

# St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



## EPHESIANS SERMON SERIES

Glory, Grace, and Grit is a sermon series based in scripture readings from the book of Ephesians from the New Testament. It 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 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 Whole 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

O Lord, guide us through these trying times of climate change, world destruction, pandemic illness, human greed and selfishness. You must shake your head in despair at times as you watch billionaires go for 10 minute rides in rockets while people starve and hurt one another.

Show us a better way of living dear Lord. Help us take a deep, calming breath, stop and "smell the roses" so to speak. The beauty of our planet and the rich blessings you bestow upon us remain steadfast. Forgive our human weaknesses Lord. Give us the strength and wisdom to live in a new, appreciative way. Keep us strong, kind and hopeful. Let us feel Your love and power. Show us the right path to walk in life and nudge us along to better times. Renew our ways of thinking and living. Take away our fears and doubts.

Give us the wisdom and knowledge to care for our planet and especially for each other. Our belief and trust in you Lord, will lift us up spiritually, lighten our burdens, and will surely lead us to more peaceful times. Amen.

*Written by: June Martinsen*

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

**e-transfer:** [offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net](mailto: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](mailto: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!

## PCC MISSION MOMENTS

### Eager to Read God's Word

Presbyterians Sharing supports the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean as he works with Bible translation teams to translate the Bible into Indigenous languages in Taiwan. The work with Tayal began in the 1950s when PCC mission staff Clare and Grace McGill converted the spoken language into writing for the first time. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Paul met online three mornings a week with lead translator Watan Yawi to check spelling and verify consistent translation of biblical terms (e.g., temple, prophet, Lord) and over 2,000 parallel passages in the Old and New Testaments. They finished at the end of March. Proofreaders had three months before the translation was sent to the Bible Society in Taiwan for typesetting and printing. 110 Tayal churches in the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan are eager to read the whole Bible in their own language. "Mhway Utux Kayal! Thanks be to God!"



## From Joyce

*Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers: Exploring the Christian Faith*  
by Donald K. McKim.

### What do we mean when we say the Bible is “God’s Word?”

Presbyterians affirm that the Bible is God’s Word because we believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God’s self-revelation. Through the Bible we gain a knowledge of God that is unique and authoritative for the church and for the Christian life. We call the Bible “God’s Word” as a way of affirming this book is a special and distinctive source for our knowledge of God. “God’s Word” means God’s self-expression. We are familiar with the important verse that begins the Gospel of John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). This verse points to Jesus Christ as the “Word” of God, the one who has become “flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). So Jesus Christ is the primary expression of God, the “self-revelation” of God.

But we learn of Jesus Christ through the Scriptures. The church has believed through the centuries that the Bible is also properly called the “Word of God” because it is the source of our knowledge of God’s actions in the history of Israel. The books of the Old and New Testaments, the “canon,” are regarded as the place where God’s word is heard as God spoke and acted in Israel’s history as we find in the Old Testament, in the person of Jesus Christ, and in the life of the early church as found in the writings of the New Testament.

So the Bible is called the Word of God because in Scripture the church is addressed by the God who inspired the biblical writings. The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God’s self-revelation and the means by which God continues to speak to us today.

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## STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

You should give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving!

*Dr. Peter Marshall (1902 – 1949),  
Scots-American preacher*

## 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.



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Sunday Worship - Online  
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