

St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

May 24th, 2020

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



From Joyce



Eleven weeks since our church has gathered in the sanctuary to worship and no end in sight. Churches are not even being talked about yet when it comes to what will be opened in the coming weeks. Though this makes me sad, it is also understandable. There are many things to consider when it comes to the reopening of churches. Regardless, we are called to love our neighbour, and one of the ways we can do that at this point is by keeping the church building closed and not risk infecting each other. Some of the saddest stories about Covid-19 hotspots come from when churches or choirs gathered, thinking they had taken all the precautions to be safe and that was not enough. Yet, not all of this is bad news. It has been heart-warming to hear about people calling to check in on each other, and needs being met when and where possible. Some new connections have been made for people, and our online worship services are reaching people not only in Thunder Bay, but

but elsewhere in Canada and around the globe. For St. Andrew's and St. James' Shared Ministry in Geraldton, where I am interim moderator for the Presbytery, it means that they too are able to connect with me as someone they know leading them in worship something I could only do on occasion before. Online worship has St. Andrew's connecting with people on a regular basis that we may have only seen at the church on occasion. Yes, we miss our church and look forward to worshipping in person. Still, the church is about being in community, so for now we do that online, but the day will come when God's people will be able to gather in person. Going forward we are aware that our community will be a mix of people gathered online and in person. As much as we call the building "the church," the mission of God is not the building, but rather the community of faith sharing the Good News of God's love with others. We are accomplishing that mission in part with online worship. In fact, we may be doing the mission better than we could when our focus was on gathering in the building on Sunday morning. Yet, we pray for the healing of the world and a time when we can be the people of God together. In the meantime, don't hesitate to connect with me, your elder, or anyone else. Share the online worship with others, or print out the service and share it with someone you know doesn't have access. People are open to connections right now that before may have seemed like an intrusion. We are still the church, the people of God called to reflect God's goodness and love into the world. Thanks be to God.

WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S

e-transfer: offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

- If you have an offering (envelope) number with the church and you know it, be sure to include that and your full name in the Message box.
- For all others, please include your first and last names along with your full address in the message box so we can send you a donation receipt.

Website: You can donate by credit card using the "Donate Now" link on the website.

Preauthorized Remittance: This is a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account that can be set up with the bookkeeper. Email Barb at accounts.standrewspres@tbaytel.net to have a form sent to you.

Mail: You can mail in a donation to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 207 S. Brodie St. Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5X8. Or just drop it off in the mailbox at the church.

Thank you for supporting the life, ministry, and mission of St. Andrew's. You make a difference!

MONTH OF MAY 2020

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church will be suspending all church programs and closing the office until further notice. If you have any questions or concerns you can still contact the church by email.

MASKS AVAILABLE

A local person is making masks for people who do not have them. If you would like a donated mask please contact Sheila at 807-631-2192.

One per person.

ST. ANDREW'S CHARITIES

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has many of us feeling uncertain about the future. What began as a global health crisis has only worsened the inequalities that exist for so many around the world.

PWS&D is responding through the ACT Alliance where rapid response projects have started in 14 countries. Projects are initially helping affected people with access to food, sanitation and hygiene, protective equipment and psycho-social support, with a focus on gender justice and the protection of highly vulnerable populations. PWS&D partners in three countries (Afghanistan, Malawi and Ghana) are implementing COVID-19 relief projects through the ACT Alliance.

[Adjustments have been made to programs in every country where PWS&D works](#), repurposing funds for planned activities which are not currently possible. In

Malawi, personal protective equipment has been purchased to enable health programs. Food security projects have been modified to ensure people don't go hungry. Take home packages for students will allow education programs to continue in Afghanistan.

Radio messages in Guatemala are raising awareness about the spread of COVID-19.

Join with us in praying for those who are already so vulnerable, that they won't experience the worst effects of the pandemic.

<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/2020/04/03/covid-19/>

PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

Dear God

Things are not as they were. The world is shifting & reforming from the world we once knew. Help us to adapt to these changes with patience and kindness. Help us to have love and courage as we move forward. With this love and courage help us to find peace. Encourage us to have the strength to admit to not knowing all the answers, to ask for help and to say we are sorry when we've made mistakes. Be patient with us as we work through these changing and troubling times of COVID-19. Thank you for giving us hope, strength and the support of others as we move forward in this weird and different time we are living in. We look forward to the day we can once again worship and visit again together safely without the fear of unintentionally affecting others.
Amen.

Written by: Sandra Dewsberry



PCC MISSION MOMENTS

Equipping congregations through webinars

Are you interested in learning about digital giving? Church renewal? Sharing your congregation's story in inspiring ways? Moving forward with your church's vision? The PCC's webinars provide online learning opportunities that equip congregations on topics relating to leadership, renewal and stewardship. Recorded and posted online for viewing at any time, each webinar is free, made possible by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. It's easy to register and participate. To find out about upcoming webinars, visit presbyterian.ca/webinars.

Presbyterians Sharing provides learning opportunities



WORSHIP SERVICES

To continue to stay connected to the congregation, during this time, we have been uploading church services online. Please visit our Facebook page or our website to find a link to the Sunday Worship services.

<http://standrewspres-tbay.ca/>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Theirs is an endless road, a hopeless maze, who seek for goods before they seek for God.
Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), French abbot

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Choir Director—Jamie Gerow

Organist ~ Rebecca Krawczuk

Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa

Bookkeeper ~ Barb Silvey

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Caretaker ~ Sheila Berry

Sunday Worship - Cancelled