



St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

August 27th, 2023

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



UKRAINE DONATIONS

In honour of Sue Heald, donations made to the church in support of Ukraine will be received from now till the end of September.

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP

Sunday, August 27 We give thanks for the ministry and mission of St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL, and pray that their acts of kindness and care continue to be a blessing to their neighbours.

Monday, August 28 We pray for the candidates for ministry and for the guidance counsellors who will spend time engaged in dialogue about calling and discernment during the Guidance Conference.

Tuesday, August 29 We pray for our university and college students who are preparing for studies away from home. Remember in particular first year students who are leaving home for the first time.

Wednesday, August 30 We pray for the Rev. Mary Fontaine and Hummingbird Ministries, an Indigenous healing and reconciliation effort.

Thursday, August 31 (International Day for People of African Descent) Recognizing the violent history of colonization faced by people of African descent, we seek the Spirit's wisdom to end ongoing anti-Black racism.

Friday, September 1 We pray for transformation in congregations that will lead God's people to share love and healing in their communities through concrete acts of friendship and kindness.

Saturday, September 2 We pray for the Rev. Margaret Mullin and the people who gather at Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg.

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday services begin at 10:00am

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - 8:30am - 12:30pm
Tuesday-Friday - 9:00am - 1:00pm

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Faith and Work

"Meaning on Monday"

5 Week Online Study

Oct. 5 - Nov. 2 (Thursdays)

What does your Christian faith have to do with your work week? Does God desire your work to just be about making a living? Can faith provide meaning and change the way we work?

This online study explores such questions by exploring our everyday ideas about work and what theology and the bible have to say about work.

Gospel of Mark

"Meeting the Messiah"

5 Week Online Study

Nov. 1 - 29 (Wednesdays)

This gospel is sometimes called the "action movie gospel" due to its fast pace and direct style. It was written for Christian believers living in a tumultuous world.

This study will introduce participants to the background, key themes, and message of the Gospel of Mark, and will help you think about what it means to be a faithful follower of Christ in our own changing world.

For more information visit

[Meeting the Messiah - FALL ONLINE STUDY - The Presbyterian College, Montreal](#)

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Give regularly. Stewardship is not a once-a-year consideration, but a week-to-week, month-to-month commitment requiring discipline and consistency.

Randy Alcorn – author, founder of Eternal Perspective Ministries

Offerings can be sent via e-transfer to offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net



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Sunday Worship - Online at
standrewspres-tbay.ca



From Joyce

This week I continue with sharing from a Presbyterian Church in Canada article about welcome and hospitality. The church is to be a caring community and so considering these things about how to welcome people are important for our community of faith. Last week we read about remembering the basics and thoughts on belonging. This week we consider both inclusion and the willingness to be flexible.

Inclusion Matters When a woman interrupts Jesus' dinner at Simon's house and begins to anoint his feet with oil, Jesus lets her honour him in this way. Simon questions Jesus for letting an unclean woman touch him, and Jesus praises her actions, saying she has been more genuinely hospitable than Simon (Luke 7:36–50).

Jesus not only includes the woman in the men-only space at the dinner table, but he declares that she belongs there perhaps even more than the owner of the house. Inclusion is not just about "making space," but rather is about genuinely welcoming the presence, gifts, ideas and challenges brought by people coming from all different kinds of backgrounds.

It is important to take the time to get to know each worshipper and how they see their gifts fitting into the congregation. When people from a variety of backgrounds and experience are welcome to fully participate in worship and church initiatives, it is a gift to all of those gathered. Not only does inclusion help the congregation grow in faith and understanding of God, but visitors to churches where diversity is celebrated are more likely to feel welcome and see themselves as belonging in the community. Whose gifts in your church are going unrecognized? What music, style of prayer, leadership gifts, ministry directions and culinary delights have you yet to experience in your context?

Be Willing to be Flexible Many people visiting churches have had the experience of going to sit in a specific spot only to be told that you are "taking so-and-so's seat" or being glared at in an unfriendly way. In a passage that is difficult to understand, Jesus initially has a similar reaction when a Canaanite woman asks him to heal her child who is afflicted with an evil spirit (Matthew 15). He tells her that he has come to help the people of Israel and questions why her child should receive his healing power. The woman persists and Jesus heals her child and praises her persistent faith.

Not all people who visit your church are going to be as persistent as the Canaanite woman was with Jesus. However, you read this passage, what is clear is that Jesus ultimately welcomes the woman. Genuine hospitality means flexibility. someone is sitting in your seat? sit somewhere else. Someone has special dietary restrictions? Be sure you have food they can eat at fellowship hour. The space for the program you are using isn't accessible? Change the space where you are meeting. do not let small things become big barriers to other people experiencing Jesus. Let yourself be uncomfortable for the sake of helping others become more comfortable at church.

*Adapted from *Ways to be a church that visitors will want to call home*. Published by The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Church Office will be closed
Monday September 4

11:00am services will resume on
Sunday September 10

Welcome Back Sunday is on
Sunday September 24 and following the
Worship Service St. Aidan's will be hosting a
coffee hour in Rowand Hall.

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"If I send my prayer as a text message,
will I get a faster reply?"

stay safe