

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 318

July 9, 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 Study 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 "*Careless Grace*." In it we are invited to hear Jesus' Parable of the Sower not as a demand to fix ourselves, but as a family story that teaches us to listen, wait, and trust. The gospel seed grows by God's grace, often beyond our control or understanding, but most deeply dependent upon the good news of a Saviour who flings the seeds of grace with extravagant love.

- Rev. Wes Denyer

Announcements

 **BBQ INVITE:** Everyone at St. Andrew's is invited to an Open House/Barbecue at Jerry and Debra Verwey's house (1328 Carnsew Street – off Moss between Fairfield and Richardson) on Sunday, July 12th from 4 to 7pm. Bring something to barbecue and a side dish to share if you want. Dessert (cake and ice cream) and beverages (soft drinks, tea, coffee, and water) will be provided. If you have a fold-up lawn chair, bring it along. If you have any questions, you can call us at 250-383-1009. RSVPs are appreciated (tjeerd@telus.net).

 **VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE:** PWS&D is able to respond to the recent earthquake that has devastated Venezuela through the ACT Alliance, which has members operational in the country. Immediate needs assessments are taking place with plans to respond as soon as possible. Donations made between June 25 and July 14 are eligible for matching by the Government of Canada. Make a donation by clicking [here](#), calling our office at 1-800-619-7301, or through your congregation by marking your donation "PWS&D Venezuela earthquake response."

 **BALLET VICTORIA SUMMER CLASSES:** Ballet Victoria will be running their summer ballet classes from July 7 - 31 in The Gathering Room. When the room is occupied, please go around via the Sanctuary to get to the other side of the building. Thanks for your cooperation!

 **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!

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

VICTORIA PRIDE 2026: Several Pride events are taking place across Victoria during the month of July, culminating with the Pride Parade on July 12! Check out the full schedule of events [HERE!](#)

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: Rathtrevor Provincial Park (July 25 - 30), and Rathtrevor 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](#).

SING FOR HOPE: Your local team, 'Together in Motion & Song', is raising money for the Journey for Hope, which supports PWS&D's food security projects. Members of Knox Victoria, Knox Sooke, Saanich Peninsula, Trinity, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches are invited to a charity hymn sing at Trinity (2964 Tillicum Rd.) on Thursday, September 17 at 7 PM. For more information contact Patti Jackson.

WALK FOR HOPE: Your local team, 'Together in Motion & Song', is raising money for the Journey for Hope, which supports PWS&D's food security projects. Members of Knox Victoria, Knox Sooke, Saanich Peninsula, Trinity, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches are invited to a charity walk at Esquimalt Gorge Park (1070 Tillicum Rd.) on Sunday, September 26 - time TBD. For more information contact Patti Jackson.

Prayer Partnership

Thursday, July 9 We pray for staff and campers at Camp Kintail in Goderich, ON, as they learn and grow together in faith in a Christian camping community.

Friday, July 10 We pray for our partners in Cuba, that God will keep guiding them and giving them strength despite the hardships they are enduring.

Saturday, July 11 We give thanks, loving God, for the Every Youth Empowered Project in Malawi, which is improving awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights among adolescents and young people. May your love be poured out as project participants learn about and advocate for their rights, with PWS&D supporting them.

Sunday, July 12 We pray for students and faculty at The Presbyterian College, Montreal who are managing health concerns, and those who are grieving significant loss in their lives. May they find comfort in community and in their faith.

Monday, July 13 We pray that the Holy Spirit may gently prepare the hearts and minds of the participants anticipating Collective 2026, making their thoughts clear and their hearts open.

Tuesday, July 14 We pray for staff and campers at Huron Feathers Centre in Sauble Beach, Ontario, as they learn and grow together in faith in a Christian camping community.

Wednesday, July 15 We pray for families and communities facing regional flooding and forest fires this season. We give thanks for emergency responders and front line workers addressing environmental crises and supporting impacted families and communities.

Thursday, July 16 We pray that our interfaith connections will foster peace, and that we will learn to see God's presence in our neighbours.



Mission Moment

Thanks to a grant made possible through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Zion Presbyterian Church in Charlottetown, PEI has now added a modern elevator to their 113-year-old historic building. This new addition provides those with physical challenges access to the Doreen Gray Youth Centre and Sunday School classrooms located on the second floor. Additionally, the lower level of the building, where many meetings and dinners take place, has now become accessible to the many seniors who have, until now, missed out on many congregational events because they could not navigate the stairs. This welcome upgrade has revitalized Zion Church's social, educational, and community programs, ensuring all members can engage more fully.



A marvelous performance was put on by the participants of this year's Quartet Fest West at St. Andrew's this past Sunday. Thank you to all the participants!

New Church Administrator

As you know, in August, Shannon will be leaving Victoria and resigning from her position as the St. Andrew's Church Administrator.

While we will be sad to say goodbye to Shannon, it is with pleasure that we announce that Gianna Castillo will be taking over in the Church Office. Shannon and Gianna will work together for the first two weeks of August to ensure a smooth transition.

Many of you will know Gianna, who has been worshipping at St. Andrew's since May of this year. Gianna brings many skills, much experience and a friendly and welcoming disposition to the position.

A couple of friendly reminders to all of us:

- Until mid-August (the exact date will be communicated soon), Shannon continues as the Church Administrator and you should direct all of your questions, requests, etc. to her.
- On an ongoing basis, please be respectful of Gianna's time; like all of us, Sunday is her time to worship and enjoy the fellowship at St. Andrew's. For this to happen, we need to keep 'business' and 'Church life' as separate as possible for Gianna.
- We will soon post the exact hours that Gianna will be available in the Church Office. Tempting as it is to ask Gianna questions on a Sunday morning or at a Church event, all Church business should be forwarded to the Office by phone or email so that they can be received and addressed within her 'work hours'.

We are very fortunate to have had Shannon in the office since September 2022 and to welcome Gianna into this important role for our Church community.

- Colina Titus, Personnel Committee.