# This Week At St. Andrew's

#### Prayers for the Pastor

By the time you read this, Linda and I will be in my home state of Alabama visiting my brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Carol and my sister Faye. It was October 2018 when my sister Amber died that we last visited with my siblings.

Within these last four years Faye has lost the 2nd of her three sons to an early death and Faye's husband died shortly after the death of their son. Faye suffered a debilitating stroke that left her bedridden in her home and is under Hospice care. While my brother has become skilled at FaceTime video calls with the three of us, in no way do those calls measure the excitement of finally being together in person.

Linda and I will then travel to Columbus, Ohio for our granddaughter, Stella's first birthday and her baptism on Sunday, 20th While we look forward to our family visits, we are wary of the risk factors of travel and being around so many people in an area of the country that takes COVID risks lightly. I return facing cataract surgery on Tuesday, November 29 and would hate for this surgery to be cancelled because of a COVID outbreak.

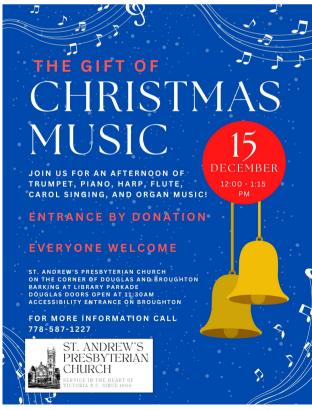
My vacation began on Sunday, November 13 and will continue until our return home on Thursday, November 24. If you have pastoral needs or concerns during this time, please call your elder or Rev. Wayne Stretch, our Interim Moderator who led worship on Sunday, November 13 and will moderate Session on Tuesday, November 15. Ruth McCowan will lead worship on Sunday, November 20.

Please pray for safe travel, good health and a wonderful reunion with Mike and Faye and for the joy of celebrating Stella's first birthday and baptism and Malachi's fourth birthday soon after we leave them this time.

Rich Blessings to all.

Mitch





#### November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

"Love means seeking the best for others and is the mark of a Christian... love speaks the truth tempered with kindness... it is the way of seeing others as God sees them" (Living Faith 8.3.2, 8.2.3).

Families and intimate relationships should be places of love and care. Yet, this is not always the case. There is no room for abuse or violence in love. No one is called to live with violence. One-quarter of violence reported to police involves a family member as perpetrator. This is a fraction of the number of people who experience domestic violence, a crime that is frequently underreported. Domestic violence is a reality for many people in congregations, but it is rarely spoken about in our prayers, sermons and studies.

If you have experienced abuse, know that it is not your fault. Nothing excuses violence or abuse. Help and support are available.

If you need support, or you are worried about someone you know and do not feel comfortable reaching out to someone at church, here are some other resources:

- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- Hope for Wellness, for Indigenous people in crisis:
- 1-855-242-3310
- Trans Lifeline provides peer support for trans people:
- 1-877-330-6366
- Crisis Services Canada: 1-833-456-4566
- Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse provides regional helplines:

cnpea.ca/en/what-is-elder-abuse/get-help

You can help support those facing domestic violence by:

- Learning more about domestic violence and its signs—see the church's Social Action Hub for more information at presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action.
- Learning what supports exist locally so appropriate referrals can be made
- Ensuring you are familiar with the church's Leading with Care policy
- Supporting local shelters and agencies assisting those who face domestic violence

Abuse is never okay.





## Share the Joy of Christmas



St. Andrew's Share the Joy of Christmas 2022 campaign is off to a great start! This past week enough money was donated to provide 2 Christmas hampers for those who are having a hard time making ends meet in Greater Victoria.

Christmas is meant to be a joyful and celebratory season. Unfortunately, for those who are already struggling financially, Christmas can be stressful. When you donate to St. Andrew's Share the Joy, you are making Christmas brighter for families, couples and singles in need. Hampers are filled with all the Christmas fixings and parents can choose a new toy for their children.

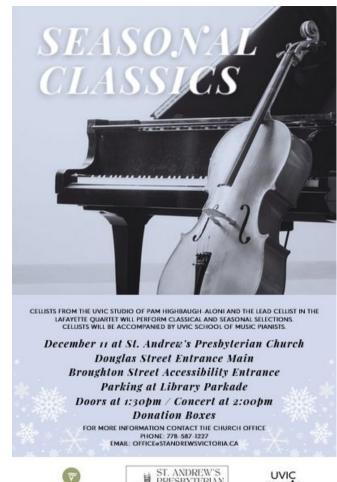
Please help us bring joy and comfort this holiday season. Our goal for 2022 is 15 hampers...each one costs \$170, enough for a family of 4. Donate what you can afford through your church envelopes or follow the instructions under the Donate tab on St. Andrew's website, standrewsvictoria.ca.

For more information, call Debra Verwey at 250-383-1009















### **Bulletin Board**

**Building Community Together Event is SOLD OUT:** St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has partnered with Ballet Victoria on a Building Community Together community event on Nov 19 at the church's Kirk Hall. The event includes a tea luncheon and a ballet performance, along with a market with books and preserves. The entrance to the Kirk Hall at 680 Courtney St. There is a passenger drop-off space outside and parking nearby at the Broughton Street parkade. 735 Broughton St. Tickets are SOLD OUT for this year.

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**The Gift of Christmas Music:** December 15th, Douglas street doors open at 11:30am, concert from 12 - 1:15 pm. Join us for an afternoon listening to piano, trumpet, violin, flute, organ, and carol singing! Entrance by donation - everyone is welcome! For more information call 778-587-1227.

**Seasonal Classics:** Cellists from the UVIC Studio of Pam Highbaugh-Aloni and the lead cellist in the Lafayette Quartet will perform classical and seasonal selections. Cellists will be accompanied by UVIC School of Music pianists. December 11 at 2:00pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Douglas Street entrance.

**In the Salon of Mme Brillon Concert:** The Early Music Society presents In the Salon of Mme Brillon at St. Andrew's Church on January 7th at 8:00 pm. For tickets go to earlymusicsocietyoftheislands.ca