TOGETHER

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

for Sunday, November 29, 2026
Minister: Reverend Caitlin Smithers



This Advent Season as we focus on the theme, "*Until the Dawn,*" 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. May we remember that, and the community of faith all around us as we find what we need this season in community, in faith, in hope, peace, joy, and love.

This 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.

Next Sunday - December 6, 2026



Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

A Sunday of Giving

This Sunday we give once again in support of a local organization in need through our white gifts, our envelopes or food items. This year we will support **Open Arms Café,** which provides hot meals and food for over 200 people weekly at St. John's Anglican Church.

In our gospel we hear about John the Baptist, drawing crowds to the water's edge, inviting them into a new way of living. Though the call to repentance is difficult, they step into the waters of baptism, committing to turn away from the paths of power to the path of righteousness. Do they see what the Psalmist sees: faithfulness springing up from the ground and righteousness looking down from the sky? Or are they simply taking the first step, unsure of what comes next?

Adapted from Sanctified Art written by Rev. Sarah Speed, Founding Creative Partner

St John the Divine Anglican Church

Open Arms Café

Until the Dawn

ADVENT SEASON 2026

St. ANDREW'S
ADVENT HAPPENINGS

KIDS ONLY BAZAAR
Saturday, December 5, 2026
10 am - noon

All children are welcome (use McIntyre St. Entrance). This is a time for the children to do their Christmas shopping! All items under $3. Make them a list of who to shop for. There will be helpers available if they need them. Coffee and tea will be available for the parents while their kids are shopping.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY
Sunday, Dec. 6, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Please bring your non-perishable food items or cash donations marked 'White Gift' on this day. All donations will be given to the Open Arms Café, which provides hot meals and food for over 200 people weekly at St. John's Anglican Church in North Bay.



ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 13, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.
'It Takes a Village"

During our service, we will share the retelling of the age-old story of Jesus' birth.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
"Sing in the Night"
Sunday, Dec. 20, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.
Candlelight Service at 7:30 p.m.

The St. Andrew's United Church Choir invites you to its annual *Service of Lessons and Carols* on Sunday morning. This a relaxing, quiet time in which the joy of Christmas is shared in song and story. The service is repeated in the evening where candlelight provides a different ambience in a winter's night.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
Monday, December 21, 2026
7 p.m. at Trinity United Church

The Advent and Christmas seasons can inspire profound highs and lows in our lives. The tradition continues: Trinity United teams up with St. Andrew's to host a "Longest Night" service of candlelight, of prayer and of heartfelt music at Trinity. Join us on Monday, Dec. 21st at 7p.m., when we embrace a holy opportunity of spacious prayerful pause, and contemplate the hopes and fears that fill the longest nights of the year! No offering is collected, and everyone is welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Thursday, December 24, 2026 - 7 p.m.

Communion, carols, and candlelight.
All are welcome

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

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.

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 winding down . f 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 November 30th 2026

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.





Winter is now upon us! the *Loaves & Fishes Foodbank* is looking for new or gently-used winter accessories. If you have anything at the bottom of a cupboard or you no longer use, please consider a donation to help keep someone warm this winter.

- Mitts/ Gloves
- Toques
- Scarves
- Large socks
- Tarps

Items may be left at the Church office - or brought to St. Andrew's on Thursday mornings (Food Bank) or Sunday mornings.



MORTSON, Anna Beatrice (née Grenier)

Anna passed away peacefully at Casselholme on Monday, November 23rd, 2026, at the age of 97.. Friends may call at Martyn Funeral Home on Tuesday, Dec. 1st, 2026, from 1 to 3 p.m., followed by a prayer service at 3 p.m. Spring interment will take place at the Kirkland Lake Cemetery. Online condolences may be left at www.martynfh.com. Full Obituary - click **HERE**



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 22, 2026) :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doE_gthTCKo

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

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

Karen Gooch • The family of Anita Winton • Don Vaillancourt

Ardis & Howie Pattenden • The family of Anna Mortson

St. Andrew's United Church

North Bay, Ontario

(corner of McIntyre and Cassells)



Kids Only Bazaar



Please enter through the McIntyre Street 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 children are shopping.

Giving Regularly through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

If you wish to donate regularly, our preferred method is through PAR – *Pre-Authorized Remittance.* With PAR your donation comes to St. Andrew's monthly from your bank account. Even if you miss attending church from time to time, your steady financial support will still be ongoing !

SIGNING UP FOR YOUR MONTHLY PAR CONTRIBUTION: View/download/print the PAR INFORMATION BROCHURE, and the PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM for first-time PAR applicants Please bring or mail your completed form (and voided cheque) to the Church office. You may cancel or change the amount of your PAR at any time by contacting the Church Office.

CHANGING YOUR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION: View/download/print the PAR CHANGE AUTHORIZATION FORM can be used to change the amount of your monthly givings through PAR. This form must be completed, signed and delivered or mailed to the Church Office. Also a completed and signed change form may also be scanned and e-mailed to the Church office.



St. Andrew's United ~ 2PM
Saturday, November 28

250 Clark St.- Powassan ~ 2PM
Saturday, December 12

Tickets at the door
$20 per person



The Good Samaritan Corner

The ***Compassionate Committee for the Homeless*** is a strong believer in education.

Did you know that the staff at Nipissing Community Legal Clinic, located at 107 Shirreff Avenue, Suite 214, provides no-fee legal services to low-income residents of North Bay, Sturgeon Falls, and to people in small communities within Nipissing District?

They provide legal advice or representation on:

- Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security
- Employment and Work
- Housing Law
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Ontario Works

They provide referrals and resources on:

- Abuse and Family Violence
- Criminal Law
- Debt and Consumer Rights
- Family Law
- French Language Rights
- Help from Lawyers and Paralegals
- Human Rights
- Immigration Law
- Refugee Law
- Tribunals and Courts
- Wills and Powers of Attorney



They are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday. For more information visit https://www.nipissingcommunitylegalclinic.ca/ or call them at 705-476-6603 for an appointment.

DECEMBER 2026

Please Note: Events are subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 (Loaves & Fishes delivery at Mac entrance) Special Olympics – Gym 4 – 7 pm	2 Bible Study Prep- LTQ Parlour 2-4pm Baytones – Gym 6:30-9:30 pm	3 Loaves & Fishes 7-11am –Entire Downstairs Special Olympics – Gym 4 – 7 pm	4 Choral Society – Practise 12 – 9 pm Sanctuary 12-4:30 4:30 - 9	5 Choral Society – Concert 12 – 5 pm Clubroom & Sanctuary Choir – Parlour 4 – 6 pm
6 Sunday Worship – Whole Church until noon Serenity Seekers AA – Rm 6 8:30-10am Choral Society – Concert 12 – 6 pm Clubroom & Sanctuary	7 Bible Study - LTQ Parlour 2-4pm Choral Society – Gym 5-9:30	8 (Loaves & Fishes – am delivery at Mac entrance) Special Olympics – Gym 4 – 7 pm	9 Bible Study Prep - LTQ Parlour 12-4pm Rainbow Group - Parlour 6:30 – 9:30 pm Baytones Picking up Risers from Gym 12noon – 3 for Powassan Multicultural Centre 4:00 – 8:00 GYM	10 Loaves & Fishes 7-11am – Entire Downstairs Special Olympics – Gym 4 – 7 pm	11	12 Choir – Sanctuary 4 – 6 pm Special Olympics – GYM Dance 3 – 10 pm 3-6:30 6:30-10
13 Sunday Worship – Whole Church until noon Serenity Seekers AA – Rm 6 8:30-10am	14 Bible Study - LTQ Parlour 2-4pm	15 (Loaves & Fishes delivery at Mac entrance) Special Olympics – Gym 4 – 7 pm	16 Bible Study Prep - LTQ Parlour 2-4pm Council – 6:30 – 9:30 Parlour	17 Loaves & Fishes 7-11am – Entire Downstairs Special Olympics – Gym 4 – 7 pm	18	19 Choir – Sanctuary 4 – 6 pm
20 Sunday Worship Lesson & Carols 10:30 am Serenity Seekers AA – Rm 6 8:30-10am Lesson & Carols – 7:30 pm	21	22 (Loaves & Fishes delivery at Mac entrance)	23 Rainbow Group – Parlour 6:30 – 9:30pm	24 Loaves & Fishes 7-11am – Entire Downstairs	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
27 Serenity Seekers AA – Rm 6 8:30-10am	28	29 (Loaves & Fishes delivery at Mac entrance)	30	31		Jan. 5th Special Olympics Jan. 11th Choral Society Jan. 6th Baytones

November 29, 2026

TOGETHER- St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay, ON