TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, November 22 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers

This 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.

Next Sunday - November 29, 2026

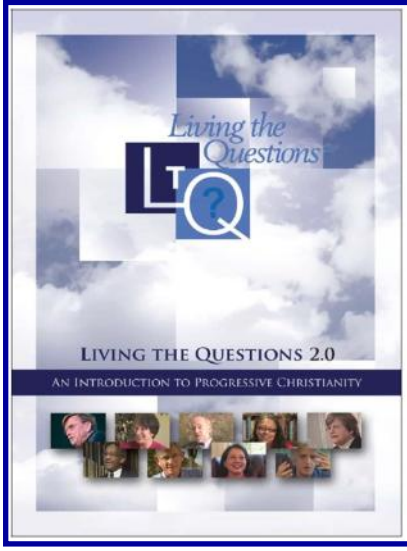
First Sunday in Advent - Hope

Birthing Hope

This Sunday is a very special one, as many of the folks who have been a part of our membership and reaffirmation study this fall take part in and lead our service and community in various ways.

Our Advent message of hope comes alive as we are invited to recommit to one another in our faith this advent season. We anticipate the birth of Christ, the birth of something new, until the dawn, we wait together, we join together in action and in rest.





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!



North Bay Choral Society

presents

Festive Follies

An afternoon of musical cheer and holiday spirit!

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2 PM
Sunday, Dec. 6, 2 PM

St. Andrew's United Church
399 Cassells St, North Bay

MC: Mitch Belanger
Tickets: $20
Children 12 and under: Free

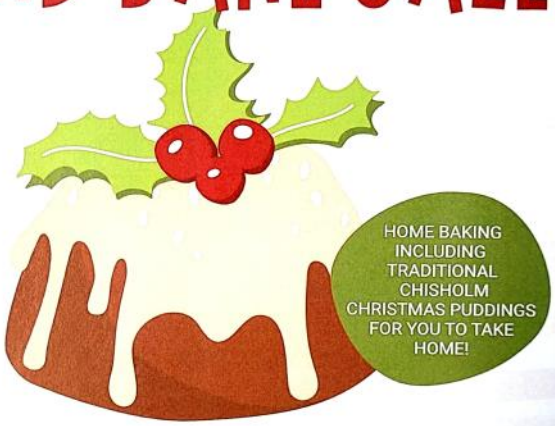
Tickets: Stix & Stones, The Farm, choir members & at the door.



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

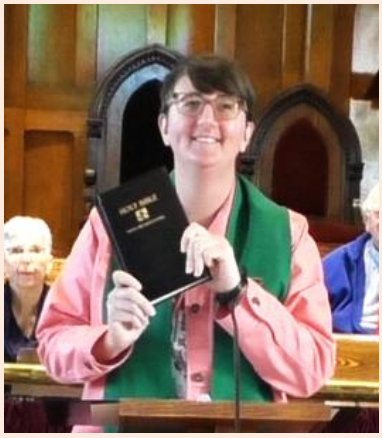
Time for the children to do their Christmas shopping, all items under $3.00. Make a list of who to shop for. There will be helper available for those who are too little to shop by themselves. Coffee and tea will be available for the parent's while their kids are shopping.

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

Minister's Report
November 2026



As fall begins to wrap up, with the possibility of snow growing ever more, the sunny days and warmth are all the more cherished, as we begin to look towards Advent and the Christmas season. A special season every year, filled with opportunities to gather in celebration and love, grief and community, care and compassion. It is a season that often contains multitudes, and this year is no exception, as we continue to journey with those in our community who are grieving, receiving treatments, recovering, or still working through what this season of their life looks like for them. We are a community of faith, and so we remind one another, we are not alone. As we have been reading the New Creed in our membership class, I am reminded of the words it offers us, "We are not alone, we live in God's world...In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God."

This Advent Season as we focus on the theme, "Until the Dawn," and through that we are invited to bring our prayers, our lives, and our cries of all kinds, to God, and to our faith community. This series, Until the Dawn, focuses on the actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. It reminds us that night can be a time when the way forward may seem unclear, when our senses are heightened and fear may creep in. And that same darkness can also bring gifts of rest, regeneration, dreams, and intimacy with God. God is with us in it all.

One author writes, "In our sacred stories for this season, the angels often arrive in the night, calling for courageous action and singing good news. In the night, Mary's labour pains crescendo and Christ is born. In the night, shepherds and Magi follow the stars to get closer to God. And so, in the metaphorical night, we will carry on with the work that is ours to do.

Just as surely as the sun rises, God's steadfast love and mercy are made new every morning. As we move toward the horizon, we will cry out, start somewhere, speak up, take courage, build up, and choose joy. These actions will help us resist despair and put our prayers in motion. Until the day when God's love reigns and all the earth echoes shalom, let us keep moving, singing, resisting, and rejoicing—trusting that God joins us in the work of Advent."

This advent theme feels very relevant to us as a council as well, as we continue in our work of making goals, and reflecting on the visioning we have done as a community of faith, in order to inform our actions and choices that make, and where we could go as a community of faith.

Last month Lillian met with the council to lead us in this work, and in the New Year she has offered to return to continue to work with us towards our goals of sustainability as leaders, individuals, and members of this beloved community of faith.

Thank you all for your hard work and leadership within this community, it is appreciated!

All my best

Rev. Caitlin Smithers



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 15, 2026) :

https://youtu.be/Z1BE2fV1ePA

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

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).



The Good Samaritan Corner



The Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay recognize that the homeless have urgent needs.

Operation Mercy Relief Street Ministry will be moving its food truck soon to a new location. Volunteers will be handing out warm breakfasts and bag lunches on Saturday mornings at Lot 7, corner of Worthington and Ferguson Streets.

The Street Ministry Food Trailer provides both physical and spiritual nourishment around the city and is a joint ministry initiative between our Holy Name of Jesus and St. Alphonsus Liguori, together with Sacred Way Ministries. The trailer and all its contents were donated by a generous benefactor!

Volunteers prepare food beforehand, serve food from the trailer, and engage in prayer and conversation with those we minister to.

You can donate to the cause here: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/holy-name-church/'

For more information about the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay contact us at CompassionNorthBay@gmail.com or visit us at https://www.facebook.com/compassionatecommitteeofnorthbay

Trinity United Church

I ♥ Trinity

Cookie Walk

Saturday, November 28th, 2026

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or until they're gone

Delicious holiday treats sold by the container.
Come early for best selection.

Trinity United Church Sunday School Hall
McIntyre Street Entrance

Proceeds will be used for Trinity's maintenance,
general expenses & capital campaign.
Only cash can be accepted.