

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 315

June 25, 2026

Open Church: Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Meditation Hour: Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

The Globe & Faith: The Gathering Room

Wednesdays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Activity Group: The Kirk Hall

Thursdays at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Worship Service: Sanctuary

Sundays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

From the Pulpit

This Sunday's sermon is entitled 'Expelled,' as we reflect on what it means to be expelled - and why Jesus kept drawing close to those others had pushed away. Through honest stories, scripture, and the calling of the disciple Matthew, we'll ask whether the church can be a place of healing rather than judgment. This is a sermon about mercy, welcome, and the surprising grace of Jesus, friend of sinners.

- Rev. Wes Denyer

Announcements



CONGRATULATIONS: On Saturday, June 6, 2026, as part of the Victoria Centre Annual General Meeting, Past President (2025-2026 season) Susanne Reul-Zastre was awarded the Victoria RCCO Centre Life Membership Award!

GUEST ORGANIST: We welcome Steven Benson of the [Royal Canadian College of Organists](#) as our guest organist while Susanne is on vacation.



GOODBYE BEN: Ben Schulte is a German exchange student who has been attending our church for the past eight months. He is now returning home, but has left his contact information with the church, should anyone want to stay in touch! *Gute Reise, Ben!*

LANEWAY GARDEN UPDATE: The Activity Group is pleased to report tomatoes and a cucumber have already been produced this season in the Laneway Vegetable Garden. Blessed by wonderful sunshine, and faithful watering, all the plants are thriving and we look forward to many more vegetables to be shared.

JEWELRY & JUMBLE SALE UPDATE: Behind the scenes, work continues to prepare the many items collected for the sale. There is a huge variety of items! If you are able to volunteer at the sale, (September 18th & 19th from 11 am - 3 pm on both days,) please speak to Sheelagh Garson, or the church office. We appreciate all your help!

SESSION MEETING: The Session Meeting, scheduled for June 1, is postponed until June 29th at 7 pm in The Gathering Room.



QUARTET FEST WEST: Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on July 5th in the Sanctuary at 2 PM. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! Quartet Fest West is one of the finest chamber music programs in North America! This concert features several participants from this year's festival.

🎵 UVIC SUMMER ORCHESTRA: Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on September 6th in the Sanctuary at 2 PM. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! More information will follow.

💍 JEWELRY & JUMBLE SALE: Stop by the Gathering Room on September 18 & 19 for St. Andrew's jewelry and jumble sale! All proceeds go towards supplies for the laneway garden. More information will be available soon!

🙏 HYMN FESTIVAL: Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on September 27th in the Sanctuary at 2 PM. Donations are appreciated, and go towards the purchase of a new piano! More information will follow.

Community Events

🌈 AROUND THE TABLE: Join 'Inclusive Christians' at 5 pm Wednesdays at the UVic Multifaith Centre for a simple ecumenical communion service that includes scripture, prayer, song, contemplation and conversation. Worship is followed by a modest, free meal provided by local congregations. This special time together is hosted by Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Spiritual Care Providers. Everyone is welcome. Please contact the Rev. Laura Kavanagh at laurakavanagh@uvic.ca for more information or to donate a meal in the fall or winter term.

🏕️ CAMP VIP SUMMER 2026: A program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This year's locations and dates are as follows: Rath Trevor Provincial Park (July 25 - 30), and Rath Trevor Provincial Park (July 30 - August 3). For more information go to our [website](#) or contact the registrar at jermareng@gmail.com.

🐱 SING THE NORTH: World-leading choral recording artists, soprano Andrea Haines and countertenor and conductor Danile Taylor invite you to enjoy a unique performance by Sing the North's Consort Project's choristers on Sunday, August 2 at 7:30 pm. More information and tickets are available [HERE](#).

NO to the War on Cuba!

The Presbyterian Church in Canada added its voice to an advertisement that ran in The Hill Times on June 15, saying "no" to the injustice that is the unlawful coercive measures by the US against Cuba. Joining other churches and faith-based groups, advocacy groups and unions, those who signed the ad called on the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cuba and to work more determinedly with the United Nations and other countries to get fuel and other life-saving supplies to Cuba without delay. At its recent General Assembly, which concluded on Thursday, June 11, the PCC approved a motion recognizing the extreme economic and humanitarian crisis in Cuba, where basic necessities have reached critical shortage, while urging the Canadian government to actively oppose the United States blockade and sanctions against Cuba.



Members of the church can support church partners by contacting Canadian elected government officials to ask the Government of Canada to:

- publicly condemn American aggressions as violations of international law;
- refuse to participate in, support, or legitimize military, economic, or political aggressions against Venezuela and other countries;
- reaffirm and actively support the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, free from external military intervention;
- actively reject any and all interventions and military aggressions against Cuba, Colombia and Mexico;
- firmly oppose American economic and other coercive measures against Cuba and vigorously advocate for their removal;
- deepen economic ties, trade, and assistance to Cuba;
- unequivocally uphold and promote the right of self-determination of the peoples and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Mission Moment

In Karkhola, India, 18-year-old Raunak Khatun experienced early difficulties. After her mother passed away, she was raised by her grandmother, but they were eventually forced out of their home when her father remarried. Without any support, they built a hut on government land, surviving by begging and farm work. Then Raunak learned about vocational training for out-of-school girls and enrolled in a tailoring course. When she finished it, she began sewing clothes for her village. However, she faced a major obstacle—she did not have her own sewing machine. The Karuna Project supported her to buy one. Raunak is now able to take care of herself and her grandmother. She is also training two other girls from her community, passing on the skills she learned. This project is supported by PWS&D through Duncan Hospital.

Prayer Partnership

Thursday, June 25 We pray for the wisdom, strength and health of ministry staff and volunteers of each of the eight ministries of the National Indigenous Ministries Council, as they walk with and support people in the communities they serve.

Friday, June 26 We pray for the Executive of the Atlantic Mission Society as they finalize plans for the Annual Meeting in September. We give thanks for the many blessings of this past year and ask that the Holy Spirit continue to guide and direct them into the future.

Saturday, June 27 We pray for the Rev. Rebecca Simpson, Assistant Dean of St. Andrew's Hall, in her leadership of the college and care for students.

Sunday, June 28 We pray for all God's people working in faith formation—from churches to camps to campuses, communities, and beyond.

Monday, June 29 We give thanks for church treasurers who offer faithful stewardship of the gifts received for the work of ministry in their congregations.

Tuesday, June 30 We pray for Knox College and its new students who will be invited to register for program studies in early July, and for their continued discernment of God's call to equip and prepare for service.

🇨🇦 Wednesday, July 1 (Canada Day) We pray that this land will be a just, equitable and welcoming country and that all those who form and keep our laws will carry out their responsibilities with wisdom, courage and mercy.

Thursday, July 2 We pray for staff and campers at Presbyterian Music Camp in Goderich, ON, as they learn and grow together in faith in a Christian camping community.

Friday, July 3 We pray for leaders in the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba as they minister among people suffering increasing daily hardships due to dire shortages of food, medicine, gas and electricity.

Social Action Spotlight

Nuclear Disarmament and Peacemaking:

In our current global climate, it is more critical than ever to work for a world free of the threat of nuclear weapons and to hold to the principle that Canada remains free of nuclear weapons. Advocating for global nuclear disarmament, while also supporting peacemaking efforts that strengthen bonds within and across community differences, builds communities where all God's creation can flourish.

Peacemaking is an intentional way of relating (to people and the earth) that centers mutual wellbeing. It works against injustice, oppression and anything that diminishes the integrity of God's creation. Nuclear weapons undermine that work. Catastrophic and indiscriminate, they are incompatible with any vision of a just peace. Words from a report adopted in 1983 by the General Assembly remain apt: "no nation, including our own, has the right before God to resort to nuclear weapons, either offensively or defensively." (A&P 1983, pp. 373, 44).

Peacemaking advocates have worked for decades towards the negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Ban Treaty), which passed in 2017 and came into force in 2021. Unfortunately, no NATO members, including Canada, support the Ban Treaty because NATO's strategy includes nuclear weapons. The Treaty's significance, however, lies in the audacious collective hope of people, including the 122 nations that supported the Ban Treaty for a world free of nuclear weapons. *Living Faith*, a subordinate standard of the church, states "We protest against the world arms race that diminishes our ability to fight hunger, ignorance, poverty and disease. We fear nuclear war and the devastation it would bring. We affirm that God is at work when people are ashamed of the inhumanity of war and work for peace with justice." (8.5.3) That work for peace with justice is no less important today than when *Living Faith* was written.

Reflection Questions:

- The church has repeatedly spoken out against nuclear weapons and as recently as 2018 has advocated that Canada sign and ratify the Ban Treaty (A&P 2018, pp. 286-288, 22). Why do you think the church has taken this position? What do you think about the quote from *Living Faith* tying the arms race to the diminished collective ability to fight the kinds of things feeding conflict (like "hunger, ignorance, poverty and disease")?
- What aspects of peacemaking and justice work are most critical in your community and what can you and your church do to support them? A recent study guide, "Peacemaking: a reflective resource" is available online at presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/peacemaking, under "Educational Resources."



What you can do:

- Advocate with elected officials for peacemaking initiatives, including supporting the Ban Treaty. Template letters for the Ban Treaty and other topics are on the church's Advocacy webpage (presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy) under "International Affairs."
- Support the work of faith-based peace organization, and church partner, Project Ploughshares (ploughshares.ca).