



THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

ISSUE # 204 MARCH 5, 2024



INVEST IN WOMEN

As we approach International Women's Day – March 8 – the global call to action resonates louder than ever: "[Invest in women: Accelerate Progress.](#)" This year's theme reinforces the critical role that women play in driving change across our society.

Through recognizing, supporting and investing in women's education, health and economic empowerment, and leadership, we unlock a world that is healthier and more prosperous, and shepherd communities toward a more just and equitable future.

PWS&D is committed to investing in women through our projects:

In [Guatemala](#), PWS&D works with local partners to support Indigenous women as they fight prejudices about their leadership abilities. Through workshops, women learn greater self-esteem and strengthen their voices at the institutional level.

With our local partner in [India](#), PWS&D supports outreach to women and girls to provide them with the tools they need to access appropriate health care and address issues of gender, empowerment, and sexual and reproductive rights.

In [Malawi](#), PWS&D provides scholarships for girls to attend Neno Girls Secondary School. These scholarships enable girls to stay in school and access a quality education. According to the United

Nations, every additional year of school a girl attains increases her eventual wages by 10-20%. Education encourages them to marry later and have fewer children, increasing opportunities for gender equity to be realized.

PWS&D is also pleased to partner with KAIROS on their [Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security](#) initiative. In conflict and post-conflict situations, women are often victimized through gender inequity, poverty, racism, military conflict and sexual violence. However, women and many women-led organizations play an essential role in human rights and processes for peace, justice and reparations. The Women of Courage initiative works with partners in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Israel/Palestine, the Philippines and South Sudan to end gender-based violence in militarized conflict and increase women's participation in peacebuilding processes.

♪ SUNDAY'S MUSIC ♪

Prelude

"Toccata Prima" by Johann Ernst Eberlin

Choral Anthem

"God so loved the world" by Alan Bullard

Musical Reflection

Prayer for peace" by Paul Fey

Postlude

"Fuga" from Toccata Prima by Johann Ernst Eberlin

LECTIONARY READINGS

SUNDAY MARCH 10

Numbers 21:4-9,
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22,
Ephesians 2:1-10,
John 3:14-21



THURSDAY MEETUP

THE THURSDAY MEETUP IS STARTING AGAIN! Join us in our “new” Lecture Room every Thursday afternoon, 2pm, Starting - MARCH 21.

Come for a visit and a snack! Let's talk about how we could help with projects, for 2024, at St. Andrew's. Bring your ideas and let's make some plans !

KNOX CAFÉ
Songs of Hearth and Home

Thursday, March 21, 7pm

Knox Presbyterian Church
2964 Richmond Road

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

The Cafe Trio
Steve Sturges - guitar and vocals
Mike Sampson - guitar
Ryan Tandy - bass



Donations also accepted to support humanitarian work of PWS+D



UPLIFT 2024

We are excited to announce the 2024 gathering of **UPLIFT**, previously known as **CY (Canada Youth)**.

The gathering of youth, young adults and church leaders will see three streams at the conference: youth (Grade 9-18 years of age), young adults (18-25 years of age) and leaders (18 years and over).

Each stream will focus on that group's unique needs and faith expression, exploring the theme of “Audacious Hope” through activities, learning, worship, prayer, relationship building and fun.

UPLIFT 2024 takes place from July 3-7, 2024, at Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. Save the date!

Brochures are available in the Narthex or soft copies from Session Clerk at session.clerk@standrewsvictoria.ca.

Some funds are available from the Presbytery CCYC committee, Jerry Verwey, St. Andrew's rep to CCYC.



GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE UPDATE

Greetings to Greater Victoria Communities of Faith,

We hope you and your community of faith received our first email of Feb 15th with an invitation to participate in a Peaceful Pilgrimage Walk for Gaza.

Saturday, March 16th, we are hosting a Pilgrimage around the city of Victoria. This will not be a rally! **It will be a prayerful walk**, and you are invited to walk whatever distance along the planned route that you are able to do, as a way to respond to the ongoing violence on the people in Gaza.

While the length of Gaza is 41km, the circular route we are planning is 21.6 km (approx. 1/2 the length of Gaza). Some of you might be interested in walking the entire distance. Most people will be walking one or more of the sections of this walk. We are organizing 5 stopping points or places to register/receive hospitality and participate in a few moments of reflection at each point. See the link to the walking route below.

This is meant to be a spiritual walk of contemplation and prayer.

Can you see some people from your community join us? A few people to walk a section together, or in relay fashion? We welcome you to join us. Please register online here:

<https://form.jotform.com/240515845361253>

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to send us an email, Susan graceful@shaw.ca. Or if you would like to volunteer email thegrays@shaw.ca

In organizing this Pilgrimage, we aspire to:

- 1) *Keep the war in Gaza and the need for a ceasefire in front of us as we journey together*
- 2) *Encourage all Christians and people from other faith traditions as well as no faith traditions, to join with us in a prayerful walk for peace in the Holy Land.*

And finally, our thanks in advance for all you can do to lift up the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage in your community and network.

In peace, shalom and salaam,

Rev. Barbara Hansen, Janet Gray, Susan Grace Draper

on behalf of The Organizing Team for Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Walk in Victoria, BC

Hosted by: Broad View United, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and KAIROS Victoria with leadership provided from faith communities in greater Victoria.

Links:

FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE: <https://bit.ly/3unrWpX>
TO REGISTER FOR THIS PILGRIMAGE, GO
HERE: <https://form.jotform.com/240515845361253>
ROUTE MAP: <https://bit.ly/49DsXcw>

For more information about this global invitation to walk, please check out the website:
<https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>



**Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week**

March 13 - 19, 2023

www.neurodiversityweek.com

ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

OPEN CHURCH WED. AT 12:00 PM

MEDITATION HOUR WED. AT 4:30 PM

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN. AT 10:30 AM

LENTEN LUNCH & LECTIO	KNOX March 12, 19, & 26. Tuesdays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Members of St. Andrew's and Trinity are welcome! Each Tuesday we will use the ancient spiritual practice of lectio divina to listen to each of the Lenten passages for the coming Sunday. Bring a bag lunch and engage in spiritual listening to scripture as we prepare for the Sundays in Lent.
TEA FOR TUTU	KIRK HALL March 5 - 7 2:00 pm	Ballet Victoria presents highlights of 'Dracula' followed by light refreshments. To reserve your free seat tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca or call 250-380-6063
SUNDAY CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES	SANCTUARY March 10 Sunday 2:00 pm	Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach, The Victoria Foundation, and The University of Victoria's Music Department. Everyone is welcome to enjoy an afternoon of classical music! Free parking Sundays at 745 Broughton library parkade and admission is by donation!
SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER	KNOX CHURCH March 10 Sunday 5:00-7:30 pm	This is an opportunity for participants from St. Andrew's, Trinity, and Knox congregations to cook and eat together with students from UVic Multifaith on the second Sunday of every month. Plan to be part of this community experience in the lovely Knox kitchen and lounge!
KNOX CAFE	KNOX CHURCH March 21 Thursday 7:00 pm	Join 'The Cafe Trio' for an evening of songs of hearth and home! Admission is \$10 which includes light refreshments. Donations are accepted to support the work of PWS&D.
THURSDAY MEET UP	LECTURE ROOM March 21 Thursday 1 - 4 pm	Begins March 21 and occurs every Thursday thereafter. Come for a visit and a snack in our newly renovated Lecture Room! Let's talk about our plans and projects for 2024 - bring your ideas!
VIP WOMEN'S RETREAT	REGISTRATION DEADLINE March 22	Register early for the retreat on April 26-28 at Camp Imadene! Contact Meredith Reems, Camp Registrar at 250-668-3299 or meredithreems@gmail.com
THE LINK	DEADLINE March 31 Sunday	Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca .
MAUNDY THURSDAY	KNOX CHURCH March 28 7:30 pm	St. Andrew's and Trinity Church members are invited to to attend the Maundy Thursday service at Knox church. Led by Rev. Mitch Coggin.

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