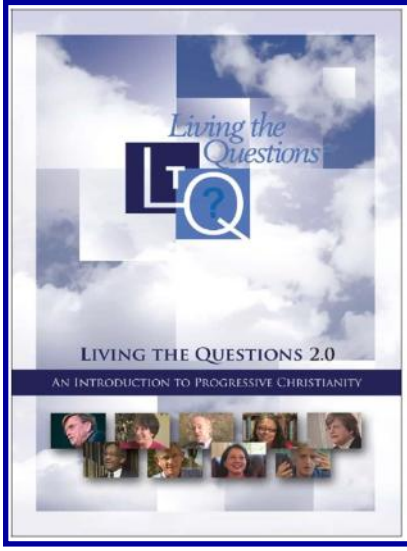
Next Sunday - November 22, 2026

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.



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

BAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

FESTIVE FANCIES

- Available after church on December 6th
- Available by PRE-ORDER ONLY!
- 5 dozen pre-packaged Christmas Cookies
- Cost - $50



Please contact Liz Brownlee
(705-476-8031)

Last day to order is
Sunday, November 29th!



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
U.C.W.

CHRISTMAS
CRAFT & BAKE SALE

Saturday, November 14,
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Luncheon Food Plates
as well as Tea and Juice

Cash only please
Please use Ferguson Street Entrance

Join us for a warm cup of tea, a bowl of steaming Christmas pudding and other seasonal goodies!

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5
2-4 PM

CHRISTMAS TEA AND BAKE SALE



CHISHOLM UNITED CHURCH.
1469 CHISWICK LINE WEST OF ALDERDALE ROAD
TEA $8/PERSON



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

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 DURING THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICE

(NOVEMBER 15, 2026)

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

****here****

Christmas Memorial Flowers



Poinsettias will be purchased to be placed in the sanctuary during the Christmas Season in memory of special persons.

If you wish to make a donation to help cover the cost, a minimum of $20 is suggested.

Please make your cheque payable to:
St. Andrew's Memorial Flower Fund

You can arrange for Memorial Flowers two ways:

1. Phone the **Church Office** (705-472-7680) by Thursday, Dec. 10th to arrange your memorial contribution.
2. By using the **order forms** to be found in Sunday bulletins (Nov. 15, 29 & Dec 6th). A list with the names of those being remembered will be inserted in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Any donations received over and above the cost of the plants will be put toward Memorial Projects.

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

Giving Life to God's Vision
A Stewardship Invitation
Growing the Church We Imagine / Caring for Our Church's Future

November 8th was WORLD PIANIST DAY - and St. Andrew's Choir member, Liz Brownlee sent this tribute to Ralph Johnston, St. Andrew;'s Music Director…

"Ralph, we are so very grateful for your almost 40 years of music ministry with us! Through thick and thin, changing clergy and COVID, you have kept the music reverberating through our sanctuary… and other parts of the building as well! And despite our occasional lack of attention, stubbornness, inflexibility, and myriad of other failings, you cheerfully carry on! You are the most patient person I know! Thank you, Ralph! We are truly blessed!



Ralph Johnston
Director of Music
St. Andrew's United Church







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 (November 8, 2026) :

https://youtu.be/bXpa-Ig_PB8

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



You are invited to attend a

Celebration of Life

For

Joyce Marion MacQueen

at St. Andrew's United Church

11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 22nd

Read Obituary ****here****

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: 12:30 am - 4:30 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:

The family of Joyce MacQueen Carole Sawyer Ken Dech

The family of Anita Winton Don Vaillancourt

Karen Gooch Ardis & Howie Pattenden

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)

AN INVITATION FROM MILC

Manitou Intentional Learning Community

Dear friends in northern churches:

You are invited to the the Annual General Meeting of **Manitou Intentional Learning Community** (MILC) on **Tuesday, November 24 at 7 p.m**. The meeting will be hybrid, so anyone can attend through Zoom. Or if you'd like to attend in person at Little Current, you're invited to join a group there. Information about registering appears below. A poster is attached; please share with members of your community of faith who may have an interest. [pdf prints well, jpg posts on social media, doc file allows the hyperlink to work]

You may remember an invitation earlier in the fall; thank you to those of you who consented to be part of focus groups in a discernment process about the future of adult learning for church folks in the north. We look forward to sharing the work of the discernment process, and to reconnecting with you.

Registration:

If you are joining virtually, **please register in advance** for this meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/z2eyZZtNTD2llRNvHwaQWA

To indicate your plan to join in person in Little Current, please send an email to: manitouintentionallearning@gmail.com Questions or concerns: Contact Dave 705-674-0721 minister@st-andrews.ca

Blessings, ***Faye Moffatt for the MILC team***