

This Week At St. Andrew's

Parable of the Pastor

Friend, You Speak to My Condition

Over the last two weeks, I have been in touch with families that are planning Celebrations of Life for loved ones in the coming days. Families are saying their “good byes”, closing out living arrangements and looking toward the type funeral that best celebrates the life of their beloved. These are stressful and heartbreaking times that will hopefully become opportunities to remember the person who brought such love and joy to so many. It is during these times that we remember the incredible gift of each person and take the time to share that with someone.

In the Quaker community, there are particular ideas and phrases that have always made me think. A Quaker phrase that I've always appreciated is “Friend, you speak to my condition.” This phrase is used whenever someone says something that goes right to your heart, or when the words spoken were what you most needed to hear.

When someone speaks straight to your heart, what a gift it is to let that person know, “Friend, you speak to my condition” or some modern variation of that sentiment. It is a way to say thank you when someone risked following their heart and the impulse of love.

Carrie Newcomer is a favourite Quaker artist of mine from Indiana. She writes, “In these troubling times often is it best to listen, wonder and really hear the story of another, even someone who's opinions and view of the world is very different than my own. So I guess the encouragement today is to trust when your heart calls you to speak, take the risk to reach out, have the grace and courage to speak the words that must be said, to risk making a mistake for loves sake. Also, take time to allow silence to enter into your sound filled life, to listen before speaking during a pause in the conversation, and perhaps to listen when you heart needs a little calm and quiet...and seek it out. After a moment in the quiet, hum a favorite calming melody. Feel the way the melody lifts or opens your heart. Feel the pleasantness of moving your vocal chords. Enjoy the balance of silence and sound.

On a personal note... following the funeral on Sunday at 2:00 PM for Nancy Sidaway in the sanctuary, Linda and I will leave Monday for our first trip to Montreal. I will be teaching at the Encouragement Conference sponsored by Presbyterian College for leaders of congregations. It will be exciting to lead learning conversations with a group of 40 or more in recognizing the vast differences in the maps that congregations are now shifting to in rethinking and repurposing our mission and ministry. This group will learn and practice the asset mapping exercise in their own congregations that we discovered at St. Andrew's a short time ago.

Linda and I will remain in Montreal following the conference to explore and experience this beautiful and remarkable city. I pray for each of you days in which you will say to someone with deep sentiment, “Friend, you speak to my condition.”

With kind thoughts,
Mitch



VIP Camp



Vancouver Island Presbytery (VIP) is a ministry whose mission is sharing the Gospel with children, youth and adults in camps. Staff and volunteers from our communities support this initiative since 1975. There are three camps this year, St. Andrew's will be hosting the one at French Beach Provincial Park. Come have fun with us, we will be studying, praying and playing!

Go to <https://standrewsvictoria.ca/camp-vip/> to register now.

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park

June 5-9, 2023

Pay for your own site + \$25 fee

French Beach

July 6-10, 2023

\$140 or \$40 a night

Rathtrevor Provincial Park

July 31-August 7, 2023

\$250 or \$40 a night

New Office Hours

Beginning Monday 15 May, office hours at St Andrew's will be **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9.30 – 2.30**

Together with our sister Presbyterians congregations in Victoria, we continue to explore ways in which we can work together and share resources. This week will begin a 7-week trial period; our Church Administrator Shannon will work out of the Knox office every Wednesday. Each congregation is facing the challenge of a dearth of leaders. We are optimistic that sharing the administrator will lighten the load for Rev Laura Kavanagh and the volunteer leadership at Knox.

Conversations are underway with Trinity.

Colina Titus, Personnel.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who took the time to answer the survey about elders. Your feedback is valuable to the elders.

Please be assured that you do not need to wait for a survey. At any time, please let anyone on the session or Pastor Coggin know how we can most effectively meet your needs, which may change over time.

Colina Titus, Personnel.



Memory Cafe Victoria

10 WEEKS
\$100
REGISTRATION PER COUPLE

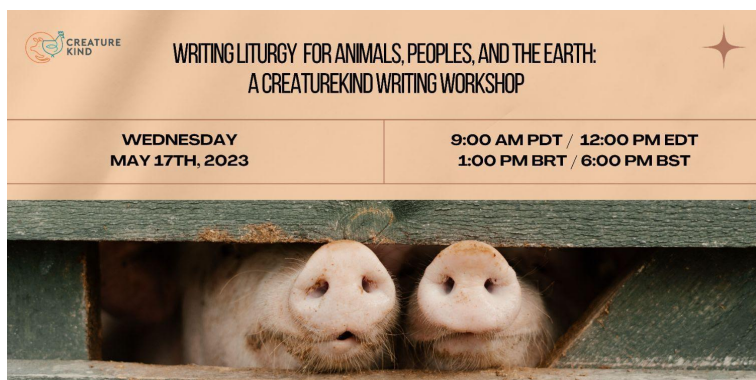
APRIL 13 TO JUNE 15 2023

Relax, unwind, and have some fun! The café is designed to allow you and your loved one to participate in creative activities together while socializing with others. Coffee, tea and treats are provided. The café offers a caring and welcoming community for both people with dementia and their caregivers.

PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE
3100 Tillicum Rd, Victoria
Youth Centre

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Debra Sheets, Ph.D, RN
School of Nursing
Univ. of Victoria
Ph: (250) 853-3947
Email: dsheets@uvic.ca




CREATURE KIND

WRITING LITURGY FOR ANIMALS, PEOPLES, AND THE EARTH:
A CREATUREKIND WRITING WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY
MAY 17TH, 2023

9:00 AM PDT / 12:00 PM EDT
1:00 PM BRT / 6:00 PM BST



We invite you to join CreatureKind for a Writing Workshop on **Wednesday, May 17th, at 12:00 pm EDT/1:00 pm BRT/6:00 pm BST**. We will have a presentation on writing liturgy that centers justice and liberation for animals followed by time for q&a, sharing resources, and writing. All are welcome!

You can register [here](#) to join us on Zoom. We hope to see you there!

Church Calendar

SPRING MARKET	May 12 Friday 11:00 to 4:00 pm May 13 Saturday 10:00 to 4:00 pm	It's time for a Spring Market so mark your calendars! It will be held in the Lecture Room and there will be jewelry, crafts, attic treasures and a silent auction. Lunch will be for sale in the Hall. All proceeds go to the Lecture Hall renovations.
PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION NEWSPAPER DEADLINE	May 12 Friday	If you'd like news from our congregation to appear within the newspaper, please consider sending in a short article and photo(s) of special events, anniversaries and celebrations, community outreach initiatives, children's programming, etc.
PANDORA CHORUS CONCERT	May 13 Friday 7:00 to 9:00 pm	They will be singing songs from their Winter-Spring repertoire, including songs by Harry Styles, Simon & Garfunkel, Kate Bush, Adele, and more! Doors open 7pm, Show 7:30 pm. \$15 advance, \$20 door, no ticket needed for children ages 12 and under.
JUNE LINK DEADLINE	May 28 Sunday	Send your contributions to thelink@shaw.ca .
RCCO CONCERT	July 1 Saturday 12:00 - 4:00 pm	Details to be announced.
FEST WEST CONCERT	July 2 Sunday 2:00 - 3:00 pm	Details to be announced.
NEW ZEALAND STRING QUARTET	July 31 Monday 4:00 - 9:00 pm	Details to be announced.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church acknowledges and thanks the Lekwungen People – WSÁNEĆ, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations – on whose traditional land we meet and worship.