

# This Week At St. Andrew's

## The History of Pride in the PCC

For the past several decades, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has studied and discussed questions related to sexuality, particularly questions related to same-sex marriage and the roles of LGBTQI people in ministry. During the 2021 General Assembly, The Presbyterian Church in Canada agreed to make changes to its theology and practice regarding marriage, recognizing that people may define marriage either as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman or as a covenant relationship between two adult people. These decisions provide Presbyterian ministers with liberty of conscience and the freedom to choose to officiate or not officiate at the marriages of same-sex couples. Additionally, the church agreed that LGBTQI people (whether married or single) can be ordained and are welcome to serve as ministers and ruling elders.

In 1994, the church recognized that we are called to be a welcoming, nurturing, loving and supportive community, a true church family, and to repent of homophobia and hypocrisy. In 2017, the church formed a special committee (also known as the [Rainbow Communion](#)) to listen to the stories of LGBTQI people and others related to harms done due to homophobia, transphobia, hypocrisy and/or heterosexism to them within and by the church and to share their stories of God's grace experienced by them and Christian ministry. The Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator of the 2017 General Assembly, wrote [a letter of repentance](#) to LGBTQI people and reminding the church of God's call to be a community where we welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us.

In 2021, General Assembly adopted the final report and recommendations of the Rainbow Communion, which outline ways for the church to acknowledge harm to LGBTQI people through public confession and apology, as well as necessary policies and programs that will help the church include LGBTQI people more fully in all aspects of ministry. [Funding is available](#) to support psychotherapy or counselling for those who have experienced harm done by homophobia, hypocrisy, transphobia and heterosexism in the denomination.

As we head into Pride month, consider what progress 2023 may bring, and how you can contribute to the history of Pride in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.



# FEST WEST

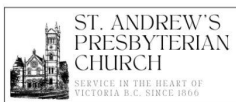
WESTERN STRING STUDENTS

# CONCERT

STRING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS WESTERN CANADA, INCLUDING LOCAL UVIC STUDENTS, WILL PERFORM SOLOS, DUETS, QUARTETS IN A FINAL PERFORMANCE AS PART OF FEST WEST!

**July 2 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
**Corner of Broughton and Douglas**  
**Broughton Street Accessibility Entrance**  
**Free Parking at Library Parkade**  
**Doors at 1:30pm / Concert at 2:00pm**  
**Donation Boxes**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE  
 PHONE: 250-384-5734  
 EMAIL: OFFICE@STANDREWSVICTORIA.CA



BALLET BC VICTORIA  
 CONSERVATORY

## Year End Recital

**Sunday, June 25 @ 2 pm**  
**Tickets at [bvconservatory.org](http://bvconservatory.org)**



**LIMITED  
 SPACE!**

## 2023 Vancouver Island Presbytery Summer Camps

(A program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada)

Location and Dates:

Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park June 5th-9th

French Beach Provincial Park July 6th-10th

Rath Trevor Provincial Park July 31st-August 7th

For Enquiry Contact: Camp VIP Communicator  
[campvip@outlook.com](mailto:campvip@outlook.com)

Camp Website <https://vipresbytery.net>



# KNOX CAFÉ

Back to Swing Street

**Thursday, June 15, 7pm**

**DANCING!  
 DANCING!**

**Knox Presbyterian Church**  
**2964 Richmond Road**



**Admission \$10**  
 includes: beverage, snack,  
 and music

## The Swing Street Band

Steve Sturges - guitar and vocals  
 Corrine Painter - trumpet and vocals  
 Barry Carlson - guitar and vocals  
 Jack Funk - drums  
 with Ryan Tanay - bass



Donations also accepted to support humanitarian work of PWS+D





## A Bathroom for Everyone at St. Andrew's

The renovations of the Kirk Hall washrooms, with many thanks to Ballet Victoria, were completed in October of last year. Since then the renovations have been getting rave reviews from facility users.

You may have used them if you attended a concert in the Kirk Hall this year. Perhaps you've seen the ballet performers using them to get ready for their classes? What you may not have noticed is that one of them is a gender inclusive bathroom!

A gender inclusive bathroom means that anyone can use this bathroom. Next time you're in the Kirk Hall try out one of the spacious, sparkling stalls and see what all the fuss is about!

Gender inclusive bathrooms have many benefits:

- ❑ Communal bathroom spaces help keep everyone safer, especially women and children!
- ❑ Protects trans and non-binary users from physical assault and verbal harassment.
- ❑ Decreased wait times for bathroom facilities for everyone.
- ❑ Anyone with 'shy bladder' or 'shy bowel' syndrome can have access to a private stall.
- ❑ Easier and greater access to bathrooms for disabled users.
- ❑ Supports easier and greater access to menstrual hygiene care.
- ❑ Supports equal parenting by allowing equal access to the diaper stations.
- ❑ Any caregiver can accompany and assist any child, senior, or disabled person using the bathroom here.
- ❑ Vandalism is lessened in communal bathroom spaces.
- ❑ More cost effective than gender segregated bathrooms.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>KITCHEN MEETING</b>	<b>June 14</b> Wednesday 10:00 am	Discuss what the role of the Kitchen should be in the coming months and how to make it easier for folks to coordinate with each other as events are planned.
<b>SUMMER SOCIAL</b>	<b>Starts June 15</b> Every Thursday 2 pm - 4pm	Drop by the laneway for a visit, have an iced tea and chat with friends. All are welcome. Come by yourself or bring a friend or spouse!
<b>PROPERTY MEETING</b>	<b>June 10</b> Wednesday 10 am - 12pm	Discuss the Lecture Hall renovations happening fall. All are welcome to attend. Email the office with comments if you are unable to attend.
<b>SERVICE FOR BETTY COWPER</b>	<b>June 24</b> Saturday 2 - 4 pm	Celebrate the life of Betty Cowper with friends and family. A reception will follow.
<b>FEST WEST CONCERT</b>	<b>July 2</b> Sunday 2:00 - 3:00 pm	Strings students from western Canada will attend Fest West a 2 week in service program at UVIC. The downtown final performance is in the Sanctuary featuring solos, duets, and quartets. Everyone welcome.
<b>NEW ZEALAND STRING QUARTET CONCERT</b>	<b>July 31</b> Monday 7:00 - 9:00 pm	The New Zealand String Quartet will be playing works by Haydn, Cresswell, Shostakovich, and Schubert at St. Andrew's as part of their North American tour. More details to follow.
<b>PICNIC IN THE PARK</b>	<b>August 27</b> Sunday 11:45 - 1:45 pm	Picnic in the Park with our friends from Knox and Trinity churches at Esquimalt Gorge Park. More details to follow.

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.