

St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

May 23rd, 2021

Responding!

Restoring!

Rejoicing!



From Presbyterian World Service and Development

Respond to the India COVID Crisis
India is currently in the midst of a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases, threatening its healthcare system and leaving already vulnerable families in crisis.

First published on the PCC website on May 4th.

For more than a week, over 300,000 cases have been diagnosed daily. So far over 220,000 people have died in India and the crisis is only worsening.

Immediate needs are access to health care, medical supplies and medicines, particularly oxygen. There is an urgent need to educate people on risk prevention and address vaccine hesitancy. Vaccine supply is insufficient and inaccessible to many, leaving herd immunity out of reach.

PWS&D is preparing to respond with its partners and ACT Alliance members in India to support people that are sick or quarantined at home with cash to buy medicines and provide for other emergency needs. Additionally, they will work with communities to share messages on infection prevention and control, as well as information on vaccines.

PWS&D has been working with partners in India for decades. These partners are on the ground, actively assessing the situation to determine how best to respond. Our Christian partners in India reach out to all those in need, irrespective of their faith, as Jesus called us to do. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

You can donate through St. Andrew's making sure to note that the donation is to go to India Covid Crisis. You can also go to <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/2021/05/04/india-covid-crisis/> and donate directly through the PCC.

FAMILY TIME WITH JAMIE GEROW

St. Andrew's has a family time video series with our Choir Director, Jamie Gerow. Jamie will be making these every other week or so, and they can be found on our Youtube channel, so please be sure to subscribe.

Here is a link to the latest video.
<https://youtu.be/lxs5BebgMRY>



PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

Heavenly Father,

Our thoughts and prayers are with our congregation as we pray for courage to through this pandemic. We have lost so many family and friends, often without being there with them as they transition to your heavenly presence. The heart break is trying and we often lose sight of who you are. But we ask for your grace and love as we battle through this. Please give us strength to continue honouring you, because without it, we would be lost in an empty world.

Understanding your love and accepting your guidance in all the silence of Covid-19 is challenging but we must remember our ultimate rewards for our own strength and love that we have for our own. In Jesus name we pray.

Written by: Sandra and Tony DePerry

PCC MISSION MOMENTS

Worship Resources to Do God's Work

This year, **Pentecost** and **Healing and Reconciliation Sunday** fall on the same day, making it a day not only for celebration, but also for solemn reflection and prayer for the Indigenous children who attended residential schools and the people who are living with its legacy. Resources to help worship leaders develop services to mark the church's birthday and honour its commitment to reconciliation are available on the PCC website at presbyterian.ca/worship. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing have helped build this comprehensive library of worship resources, providing congregations with free materials (seasonal, intergenerational, ecumenical, etc.) to do God's work throughout the year.

Services are available online and can be accessed on the church Facebook page, or on the website at

<https://standrewspres-tbay.ca/worship-services-by-video/>

Arrangements can also be made for a print version of the worship service to be provided. Connect with Rev. Joyce for more information



From Joyce

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! What? Not your birthday? It may not be *your* birthday, but it is a day that we can celebrate as part of the Christian church. Today is Pentecost Sunday, often referred to as the birthday of the church. You can read all about this in Acts 2. The day of Pentecost came fifty days after the resurrection, in other words, Easter. The Holy Spirit came with power, with “a sound like the rush of a violent wind” filling the entire house where the disciples of Jesus were gathered, and what the witnesses to that event could only describe as “Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

How do you describe the indescribable? Just like those first disciples, we still struggle to find words to describe the Holy Spirit’s presence and work. For those in that moment it was an experience that changed them from men and women feeling lost and orphaned, still trying to make sense of everything that had experienced in the last weeks, to courageous witnesses ready to tell what they knew of Jesus to anyone who would listen and people ready to stake their lives on their experience of Jesus with the knowledge that Jesus was the risen Lord.

When reading the New Testament, it is easy to just read the words and not realize the danger these people faced. They were going up against the power of both political and religious authorities. We celebrate the birthday of the church, but in the beginning, they were facing severe opposition and used as scapegoats when politicians needed a group to blame. In the years to come, followers of Christ would be the marginalized, facing imprisonment and worse. Still their voices could not be silenced.

Though the pandemic has affected our gathering for worship at this time, normally we trust that to gather in community as people of God is our right, but that was not the case for the first Christians. In the world the Church has many expressions and gathers in wondrous variety. One thing that cannot change is the commitment to loving as Christ loved, healing, teaching, and caring for those who are on the margins, those who are hurting, speaking the truth and showing the truth through our loving and compassionate actions. In our context, we can celebrate the birth of the Church giving thanks that the Holy Spirit is still at work, still available to us as Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Counsellor, and Comforter.

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!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Gentleness, self-sacrifice and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion.

Mahatma Gandhi (1849–1968), lawyer, social activist

ST. ANDREW’S COVID UPDATE

St. Andrew's remains closed until further notice, due to government regulations.

ST. ANDREW’S PRESBYTERIAN

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Choir Director ~ Jamie Gerow

Organist ~ Rebecca Krawczuk

Bookkeeper ~ Barb Silvey

Caretaker ~ Sheila Berry

Office Administrator ~ Shaundra Benincasa

office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

Sunday Worship - Online

at standrewspres-tbay.ca