



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

June 21st, 2020

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

Lord, we wish for the old days when the "old days" are merely months behind us. We are thankful for what we have - a home, food, the company of a small social group of family and friends.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones, those who yearn to hug family separated by need for safety, those who are still waiting for long-awaited surgeries.

We think of the business owners who are having to close their businesses for good. The restrictions caused by the Covid-19 virus have made all their hard work come to an end. We pray for them to find healing and a positive future.

We give thanks for those people keeping us safe, including those advising our politicians on the level of restrictions. May they benefit from Your wisdom.

We look forward to the time when we can gather together again for worship.

Lord, help us to keep adjusting to each new normal in our lives. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

Written by: Geraldine White

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith This devotional booklet for July, August, and September is now available. If you would like to have a copy, please contact Rev. Joyce by phone or email to arrange delivery.

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.

MONTH OF JUNE 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.

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

GRADUATION TIME

Caring & Contact would like to recognize graduates by sending congratulatory notes to them on their academic achievements. If you are aware of anyone who is graduating or has graduated from high school, college or university this year, please connect with Donalda Galloway at 577-2686 or email at penelope361@gmail.com. Information she will need is...

Name and address of the graduate
Where they have graduated from and diploma or degree obtained
Honours received and future plans.

BOX OR BIN DONATIONS

St. Andrew's is in need of boxes or bins for storing the Bibles and hymnals from the pews. Bins no larger than 10" width x 16" length x 10" height. Examples are plastic milk crates, plastic storage bins, wooden crates or cardboard boxes. Please call Rev. Joyce to make arrangement for pick up or to drop them off at the church,.

From Joyce

Had life stayed "normal" we would have had communion on Easter Sunday and then again on Anniversary Sunday. Obviously, that did not happen.

Conversations have taken place regarding the importance of communion and if there was a way that we could make that happen. Some churches are sharing communion as part of their regular Sunday online worship service. That is not something I am comfortable doing as our worship services are going far and wide, which in itself is truly amazing, fun, and a blessing. Yet, when it comes to communion, I feel that some more background and understanding is needed for those who partake in the communion meal than I can accomplish in a twenty-five minutes service. After the Session met online on June 9th it was decided that we would do a Zoom communion service in June, July, and August. The June communion will be online the evening of Sunday June 28th at 7:00 pm. Everyone on the email list will get an invite with a link to the service, then you can decide if you want to take this opportunity.

All you need to do is have something ready to drink (juice, wine, water) and something for bread (crackers, bread, bun, etc.) Then I will lead us through a short worship service with communion. This will be a first for me and likely for most everyone. God is present with each of us and so we will do this in remembrance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. If you don't have a computer, it could be that you can find someone to hang out with for this time together. You can also work on getting Zoom on your computer if you haven't already had a reason to do so. I am happy to help and am just a phone call away. If you need help please ask before Sunday.

We continue to learn and experiment with being in church in a new way. May we embrace, with patience and laughter, all that we are doing together. Thanks be to God.

PCC MISSION MOMENTS

World Refugee Day (June 20)

No one chooses to be a refugee. Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) envisions a world where no human has to fear for their life or liberty. Refugee sponsorship has enabled refugees from all over the world to find peace, encouragement and stability in a new home. This World Refugee Day, we are thankful for the congregations and groups across Canada who, with support from PWS&D, make refugee sponsorship possible. Together, in 2019, we were able to welcome 77 people. Hand-in-hand we will continue to welcome those in need who are trying to find security and safety.

WORSHIP UPDATE

The Ontario Provincial Government announced on Monday June 8th that restrictions that had prevented people gathering for worship since March 22nd would be lifted as of Friday June 12th.

The Session of St. Andrew's has decided to take an approach to opening that would exercise an abundance of caution. At this point we do **not** plan to open for in person worship until a yet to be determined date in September. In the meantime (now) the

Parish Health Ministry Team will take the lead in planning for our re-opening, making sure all the necessary and numerous COVID19 health and safety protocols are in place so that people can attend as safely as possible, if they so choose, given the circumstances. Online services will continue throughout the summer and even once the church is re-opened.

It is because we care for the health and welfare of our congregation that we have chosen not to open at this time. We feel the risks are still just too high and there are many questions yet to be answered. If you have concerns or questions do not hesitate to connect with Rev. Joyce or an elder.

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

Just as parents care for their children, you should bear in mind the whole universe.

Dōgen (1200-1253), Japanese Buddhist priest, writer, poet, philosopher

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Choir Director—Jamie Gerow

Organist ~ Rebecca Krawczuk

Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa

Bookkeeper ~ Barb Silvey

office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

Caretaker ~ Sheila Berry

Sunday Worship - Online at

standrewspres-tbay.ca