



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

August 1st, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



EPHESIANS SERMON SERIES

The Book of Ephesians from the New Testament in a sermon series entitled, Glory, Grace, and Grit is a book to ponder and feel that you can ask questions of the text. Following is my plan for August, but I encourage you to read all of the book so you don't miss anything and get the whole context to aid in your understanding. "Ephesians divides neatly into two halves. The first half, chapters 1-3, provides a theological foundation for the faith in some of the most beautiful language in the Epistles. The second half, chapters 4-6, focuses on the ethical dimensions of the faith: How do we live it out? This second half reminds us that faith isn't simply about believing, but about living." I look forward to spending this time with you in worship and welcome your comments and questions as we consider and study these words of scripture together.

August 1 Ephesians 3:14-21
Prayer for the Readers

August 8 Ephesians 4:1-16
Unity in the Body of Christ

August 15 Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Rules for the New Life

August 22 Ephesians 5:3-20
Renounce Pagan Ways

August 29 Ephesians 6:10-20
The Wole Armor of God

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/geared-up-for-life/seventh-sunday-after-pentecost-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes>

PRAYERS FROM THE HEART



Dear Father,

the creator of all things, grant us the patience and understanding to guide us through these challenging times.

Bless all those who are suffering because of past indiscretions. Help us find a way to forgiveness and move forward to better solutions and allow us that peace that passes all understanding.

We are all God's children. Remember to err is human but to forgive is divine.

Keep us safe and free our minds of injustice and lead us in a path of love and a fresh hope for a future filled with compassion.

In Jesus name we pray. Okay

Amen

Written by: Myrna Anderson

NEW BEGINNINGS

St. Andrew's has been accepted into the New Beginnings program of the PCC. This is the breakdown of program that the church will be participating in. We ask that you hold our ministry, leadership, and congregation in prayer as we prepare for this time of discernment, hope, and discovery.

1. **Assessment** of the current ministry of the church, celebration of the way God has been present and is present with the congregation and a realistic identification of potential future steps.
2. **Workshops** to help the congregation understand the changes in spiritual practices in this new era and why many elements of current ministry structures no longer work.
3. **House Meetings** to open yourselves to new ways of thinking about mission and to make a bold decision for the future.
4. **Coaching** to help implement your future story." We will be assigned a specially trained assessor and coach to guide us through the process. All those trained to be assessors and coaches are ministers of the PCC.





From Joyce

As we hit the mid point of the summer, I thought it may be worth noting a few dates coming up in our congregational calendar that you may want to get on your calendar for the fall. The most exciting news is that we are planning to open the church building for **worship Sunday September 12th**! It will be the first time since December 20th of last year that we are in the physical presence of one another to worship and I can hardly wait. God created the Christian Church to worship, sing, learn, pray and work together, and I know for sure we can do at least four of those things.

We also have a fairly new tradition at St. Andrew's in which we have a **Blessing of Backpacks** as students head back to school, college, university or other places of learning. This will take place on **Sunday September 19th**. Each student – it doesn't matter what age - receives a backpack tag to help them remember how special they are in God's eyes and to the congregation. We welcome all students and teachers to attend worship and receive this blessing.

Looking further ahead...**October 3rd is World Communion Sunday** and the St. Andrew's congregation will be participating. It too has been months since we could partake of communion together without it being virtual and for many of you that didn't work out either. Communion is only one of the two sacraments that the Presbyterian Church observes and it is an important part of our understanding of Christ's work in and for us so plan to attend. Children are welcome to partake of communion as well, as we are all the children of God.

One last date to note pertains to our participation in the **New Beginnings Program** of the PCC. We have already started the preliminary work of gathering information for the person who is going to be working with our congregation for the next year. On **October 5th at 7:00 pm** there will be an **Appreciative Inquiry Session** with all church participants who are interested in the future of the congregation.

In small ways it feels like our church life is coming back and hopefully it will continue without any further restrictions. Online worship will continue as we have numerous church families who call St. Andrew's home who cannot get to the building. I also pray that you who are able will be ready to join us and be in community as we grow in faith and live out our calling as the church on the corner of Donald and Brodie.

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 MOMENTS

No act of kindness, no matter how small,
is ever wasted.

Aesop (620 – 564 BCE), Greek fabulist

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Sunday Worship - Online
at standrewspres-tbay.ca