THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE #187

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 31, 2023

PARABLE OF THE PASTOR

The news from Israel and Gaza this morning continues to be grim.

- *The Israeli military was attacked by an airstrike inflicted by Hamas, the terrorist organization that controls Gaza on Oct. 7 when 1,400 Israelis were killed and over 240 were taken hostage by Hamas on that day.
- *This week mass casualties are feared in North Gaza blasts as the Israeli ground war into Gaza continues...
- *The humanitarian situation for residents of Gaza is getting worse, with limited supplies of food and other basic goods and a collapsing healthcare system.
- *More than 8,520 Palestinians have been killed since Israel began its bombing campaign, most of them women and children
- *The humanitarian situation across the Gaza Strip remains catastrophic.

What can we do? We must pray! Pray that God's mercy will be felt by the innocent lives who have lost homes and health, loved ones and liberty. Pray for an end to this war. Pray for a humanitarian route to be established out of war zones where innocents may be rescued. Pray that decades old hatred will not dictate decisions and policies.

What can we do? We have a few days left to donate to Presbyterian World Service & Development, the mission arm of The Presbyterian Church in Canada when our donations will be matched. As detailed on the website of the Presbyterian Church in Canada...

Presbyterian World Service & Development is prepared to respond to the humanitarian needs. The Presbyterian Church in Canada stands in solidarity with all the people of the region, who are enduring the devastating consequences of continued violence and strife. The ongoing hostilities have created a humanitarian crisis, with homes, schools, medical facilities and crucial infrastructure having been extensively damaged or destroyed. The conflict has led to a significant mass displacement—1.4 million out of Gaza's 2.2 million residents are currently displaced. PWS&D's humanitarian response will assist with shelter, food, livelihoods, emergency health, psychosocial and mental health support, as well as cash assistance to allow people to purchase the goods they require.

Donations made to PWS&D are eligible to be matched by the Government of Canada through the Humanitarian Coalition's Gaza Emergency appeal. Donations made between October 7 and November 12 will be matched, up to a total of \$10 million.

You may donate online at https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/humanitarian.ca/donate/donate-to-pwsd/ The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Charitable Registration No. 10785 6619 RR0001

Please pray. Please give.

Prayerfully Mitch



SERVICE OF REPENTANCE, HEALING & HOPE

All are welcome to join us online for a <u>Service of Repentance</u>, <u>Healing and Hope</u> in response to the actions of the 2023 General Assembly adopting a Confession regarding the ways in which The Presbyterian Church in Canada has silenced, mistreated and slandered the "ethnic contingent" of the church.

As the church begins a new year with the First Sunday of Advent, we pray that this service of repentance will lead to a renewed journey of healing and hope within all parts of our church.

The service will feature leadership from the diversity of our denomination, including The Rev. In Kee Kim of St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, who will preach the sermon and the Rev. Drs. Heather Vais and John Vissers, who will share in reading the Confession as part of the service.

WHEN: December 3, 2023 (First Sunday of Advent) WHERE: <u>St. Timothy Presbyterian Church</u> in Toronto **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

The service will be <u>live-streamed</u> and recorded for those who cannot attend in person. A reception will follow the worship service.

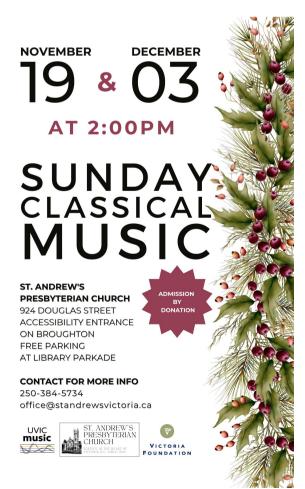












ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

OPEN CHURCH WED. AT 1:00 PM

MEDITATION HOUR WED. AT 4:30 PM

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN. AT 10:30 AM

CONNIE KALDOR IN CONCERT	November 4 Saturday 7:30 pm	Beacon Ridge Productions presents Connie Kaldor one of Canada's finest songwriters. Connie hasnd has won a Western Literature award.
CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER	November 18 Saturday 2:00 pm	Enjoy a performance by Ballet Victoria and tea & biscuits served by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Reserve your tickets by contacting the church office!
LA CIGALE	November 18 Saturday 7:30 pm	The Early Music Society presents La Cigale, performing music of the Renaissance and Baroque eras on period instruments.
SUNDAY CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES	November 19 Sunday 4:00 pm	Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach, The Victoria Foundation, and Uvic Music. Free admission, donations accepted. Everyone welcome!
TEA FOR TUTU	November 21 -23 2:00 PM	Highlights of 'The Gift of the Nutcracker' and light refreshments in the Kirk Hall. Reserve your free tickets: call 250-380-6063 or email tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca.
SUNDAY CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES	December 3 Sunday 4:00 pm	Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach, The Victoria Foundation, and Uvic Music. Free admission, donations accepted. Everyone welcome!
VISIONS	December 9 Saturday 2:00 pm	Presented by Ensemble Laude. Tickets \$25,\$30 door, \$15 students, under 13 free. Go here for more information: www.ensemblelaude.org
GOTHIC VOICES	December 16 Saturday 7:30 pm	The Early Music Society presents Gothic Voices, a medieval Christmas celebration. Go HERE for more information and ticket prices.
A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES	December 24 Sunday 2:00 pm	A warm and nostalgic Vox Humana Christmas tradition. Go to www.voxhumanachoir.ca for tickets and more information.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church acknowledges and thanks the $l \ni k^w \ni \eta \ni n$ People – $W_S \land N \in C$, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations – on whose traditional land we meet and worship.