

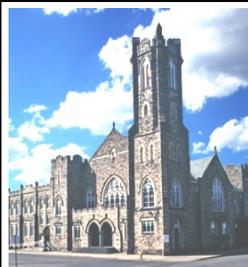
St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbaytel.ca

December 3, 2017



First Sunday of Advent



Welcome to the worship of God this morning, and to our shared life in this church. It is a pleasure to have you with us today. Seat cushions are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please ask a greeter for assistance. We invite guests to sign our guest book located at the back of the sanctuary.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

I believe that if children fall in love with wild-life they will grow up wanting to protect it. *-Imogen Taylor, British children's author and illustrator*



Sensing Christmas

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series



In all the pretty decorations, happy music, and gathering with family or friends, along with the smell of baking, taste of chocolate, and the turkey dinner, that many of us experience or often desire to be part of our Christmas experience, we tend to forget how earthy that first Christmas was. This Advent we look at Christmas again, and while we enjoy our preparations for Christmas, may we also recall the cherished scriptures of new hope in the one called Messiah.

Dec 3 – Advent I – The Tastes of Christmas
An Advent Communion Service

Dec 10 – Advent II – The Touch of Christmas

Dec 17 - Advent III – The Smells of Christmas

Dec 24 – Advent IV – The Sounds of Christmas

Christmas Eve – The Sights of Christmas

7:00 Family Candlelight Service

10:00 Candlelight Service with Communion

POT LUCK LUNCH

The Congregational Pot Luck Lunch will be held on Sun. Dec. 17 after Worship. There will be a "Special Visitor" stopping by so watch for him! Everyone welcome.



Week of December 3—9, 2017

Sun. 3—Advent Journey Concert—4:00 p.m.

Mon. 4—Fun & Fitness—9:30 am

Tues. 5—Seekers—7:30 p.m.

Wed. 6—Fun & Fitness—9:30 am

Facilities & Finance Meeting—1:00 p.m.

Thurs. 7—Prayers in Chapel—2:00 pm

PRAYER INVITATIONS

As Christians, we have been called to pray for each other in all circumstances. To help with this, we simply move through the church membership list. Today we ask that you hold the persons listed in your prayers:



Warren & Brenda Buttars; Lawrence, Lillian & Lisa Buttman; Joan Cameron; Charles & Sharon Campell; Molly Campbell; Sarah Campbell & Derek Smith.

PRESBYTERIAN SHARING

Combating racism in Japan

Gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support David McIntosh, co-director of the Centre for Minority Issues and Mission in Tokyo, which was established as a Christian response to a surge in racist activity in Japan. Hate speech in public places and abusive language via internet primarily targets people of Korean and Chinese heritage in Japan, but also other minority groups. The Centre is an ecumenical initiative led by PCC mission partner the Korean Christian Church in Japan, in collaboration with other Japanese churches, Christian organizations and international church partners. David and his co-director, Rev. KIM Shinya, work with partners to combat racism and urge the government to improve legal and administrative supports for vulnerable minorities. The Centre plans events that bring youth together to learn and think about the world through the eyes and stories of the vulnerable, and to pray and listen for God's call. *Presbyterians Sharing walks with vulnerable people*



From Rev. Joyce,

Happy New Year! Well, maybe it is better said, Happy Christian New Year. December 3rd marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. It is the first Sunday of Advent, which is a time of preparation for Christians. These four Sundays before Christmas are intended to help us prepare for Christ's coming, and also be a time for remembering that Christ has come. Let me explain. As people of faith we believe that what we experience right here in life is not all there is. Though we don't think about it a lot, and in some ways, hope that we get to live out our days enjoying our family and friends, we also hope for a time when the world will be at peace, that pain and suffering, tears and grief, will no longer be part of the human experience. This is in part what the second coming of Christ is about. Advent also reminds us that Jesus has already come. It's a time to recall the story of the birth of Jesus, whose life and words are documented in the New Testament Gospels. It is in Jesus Christ, who was with God before anything was created, who lived life in human form, who now continues with God, and will be fully present to us in a future time, it is this Jesus that we celebrate and expectantly wait for in this Advent season. May our preparations for Christmas also include the preparations of our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. Peace and grace to you.



ADVENT PRAYER CAFE

Looking for a break from the stress of the holidays? Want to learn different and creative ways to pray? Join us for our Advent Prayer Cafè every **Wed. from Nov. 29 - Dec. 20, 2017 from 1:30-3:30pm.** How it works: Drop by **First Presbyterian Church** (639 Grey St.) somewhere between 1:30-3:30pm. Stay as long or short as you like! Grab a complimentary cup of coffee or tea. Visit one of a number of Prayer Stations and follow the prayer directions. Please refrain from conversation in this contemplative environment. **Refresh and recharge your spirit and your relationship with God!**



THANK YOU



Thank you to the Members of Session for greeting in November. Caring & Contact will be greeting in December.

MISSION & OUTREACH WORK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Mission & Outreach Committee is active on a number of fronts (Local, National, International) supporting organizations & causes from a base budget & targeted fundraising. Christmastime is a prime focus, and we thank you for your support to achieve this broad outreach.

Thunder Bay Community Assistance: Presents for Peace (Faye Peterson Transition House, Beendigen Crisis Home; Elizabeth Fry Society); Christmas Cheer Campaign; Children's Aid Society; Our Kids Count; Underground Gym; Lakehead Social Planning Council; Shelter House.

National Mission: Montreal Refugee Centre—literature for new entries to Canada.

International Mission: Lifewater Inc.—funding water well drilling and pump repairs in Africa & Haiti.

EVENT AT KNOX UNITED CHURCH

Come out and enjoy some fun events in Dec. at Knox United Church, 1 Shuniah St. Wed. Dec. 13 at 6:30 pm—Hot Chocolate and Christmas Carols. Please meet up at the little red church on the corner of Shuniah & McIntyre Streets in the parking lot.

PRESENTS FOR PEACE

We love the boots we were looking for! We are still looking for a gently used DVD player as well as grooming supplies, socks, hats, games, school supplies, small kitchen items & gift cards. The final Sunday to put your gifts under the tree is Dec. 17. Thank you for your continuing generosity.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian

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Organist ~ Connor Curran
Choir Director ~ Nancy Wallace
Clerk of Session ~ John Mason
Sonia Rutter ~ Office Administrator
office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

Jim McLean ~ Caretaker

Sunday Worship - 11:00 am
Office Hours: Mon. to Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm