



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

*Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!*



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



St. Andrew's will be hosting a special community concert, "The Sounds of Christmas," on **Sunday, December 8th**, at **4:00pm**.

It will feature performances from a variety of talented local musicians. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors (60+), and children under 10 are free.

Tickets can be purchased online ([standrewspres-tbay.ca](http://standrewspres-tbay.ca)), through the church office, or at the door (cash only).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- Wed Dec 4 - Fun & Fitness @ 10:00am
- Wed Dec 4 - The Music Class @ 4:00pm
- Wed Dec 4 - The Music Class @ 5:15pm
- Thurs Dec 5 - The Music Class @ 11:00am
- Thurs Dec 5 - Facilities & Finance @ 1:30pm

## UNDERCOVER PROGRAM

Since 2006, the Undercover Project by Community Clothing Assistance has been dedicated to ensuring that children in need, age 4-14, receive essential undergarments. Through this program, over 1000 children benefit annually, receiving 7 pairs of new socks and underwear.



St Andrew's is happy to be participating in this program. We would ask that you drop off children's underwear and socks at the church, into a bin marked "Undercover," until **December 22nd**.

Thank you for supporting this great initiative!

## LOOKING AHEAD



Every year around this time, a small bare tree will suddenly appear in Rowand Hall. At first it is bare, but with your help, it will soon be covered with gifts for two women's shelters.

Your gifts may include toys, puzzles, markers, crayons, notebooks and paper, scarves, gloves, mitts, and hats, personal care items, and small household items like can openers, batteries, etc.

Small denomination gift cards are also welcome.

Over the years your continuing generosity has made this project a huge success. If you can't get out to shop, someone will shop for you. Gifts should be "under the tree" by December 15th.

## MISSION MOMENT

The difficulty of accessing much-needed health care for people in Dorica's home village fueled her passion for becoming a doctor and serving the poor population in rural areas of Malawi. With support from Knox Presbyterian Church (St. Catharines) and Presbyterians Sharing, Dorica began her studies in 2017. In March 2024, Dorica graduated from the University of Malawi College of Medicine and began an 18-month internship, the final stage of her medical training. Following her internship, Dorica will be licensed to practice medicine in Malawi. She is grateful to the Knox congregation and the PCC for their financial support and prayer career pursuits, emphasizing the importance of gender equality in fostering harmonious relationships and eliminating discrimination.



## ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Sunday Worship - Available online at  
[standrewspres-tbay.ca](http://standrewspres-tbay.ca)

**Office Hours:**

**Wednesday - Friday, 9:00am - 1:00pm**

**Donations can be sent via e-transfer to**  
[offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net](http://offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net)

## CHECK OUT THE HERITAGE WALL

Christmas is coming, and the Heritage Committee has arranged a collection telling the story of Christmas at St. Andrew's over the years.



## From Joyce



Advent, a time of anticipation, but what exactly are we anticipating? The word advent means coming or arrival, and many think of this time of advent as anticipating the coming of Jesus as a babe in a manger. Yet, it is this and so much more. As Christians, we are not only anticipating the coming of the Saviour as God in human flesh, breaking into the world as a vulnerable child, but also, we are anticipating the coming of Christ when God fully brings all of God to the world as in Revelation 21:3-4 where it speaks to a New Heaven and the New Earth, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." Throughout this season of Advent we ponder and reflect, we anticipate and celebrate God in the world. We look for ways that God is with us now even as we hope for a different world where peace, joy, and love are the way of life. In fact, it will be a time when we no longer need to have hope because God's presence will be fully with us. It is interesting as we probably just would like God to come and make us more comfortable in the way things are right now, but that is not what will be when all things come to fruition. Heaven on earth will be very different in ways we cannot comprehend, but in Advent it is what we are saying we hope for. In the meantime, we wait, we hope, we look for the ways God is in-breaking our world in our lifetime and we pray to be part of what God is up to right now. We do this in order that those who have no hope can see the light of the promise of God present with them and us now. We begin with the baby and trust in the Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

## MISSION TO SEAFARERS



Come and join us for a **St. Nicholas Day Eucharist and lunch** at 11:00am Wednesday, December 4th at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 10 Farrand Street. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of seafarers, and this is a time for the community that supports the Mission to Seafarers to come together to pray for seafarers, and for the Mission to Seafarers. St. Nicholas' Day is also the anniversary of the founding of the Mission to Seafarers in Thunder Bay in 1961.

## LONGING FOR MORE: AN ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

This Advent, our worship theme is "Longing for More," inspired by a series by Lisa Vanderkamp. It invites us to embrace the deep yearnings of our hearts while finding fulfillment and renewal in the presence of Christ.

- **Advent 1 – December 1: We Want** We begin this journey with a communion service and the baptism of a baby—a beautiful reminder of new beginnings and God's ongoing work in our lives. Featuring music from the mixed woodwinds section of the Thunder Bay Community Band.
- **Advent 2 – December 8: We Are Weary** A moment to bring our burdens before God, finding rest and restoration in His promises. Featuring music from harpist Naomi Cohen.
- **Advent 3 – December 15: We Worry** This Children's Sunday, dedicated to families, reflects the joys and challenges of life, grounding us in God's faithfulness.
- **Advent 4 – December 22: We Waver** As we approach Christmas, we confront our doubts and uncertainties, anchoring ourselves in the steadfast love of Christ. Featuring music from the Thunder Bay Community Band's flute choir.
- **Christmas Eve – December 24: We Wonder** Join us for a 7:30 PM candlelight service, a time to marvel at the mystery of God's love revealed in Jesus. Featuring music from harpist Naomi Cohen.

## FOOD BANK DRIVE

For most of us, this is the time to make lists, bake for the church, and make plans for holiday gatherings and special meals.



For others, special plans of any kind are not a possibility. There will be no special meals or extra treats for kids. You can help to change that.

Your continuing generosity will make a difference. Thank you for your support of this vital project.

## FIRST-WESLEY CHRISTMAS CANTATA

First-Wesley United Church is hosting a Christmas Cantata on December 15th, at 4:00pm, called "Touched by a Child, Touched by a King." Featuring a mixed choir from across the city and a live band. Everyone is welcome, and please bring your family and friends! Admission is by donation, and our sanctuary is wheelchair accessible.

