

St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

August 8th, 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 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>

PCC MISSION MOMENTS

Defying the Norm: Lydia Returns to School

Sexual assault, gender-based violence and teenage pregnancy are significant issues in Malawi. Lydia was only 15 years old when she became pregnant, and the stigma of being an unmarried, pregnant teenager led her to leave school. Left with few options, Lydia's circumstances were reported to the community victim support unit and, with their help and guidance, Lydia was empowered to return to school where she can continue to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. This project to strengthen community structures that respond to those experiencing sexual- or gender-based violence is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.

PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

A prayer for the Earth

We are so grateful for our beautiful planet, and this amazing part of it we call home. Lately, news of extreme weather, fires, vulnerable communities, and the climate crisis is overwhelming. Dear Lord, help us to respond with empathy and action. We pray for those who have been evacuated from their communities; may they be comforted by your love during this worrying time. We pray for the firefighters and front-line workers who face dangerous situations every day; please keep them safe. As community members and citizens of this planet, we look to you for hope as we do our part to take care of the Earth. Help us to work together to take action and contribute to the climate movement. Help us to spread your love and peace as we support the vulnerable communities who are feeling the effects of the climate crisis today.

Amen.

Written by: Eilidh Childs

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

For the next five weeks I will be sharing passages from *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers: Exploring the Christian Faith* by Donald K. McKim. This book is an accessible and concise treatment that provides a sampling of questions on important topics that frequently arise from discussions; and brief but complete answers from a Presbyterian theologian. I hope that with each passage some of your questions will be answered and that it may also inspire more questions to be asked.

Where do Presbyterian churches com from?

Presbyterians are found all over the globe! Each particular Presbyterian congregation has its own history. The Presbyterian churches in a region or a country also have distinctive histories of their own. Our “family tree” as Presbyterians extends back to Europe in the sixteenth century. We Presbyterians, in our various forms, trace our theological ancestry to the Swiss Reformation. Then, leaders of the newly emerging Protestant faith were witnessing to their Christian faith and were critical of beliefs and practices of the current Roman Catholic Church. The Protestant Reformation that began with Martin Luther (1483-1546) in Germany moved into Switzerland. There, however, other leaders arose who were critical of Roman Catholicism but did not fully agree theologically with Luther. These leaders became known as “Reformed.” Major figures were Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531), John Calvin (1509-64), and Heinrich Bullinger (1504-75). Calvin became the most highly regarded of these leaders.

The beliefs of these theologians spread, and along with their theology a for of governing churches based on the centrality of “presbyteries” emerged. Thus the name “Presbyterian” became descriptive. Presbyterianism spread into Great Britain and then to the New World in the United States and Canada. Those who espoused Presbyterian theology also made their way throughout other countries, until today Presbyterian churches are found through all parts of the world

Churches in the Presbyterian tradition are marked by similar theological beliefs and by a “Presbyterian” form of church government. The theological standards or confessions of faith a Presbyterian denomination adopts in different countries or localities will vary. Presbyterians have

always constructed confessions of faith in their various localities. So there is not one, single, “Presbyterian” document that is the official “confession” of Presbyterian churches. Instead, we draw from the resources of a rich tradition. While we look back to our sixteenth-century European roots, we also look forward to further developments in the Presbyterian tradition and to the future to which God calls us.

From [Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers](#), © 2017 Donald K. McKim. Used by permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

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!

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